

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 93/I/PV

Twenty-seventh Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt-septième session
COMMISSION I

27º período de sesiones
COMISION I

Rome, 6-24 November 1993

**VERBATIM RECORDS OF MEETINGS OF COMMISSION I
OF THE CONFERENCE
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES DE LA COMMISSION I
DE LA CONFÉRENCE
ACTAS TAQUIGRAFICAS DE LAS SESIONES DE LA COMISION I
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13th SESION

(19 November 1993)

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ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 93/1/PV/1

Twenty-seventh Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt-septième session
COMMISSION I

27º período de sesiones
COMISION I

FIRST MEETING
PREMIERE SEANCE
PRIMERA SESION

(10 November 1993)

The First meeting was opened at 10.00 hours

Mr Hermann Redl, Chairman of Commission I, presidings

La première séance est ouverte à 10 heures

sous la présidence de M. Hermann Redl, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la primera sesión a las 10 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hermann Redl, Presidente de la Comisión I

CHAIRMAN (Original language German): Ladies and gentlemen, Mr Director-General, I open the meeting of Commission I at the Twenty-seventh FAO Conference.

Please allow me to make a personal remark at the start. Thank you very much for having elected me as Chairman of this very important Commission at the 27th FAO Conference. This is a special distinction for my country, Austria, but also for me personally. I will, therefore, try to do everything I can to fulfil your expectations and trust.

May I ask you at the same time, however, for your assistance and cooperation.

I have a special word of greeting for the Deputy Chairmen, Mr Karbasi, from the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Mr Kazi from Pakistan. I look forward to constructive cooperation in this Commission.

Based on our agenda, we shall be looking at policies regarding the state of food and agriculture as per Item 6 on our agenda. I am sure that we will also take into account all the items dealt with in the Plenary.

Since the 26th FAO Conference, a series of important World Conferences have taken place which, in my opinion, will affect the work of the FAO to a great extent. May I refer to the meeting in December 1992, the International Conference on Nutrition. I would also like to refer to the World Declaration adopted at that Conference, as well as the Plan of Action.

A discussion on future agricultural policies which did not take on board the environment would, in my opinion, be totally out of the question. Therefore, may I also refer to Agenda Item 21, the UNCED Conference in Rio, as it was adopted in June 1992.

I would also like, as a country whose participation in agriculture is 46 percent, to mention the item on forestry both at a regional and at a world level. In Europe, for example, in June 1993, at the invitation of the Government of Finland, an important ministerial conference was held for the protection of European forests.

As we all know, we have a series of very serious problems to deal with. Therefore, I think it is essential to work as closely as possible on an international level. This refers especially to cooperation with the EEC in Geneva, but also with OECD in Paris and with WHO.

Nor should we forget the work done by Codex Alimentarius.

A lot of changes have taken place in the world, as we all know. Agriculture is more and more a key factor in international relations. However, we should not forget that while we deal with the various subjects under Commission I, there are many parts of the world where hunger, poverty and misery reign. Many of those have been placed on our activities list here. Let us try and fulfil this hope, and let us try and find programme solutions in order to eliminate these plagues.

After these initial comments, may I now, in order to waste no more time, announce the members of the Drafting Committee. Consultations have already been completed and the Drafting Committee for Commission I is made up of the following delegations: Algeria, Lesotho, Sudan, Indonesia, the Republic

of Korea, Argentina, Venezuela, Syria, Belgium, Canada, New Zealand, Sweden and Turkey.

May I furthermore remind you of another factor which will make our work easier. If we could keep to our working hours, as we have such a long agenda, that would be helpful.

Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc): Il ne s'agit pas d'une motion d'ordre, Monsieur le Président, surtout lorsqu'il s'agit de vous féliciter pour avoir été élu à la présidence de cette importante Commission. Nous avons eu l'occasion de vous rencontrer par le passé. Nous avons déjà collaboré, je pense que nous continuerons à le faire dans la plus grande sérénité.

Je voudrais simplement un éclaircissement. Lorsque vous avez lu la liste des pays qui composent le Comité de rédaction, vous avez peut-être omis d'indiquer que le Président du Comité de rédaction avait déjà été désigné au cours des consultations intervenues entre les groupes régionaux. C'est Amina Boudjelti qui a été désignée pour présider ce Comité de rédaction.

CHAIRMAN: You are quite correct and maybe it was not interpreted because I was using the German Language. However, I thought I said that the chair would be taken by Algeria.

Let us now continue. It would be helpful if you would all be here punctually. We have a lot of discussion in front of us.

Mme Amina BOUDJELTI (Algérie): Monsieur le Président, laissez-moi tout d'abord vous féliciter ainsi qu'adresser mes félicitations à vos deux Vice-Présidents pour votre nomination à cette importante Commission. Je suis persuadée pour ma part que, grâce à vous tous, le travail se fera dans les meilleures conditions possibles. Monsieur le Président, je voulais avoir un petit point d'éclaircissement en ce qui concerne la situation; un point qui sera étudié sans doute; nous avons entendu dire qu'il serait étudié sous ce point de l'ordre du jour; je vais m'exprimer un peu plus clairement. Il s'agit, en fait, de la situation du criquet pèlerin en Afrique de l'Ouest et du Nord-Ouest. Nous avons eu aujourd'hui un document qui nous a été distribué. Simplement, il n'y a pas de point distinct à l'ordre du jour. Et je voulais avoir un éclaircissement de votre part ou de la part des membres du Secrétariat pour savoir si ce point devait être évoqué sous le 6.1 ou à la fin de la discussion du 6.1 en un sous-point distinct.

CHAIRMAN (Original language German) : My suggestion would be that we Complete Item 6, and then have a Sub-item with an introduction by Dr de Haen, and that document C 93/LIM/18 should be dealt with after that.

PART I - MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

PREMIERE PARTIE - PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D' AGRICULTURE

PARTE I - PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

- 6. World Food and Agriculture Situation and Outlook
- 6. Situation et perspectives mondiales de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture
- 6. Situación y perspectivas de la agricultura y la alimentación en el mundo

- 6.1 State of Food and Agriculture
- 6.1 Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture
- 6.1. El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: As in the past, the Secretariat has prepared two documents for this agenda item. The first one, the State of Food and Agriculture 1993, identified as C 93/2, is based on information available to the Secretariat up to late July. The second one, identified as C 93/2- Sup.1, contains information to late September. The Director-General's Statement to the Conference yesterday also speaks to the State of Food and Agriculture. As the Director-General stated, the two years since the last Conference have seen major transformations in the political and economic environment surrounding agriculture.

In the industrial world, several countries have undergone crucial changes at the highest political level. Unforeseen financial instability and political problems have slowed the process of integration in western Europe. Countries in eastern and central Europe and the former USSR have continued the process of reform while experiencing, to varying degrees, political and economic disruptions, declines in industrial production and growing poverty and food insecurity problems. Economic activity in the OECD countries has remained stubbornly depressed, with high and increasing unemployment, and uncertain prospects for early recovery. Indeed, as has been the case on every occasion when I have introduced this topic, I must report that the earlier growth estimates for the OECD countries again have been revised downwards significantly. According to the latest International Monetary Fund estimates and forecasts, these economies are expected to expand by only 1.1 percent this year, instead of 1.7 percent previously reported, and by only 2.2 percent in 1994 instead of 2.9 percent.

Nevertheless we have also seen signs of renewed optimism in many Third World countries. Economic growth in the developing countries as a whole has outpaced that of industrial countries. There have been, however, wide regional variations. On the one hand, China has been growing at two-digit rates, perhaps faster than desired; southeast Asian economies have continued rapid expansion; and a number of countries, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean, seem to be on the way to recovery after years of strenuous adjustment efforts.

On the other hand, we have seen widely fluctuating economic performances in the Near East region and continuing regression in much of Africa. While prospects for the mid-term remain optimistic for Asia and moderately so for

Latin America and the Caribbean and the Near East/North Africa, only slight gains in per caput incomes are expected in sub-Saharan Africa.

Thus, contrasting influences have shaped the climate for agricultural development and nutrition. The depressed state of industrial countries' economies is constraining their domestic and import demand for agricultural products while limiting the availability of donor resources for agricultural development. This pressure on resources for development comes at a time when there has been a surge in man-made disasters and many devastating natural disasters. Together these disasters have led to an unprecedented demand for emergency relief to which the donors have had to respond. On the other hand, the improved economic situation and prospects in many developing countries imply gains in domestic food demand and import capacity, important components of food security. In this mixed picture of gains and losses the situation in sub-Saharan Africa appears especially worrisome. The period since the last Conference has seen a cumulative 4.2 percent fall in per caput income, further aggravating an already precarious food security situation.

Turning now to the supplies of agricultural products, the last two years have been generally poor on a global basis. World crop and livestock production is declining in 1993 following very slow growth last year. World cereal production in 1993 is now forecast to fall by 3.5 percent, in contrast to the 1.5 percent in your document, reflecting mainly a sharper than previously forecast decline in the United States in its coarse grain production. The world catch of fish and shellfish levelled off in 1992 following declines in both 1990 and 1991. Production of the main forestry products has also remained relatively depressed.

While faltering agricultural performances are less of a problem for many developed countries where concerns are usually about excess supply, they are a worrisome matter for much of the developing world. The population of the developing countries has increased by about 4 percent since 1991, an incremental 170 million people, yet agricultural production has only risen by 2.6 percent for the same period. The welcome recovery in food and agricultural production in this year in Africa will still be inadequate even to regain the region's per caput output levels of 1991.

Turning to trade, the developing countries have continued to increase their exports in volume terms at almost twice the rate of the developed countries. However, developing countries' export unit values have continued to decline as primary commodity prices, particularly theirs, have trended downward. This has meant that the terms of trade, both net barter and income of the developing countries have continued to deteriorate.

The GATT Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, now seemingly stalemated as we approach the 15 December deadline, could, if successful, open markets and provide relief for exporting developing countries. Instead, with any agreement still elusive, protectionism and subsidization, particularly by the developed countries, remains heavy, further contributing to depressed commodity prices

Mr Chairman, you will have noticed a number of changes in the format and presentation of the documents before you that take into account comments and suggestions made at previous Council and Conference meetings. I hope we have succeeded in making the documents more readable and informative. I may add that the final SOFA publication is expected to be available by the end of the year in this revised form.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your very interesting and comprehensive statement. May I now invite comments from the floor.

Chrysanthos LOIZIDES (Cyprus): It is a real pleasure for me to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, and the two Vice-chairmen on your election to Commission I. I also want to thank Mr Hjort for his informative introduction of this item.

I wish to begin this brief intervention by expressing the high appreciation of my delegation to the FAO Secretariat for preparing document C 93/2 on The State of Food and Agriculture 1993. The wide and comprehensive information presented in this document, both at the global and regional levels, together with the specific reviews for developing and developed country-regions and selected countries within each region, in our view is very useful indeed.

Evidently, the multi-dimension picture transmitted through the pages of the document is nothing less than the reflection of the current situation of food and agriculture in our planet, and this picture is certainly sad and alarming. Humanity is still faced with the hard reality of chronic undernutrition affecting almost 800 million people, that is, 20 percent of the population of the developing countries. As clearly indicated in Exhibit 2, page 5, in 86 developing countries out of a total of 125, the rate of change in the per caput food production during 1991-92 ranges between zero to minus 10 percent, which means that more than two-thirds of all developing countries recorded stagnant or declining levels of per caput food production.

Food shortage conditions are more acute in Africa, where the per caput agricultural production was reduced by an average rate of 6 percent. Likewise, 14 African countries are currently facing exceptional food emergencies. Similar conditions are also recorded in certain countries of Asia, Latin America and Europe, namely among the ex-socialist countries. It is noteworthy that many of the countries with food emergency needs are also being affected by civil strife.

Table 3 on page 3 6 shows that 31 low-income food-deficit countries, most of them in Africa, have very limited capacity to finance food imports. It also shows that 47 countries are highly dependent on agricultural exports. On the other hand the figures on Table 4, page 49, reveal very clearly, that despite the significant improvements in yields and production levels of agricultural products, originating from the aforementioned countries, corresponding incomes have been reduced during the last decade due to price decreases, namely for tropical products such as coffee, cocoa, sugar and natural rubber.

Likewise, the transformation process in most of the countries of Eastern Europe and the former USSR is encountering major obstacles. The gross domestic product in real terms is registered with a continuous decline during the last four years, as shown in Figure 1, page 26, and in many of these countries social stability and trade performance are characterized by a high degree of uncertainty.

The external debt situation of developing countries is also an alarming reality, closely related to food security and undernutrition.

As stated in Box 1, page 29, the total external debt of 116 developing countries, estimated to be US\$ 1 418 billion at the end of 1991, was projected to reach US\$ 1 510 in 1992, i.e. an absolute increase of US\$ 92 billion within a year. For the severely indebted low-income countries the ratio of debt to gross national product is estimated to be 113 percent, while the ratio of debt service to exports is estimated to be 22 percent during 1992. These figures are very indicative of the extremely difficult financial conditions in most of the developing countries. Under such conditions the prospects for poverty alleviation, which is widely recognized as a prerequisite for combating undernutrition, are surely very limited.

Another important element, mentioned in Box 1, paragraph 4, is that the debt originating from agriculture-related projects represents approximately 6 percent of the total external debt of the aforesaid countries. Although the loans for agriculture are usually provided on concessional terms, it is evident that the external finance for agriculture is very low. However, the wide agricultural sector is expected to play a crucial role in the process of overall development, especially in countries where a large part of the population depends on this sector, from the viewpoint of employment, food and income.

In the light of these observations, we share the view that there is considerable scope for improvement in specific issues affecting agricultural development, such as terms of trade, increased agricultural investments, where needed, utilizing the so-called idle resources in developed countries, including the expected peace dividend, savings from disarmament, and the expansion of regional and interregional cooperation.

In this respect I wish to emphasize the role of FAO, the leading international agency for promoting cooperation and providing policy and training assistance aimed at increasing agricultural and rural development, particularly in the low-income food-deficit countries.

José Antonio OCAMPO GAVIRIA (Colombia): Quisiera referirme en mi intervención, Señor Presidente, a dos conjuntos de temas. El primero de ellos tiene que ver con las apreciaciones que trae el documento sobre el sector cafetero, donde constatamos una apreciación incorrecta sobre el manejo de la política cafetera en nuestro país. Y, el segundo, sobre los efectos que están teniendo las políticas proteccionistas de los países desarrollados sobre algunos de los mercados más sensibles para nosotros.

Sobre el primero de estos temas, en la página 8, se dice lo siguiente: "Las reducciones más fuertes de producción se registraron en Brasil, Guatemala y México, mientras que en Colombia se obtuvo una nueva cosecha sin precedentes, debido principalmente a las subvenciones otorgadas por el Fondo Nacional del Café".

Yo quiero, Señor Presidente, resaltar el hecho de que si bien en varios países productores de café en los últimos años se han utilizado, en efecto, subvenciones o subsidios. Ese no es el sistema que se emplea en Colombia. El Fondo Nacional del Café es el fondo de estabilización de precios, de productos de exportación más exitoso a nivel nacional que existe posiblemente en el mundo en desarrollo. Es un fondo que ha operado exitosamente desde el año 1940 y que a lo largo de su historia ha hecho grandes contribuciones a las finanzas públicas; y, por el contrario, rara

vez, y ésta no ha sido ciertamente la situación durante la coyuntura reciente, ha recibido apoyo del Gobierno Nacional.

Es esencialmente un mecanismo que funciona estableciendo gravámenes a los productores de café durante las épocas de altos precios internacionales para utilizar esos ingresos durante los períodos de bajos precios internacionales. Ese es el instrumento que ha sido utilizado durante la coyuntura reciente. Durante el período de fuerte reducción de los precios internacionales, que se inició a raíz del colapso del Acuerdo Internacional del Café, a mediados de 1989, el Fondo Nacional del Café permitió que Colombia utilizara los ahorros que habían hecho los propios apicultores en el Fondo Nacional del Café, para sostener el precio interno del grano y ajustarse sólo en forma gradual, como se ha venido haciendo desde entonces, a la caída que habían venido experimentando los precios internacionales.

En varios momentos, efectivamente, hemos otorgado a los productores del café un precio interno que excede significativamente del precio internacional. Pero eso no es ningún subsidio ni subvención, ni se le puede llamar por ninguno de esos nombres; es simplemente una forma de utilizar los ahorros forzosos que hicieron los caficultores en sus épocas de abundancia.

Le ruego por tanto, Señor Presidente, que en la versión final de este documento se suprima en la referencia al sistema cafetero de Colombia la palabra "subvención", ya que es una apreciación incorrecta sobre nuestro mecanismo de manejo cafetero.

Por lo demás, Señor Presidente, yo quiero resaltar el hecho de que la existencia de este Fondo Nacional del Café de Colombia es un ejemplo que bien valdría la pena resaltar en su documento, acerca de cómo se puede a nivel nacional manejar crisis internacionales tan profundas como la que ha experimentado a nivel de la economía mundial el sector cafetero. Precisamente por la ausencia de mecanismos de esta naturaleza en el resto de países productores, ellos no han tenido alternativas diferentes al trasladarle a sus productores la fuerte baja en las cotizaciones internacionales del grano que, como bien resalta el informe, ha sido la más fuerte de cualquiera de las commodities del mundo en desarrollo o, si consideran que se deben adoptar algunas medidas de fomento, dedicar recursos fiscales explícitos a ese propósito, dando lo que en la práctica así ha sido, un sistema de subsidios o subvenciones que han utilizado muchos países productores pero, como ya lo he resaltado, no mi país.

Yo quiero, por otra parte, Señor Presidente, como también lo haré en mi presentación ante el conjunto de la Asamblea, resaltar la importancia que tiene para todos los países cafeteros el reciente Pacto de Retención que fue firmado bajo el liderazgo de los países productores latinoamericanos: Colombia, Brasil, Centroamérica, y algunos otros productores sudamericanos, el grueso de los productores africanos, y algunos productores asiáticos.

El Señor Director General hizo en su presentación ante la Asamblea una apreciación correcta sobre la ausencia de mecanismos de estabilización a nivel internacional. Por diversas causas que no son del caso analizar con detenimiento aquí, los pactos de productos primarios, entre los cuales uno de los ejemplos más destacados era el café, han entrado desde hace ya varios años en un proceso de crisis, quizás irreversible; pero ninguno de los otros mecanismos que ha sido diseñado y propuesto a nivel internacional, desde hace dos o tres décadas, ha podido entrar en el escenario para cumplir el papel estabilizador que antes desempeñaban los

acuerdos de los productos primarios. Algunos analistas simplistas de algunas agencias internacionales nos han tratado de decir que la solución a este problema son los mercados de futuros; pero cuando se trata de estabilizar ciclos de precios, Señor Presidente, que tienen lugar a lo largo de 20 ó 25 años, como ocurre en el caso del café, yo quiero que primero me demuestren cuál es el mercado de futuros que puede entrar a jugar el papel que previa e históricamente han desempeñado los acuerdos de productos primarios.

Por eso, Señor Presidente, mi país fue promotor de la renovación del Acuerdo Internacional de Café aun sabiendo, como lo sabíamos antes de la ruptura del Pacto, que eramos el país más fuerte para enfrentar la crisis cafetera internacional precisamente porque contábamos con el mejor instrumento del manejo interno del mundo cafetero como era el Fondo Nacional del Café. Aun así promovimos el Pacto Internacional y una vez que se rompió el Pacto, demostramos que eramos el más fuerte para manejar la crisis cafetera, y lo seguimos demostrando día tras día; pero aun así, seguimos creyendo que solamente mediante la colaboración entre países productores y consumidores, a través de un acuerdo de productos primarios, es posible estabilizar los ingresos de los productores de países en desarrollo y, especialmente, de los países en desarrollo más pobres que no tienen acceso al tipo de instrumentos que a lo largo de nuestra historia hemos podido diseñar.

Desafortunadamente no ha sido propicio el ambiente para la renovación del Acuerdo y por eso, sabiendo que históricamente es un instrumento subóptimo los países productores decidimos tomar el camino independiente de buscar una reactivación de corto plazo en los precios internacionales, sabiendo que de otra manera la producción mundial de café está condenada a un colapso sin paralelo en la historia del producto a nivel internacional.

Esa es la política que hemos seguido y que no ha sido comprendida por el principal país consumidor del café, y por esta razón queremos hoy en día decir en esta Asamblea que lamentamos profundamente su retiro de la Organización Internacional del Café bajo el pretexto de que los países productores habíamos tomado una iniciativa a la cual nos vimos abocados por la fuerza de las circunstancias.

El segundo tema, señor Presidente, al cual quiero referirme, es el del resurgimiento del proteccionismo que ha condenado a varios de nuestros productos de exportación a una situación crecientemente difícil. Entre ellos quisiéramos mencionar, en primer término, el banano, producto para el cual a partir del primero de julio del presente año entró en vigencia un nuevo arreglo en la Comunidad Económica Europea que significó para los países exportadores de América Latina, de los cuales Colombia y Costa Rica son los principales exportadores a la Comunidad, un sacrificio muy importante. Significó una reducción del orden de un 20 por ciento en las cantidades que veníamos exportando a la Comunidad y la pérdida de un estatus de libre comercio que había venido prevaleciendo con cerca de la mitad de los países de la Comunidad Europea. Algunos con el arancel que la Comunidad había consolidado en el GATT y otros, el caso particular de Alemania, sin arancel alguno.

El establecimiento del régimen de la Comunidad ha tenido dos efectos que quisiéramos resaltar aquí. El primero ha sido frenar uno de los crecimientos más dinámicos de las exportaciones de varios países latinoamericanos, entre ellos Ecuador, Colombia y Costa Rica, como los principales productores latinoamericanos de la fruta; pero también varios

otros países centroamericanos, y como ya comenzaba a perfilarse, algunos países tradicionalmente no exportadores de banano, como Venezuela y México. Pero, segundo, y más importante, han puesto a las comercializadoras de banano de nuestros países bajo el yugo de las empresas comercializadoras europeas.

Como es del conocimiento de todos ustedes, el mercado mundial del banano ha sido tradicionalmente dominado, o fue dominado, por unas cuantas empresas multilaterales. Gracias a un esfuerzo empresarial sin precedentes en la historia de nuestro país, y de algunos otros países de la Región, los productores pudieron organizarse como comercializadoras exitosas de banano, y nuestras comercializadoras de banano habían logrado concentrar el 80 o el 85 por ciento de las exportaciones crecientes de la fruta, tanto a Estados Unidos como a la Comunidad Económica Europea.

Este esfuerzo de crear comercializadoras propias en productos tradicionalmente dominados por comercializadoras de países desarrollados, lo veíamos como uno de los grandes desarrollos de ese producto, y nos hemos encontrado con la sorpresa, Señor Presidente, de que el nuevo régimen de la Comunidad corta de raíz lo que había sido ese proceso exitoso para poner a las comercializadoras independientes nuestras con un crecimiento dinámico en los últimos años bajo dependencia total de las comercializadoras Europeas a las cuales se les asigna las cuotas. Las cuotas son un régimen oprobioso para los exportadores, pero cuando se le asignan las cuotas a los países compradores son doblemente oprobiosas. Queremos llamar la atención sobre este hecho que duplica los costos que el nuevo régimen tiene para nuestros países.

Por último quiero decir que esta tendencia se ha venido acrecentando en varios otros productos. Quisiera entre otras cosas resaltar, porque somos también parte demandante ante el GATT, el nuevo régimen tabacalero de los Estados Unidos, que establece la obligación a las empresas productoras de cigarrillos de utilizar un 75%, como mínimo, de tabaco norteamericano, o los subsidios que establece este país a la producción algodonera, que conjuntamente con otros desarrollos han implicado que el grueso del ajuste en la producción mundial de algodón ha recaído sobre los países en desarrollo y en particular sobre los países latinoamericanos, entre ellos el mío.

Este Organismo, como todos los organismos internacionales, debe convertirse en un defensor a ultranza de un ambiente más libre para el comercio agrícola internacional. Porque ese ambiente es el único que es compatible con los intereses de los países en desarrollo.

P. VAN STEEKELENBURG (EEC): Firstly, let me congratulate you, Mr Chairman, and your two Vice-chairmen, on being elected to these very important posts. I am sure we shall have very successful sessions under your chairmanship. I also thank Mr Hjort for his substantial introduction to the various issues.

I wish to make a statement on behalf of the European Community and its Member States on agenda item 6.1.

As underlined by our Commissioner for Agriculture, Mr Steichen, in his speech at the Plenary session, we are very happy to be able to participate now fully in the important work of FAO, and to contribute to the realization of its objectives.

We have looked with great interest at the excellent report of the State of Food and Agriculture, and we share the worries expressed in it concerning the very modest increase in global agricultural production. This is particularly so in developing countries where the increase of 1.7 percent - I refer to the old document, we do not have the supplement available, I am sorry - is largely eroded by population growth and no less than two-thirds of the countries recorded stagnant or declining levels of per caput food production. It is good to see that in Africa, where there is the highest concentration of poor production, some bright spots can also be found, notably Nigeria and Ghana.

One of the most worrying aspects of the gloomy picture of Africa being the continent most seriously affected, with 14 countries facing exceptional food emergencies, is the fact that half of these are also having civil strife and armed conflict. This fact does not allow one to expect substantial improvements at short notice, whatever the international donor community undertakes. Therefore, it is no surprise to see that, of Africa's total cereals imports of close to 20 million tonnes in 1992-93, a third was food aid. In other regions of the world, this ratio of total imports to food aid was much lower: in Asia only 8 to 9 percent of the 3 5 million tonnes was food aid, the rest being commercial imports.

Although, according to the Report, external assistance to agriculture has declined in real terms over the last couple of years, you may be interested to note that the European Community has continued to emphasize agricultural development in its aid programmes. On top of that, the latter's grant element is usually more than 90 percent. There are no plans to change our policies in this respect.

The EC Member States have largely the same approach, although in some cases the grant element may be at a somewhat lower level. Provisional figures for 1991 indicate that the average grant element of EC Member States is more than 80 percent of total official development aid commitments.

Concerning the overall economic environment, you may have noticed that all legal obstacles to the Maastricht Treaty have now been lifted; this important step towards European union came into effect on 1 November, just a few days ago. We all look forward to further reinforcement of the European Union in economic, monetary and political terms, and we are convinced that a united Europe can make an important contribution to stability and economic growth on a global scale.

As regards the reforms of the Common Agricultural Policy and its impact on production, farm incomes and farm structures, as well as on the environment, we much appreciate the analysis provided by the Secretariat. As is rightly indicated in its Report, the total effect of the measures aimed at reduced production of arable crops, meat and dairy products are hard to forecast. Nonetheless, it should be anticipated that total production of cereals will be reduced considerably and exports will, therefore, progressively decrease as carry-over stocks may become smaller. Such stock reductions can also be expected in other countries once the Uruguay negotiations have come to a conclusion. The availability of food for emergency situations may become an important issue.

On the other hand, the European Community and its Member States are fully aware of the global benefits which should result from more liberalized international trade and are therefore committed to bringing the Uruguay Round to a successful conclusion. The Community continues its efforts to

this end, in order to come to a final agreement which will be equitable and take due account of the interests and possibilities of all parties to the negotiations.

In this context, it may be recalled that the EC has always indicated its readiness to consider, in priority terms, special food aid to low-income, food-deficient countries in case the outcome of the GATT negotiations has an adverse effect on the balance of world markets for agricultural products, thus affecting substantially their food import capacities. Concerning the relations between the European Community and its Member States on one hand and its partners in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific on the other, the present fourth Lomé Convention covers the period 1990-1999. Its financial protocol for the first half which represents about 14 billion dollars should be renewed for the second five-year period. It is likely that during this process some other provisions of the Convention may be changed, so as to further improve coherence and efficiency of its various instruments.

It has been said before on other occasions, but I think it is necessary to repeat here, that aid provided by the EC and its Member States, for the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and to the members of the Commonwealth of Independent States is not at the expense of ongoing actions and programmes for developing countries. For the latter, the commitments are there and remain unchanged. Any fears on this perspective are unfounded. Aid to Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS is on top of ongoing programmes for other areas.

The International Conference on Nutrition adopted a Plan of Action that provides guidelines for governments working together with other agents, non-government and private sector donors to reduce hunger and all forms of malnutrition. The food security approach that has been one of the guiding principles of the Community's developmental cooperation efforts for well over 10 years now is to a large extent built on similar principles to those in the Plan of Action. It is no exaggeration to say that the EC looks very attentively at the Plan of Action, a number of whose principles we have advocated and complied with over many years. The Declaration and the Plan of Action should guide us in the fixing of our priorities in this field.

Ulrich D. KNÜPPEL (EEC): I would like to add a word on bananas as the delegate from Colombia has addressed the question.

You are well aware that this matter has been raised on many occasions already, in the CCP, in COAG and in Council meetings. I can, therefore, be brief.

I had to address this question also at the Council meeting last week. Interested parties can look to the verbatim report of 3 November to see this report.

I have three remarks. While it is true that imports into the Community under the new banana regime have decreased compared with last year's imports, it is also true that there was a remarkable increase in prices in the Community and, according to all reports, the benefits of those increases in prices go to a large extent to the exporting countries. I think that this fact should also be acknowledged.

The second aspect is that the GATT Panel on the new Community regime has started work and will probably deliver its report at a very early stage, much earlier than under normal GATT procedures.

Thirdly, the Community has started GATT negotiations under Article XXVIII of GATT. As Colombia is part of those negotiations, Colombia will be fully in a position to exercise its GATT rights. The case is the same for all other GATT contracting parties which have either an initial negotiating right, a principal or a substantial interest.

Mme Yvette LANGRAND (France): Je voudrais tout d'abord, Monsieur le Président, vous présenter mes vives félicitations concernant votre élection.

Ce document sur la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture témoigne de la capacité de l'Organisation à présenter les forces et les faiblesses de la production et des échanges agricoles et agro-alimentaires.

Le contact d'inquiétude et d'espoir à la fois que nous faisons au cours de la 26ème session est sensiblement le même en 1993:

- une production céréalière mondiale à peu près stable avec une légère amélioration des exportations des pays en développement;
- une amélioration de la croissance dans certains pays asiatiques notamment, mais aussi dans certains pays d'Amérique latine et d'Afrique;
- une légère régression de la malnutrition chronique.

Mais les facteurs d'inquiétude sont toujours là et d'autres apparaissent.

Peu de situations s'améliorent dans les 47 pays les moins avancés (PMA) qui connaissent leur quatrième année consécutive de ralentissement de l'activité économique.

L'Afrique subsaharienne, malgré certains progrès de la production agricole globale, reste largement dépendante de l'aide internationale, et notamment de l'aide alimentaire.

D'autres facteurs négatifs sont signalés à juste titre.

Les difficultés économiques des pays développés entraînent une baisse de leurs importations et freinent les exportations des PED. L'aide internationale connaît par ailleurs un certain essoufflement lié à ces difficultés.

La dégradation des terres et la pénurie d'eau sont aggravées par les déplacements de populations dus aux tensions qui se manifestent dans le monde.

La relative stabilité de la production céréalière que nous évoquons ne signifie pourtant pas que la sécurité alimentaire soit assurée à terme pour tous les pays et toutes les couches de la population.

La tendance de l'évolution démographique à moyen terme dans une grande partie des pays d'Afrique et d'Asie, notamment, entraînera certainement une forte augmentation de la demande d'approvisionnement globale.

D'autre part, les guerres civiles et les catastrophes naturelles qui touchent particulièrement le continent africain entraînent à la fois, avec le déplacement des producteurs, la diminution de la production des pays en guerre, l'augmentation des besoins insolubles et la dégradation des capacités de production des sites dans lesquels elles sont regroupées.

C'est dire que nous devons prendre garde:

- d'un côté, à maintenir un potentiel de production alimentaire suffisant dans les pays développés;
- de l'autre, à encourager les pays en développement à atteindre l'autosuffisance alimentaire.

A cet égard, l'étude faite au chapitre "contexte économique et perspectives de l'agriculture" est particulièrement intéressante dans votre document.

Tout indique que l'économie des pays en développement, pour se développer, a besoin de la bonne santé de l'économie des pays développés, et qu'elle devrait s'appuyer sur la capacité de soutien économique et financier, et sur la capacité d'importations de ces derniers, pour réduire dans le temps l'écart de revenus entre les pays les plus riches et les pays les plus défavorisés.

Il est d'autant plus nécessaire pour les pays en transition d'Europe centrale et orientale de recevoir l'appui des organisations multilatérales pour poursuivre la réorganisation de leurs économies. Certains de ces pays pourraient en effet, compte tenu de leurs ressources naturelles, jouer un rôle moteur dans les échanges internationaux et élargir le cercle des pays solvables susceptibles d'aider leurs voisins moins favorisés.

Pour atteindre l'autosuffisance alimentaire, des plans d'action traduisant une forte volonté nationale de réduire la pauvreté et de donner, notamment aux ruraux, les moyens de se prendre en charge eux-mêmes ont permis d'améliorer les revenus et l'emploi.

Ces plans s'intègrent dans des programmes d'ajustement structurel qui, dans le secteur agricole, prennent de plus en plus en compte les risques que font courir à la sécurité alimentaire certaines mesures de libéralisation des marchés intérieurs.

Concernant la libéralisation que beaucoup opposent au protectionnisme comme le remède à tous les maux des pays en développement, M. le Ministre de l'agriculture et de la pêche français a indiqué hier la position française dans les négociations en cours.

Notre délégation précisera ses préoccupations concernant les menaces que font peser les mesures de libéralisation sans pondération sur les productions agricoles des pays dont l'économie est fragile, dans ses interventions ultérieures, notamment celle concernant le point 2 sur la sécurité alimentaire.

Il est en effet de mieux en mieux admis que les producteurs agricoles des pays en développement, qui sont les moins protégés du monde, doivent

bénéficier de conditions stables de production et de commercialisation de leurs produits. Il convient donc d'accorder une priorité élevée à l'assistance en matière de stratégie alimentaire et de politique agricole.

Dans cet esprit, la France a décidé de poursuivre son soutien à l'Organisation dans le domaine de la formation à l'analyse et à la mise en oeuvre des politiques agricoles.

Il nous paraît indispensable que les nations soient armées pour lutter efficacement contre la faim et la pauvreté, deux défis qui sont évoqués dans le document "Agriculture Horizon 2010".

Ma délégation n'interviendra pas sur ce point particulier. Mais elle tient cependant à vous dire dès maintenant combien est grande sa satisfaction concernant la qualité d'un document qui constitue une base de réflexion tout à fait intéressante sur les perspectives qu'offrent l'agriculture et son environnement à moyen terme.

Le monde a devant lui des problèmes majeurs: la réduction de la pauvreté, l'amélioration de l'accès à la nourriture, la préservation des ressources naturelles, ces grands thèmes déjà évoqués par la CNUED et par la CIN dont l'étroite interaction est mise en évidence dans ce document.

Certains chiffres appellent une mobilisation accrue des organisations internationales : c'est le cas, en particulier, des données concernant les populations qui seront, en 2010, au-dessous du minimum nutritionnel, compte tenu de l'insuffisance des productions locales; c'est le cas aussi des données concernant les forêts dévastées et le rapport entre la terre et l'homme.

La prise de conscience de ces interactions incite de plus en plus les Etats à raisonner dans ce grand ensemble qu'est le système écologique et économique mondial.

Le document 2010 est pour nous l'outil de réflexion et de travail que nous attendions. Et nous vous en remercions.

J. HAKI (Tanzania): First, may I, on behalf of my delegation, extend the warmest congratulations to you, Mr Chairman, on your election to the Chair of this important session of the Commission. We sincerely believe that your wisdom will guide our deliberations to a fruitful outcome.

We also wish to extend similar warm congratulations to the Vice-chairman of this Commission and to the Deputy Director-General on his comprehensive overview of the food and agriculture situation for 1993. Furthermore, we commend the Secretariat on producing a very comprehensive and informative report, C 93/2, and the Supplement, on the State of Food and Agriculture. The tables and graphics contained in Part I of the report are particularly informative. This document is a clear manifestation of FAO's undisputed leadership in the knowledge of the world's food and agricultural situation.

Our delegation has taken a particularly keen interest in paragraphs 122-157 of the report "Biotechnology: challenges and opportunities for the 1990's". We note that biotechnology in the developed world is mostly a preserve of the private sector. This situation will inevitably lead to increased secrecy of research findings. It will, therefore, hinder the free flow of scientific information. We are also equally concerned that the involvement

of the private sector might lead to the choice of research agendas which are predominantly beneficial to the First World and might be detrimental to the Third World.

While we acknowledge the many positive contributions or outcomes that might be obtained or gained from biotechnology approaches, such as those mentioned in paragraphs 131-143, we are understandably deeply concerned about the issues raised in paragraphs 146-149 and in particular paragraph 152.

The prospects for genetically engineered coffee or pyrethrum are real and are not far away. This will be the final death knell in our already dying commodity export-based economies.

We therefore count on the FAO to take initiatives to guide biotechnological research to responsible application and for the benefit of all mankind. We also hope that the FAO will provide the requisite technical advice and training in the use of biotechnology to developing countries in order either to raise crop productivity or create opportunities for crop diversification.

The issue of biotechnology will be with us for many years to come. Collective responsibility is imperative.

Eberhard SCHMAUZ (Germany) (Original language German) : May I first of all congratulate you, Mr Chairman, and the Deputy Chairmen of this Commission, on your election. Your long experience in FAO matters is most likely the best precondition for the successful completion of our work in Commission I. I would like to thank the Secretariat for the document they have prepared and its Supplement, which gives an overview on the State of Food and Agriculture and the situation in the nutritional sector. I would also like to thank you, Mr Hjort, for your presentation of this document.

The delegation of the European Commission mentioned a whole series of subjects in its presentation which are important from the point of view of the Community. It also mentioned the alarming situation in food production in some regions and the concerns that this raises. Therefore, I would like to limit my statement just to a few crucial points.

The percentages given in Table 1 of document C 93/2 on page 3 show the serious trend of food supply, especially in Africa, Eastern Europe and in the former Soviet Union. However, they say little about the per capita food production in absolute terms. A more important but also depressing picture can be gleaned from the per capita consumption in various agricultural product groups in the various regions of the world. On the basis of the FAO statistics available the per capita consumption of cereals, fruit, vegetables, meat and milk was calculated for 1982 and 1990, and the situation is then as follows. In industrialized countries, consumption was 1.8 kg per day, and that is almost twice as much as the consumption in developing countries, where 990 grams were available. In Africa, the figure is only 700 grams per capita. Daily per capita consumption of staple food and processed products, excluding cereals, is twice as high in industrialized countries as far as fruit and vegetables are concerned as it is in developing countries. The daily consumption of milk and meat products as an essential source of protein, aside from fish, is only 20 percent in developing countries of what it is in the industrialized countries. As far as fish consumption is concerned, the developing countries' figures are considerably lower.

These statistics are not surprising really. Nor is the fact that the African continent has the lowest supply. They show from a somewhat different perspective how precarious the food situation is in some regions, the most affected being the developing countries in Africa and the Far East.

In a whole series of countries this situation is exacerbated not least through political instability, wars and natural disasters.

The Federal Republic of Germany has taken greater account of these conditions in its development aid in the last few years. Food aid globally, in other words bilateral measures, as well as the German contribution to the World Food Programme, as well as its contribution within the framework of the EC, has increased from 500 million DM in 1990 to 575 million DM in 1991 and 665 million DM in 1992. Humanitarian aid in the food sector to central, eastern and southern Europe, as well as to the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union, is not included in these programmes of assistance.

Part II of the document gives an interesting overview for some countries in the various regions and shows what the agricultural performances have been.

Against this background, may I now make some comments on the changes in the agricultural sector in the East German areas of the Federal Republic of Germany, the so-called new federal states (Länder). The process that was and is going on there at the moment shows numerous parallels with the reform efforts in eastern and central Europe and in the former Soviet Union.

Since the establishment of German unity two totally different agricultural structures are being amalgamated in a worldwide unique process. In the western Länder the average size of full-time farms was about 30 hectares in 1990 as against a size in the former German Democratic Republic of several thousand hectares per farm of state-owned farms and agricultural provinces' cooperatives. Similar differences existed in livestock numbers. Whilst in the old Federal Republic there was a continuous, slow process of structural change, in the new Länder we witnessed a total breakdown of the structures from a centrally-planned economy to a market economy.

My government has supported the restructuring in the new Länder since 1990 with a whole series of measures to stabilize markets and reorganize farm structures. For structural promotion, the Community had also made available resources in the framework of its programmes. A priority agricultural policy concern of my government is the speedy establishment of an efficient market-oriented and environmentally-friendly agriculture. Measured against the partly disastrous situation in agriculture in the former DDR from where we started, considerable progress has already been made. In spite of extensive measures to improve the agrarian structure, supported by considerable financial resources and accompanied by social measures, the process of adaptation in the new Länder is far from completion.

Adjustment of farm structures continues. However, the time of drastic changes is over. The property conflicts continue at the level of owners disappropriated between 1945 and 1990 and with the former agricultural producer cooperatives which in their former form were discontinued. There has been progress also in the drastic reduction of labour. From 850 000 in the former German Democratic Republic working in the agricultural sector, we now have a figure of only 200 000. The new Länder have about one-third

of the agricultural surface in Germany, one-sixth of livestock numbers and a share of about 18 percent in the value added by the agricultural sector. The number of farms in the new Lander has more than quadrupled. Plant and animal production were again amalgamated and environmental pollution reduced. Of the present 22 000 farms with different legal forms 86 percent are individual enterprises and companies managing about 28 percent of the farm land. The average farm size is about 150 ha.

My government will continue effectively to accompany the process of adaptation in the new Lander with the help of the EC partners. We are also making efforts to share our experience with other countries undergoing a process of reform, to provide aid for them in order to try and avoid as much as possible mistakes being committed in the process of reform and to avoid repeating mistakes that might have happened before.

Tao-Jin KWON (Korea, Republic of): Before making my comments on the state of food and agriculture, may I congratulate Mr Redl on his election as Chairman of Commission I. In addition, I would like to thank Mr Hjort for giving us a clear and succinct summary of the state of food and agriculture.

In relation to the statement on the world's food and agriculture, my greatest concern lies in the fact that we might be threatened with a crisis in world food security. I am worried that the poor people of many countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America may face even more difficult situations due to the reduction of food stocks following the formidable damage done to many of the world's major bread-basket regions by adverse climatic conditions this year.

As we all know, the majority of the developing countries earn their foreign exchange by exporting agricultural products, yet developing countries are continuing to face formidable obstacles to provide the food they need because there is no sign of international prices for agricultural commodities taking a turn. In addition, they have experienced many difficulties in their efforts to invest in the industrial sector to create employment opportunities.

I am of the opinion that our long-term goals to free countries from hunger and starvation and to stabilize the foundation for global parity can be realized through a balanced agricultural sector in every nation.

Agro-fisheries serve the function of providing employment, economic help, food aid, balanced development of land and environmental conservation. In the developing countries, the agricultural sector is more important than others because it is the foundation of economic development. In this sense, I regret the fact that there has been an imbalance in countries and regions between agricultural and rural development. I hope that FAO will provide global measures to correct this situation. We cannot overlook the tragedy of 40 000 children dying of hunger and starvation every day in Asia, Africa and Latin America. We must protect the global environment, the very basis of the resources for agricultural production, which has been increasingly weakened especially in the developing countries. I hope that the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Negotiations will bring about a result whereby a desirable basis for the agro-fishery industry will be maintained throughout the world.

I further hope that the outcome of the Uruguay Round will provide favourable conditions to enable food-deficit countries to go forward in an effort to improve their national food security situation. Moreover, I believe that FAO and other related international organizations perform a valuable catalytic function by guiding the different actions of different countries. This must be expanded to enable them to contribute in this direction.

In this regard, I have high esteem for the leadership of FAO in their efforts to conduct public debates in order to find solutions for sustainable development, agricultural development, to increase the role of women in agriculture, to improve nutritional status and to preserve plant and genetic resources as well as marine biological resources. However, with regard to the conservation of marine biological resources, it would be most appropriate to give consideration to the legitimacy of sustainable development and where necessary, step-by-step regulatory measures should be taken.

In conclusion, I urge WFP and other international organizations to fight the battle of food security with renewed energy. I urge all member countries to provide every possible support and participation in these efforts.

J.A.M. VAN SLUISVELD (Netherlands): I would like to join previous speakers in congratulating you, Mr Chairman, and the two Vice-chairmen on your election. I also want to thank the Deputy Director-General for his clear introduction of document C 93/2, The State of Food and Agriculture. This document gives us an interesting and useful view of the developments in world agricultural production, consumption, trade and of the influences of world economic trends in the agricultural sector.

In many developing countries, agriculture is the most important sector of the economy. This sector depends very much, however, on external economic developments such as international prices, currencies, interest rates, and the relationship between world supply of and demand for their agricultural products. As the Representative of the European Community on behalf of its Member States has already said, the increase in agricultural production was modest. This was in the framework of the limited average economic growth at global level during the last biennium. In spite of this increase there is still reason for special attention for a considerable number of countries, especially developing ones. The still existing commodity problem, the restricted access to the markets of developed countries and the low world market prices for imported products weigh heavily on the economies of many developing countries and their further development. We hope that the Uruguay Round which has not yet come to a positive conclusion - because we are sure that this will bring about many other reforms - will be beneficial for the world economy.

In this connection, I want to mention developments in the Central and Eastern European countries and in the countries of the former Soviet Union, which are extremely important for the whole economy. In the developing countries there were many positive developments since the last Conference of FAO, but in the weakest economies the situation is still causing grave concern. Among other reasons, civil strife is often the cause of a disastrous situation in a number of countries, and we hope this strife can be brought to an end soon.

Bernardo PALESTINI (Italy): Mr Chairman, the Italian delegation congratulates you on your appointment as Head of Commission I, whose task is to discuss the main problems of food and agricultural policy. We are sure that our meetings will be successful thanks to your experience and competence. We also congratulate the Secretariat on the document submitted for our examination.

With reference to document C 93/2, the first chapter provides us with a summary of the world situation. It offers a world economic review according to countries and according to food and agricultural production, agricultural trade, foreign assistance in food aid, fisheries and forestry. The overall picture is described in document C 93/2-Sup.1 and the perspectives envisaged therein at first sight are not very encouraging.

The preliminary estimates for different commodities show for 1993 a decline of 1.5 percent in the global production of cereals. In particular, wheat is expected to increase by an average of 1.6 percent while a sustained decline is expected for other cereals. Nevertheless export prices are expected to diminish due to heavy stocks in exporting countries and increased production in some countries like Australia and Argentina. The decline in export prices will seriously affect developing countries who are vulnerable owing to less diversification of their production.

On the other hand, to obtain a reduction of stocks in major producing countries is only possible up to a certain point in order to be able to deal with food emergencies. It is thus essential to make the necessary policy adjustments to improve the necessary distribution channels to provide food where and when it is most needed.

As far as Italy is concerned, notwithstanding the economic momentum, aid to the developing countries will continue with more regard being paid to multilateral programmes. Environmental programmes which affect many developed countries and also some of the developing ones are taken into consideration, whereas production increase will have to be comparable with the preservation of natural resources. In this connection, I would just like to say a few words on forestry and the timber trade.

The marketing of timber has taken off after two years stagnation. This is particularly meaningful as the steady decrease in trade in tropical wood was due to the fact that exporting countries preferred to have their products processed by national enterprise and encouraged the sale of completed or half-completed products. It is worth pointing out, however, that commercial activities are not the main cause of deforestation.

Silvicultural practice is the most effective and direct remedy to establish the principle of sustainable management of forests. The role of FAO in promoting such programmes is of paramount importance. It is essential to exercise certain control on wood products in order to be sure that wood is taken from forests managed in accordance with sustainable principles, thus preventing irregular and unqualified taking out of wood. The decision of importing countries in any case should not look like an imposition clashing with the interests of the exporting countries. The various controls must discourage a marketing of forestry products which is against the preservation of forests, and would encourage a shift towards their cultivation. Biotechnology in forestry is of interest even if various species are related to longer cycles than agricultural ones. We recall the important results of micropropagation and selection of clones.

Finally, we would point out that modern techniques are of fundamental importance in establishing an improvement throughout all sectors capable of overcoming food deficiencies.

Antti NIKKOLA (Finland): My delegation would like to congratulate you Mr Chairman, and the two Vice-chairmen, on their election. We also thank Mr Hjort for his introduction. I have only some very short comments on the item before us.

Firstly, my delegation thanks the Secretariat for the most informative document C 93/2. One of the selected issues in the SOFA deals with the decline in the export prices in agricultural commodities. The prices on several commodities which are of the utmost importance in the exports of developing countries practically collapsed in the 1980s and during the last few years.

Coffee and cocoa are the worst examples. There is no doubt that one of the main reasons has been the collapse of the economic provisions of international commodity agreements. It is true that international commodity agreements with price provisions are not fashionable nowadays. However, it is in the nature of agricultural production that even relatively small changes in supply and demand cause wide price fluctuations. That is the reason why domestic agricultural prices of at least the most important products are, in one way or another, stabilized in practically all national economies. We should ask ourselves why this stabilization policy could not be extended to international prices. Or should we accept large price swings in the future? At the same time we must take into account that more permanent changes in supply and demand must be reflected in price levels.

Paragraph 76 of the Secretariat's document states that an increase in protection as defined by the so-called producer subsidy equivalent has increased output in the developed countries. This kind of conclusion is, I think, questionable. Output is mainly determined by the production price level and production costs. On the other hand, the producer subsidy equivalent can increase - for example, due to the decline of the world market price, which decline has no effect on output.

Parviz KARBASI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): In the name of God. Mr Chairman, it is my pleasure to congratulate you on your election and to thank Mr Hjort for his brief and clear information. I should also like to thank the Secretariat for the document which has been prepared, which gives a very interesting and clear indication of the state of food and agriculture.

On the one hand we hear of the sad situations of debt and the downward trend of agricultural exports in developing countries. We hear of the increasing population in the developing countries, at a rate of 4 percent. We hear of the tragic situation of the coffee and banana markets in developing countries and the overall global economic downturn. On the other hand, since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, we hear talk in all UN agencies about sustainable development. It seems that these issues are far apart from each other.

At the present time, the population of the developing countries is 4.1 billion, while in the developed countries the figure is 1.2 billion. It will not be easy for the developed countries when over the next 30 years

the population of the developing countries will increase to approximately 7 billion while the population of the developed countries, with the wealth and technology, may be around 1 billion. If the world does not take the necessary steps to solve these problems, it will be a waste of time to talk about sustainable development, a waste of time to talk about the environment, because, when people are hungry, they eat the forest, they eat the pasture. There will be deterioration, there will be pollution.

We believe it is time for important decisions to be taken in the world community to harmonize these issues. There should be a great change in the FAO organization. The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran should put all its emphasis into the field of human resources development in all fields of agriculture, fisheries and forestry. FAO should strengthen existing networks and create new networks. FAO should initiate all possible subregional, regional and international cooperation.

Antonio CABRALES (El Salvador): Mi nombre es Antonio Cabrales y soy el Ministro de Agricultura de El Salvador. Tuve la honra de estar aquí en la 25° período de sesiones de la Conferencia en 1989 cuando en aquella ocasión en el debate general manifesté que nos sentíamos muy optimistas en cuanto al futuro de la agricultura, especialmente latinoamericana y creo que yo podría interpretar también, la agricultura mundial. Digo esto porque comenzaba la ola del nuevo pensamiento a nivel mundial en cuanto a los errores del pasado, que en América Latina fueron de treinta a cuarenta años de equivocadas políticas económicas y que comenzamos a cambiar precisamente como en 1989. Dijimos que si a los agricultores se les daba la oportunidad podrían producir tres, cuatro y cinco veces más de lo que se estaba produciendo. Hoy regreso aquí a la FAO, cuatro años y medio después, y nuevamente es una honra estar aquí con todos los colegas ministros de agricultura del mundo, especialmente el estar en esta histórica elección de un nuevo Director General de la FAO para los próximos seis años.

Felicito por este documento. Creo que es una buena base de discusión. Pero quiero decir esta mañana que sigo optimista, sin embargo vengo un poco frustrado de los acontecimientos de los últimos cuatro años y medio. Si vemos muy rápidamente el panorama de la agricultura, y especialmente creo que no difiere mucho la latinoamericana de la del mundo, ha sido seriamente afectado por fenómenos políticos, económicos y sociales en los últimos 30-40 años. Primero con la guerra fría que causó tantos problemas al mundo, especialmente en América Latina, el expansionismo soviético, la guerra Norte-Sur. En Latinoamérica, ustedes saben, fuimos invadidos por guerras de terrorismo, guerrillas, creando una enorme inestabilidad, pérdida de confianza del sector productivo, fuga de capitales, descapitalización del agro, etc. Luego, el alza del petróleo en los años setenta incrementa la deuda externa enormemente y pone presiones muy grandes a todos los gobiernos.

Pero me voy a referir más a las políticas económicas. Como ustedes saben, por más de treinta y pico de años en América Latina tuvimos un modelo económico, de desarrollo económico, basado en la sustitución de importaciones que provocaba grandes intervenciones estatales y creo que lo más nefasto fueron las intervenciones en los precios, tanto en los precios macro como en los precios micro. Se violó, creo yo, el principio más sagrado de cualquier economía en el mundo que es la manipulación de los precios. Cuando se tocan los precios se toca el corazón de cualquier economía. Los tipos de cambio eran manipulados, las tasas de interés, aranceles elevadísimos para proteger industrias inexistentes, que realmente

no merecían tanta elevación de aranceles, controles de precios, especialmente los granos básicos, leche, carne, etc., precios de garantía. Y cuando venía la escasez por toda esta política equivocada, entonces solicitábamos grandes donaciones de alimentos, que únicamente venían a distorsionar más los precios existentes. Esto demuestra claramente, y yo lo dije en 1989 aquí en la FAO, que en mi país nunca había habido política agrícola. Poco a poco me fui dando cuenta que era la misma situación en toda América Latina. Nunca había existido política agrícola. Lo que confundíamos con política agrícola eran programas agrícolas, que es muy distinto a una política agrícola. La política que teníamos en toda América Latina era una política de desarrollo económico, basada en un modelo económico que era el de sustituir importaciones y cuya macropolítica económica era totalmente antiagraria. Entonces, ¿cómo podemos esperar que un agro se desarrolle si hay políticas económicas antiagrarias? y antiagrarias porque los bajos tipos de cambio y los altos aranceles son políticas eminentemente antiagrarias. Por eso los economistas decían que había protección efectiva negativa hasta en un 40 por ciento en ciertos rubros. La verdad es que el optimismo venía en esa ocasión porque sabíamos lo que había que hacer y se comenzaron a corregir esas políticas.

En mi país tenemos cuatro años y medio de haber corregido totalmente esas políticas. Hoy la protección efectiva al agro es de más del 20 por ciento y no menos del 30-35 por ciento. Claramente una situación muy distinta de la que había prevalecido por más de treinta años.

Los programas de estabilización y ajuste estructural han dado magníficos resultados. Hemos logrado cambiar de crecimientos negativos a crecimientos hoy positivos - este año esperamos un cinco por ciento de crecimiento económico - también en muchos países de América Latina. Creo que Edouard Saouma, Director de la FAO, mencionó que cosas muy optimistas estaban ocurriendo en todo el mundo a medida que se van corrigiendo estas políticas.

Los precios ahora no se ponen desde los escritorios de los ministros de economía y de agricultura, sino que están saliendo hoy del mercado, de economías de mercado. Es así que en 1990 el sector agrícola en mi país creció en un 7,4 por ciento. En 1991 en un 7,5 por ciento. El fenómeno que comienza a suceder es que en los últimos dos años tenemos ya estancado el crecimiento en el agro, pero sí hemos podido ver que la economía de mercado funciona; que hemos podido dar precios de incentivo al productor, y al haber más producción se han mantenido los precios estables al consumidor. Las leyes de oferta y demanda funcionan.

Si en un país como El Salvador, después de doce años de guerra, en apenas uno o dos años de aplicar adecuadas políticas económicas, tanto macro como micro, aboliendo controles de precio, precios de garantía, etc. y aplicando también políticas sectoriales adecuadas, tenemos hoy autosuficiencia en granos básicos a tan corto plazo, se puede decir que es un pequeño milagro alemán, como en Alemania después de su guerra. Sin embargo los economistas dicen que no hay tales milagros sino que sencillamente son buenas políticas económicas. Yo creo estar de acuerdo con ellos, pero aquí viene mi frustración. Desde 1992, y en 1993, el agro se ha estancado y se debe en parte, nosotros creemos, por un lado, a que también hemos logrado gracias a Dios, la paz en nuestro país. Ya vamos a cumplir casi un año de paz. Retorna la confianza y retorna de tal magnitud que ahora la construcción es uno de los sectores de mayor inversión en nuestro país. Retornan los capitales que se habían fugado y en cierto modo esa confianza ha afectado muchísimo al tipo de cambio, volviéndolo muy estable, quitando un poco la

competitividad de nuestras exportaciones. Pero creemos que podemos vivir con ello y sabremos la forma de manejarlo.

Más limitante es la situación del comercio, porque aquí es donde todavía existen distorsiones de precios que están fuera de nuestro control. Podemos corregir las nacionales en todos nuestros países, pero no podemos corregir las de los países desarrollados, que están fuera de nuestro control. Y aquí es donde nos encontramos con otras distorsiones de precios, en productos básicos, que tanto nos preocupa, y especialmente preocupa a la FAO lo que es la seguridad alimentaria. En productos como el arroz, como el maíz, como la leche. Todos sabemos aquí lo que se dice de que cada vaca holandesa tiene dos mil dólares per capita de subsidios. Podemos imaginar cuántos países subdesarrollados no tienen mil dólares per capita de ingresos. Estas distorsiones afectan mucho y no podemos competir con ellos, los países en desarrollo; y son distorsiones que, como vuelvo a repetir, no podemos corregir.

Las últimas cifras del señor Peter Sutherland, Director del GATT, dicen que en Estados Unidos hay 360 dólares de subsidios per capita para sus 360 millones de habitantes; que la Comunidad Económica Europea anda por 460 dólares per capita de subsidios; que el Japón anda por 600 dólares per capita de subsidios. También las últimas cifras que tengo yo, proporcionadas por un documento del Banco Mundial, es que hay 475 billones de dólares, que es el costo de las barreras del libre comercio. Sólo la Ronda Uruguay, si fuese exitosa, tiene un costo de 190 billones de dólares por las barreras al comercio internacional.

En cuanto al tema específico de seguridad alimentaria, que tanto nos preocupa, y como tantos otros colegas han manifestado, no vamos a poder proteger los bosques tropicales si no tenemos políticas adecuadas de seguridad alimentaria. Quiero dar otro ejemplo que causa frustración. Desde 1990 hemos aplicado el mecanismo de las bandas de precios en mi país, mecanismo totalmente legal en el GATT. Este mecanismo lo hemos aplicado para el maíz, para el arroz y para el sorgo. Sólo tenemos tres bandas de precios existentes en El Salvador, con un módico arancel de apenas un 20 por ciento para el maíz, maíz que en su mayoría ha sido importado en los últimos 20-30 años de los Estados Unidos de Norteamérica, que nos han proporcionado maíz amarillo para la industria avícola, ganadera, etc.

Eso lógicamente distorsionaba los precios internos. Entonces aplicamos la banda de precios recientemente con un módico 20 por ciento, después de haber retirado aranceles generales del país que llegaban al 300 por ciento y que ahora están en un mínimo del 30 por ciento. Pero recientemente fuimos obligados a retirar este mecanismo de bandas de precios, si no no podríamos firmar la PL 480.

Esto es frustrante, puesto que se hallan políticas adecuadas exitosas y nos vemos, por otro lado, de repente obligados a abolir políticas que no existieron por cuarenta años. Hoy damos demostración de que son exitosas y nos vemos obligados a abolirlas.

Vuelvo a repetir, estamos corrigiendo todos estos errores del pasado. Hemos logrado la seguridad alimentaria en nuestro país y estamos, precisamente con la ayuda de la FAO, tratando de establecer una política nacional de agricultura sostenible. Hemos abierto nuestra economía totalmente. Somos un país en el que hay cero subsidios agrícolas y esperamos llegar a un arancel uniforme de un 20 por ciento el próximo año. Hemos tomado muy en serio la apertura, hemos creído que podemos competir en el mercado internacional,

pero vemos con mucha preocupación que los países desarrollados se vuelven más proteccionistas.

Qué situaciones tan contradictorias. Yo pregunto: ¿queremos o no combatir el hambre en el mundo? ¿Queremos o no proteger los bosques tropicales? ¿Queremos o no entrar realmente al libre comercio?

Yo no tengo duda alguna de que los países en desarrollo somos pobres, no por falta de recursos naturales, ni mucho menos por falta de capacidad empresarial. Hemos sido empobrecidos por nuestras propias equivocadas políticas y por equivocadas políticas a nivel internacional. Hemos hecho la parte que nos corresponde corrigiéndolas. Pedimos que se corrijan a nivel internacional esas otras políticas que siguen siendo vigentes y que deben de corregirse. Si corregimos las distorsiones y especialmente las de precios, no tengo duda de que la agricultura mundial tiene solución. Nuestro país tiene boca con que hablar porque somos el país más densamente poblado en toda la América continental, desde Canadá hasta Chile, y si hemos podido en poco tiempo volvernos totalmente autosuficientes en materia alimentaria, lo podemos hacer en el mundo. No le tengo miedo a las cifras cuando hablamos de aumento de población. Los productores agrícolas en el mundo tienen capacidad de producir dos, tres y cuatro veces más, siempre y cuando los precios sean correctos. Lo que necesitamos son precios correctos y eso sólo se puede lograr con políticas nacionales e internacionales adecuadas. Sigo optimista pero un poco frustrado.

ZHANG XIGUI (China) (Original language Chinese): Firstly, Mr Chairman, may I congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this Commission. I am convinced that under your chairmanship, as well as that of the two Vice-Chairmen, and with the active participation of the member countries, this Commission's work will be crowned with success. We would also like to thank Mr Hjort, Deputy Director-General, for his detailed explanations and analysis of the food and agricultural situation. We would also like to thank the Secretariat for having prepared document C 93/2 on The State of Food and Agriculture. It is a very analytical document, containing a wealth of information.

The food and agricultural situation at present forces us to use words such as "concern", "preoccupied" and so on. Unfortunately, these terms have been used a lot in order to describe the state of food and agriculture in 1992 after a period of stagnation. The increase has only been 1.4 percent. Furthermore, this increase is not distributed fairly. It is concentrated mainly in northern America, Oceania and northern Europe. In Africa there has been a 6 percent reduction in agricultural production.

Mr Chairman, you know definitely that the food and agricultural problem of the whole world is a very complex one. A solution does not depend only on the agricultural sector, nor on those countries with a food deficit; the solution to this problem really depends on joint efforts by many countries in many regions, and by the entire international community. We believe that the main problems in food and agriculture have to be given priority so that adequate measures can be adopted. I am referring to the following problems which need priority.

First of all, there is imbalance in development. In many LDCs, poverty is a very serious problem. Food and agriculture, especially in Africa, give rise to concern all over the world. There has not been an adequate improvement. Millions of people are still being threatened by hunger.

Secondly, unfavourable external conditions as far as agricultural development is concerned; the burden of debt in LDCs has not been improved at all.

According to a World Bank report, until the end of 1992 the 116 developing countries accumulated a foreign debt of US\$ 110 000 billion. There is, on the other hand, a trend towards the reduction of foreign aid to LDCs, especially as far as food aid is concerned. Furthermore, there is a serious distortion in world trade of agricultural products and protectionism in the trade of agricultural products. Tariff and non-tariff barriers are extremely serious obstacles as well as a fall in prices. All these factors only make the terms of trade of LDCs even more serious.

I should also point out that the rapid increase in population, soil erosion and the reduction in resources, as well as political conflicts and domestic wars, directly affect sustainable development of food and agriculture in these countries.

We would like to make an appeal to industrialized countries for them to strengthen their cooperation with LDCs in order to reduce the debt-servicing in developing countries and increase their aid in agriculture to these developing countries. This will help to improve the agricultural development conditions in these countries. At the same time, we also hope that developing countries will redouble their efforts in order to improve their ability to become self-sufficient and to overcome the obstacles to their agricultural development.

Furthermore, we hope that the FAO and the other agencies of the United Nations in the fight against hunger and poverty, in order to attain sustainable development, will be able to play an important role.

A.W. KAZI (Pakistan): I join other distinguished delegates in congratulating the Chairman on his election to chair this Commission. Whilst all the Commissions set up by Conference are important, we consider the assignment of this Commission to be of the utmost importance, since it has to deal with policy issues in the field of food and agriculture. It is basically the quality of such recommendations that will provide us with a realistic and meaningful edifice to tackle the enormous problems confronting the sector, especially in the developing countries.

I would not like to waste the Commission's precious time by repeating the facts and figures and the write-up given in FAO's excellent document C 93/2 with its supplement. I will accordingly restrict myself to some of the vital aspects which this Commission must keep in mind whilst finalizing these recommendations.

One: the FAO Report about the declining growth rate is a matter of deep concern. This should be highlighted in our recommendations.

Two: the FAO's Report also shows that while the overall performance in this sector has deteriorated, the developing nations have perceived improvement. While this is welcome news, no doubt, we should not take this for granted, for the simple reason that in the developing nations it is not only the vagaries of the weather but also the international trade situation which determines the development of such nations.

Three: the terms of trade for the developing nations continue to deteriorate and no tangible progress is possible unless something positive is done in this regard. Much has been said about the coming Uruguay Round. While we all look forward to something positive coming out of it, may I suggest to the Commission that it comes up with concrete proposals in order to bring the necessary pressure on the participants of the coming Conference to adopt global rather than restricted policies. This is what we need.

Four: the expanding population in the developing nations is also a major problem and the reason for the unsatisfactory economic growth. The Commission should assign a high priority to this aspect while formulating the Commission's recommendations.

Five: apart from the steps for increasing crop productivity and production, greater attention is required to be given to measures to prevent crop losses. One potential threat is that of locusts. Since July this year my country, Pakistan, and neighbouring India have been under massive locust attack. These locusts originated in the Sahara Desert of Africa. The attack almost destroyed our outstanding crops. It was with great effort and with the active support and assistance of FAO and some donor agencies that we were able to avert what would have been total catastrophe.

We would suggest FAO revitalize its role as a coordinator in combating the locust scourge which confronts not only Pakistan and India but also the countries of Africa and the Middle East. This is all the more important since, with the massive breeding this year, we are afraid for next year also.

Lastly, I would like to say that the additional and ever-increasing cost of sustainable development in developing countries is a serious handicap which needs funds. The Commission should arrive at proposals for an arrangement which will ensure the availability of sufficient resources to developing countries to meet these costs.

Arnaldo BADILLO ROJAS (Venezuela): En nombre de nuestra Delegación, señor Presidente, permítame felicitarlo por su elección y desearle éxitos en su gestión al frente de esta Comisión.

A partir de la lectura del documento en discusión, señor Presidente, hemos elaborado dos planteamientos que queremos poner en conocimiento de la Secretaría y de las delegaciones aquí presentes.

En primer lugar, consideramos que el Informe constituye una valiosa referencia sobre la situación de la agricultura y la alimentación en el mundo, así como sobre sus perspectivas inmediatas, por lo cual felicitamos a la Secretaría por su elaboración.

En segundo lugar, nos preocupa sobremanera la conclusión sobre las perspectivas de largo plazo de la economía y la agricultura de los países en desarrollo y, en especial de los menos desarrollados. El Informe concluye que el cuadro económico mundial de un gran número de países pobres es sombrío, en especial el correspondiente a los 47 países menos desarrollados. Las gestiones de muchos países en desarrollo, dice el Informe, destinadas a aliviar su deuda a través de acuerdos de reestructuración o programas de desarrollo con el auxilio de fondos externos, se frustran ante la imposibilidad de llevar a cabo programas de reajuste.

Por otro lado, señor Presidente, en el documento se afirma que los procesos de reajuste, liberalización y expansión del comercio son, o parecen ser, la fuente del dinamismo económico en algunos países en desarrollo, y vemos allí también que otros países en desarrollo que no llevan propiamente procesos ortodoxos de ajuste estructural también muestran un gran dinamismo. Nos preguntamos entonces, ¿qué es lo que está determinando realmente la recuperación en esos países? Es una respuesta satisfactoria la afirmación contenida en el punto 3 del párrafo 23 de que, a mayor comercio mayor recuperación, y si esto es así, entonces ¿cómo lograr las ventajas de la liberalización y el comercio países que no pueden pagar el costo social y político del condicionamiento que conlleva el ajuste estructural o el costo de abrirse y encontrar luego los mercados cerrados como consecuencia del proteccionismo?

¿Cuáles son los caminos a seguir? ¿Qué puede hacer la FAO dentro de su misión y fines específicos para orientar a los países en desarrollo en este sentido?

Celebramos la formulación de algunos planteamientos en el documento que pudiesen apuntar hacia algunas salidas, pero sentimos que las orientaciones no son todavía totalmente claras.

En el párrafo 35 del documento se propone investigar en profundidad el peso de los factores coadyuvantes de la expansión del comercio y de los problemas que conlleva la expansión mundial del comercio agrícola, y se ofrece allí para 1994 un estudio a fondo del estado de la alimentación y la agricultura en 1994, que centrará su atención, y esto lo subrayo muy particularmente en la experiencia vivida por los países que dependen de las exportaciones agrícolas. Compartimos plenamente esta proposición y expresamos a la vez nuestro deseo de que con ayuda de la FAO pudiésemos ir un poco más allá y que a partir de ese análisis y de ese estudio pudiese la FAO llegar a conclusiones y señalar caminos más claros para formular estrategias de producción agrícola compatibles con los procesos de transición hacia economías más abiertas e integradas en el comercio internacional.

Es necesario que los valiosos resultados y conclusiones derivados de los estudios de la FAO se den a conocer no sólo como planteamientos aislados, sino que podamos integrarlos en cuerpos más amplios y coherentes de proposiciones enriqueciendo así la búsqueda de salidas más realistas a nuestros problemas de producción y comercio agrícola. Si no lo hacemos así, seguiremos viendo en diferentes campos solamente planteamientos aislados subsectoriales o por productos, cuya compatibilidad, vistos en su conjunto, desconoceremos y resultarán por ello difíciles de implementar efectivamente.

La FAO, pensamos, debe hacer un esfuerzo por integrar estas conclusiones y recomendaciones en sistemas coherentes de pensamiento y de concepción sobre el desarrollo agrícola. Pensamos, señor Presidente, que la FAO debe hacer algo más de abstracción y construir sobre los valiosos principios que han guiado su acción en las dos últimas décadas. Por supuesto sin llegar al extremo de otras instituciones internacionales de aspirar a tener una teoría exclusiva del desarrollo, pero sí disponer de una concepción más elaborada del desarrollo agrícola y alimentario que, integrada con la visión de instituciones como el PNUMA, el Banco Mundial, el FIDA, etcétera, nos permita ser más efectivos en la búsqueda de soluciones y, a la vez, más integrados en el esfuerzo por el desarrollo con las demás instituciones especializadas del sistema de las Naciones Unidas.

Ms Carol KRAMER (United States of America): Mr Chairman, congratulations on your election. I am echoing all the previous delegates in wishing you well in the Commission here. Also, congratulations to Mr Hjort upon his presentation. The Secretariat is also to be congratulated for the comprehensive character and their even-handed treatment of the global food and agricultural situation in this year's report. We would like to comment particularly favourably upon the format and presentation of the report. The concise bullets and the appropriate charts and tables are very effective.

I would like to make a few points, the first regarding the global cereals situation. The Secretariat's description of the global cereals situation generally corresponds to the estimates of the United States at the time of the Secretariat's preparation of the document for this Conference. Our most recent estimates, however, show some tightening of cereal supplies. The US estimates now show the 1993 and 1994 ending stocks to be equal to approximately 17.4 percent of consumption. When this is considered in relation to projected growth and consumption caused by population, it may imply a potentially lower stock-to-consumption ratio for 1994 and 1995. The US Department of Agriculture has announced that US producers participating in 1994 price and income support programmes for wheat grain, sorghum, barley and oats will not be required to idle land under the Acreage Reduction Programme. The area reductions required for maize have been reduced to 5 percent. It was 10 percent in 1993. The programme for rice has not yet been announced but a 5 percent reduction was required in 1993.

Regarding US crop prospects, let me summarize briefly how the excessive rainfall that we have had in this past year in the US Midwest and how the drought in the southeast this summer have reduced the prospects for major grain and oilseed crops. Smaller coarse grain and soybean crops had already been expected for 1993 because of the abundant supplies that were carried over from the large 1992 crops, but the prospects for the resulting crops from this year's bad weather have further been weakened.

US coarse grain production, as of mid-October, was forecast at 205 million metric tonnes, which is about one-quarter less than in 1992. Maize production is expected to reach only about 177 million tonnes, or 64 million tonnes less than in 1992. US coarse grain stocks are forecast to fall to about 34 million tonnes by the end of the 1993-94 marketing year, which is a 46 percent decline from a year earlier. That leaves stocks roughly equal to their level at the beginning of 1992-93. Soybean output is expected to be down about 14 percent to a little over 51 million tonnes.

A moderate increase for US wheat production had been projected earlier, but we now forecast a 1.5 percent decline to 65.9 million tonnes, which is about 1 million tonnes less than in 1992. US wheat stocks, however, are forecast to rise to almost 19 million tonnes by the end of the 1993/94 trading year. That represents a better than 30 percent increase in these stocks over the previous year, an increase much larger than forecast earlier resulting from greatly reduced expectations for exports.

Regarding food aid, we continue to expect US grain supplies to be more than adequate to meet both commercial export and food aid requirements. That includes the 4 million tonnes of wheat carried in the US Food Security Wheat Reserve - the maximum authorized. The reserve is available for distribution through the PL 480 food aid programme when domestic supplies of wheat are limited or when emergency situations require urgent humanitarian assistance.

For the fiscal year which began in the United States on October 1, a programme level of US\$ 1 598 million has been established for PL 480 food assistance. Based on current price estimates this is expected to provide for approximately 6.4 million metric tonnes of food aid shipments. Of this, it is expected that 2.8 million tonnes will be provided through concessional credit sales and 3.6 million tonnes will be available through humanitarian and emergency donations and government grants. Additional US food assistance will be made available through the donation of government-owned commodities and the Food for Progress Programme.

I would like to make a couple of quick points about the implications of the State of Food and Agriculture situation report for FAO programme priorities. The State of Food and Agriculture report for 1993 re-emphasizes the critical necessity for FAO Programme priorities to be effectively identified and implemented. The specific profiles of different regions and sometimes particular countries provide insights into the particular problems and needs, but all within the context of FAO priorities. Sustainable growth in agricultural productivity and the assurance of genuine food security at national, household and individual levels for all peoples must remain the fundamental priorities of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

Specifically the US supports programmes and projects to provide critical follow-up to the two important Conferences of the past two years, that is UNCED and the ICN. We sincerely believe that the objective of enhancing food security and sustainable development are complementary and not competitive. In addition, we support efforts to invest now in the vital business of preserving plant and animal genetic resources.

Finally we fully support the objectives of trade liberalization as representing the best and most equitable chance for generalized growth. Therefore, the success of GATT remains critical to the Member Nations of the FAO.

CHAIRMAN: We shall now adjourn but I first have some announcements. Regarding our working hours, normally we shall start at 9.30 in the morning until 12.30. In the afternoon we shall continue at 2.30 and finish, if possible, at 5.30. Tomorrow morning we shall start at 9 o'clock. This is especially important for those countries which have expressed a wish to speak tomorrow morning. We shall start at 9 o'clock tomorrow morning because we shall have to break off our discussions at 10.45 because of the Audience. In the afternoon we shall continue at 2.30 but, if necessary, we shall continue without a break until 7 o'clock in the evening.

Secondly, I would wish to remind you that the Council recommended that the number of resolutions be kept to a minimum and that they should only deal with matters requiring a formal decision by the Conference.

The meeting is adjourned until 2.30.

The meeting rose at 12.45 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas.

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 93/I/PV/2

Twenty-seventh Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt-septième session
COMMISSION I

27º período de sesiones
COMISION I

SECOND MEETING
DEUXIEME SEANCE
SEGUNDA SESION

(10 November 1993)

The Second Meeting was opened at 14.55 hours
Mr H. Redl, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La deuxième séance est ouverte à 14 h 55
sous la présidence de M. H. Redl, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la segunda sesión a las 14.55 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. H. Redl, Presidente de la Comisión I

PART I - MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
PREMIERE PARTIE - PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE
D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
PARTE 1 - PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA
ALIMENTACION (continuación)

- 6. world Food and Agriculture Situation and Outlook (continued)
- 6. Situation et perspectives mondiales de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)
- 6. Situación y perspectivas de la agricultura y la alimentación en el mundo (continuación)
- 6.1 State of Food and Agriculture (continued)
- 6.1 Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)
- 6.1 El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (continuación)

Ould Mohamed AHID TOURAD (Mauritanie): M. le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs, permettez-moi de porter à votre connaissance et à l'attention des pays participant à cette session ce qui suit:

Mon pays, la Mauritanie, a été victime cette année d'une invasion caractérisée de criquets pèlerins frôlant la catastrophe nationale.

Cette situation, qui a débuté déjà début juillet à la veille des premières précipitations pluviales, a continué à s'aggraver jusqu'au point le plus alarmant, en détruisant toutes les récoltes, malgré l'effort particulier des paysans qui s'étaient donnés comme objectif une production céréalière record, vu l'abondance des pluies.

L'espoir et l'enthousiasme de nos agriculteurs ont été anéantis par cette calamité qui risque de durer longtemps.

Mon pays a mis en place tous les moyens matériels et humains dont il dispose dès la première alerte. Cet effort, nous continuons à le faire jusqu'au plus haut niveau de nos instances.

C'est ainsi qu'un comité de crise, présidé par notre Chef d'Etat, Son Excellence M. Maouya Oul Sid'Ahmed Taya, suit d'une façon quotidienne cette situation. Une véritable marée de criquets ravage, au moment où je vous parle, toute l'étendue de notre pays où agriculture et pastoralisme subissent la loi de ce ravageur. Je lance ici un appel pressant aux gouvernements ici représentés et aux organisations internationales ainsi qu'à tous les donateurs de venir en aide à mon pays pour enrayer ce fléau ou tout au moins alléger les souffrances de nos agriculteurs désarmés.

Nous profitons d'être ici, dans cette salle, pour remercier la FAO qui n'a cessé de nous appuyer et les pays amis qui nous ont déjà aidés à poursuivre la lutte sans répit et aujourd'hui encore sur le terrain.

Je demeure convaincu que notre appel sera entendu.

CHAIRMAN (Original language German): I thank the distinguished delegate of Mauritania. We are all very moved by your appeal. I should remind you that this morning we did decide that after the conclusion of the discussion of Item 6.1 we would then deal specifically with the problem of locusts. I hope that all the donor countries have taken note of your appeal. I think

it would be useful if we could discuss this matter tomorrow, or, if possible, at the end of our debate today.

David CLAYTON (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom delegation is indeed grateful for the work of the Secretariat in producing this paper on the State of Food and Agriculture and for the helpful analyses which it contains. My delegation would like to comment on some of the key contents.

The global economy and food and farming in particular will clearly gain from a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round. There are significant and wide-ranging changes now taking place in agriculture and trade in, for example, Asia. The need for open markets and the development of trade within a clear framework of international rules to sustain these changes is apparent. The United Kingdom is therefore strongly committed to doing all that we can to help achieve a conclusion.

The United Kingdom has also noted the detailed information provided on forestry. This helpfully draws together much of the material prepared earlier by FAO and represents a very useful summary of the various current issues.

Fisheries has always been a high priority subject for the United Kingdom. We fully support the current international initiatives to control activities of vessels fishing on the high seas with the aim of conserving and managing fish stocks. In addition we endorse the aims and objectives of the United Nations Conference on Straddling Stocks and Highly Migratory Species.

The United Kingdom shares the view that the use of modern biotechnology, or genetic modification, shows great potential. However, the commercial production of genetically modified crops or animals is still to come. The paper suggests that many of the developments are in or near commercial production, but it is important not to over-state developments as this can raise unfounded expectations.

As a novel technology, genetic modification raises significant concerns, centering on human and environmental safety, and from an early stage practitioners were keen to ensure that development was accompanied by suitable safeguards. However, it soon became apparent, and was confirmed by the OECD, that genetic modification was not, in itself, hazardous and that any hazard related to the genetically modified organism (GMO).

There have been controls in the United Kingdom on genetic modification for some years, now within the framework of two EC Directives. United Kingdom regulations are built on the system of risk assessment and notification, with general duties to prevent environmental damage and human health and safety requirements.

However, it is for each country or trading bloc such as the EC to determine the level of controls that are needed for GMOs. These must be appropriate for the country concerned and must balance any burden on industry with the need to reassure the public and provide effective safety controls. In this regard follow-up work is being undertaken as a result of the Biodiversity Convention and Agenda 21. The development of a Code of Conduct for Biotechnology could result in duplication of effort, overlap of guidance and possibly conflicting advice. In addition, we have been using many facets of biotechnology, for example in brewing, for many years and have seen no need for such codes to be developed. We should await developments

from the follow-up work on the Biodiversity Convention and Agenda 21 rather than produce independent guidance.

The paper raises other issues of concern. Intellectual property rights are clearly an important matter, and discussions are continuing in the GATT. That is the appropriate forum for such a discussion, but I would observe that without a strong private sector and proper protection of their investment by an effective IPR system the development of biotechnology would have been far slower than it has been to date, to the disadvantage of both developed and less developed countries.

We welcome, however, FAO's work in enabling countries to use biotechnology as adjuncts to conventional technologies for applications that are needed. This is clearly the right way to proceed and will enable all countries to reap the real benefits that the new technology will bring. In this respect it is important to say that biotechnology as such will have no negative effects as the paper concludes but, like any technology, it depends on what we make of it.

Finally, the paper gives a good overview of the reforms that are taking place in the economies in transition in Central and Eastern Europe. The United Kingdom supports the efforts being made to secure democratic market-based economies. Clearly aid and assistance is being provided to the agriculture and related sectors and coordination work is being undertaken by others. I am sure that FAO, in devising its forward plans, will avoid duplication of work already being done. We look forward to seeing reports of activities in more detail in due course.

Mrs Amalia GARCIA-THÂRN (Sweden) : I should like to make some specific comments on the document and then come to more general matters.

We note that, with a few exceptions, agricultural production of major cereals and other commodities has increased in the last two years. At the same time, we note that the GNP and food production on a per capita basis have been stagnant or declining for many developing countries. Population growth is still a matter of concern.

The fact that the production of some of the traditional export commodities has declined severely affects the economy of some of the developing countries, this being worsened by the decline of prices which emphasizes the need for production diversification.

It is still a matter of great concern that food shortages and emergencies are due to civil strife in more than 50 percent of the cases. Needless to say that responsible governments and the international community should together be engaged in a serious effort to solve the situation of civil strife which means tragedy and misery for millions of people. Food insecurity and political development are interlinked.

We notice that external assistance to agriculture has tended to decline. However, the decline might not be as alarming as it might sound at first sight. The decline can be explained by a number of reasons. One is the common feeling of what has been considered a large number of failures of traditional agricultural projects, thus reducing investments. This judgement might be unfair in some cases but, in general, we would like to recognize that many of the investments donors made to agriculture were not great successes.

However, the decline has also to do with a new way of thinking in terms of development theory and what we have witnessed of structural change and reform. Reform in many developing countries, as well as Eastern Europe, has brought another view to what governments should and can do, and also what governments should not do. New roles for the public sector vis-à-vis the private sector require new approaches. This could partly explain the decline of external assistance to agriculture measured in financial terms. While capacity-building and institution-building gain relevance, many of the investments made by the public sector and supported by donors are now expected to be carried out by the private sector.

What kind of support should FAO give its member countries in the light of reform and structural change and in the light of UNCED? We have noticed with satisfaction that the agricultural sector is coming back into the spotlight, and we fully support the fact that the agricultural sector has to get more attention in the future to stimulate general economic growth, to eradicate poverty and malnutrition in developing countries, and to promote a more sustainable production pattern in developed countries as well.

However, the question to be answered is what type of action is needed in the specific country case and the specific agriculture sector and type of sub-sector at the moment of consideration.

FAO should have the capacity to give adequate advice to all Member Countries in order to answer these questions.

We have seen the World Bank growing strong in policy matters and becoming the main actor in most of the agricultural sector strategy and policy formulation during the last decade. We believe that other partners such as FAO and, more importantly, the developing countries themselves, should be equally strong. We would like to see FAO play an important role in this field.

I should like to refer here to what the Minister of Agriculture of El Salvador said this morning on this point.

There are a few suggestions for improvement in this valuable document. Firstly, we would like to see a fair regional balance. Presently the countries responsible for 75 percent of global output get little attention in the regional review. Secondly, we would like to see much clearer evidence that the Secretariat is closely following the implications of the results of UNCED.

Finally, we would like to reiterate our earlier proposals for better coverage of the food security situation by analysing the factors determining food access, employment, food prices, etc.

David SHERWOOD (Canada): Mr Chairman, this delegation extends congratulations to yourself and the Vice-chairmen on your appointments, and our appreciation to the Deputy Director-General for his clear and concise introduction.

The Report of the State of Food and Agriculture, document C 93/2, is a valuable device for monitoring world agricultural output progress and consumer well-being. We consider it to be a very important activity of FAO and we are very supportive of its work. We would like to compliment the

Secretariat warmly on an informative, well-prepared and balanced report. In future, we would suggest the report include Canadian agricultural policies in the regional sector, as our experience in these policies related to safety nets for farmers, supply management and our experience in bulk transportation may also be useful to other countries.

The economic growth being experienced by some developing countries in 1993 provides reason for hope. While slow growth is experienced by most developed countries, there may well be an improved decade for economic growth overall, in view of the continued expansion of world trade. In line with improvements in growth in North America, Canada is experiencing a modest recovery in 1993, and realizes that it is important to maintain economic policies to limit both inflation and budget deficits to ensure sustainable growth.

Nevertheless, world economic prospects differ widely on a regional basis. The stability in the debt-to-GNP ratio in 1992 in a number of growth regions is generally a positive sign. Unfortunately, the growth has been uneven, and regions such as Africa have experienced only limited increases, but improvements expected in 1993 and 1994 have to be balanced against population. Considerable concerns remain about the prospects for sub-Saharan African countries.

We note that in document C 93/2-Sup. 1 estimates of agricultural production for crop and livestock in 1992 were revised slightly upwards. However, these crop increases in 1992 are still insufficient to compensate for population increases. Whilst production data for 1993 are still incomplete, first estimates point to a drop of 0.5 percent in world production. Regional disparities in food production are a continued cause for grave concern. Among developing country regions, only the Near East achieved some per capita gain.

Nevertheless, we are optimistic that improved agricultural trade performance will occur this year and also in 1994 as a result of improving world prospects for economic growth. This is occurring despite the many difficulties in world agricultural markets, with widespread restrictions of trade. The prospect for commodity prices remains mixed. Cereal prices remain low because of continuing distortions brought about by domestic and export subsidies. As a major exporter of farm products, Canada is well aware that these subsidies and unfair trade practices continue to hurt export earnings, particularly for the agricultural sector in developing countries. We consider that an agreement at the GATT is imperative to improve world prices and ensure incomes in the agricultural sector come from the market place, not from government treasuries, and to encourage that production and trade be based on market-economy factors.

We share the concern about the drop in the commitments and disbursements of external lending to agriculture in 1990 versus 1989. While there is severe pressure to restrain government budget deficits in most developed countries, the problems faced by developing countries have not diminished. Canada continues strongly to support the food aid programme.

The task of transforming the economies in Eastern Europe and the former USSR to a more market-oriented approach is both complex and daunting as the Report notes. Furthermore, the decline in food and non-food agricultural production in 1991 has severely strained the commitment to reform. Canada is committed to providing assistance through loans and credit guarantees in

this region. Production of crops improved in 1992 in the former Soviet Union. We expect increased cereal production in 1993 in Eastern Europe.

In summary, this Report provides us with a number of important reminders.

First, it is important to the improvement of the agricultural sectors, mainly in developing countries, that there be a rapid and successful completion to the Uruguay Round of the GATT negotiations. This should be an impetus to strengthen and stabilize world commodity prices. More importantly, it will complement the structural adjustment reforms now ongoing in many countries. In this way, investment decisions could be more closely linked to improved international market prices determined by market forces and not by national treasuries.

Second, while progress has been made in recent years in some countries to increase the availability and distribution of basic food supplies, there are serious problems remaining in many others. Thus, there is an urgent requirement for the continuation of the types of programmes sponsored by FAO to provide economic information, planning advice and technical assistance.

Third, despite the period of restraint in government spending in many developed countries, the report emphasizes the need for all countries to continue to provide assistance and develop more innovative and creative means to increase food production in the world's most undernourished countries.

Finally, we are starting to see the results of the structural reforms undertaken in Latin America. These successes we hope can be repeated in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. It is important that the developed countries show leadership in the reform of markets, including the agricultural sector.

A few concluding words on biotechnology: We would like to compliment the FAO Secretariat on the section on biotechnology as there is much clarity in the document. However, we have a few specific comments in paragraph 147 concerning intellectual property rights.

It would be more appropriate to use the word "encourage" instead of "force" as developing countries may consider it prudent to improve their intellectual property rights in order to ensure adequate protection for their technologies and to facilitate the transfer of technologies to their countries.

Secondly, it seems that paragraph 148 concerning the absorption of new technologies by developing countries may be unduly pessimistic. Specifically, the possibility should be mentioned of developing countries building strategic alliances and well-focused collaborative efforts to permit access to new technologies.

Finally, on the biosafety issue, as mentioned in paragraph 149, the Rio Convention supported the development of an international code to address safety issues and the transport and release of biotechnology products internationally. We are committed to supporting that process.

Finally regarding the selected issues on the question of the International Conference on Nutrition follow-up, pages 37 to 71, we will have a more

detailed statement to make under the agenda item that deals with the Food Security and Nutrition Status Report.

Adol EL-SARKI (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): We congratulate the Chairman on his election as Chairman of this Commission. We are confident that with your experience our meeting will be a success and we will reach recommendations and proposals on the issues under discussion.

My delegation has studied this report carefully, document C 93/2. I would like, first of all, to thank the Secretariat for this document because it contains important information which gives a clear picture on crop and livestock production.

I would also like to congratulate Mr Hjort on his excellent introduction to this document.

We feel satisfaction at what was said on pages 2 and 3 on agricultural production that recovered by 1 percent in the Near East Region. It has recovered considerably in North America. Something concerns us. I refer to page 4 where it states that two-thirds of developing countries in general and Africa in particular have stagnant or declining levels.

Pages 16 to 19 refer to external assistance to agriculture. We read carefully what was said. We would like to express our concern at the decline in the multilateral commitments and the food aid flows during 1992-93.

Having studied pages 29 and 30 on the external debt of developing countries, my delegation welcomes what has been said in paragraph 2 on page 29 regarding the debt to export ratio which is projected to decline. We also welcome what has been said in paragraph 7 on page 30 on the expected increase of private capital flows.

My delegation, having studied paragraphs 37-71, which dealt with achieving the objectives of the ICN, would like to say that it has taken part in that Conference and sent a high-level delegation. We have also set up a high-level committee to follow up the Conference.

Having studied paragraphs 122-157 on biotechnology, we would like to stress the importance that should be given by FAO to biotechnology and its programmes of action.

Paragraphs 372-395 give an overview of the agricultural production in the Near East and North Africa. I would like to talk briefly about the successes we have had in Egypt and mention pages 392-395. I would also like to express our satisfaction, because this document also refers to the agricultural strategy in the 1990s.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate the Vice-chairmen on their election.

Tawfiq-e-Elahi CHOUDHURY (Bangladesh): Let me at the outset congratulate you on behalf of the Bangladesh delegation on your election as Chairman. We also congratulate the Vice-chairmen. Let me assure you that we will try our best to support you and see that this particular Commission is able to deliver the responsibilities which have been imposed upon it.

The report presented by FAO is very informative and instructive but, as we look at the number, the prospects for agriculture in the near term as well as those in 1992, they are, to say the least, not very reassuring.

The increase in agriculture was about one percent whereas some countries in fact experienced a decline in agricultural production. If you look at cereal production, although the aggregate rose by 4.2 percent the utilization was only 2.3 percent with an increase in carry-over stock internationally. This should be seen in the context of a decline or stagnant production in two-thirds of developing countries. There is very stark irony here. This is a mismatch between production, consumption and distribution globally. I am trying to equal the anguish of the Italian President who said, "Why should there be hunger in the midst of abundance?" To say the least, this is because the question of access to food domestically and the distribution of food among families creates much more complex issues which will have to be addressed. At least at national and at international levels, can we not put our heads together to improve distribution and access to food through improved trade, aid and humanitarian assistance?

In the medium term, as the experience of many of the countries shows, macro-economic stability will remain the first order of conditions for sustaining growth in any other sectors. Agricultural policy will have to be designed in the context of a stable macro-economic framework. As we have seen in the past, some countries have emphasized cereal production too much, while others have emphasized it too little. In fact, we in Bangladesh found that although we were at the point of achieving self-sufficiency in food, we had paid too little attention to other aspects of agriculture. It would be worthwhile for countries who are planning to improve their food production to take note of the need for diversity in agricultural production.

Here another point needs to be addressed, the question of the demand side. We have too often neglected the demand side of food and concentrated merely on increasing the availability. I will come back to this point later. We would like to emphasize that we should continue to redefine the role of the government and explore new ways of involving the private sector in both input and output distribution and eliminate distortions in the economy. We have done so in our case. We expect other countries would benefit from improving the operation of the market.

Here I would like to make a short comment on food aid. I do agree that countries in need of humanitarian assistance would have to show compelling reasons in the short run. For those of us who are gradually moving into self-sufficiency in food, food aid will have to be more flexible so that it does not distort farmers' incentives but at the same time it is able to provide assistance to the target groups. This would require us to be more innovative in designing food and assistance, particularly to those countries which are about to become self-sufficient in food.

I would like to touch on biotechnology and biogenetic engineering. I am told that some scientists, possibly from France, have given as a gift the genetic map to the United Nations. That is very good news for all of us but should we depend on the benevolence of scientists and not have some mechanism of ensuring that the benefits of biotechnology and genetic engineering are available to humanity at large so we are able to reap the benefit? That will require us to find innovative ways whereby we do not have a disincentive for scientific innovation but at the same time have

some mechanism to have access to new science and technology for the whole of humanity.

I mention the question of the GATT talks next. The deadline is 15 December. I am sure that all of us would like to see these talks come to fruition. As we have heard, food subsidy issues are the main stumbling block. We, as poor countries, while doing away with subsidies in this sector, would expect that the developed countries would not dig in and stand in the way of the successful implementation of the GATT talks.

I would ask this Commission and the delegates to send appropriate signals to the relevant agencies so that they feel we are also insisting on the completion of the GATT talks by the given deadline. I am sure delegates and the Drafting Committee will be able to draw up something to lay before the relevant governments on the urgency of settling the disputes.

Last but not least, a statistical error has crept into the Exhibit 2 where it showed that the per capita food production in Bangladesh declined. I can assure you that is not true because in 1992 per capita food production not only increased but we nearly had a collapse of prices, much to our concern.

Let me share in this last moment some of the benefits of the fall in the price of rice. Between 1991 and 1992 rice prices fell by about 20 percent but the survey conducted shows the fall in rice prices led to increased food intake by the poorer groups in society and the newer protein intake meant the nutritional level improved by 12 percent among the poorest group. Ten percent of the population rose above the poverty line owing to the decline in rice prices.

That may be very shortly, but at least this also shows that the demand-side can do a lot more than can other efforts.

Abdul-Razzak AL-HASSAN (Syria) (Original language Arabic): I would like to begin by thanking you, Mr Chairman, for having given me the opportunity to speak at this Session of Commission I. Let me congratulate you on your election to the Chair of the Commission where we are discussing very vital but rather sensitive issues. My delegation will do whatever it can to help you in the accomplishment of your tasks. We are certain that under your very wise leadership we shall be successful, thanks also to the contributions of the delegations, particularly as regards our study of this important item on our agenda

I would also like to congratulate the Vice-chairmen and pay tribute to the excellent introduction to this Item that was made by Mr Hjort, the Deputy Director-General

I have listened very carefully to the comments that have been made as well as going through it very carefully myself. This is an excellent document which provides us with a wealth of information. It is the draft of a document which will be further detailed. We must thank the Secretariat for the efforts they have made in preparing this for us.

It is obvious to a reader, when looking through the document that describes for us the world food situation, that the year 1992 has been on the whole a bad year as regards agricultural production except for North America and the Near East. Improved production and some surplus production are, in most cases, limited only to developed countries.

As regards the production levels of developing countries, we see that there has been a chronic deficit although certain developing countries are beginning to show a slight increase in their production figures. Unfortunately, these improvements are insufficient in the light of the many years of underproduction and drought which have existed over previous years, so developing countries as a whole, I am afraid, have been faced with a drop in their production per capita. In certain areas, such as Africa and elsewhere, I think we can say that 1992 was practically a tragedy.

We must realize that drought is not the only cause of limitation to production in the developing countries. It is a question of three elements really. There have been problems of instability, civil strife, wars and conflicts, and certainly the time has now come for this blood-letting to end. It is time for a just peace to be established throughout the world. The international community should make a sincere contribution to establishing peace throughout the world so that all conflicts can be solved peacefully so that mankind, wherever they may be, will finally be able to live in a dignified fashion.

We hope that standards of living can be improved throughout the world and that the resources that were used in the past for arms and weaponry will now be used for increasing production throughout the world.

The second factor that has to be considered is the deficit of financial and technical resources in developing countries. This is where the FAO and industrialized countries have an important role to play to try and overcome these deficits as well as the problem of the burden of external debt. This is a burden that these countries must bear where the payment of debt-servicing often takes up their available foreign currencies, etc. Something must be done to try to alleviate their burden. We have welcomed initiatives or suggestions which would lead to a lightening of their debt burden, whether this be within the Club of Paris or the Toronto Agreement. Whatever measures there may be, something must be done to try and cut these debts and encourage foreign investment in foreign countries.

Here I would like to refer to the law that was recently promulgated which helped to increase investments over the past few years, which have led to an increase of some US\$2 million in foreign and internal investments. We have tried to eliminate certain barriers to trade and investment. We have tried to improve our training and information for all levels of the population as well.

The state has also adopted a development programme which is using an integrated approach and we have decided upon our main targets. On the one hand, we are trying to establish food self-sufficiency within our country so that we are less dependent on foreign exports which represented some 20 to 30 percent of our total imports during the 80s. For this target to be reached the state budget which is earmarked for agriculture now represents about 25 percent of our total budget.

Our second target or goal is to strengthen exports and improve the trade of our export products themselves.

In conclusion, I would like to draw your attention to the development of irrigation in Syria. Here we are presently facing a very serious challenge. We must realize that our water resources have unfortunately been decreasing and it is now necessary for us to use new techniques or technologies in our

irrigation. We obviously need foreign investment for such major operations to be undertaken, in addition to the training which will be necessary for the implementation of new techniques.

Another of the problems that we are facing in irrigation is the use of water in industry or for domestic purposes. There has been an increase in the need for water and therefore of pollution, downstream shall we say.

The third element which must also be considered is that of the existing system, shall we say, which tends to lean towards the industrialized and developed countries rather than developing in terms of trade, favouring one side vis-à-vis the other, and if something is not done to overcome this then the developing countries will continue to face these barriers to their increased agricultural production and development.

We are certain that if we were able to find two viable ways of solving these problems we would be helping to improve agricultural production in general in developing countries, and we would quickly see an improvement in the struggle against poverty, hunger and malnutrition, thanks to sincere cooperation at the international level. It is not that we are asking simply the rich countries to contribute to our development efforts. We are also called upon to make better use of this aid and assistance which is received, with proper planning and programming. This could also, and must also, be done by training of our own cadre and management staff who will then be involved in project and programme implementation in keeping with our development strategies.

It is therefore the developing countries themselves who must restructure their administration so that we can better serve our social development goals.

The Syrian economy has remarkably improved over recent years and our GNP has increased by about 5 percent over the past five years, with the final figures being for 1992. The statistics show that this growth will continue according to our present forecasts.

This is also true for our per capita income. It is necessary for us to adopt preventive measures which can avoid further problems in the future. This obviously means that the international community will be able to give us further support in the future.

Jozef ZEGAR (Poland): First of all, I would like to join previous speakers in congratulating you, Mr Chairman, and the Vice-chairmen on your election.

This year's report on the State of Food and Agriculture was worked out professionally, like those prepared in previous years. It is wise to stress the fact that the report is produced on current and fundamental problems which world agriculture faces now, and it is very informative.

In my contribution, I would like to tackle some questions discussed in the chapter of the report concerning the group of countries of Central and Eastern Europe which are in the process of transition from a centrally-planned economy to a free-market one. It is very true that there is a great difference in the pace of economic activity between those countries. Poland is a country where some symptoms of economic recovery have been recorded. In 1992 Poland reached the 1 percent rate of GDP growth. It is estimated that in 1993 the growth rate will account for

4 percent, mainly thanks to an increase in industrial production by 7 percent consistent with agricultural production. However, one cannot fully agree with the statement that the decrease in agricultural production recorded in Central and Eastern European countries in 1992 or in previous years resulted mainly from adverse weather conditions as well as an adverse short-term reform effort.

They are the results of the structural adjustment processes, lower demand, lack of market institutions, cost of privatization, etc. The problem we face today is the fact that the economic recovery in 1992 and 1993 in non-agricultural sectors will not result in an increase in personal real income. The process of privatization and economic restructuring failed in efficiency; on the other hand there was an increase in the employment rate up to 15 percent. This was accompanied by an increase in the share of income spent on utilities and on total household expenditure. At the same time, other spending including that on food products has decreased considerably. Further decreases in purchasing power and demand for agricultural products seem to be the main factors determining income inefficiency and a decrease in the utilization of production capacity of the agricultural sector.

Poland has accomplished a lot in the field of liberalization of the food economy, in demonopolization, privatization and restructuring. The majority of the State-owned farms are being privatized and new private economic units are being established in the service sector providing services for agriculture.

A new market infrastructure is being set up. It is very important in terms of building a new environment and in stimulating development and competition, although it does not change the fact that the future of Polish agriculture within the next few years will mainly depend on the demand for agricultural products. Production capacity of our agriculture for many years will exceed the domestic market needs. Therefore, an improvement in its economic performance will be determined by an opportunity to expand the export of agricultural products. This will be possible if access to foreign markets is eased, but the various undertakings to accomplish this goal are at present viewed with some reluctance by our partners. Our products sold in traditional markets like the EEC countries meet a lot of different barriers. I think that similar phenomena will appear in the other countries in transition.

Kiyoshi SAWADA (Japan): My delegation wishes to express our congratulations to you, Mr Chairman, on your election. We also compliment Mr Hjort on his clear introduction. My Government is highly appreciative of the initiatives taken by FAO to resolve the world food and agriculture problems.

Since Japan is the largest net food importing country in the world, we always have strong interest in the balance of world food supply and demand. If we look at the actual food situation, according to the estimates of FAO, 786 million people suffer from malnutrition, which is one-fifth of the total population of the developing world. Particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, one-third of the population is malnourished and the situation continues to deteriorate as the years go by.

Although this food problem seems to be considered as an imbalance in the distribution of food to the people of the world and mathematically seems to be solved by world food distribution through trade or food aid, my country

has recognized that from the point of view of long-term stability in food security, trade measures alone are not enough to achieve it. We have repeatedly advocated the importance of agricultural development in food-deficit countries. The promotion of agriculture in these countries would provide predominantly rural people with food as well as employment, and it would then be possible to formulate a social basis for sound economic development as a whole.

Now we can see the evidence of it in the progress of economic development in the Eastern Asian countries. We request FAO to carefully monitor the agricultural development of food-deficit countries, and to provide them with appropriate advice so that these countries can achieve sound agricultural development without being adversely affected by food aid, structural adjustment, and trade factors. My country is committed to continue to support the self effort of developing countries to promote their own agriculture.

With regard to fisheries, excessive environmental conservation is becoming a big problem for the staple food supply to an increasing population. Recently the Convention for Threatened and Endangered Species, namely CITES, has examined the possibility of controlling even fish and shellfish in a world which are the food for endangered species. If this movement is realized, the food supply from the fisheries sector would be seriously damaged. We suggest that FAO, as the organization aiming at a staple food supply to the people of the world, should not overlook this problem.

My Government proposes to hold an International Conference on Sustainable Contribution of Fisheries to Food Security. My delegation notes with pleasure that this proposal received broad support at the Council meeting last week.

This year, my country was affected by an extremely abnormal natural disaster, consisted of low temperature and sunshine deficit. Thus, the rice harvest was reduced by 25 percent compared to a normal year. Accordingly, this situation greatly influences the balance of domestic rice supply and demand in this harvest year, as well as the world food market. We are analysing the mechanism by which rice is damaged so seriously, and examining ways to overcome this problem in the future. We will continue our efforts to produce staple food in our country. As a matter of fact, natural disasters cannot be foreseen, and the occurrence of them indicates a risk of excessive food reliance on a few exporting countries.

Finally, the population issue is closely linked with the food issue. In this regard, my delegation would like to know the validation of the contribution of FAO to the International Conference on Population and Development which will be held in Cairo next year.

Mrs Hedwig WÖGERBAUER (Austria) (Original language German) : Mr Chairman, I would like to congratulate you on your election to the Chair of Commission I and I give my sincer congratulations to the two Vice-chairmen. I would like to thank Mr Hjort for the introduction he gave us to Document C93/2.

With regard to this document I would mention that the tables which appear in the document clearly show the changes which have taken place in agricultural production. However, we have noted with concern the trends in recent years in agricultural production, but we do welcome the fact that in

Part II of the document there is a comparison between developing and developed countries.

With regard to Part II, relating to developing country regions and economies in transition in Central and Eastern Europe, I would mention that we have studied this text with particular interest, and Austria furthermore welcomes the fact that there is a section on OECD countries. Austria has viewed with great interest the points made about the countries whose economies are being reconstructed. I would mention that within the framework of OECD, a very interesting country study was done in Hungary. As far as I know, other country studies - in this case Poland and the Czech Republic - are being prepared. In our opinion, it would be useful to include these country studies in future reports on the status of nutrition.

Now I would like to refer to the OECD publication, "Agriculture Policies, Markets, Trade, Manufacturing and Outlook, 1993". Allow me to say one or two things about the situation of nutrition in my own country.

The international scenario for economic development in Austria considerably worsened during 1992. In Europe, there was an increase in the trend to recession and this unfavourable economic situation is a contrast to the successes of the integration process politically - that is, in Europe. In these unfavourable circumstances the Austrian economy in 1992 could only develop moderately; the growth in GDP was only 1.5 percent. However, this was somewhat better than the general European trend.

In 1992, industry was pulled down into the general recession and the employment situation worsened; the unemployment rate increased slightly to 5.9 percent, the rate of inflation increased further and in 1992 reached 4.1 percent.

As far as agriculture and forestry are concerned, it should be noted that the interlinking of the agricultural sector is ever more intense and is in very close connection with economic, regional, social, planning and environmental policies. In 1992 the contribution of agriculture and forestry remained more or less at the same level as in the preceding year.

Drought, falling agricultural prices and problems in the timber market were the main factors for agriculture. The present goals and concerns of agricultural policy in Austria are now laid down in the main agricultural laws. The main purpose is to improve or create where necessary the frameworks to make it possible for agriculture and forestry to produce high quality foodstuffs and raw materials for industry and the production of energy, all this at reasonable prices in order to provide income for family farms.

With regard to the low level of prices on the world market, Austrian farmers are in unfavourable circumstances and are not competitive as far as grain and meat are concerned. Also surplus production had to be exported to a great extent and so internal market regulations have the main goal of adapting the level of production to national consumption requirements. By means of ecologically favourable adaptation - that is to say, alternative production, and sometimes restrictions on production - it has been possible, partly on a voluntary basis and partly on a legal basis, to stabilize or even reduce production. Also, within the framework of the 1992 policies, it has been possible to make special payments to mountain areas in order to offset the difficult and disadvantageous circumstances obtaining in those regions.

With regard to processing and marketing, high priority is given to increasing competitiveness. Quality of production is a central aim. Furthermore, ecological considerations are playing an increasing role, because agricultural production can only be guaranteed in the longer term if environmental considerations are taken into account. In order to keep production up in the long run, agriculture and forestry must conserve vital resources by means of environment-friendly policies. We believe that in the area of the environment FAO should pay particular attention to this in its Programme of Work.

We have been extremely successful in the area of nutrition. Our policy is intended to provide the population with reasonably priced, quality products. Increasing health awareness, changing eating habits and increased demand for quality and branded products are important developments for the Austrian food sector.

Mario NUPIO GAMERO (Honduras): Permítame en primer lugar, señor Presidente, en nombre de la Delegación de mi país felicitarle por la designación como Presidente de esta Comisión y, en segundo lugar, felicitar al señor Hjort por la magnífica presentación del documento, el Estado Mundial de la Alimentación y la Agricultura, 1993, donde hay párrafos importantes sobre lo que ha pasado a este respecto en Honduras. La seguridad alimentaria es de las más altas prioridades para nuestro Gobierno y por ello se han hecho enormes transformaciones en estos últimos cuatro años, en este importante sector de nuestra economía.

Permítame, señor Presidente, expresarle a continuación algunos aspectos muy importantes del sector agrícola de Honduras. Honduras es un país dedicado principalmente a la actividad agropecuaria y forestal, por esta razón se considera que su economía es fundamentalmente de base agrícola, ya que este sector genera aproximadamente el 23 por ciento del producto interno bruto a precios corrientes, emplea alrededor del 60 por ciento de la fuerza de trabajo y es responsable de más de un 80 por ciento de las exportaciones sectoriales.

A fin de lograr una mayor participación de este sector en la producción nacional, en los últimos cuatro años se ha producido un período de relevantes transformaciones en el campo de la seguridad alimentaria y modernización sectorial. Este proceso se sustenta básicamente en un programa de ajuste estructural macroeconómico, medio que ha servido de base a las iniciativas que en el orden sectorial, el Gobierno con la participación activa de la empresa privada ha impulsado decididamente en los últimos cuatro años. De esta forma el país se ha perfilado con un programa de apertura económica que le permitirá una mayor dinamización de los sectores productivos a efecto de cumplir con los compromisos que ha contraído a nivel regional e internacional con la puesta en marcha de los tratados bilaterales y multilaterales de intercambio comercial, los cuales nos llevan gradualmente a la inserción de la economía hondureña en el mercado internacional.

El nuevo esquema estructural de la economía se fundamenta en la aplicación de una gama de medidas de políticas relacionadas con la liberalización de la economía, mediante la eliminación de controles reguladores, una política comercial más abierta a través de la degradación arancelaria, la supresión de incentivos fiscales, la puesta en vigencia de una tasa de cambio real, competitiva, estable y un ajuste en el sistema tributario y en las tarifas de los servicios del sector público. Todo ello como base para entrar

exitosamente en el marco de apertura comercial y dar los pasos necesarios para la promoción de las exportaciones de la región y buscar los medios a través de los cuales los productores agropecuarios y agroindustriales logren niveles efectivos de competitividad, que permita asegurar al flujo de bienes y servicios que le sean más favorables.

En el ámbito sectorial se ha impulsado un vigoroso proceso de renovación del agro. Para este propósito se diseñó un programa de políticas de fomento al desarrollo agropecuario y forestal, que se concretizó a través de la aprobación de la ley para la modernización y desarrollo del sector agrícola, tal como lo expresa este documento de la FAO, instrumento jurídico cuya aprobación llevó un proceso de concertación entre los entes públicos y privados interesados, como nunca lo ha tenido ninguna otra iniciativa legislativa en nuestro país.

La concertación no sólo generó en un beneficio a la ley misma, sino que también en un mayor entendimiento entre productores independientes, empresarios del campo y organizaciones campesinas que durante muchos años habían observado muy tensas relaciones.

La nueva política de apoyo al sector agrícola se fundamenta en criterios de eficiencia económica que benefician a todos los participantes en la actividad agropecuaria, siendo los objetivos operativos de la política, crear fuentes de empleo, elevar el poder adquisitivo a las familias más pobres, y generar divisas mediante el aumento sostenido de la agroexportación.

Entre las políticas de fomento al desarrollo agropecuario, tenemos la política de producción, de comercialización, de precios, definanciamientos, de tenencia de la tierra, de generación y transferencia de tecnología, aspectos forestales, y de los cuales se destacan los siguientes mecanismos de aplicación: libre comercio interno y externo de productos agropecuarios, - una apertura total -; libre acción de precios de productos agropecuarios; bonificación de las donaciones y subsidios localizados; sistemas de información de precios de mercado; certificación de depósitos y bonos de prenda; formalización de organizaciones mercantiles para importar insumos agropecuarios; liberalización de los impuestos a la importación de agroquímicos; saneamiento de la cartera de crédito del Banco de Desarrollo Agrícola del país; líneas de redescuento para la producción y comercialización agropecuaria, financiamiento del capital; establecimiento de un fondo para la compraventa de tierras, promoción de nuevas alternativas de inversión como la coinversión y el arrendamiento con los pequeños agricultores, particularmente con los beneficiarios de la reforma agraria, funcionamiento de cajas privadas rurales de crédito, de ahorro; reconversión de empresas campesinas, principalmente en el sector público, reducción del tamaño del sector público agrícola.

Algunos de estos instrumentos operativos que comprende la nueva ley de modernización y desarrollo del sector agrícola, comprende destacar el masivo programa de titulación de más de 200 000 hectáreas de tierras que han beneficiado a más de 12 000 familias que carecían de este recurso y que no podrían antes acceder al crédito.

El bono de capital con 5 millones de dólares; el sistema de cajas de crédito rural, cuya legislación ha sido recientemente aprobada por el Soberano Congreso Nacional, y que son bancos regionales de propiedad de los pequeños agricultores; el fondo de tierras que se ha creado con un fondo

inicial de 5 millones de dólares, también privadamente, propiedad de los pequeños productores.

En materia de comercialización de productos alimenticios, se han implementado certificados de depósito, con el fin de que el productor ofrezca su producción como garantía ante la banca, permitiéndole una mejor capacidad de negociación, entre otros agentes de la cadena de comercialización.

En materia de sustentibilidades, los recursos naturales se ha promovido una nueva legislación en materia del manejo del recurso agua, del recurso pesca, del manejo de agroquímicos, además de coadyuvar a los esfuerzos de reforestación que se emprenden a través de diversas entidades públicas y privadas.

Conviene indicar que el programa de ajuste macro-económico tuvo en sus inicios un efecto contraccionista en la economía, que redujo la capacidad de algunos alimentos entre los estratos desfavorecidos de la población. Con el objeto de paliar esta situación se establecieron programas de subsidios localizados, como son los bonos materno-infantil y los bonos de la madre sola. Estas compensaciones monetarias han tenido un gran impacto nutricional y educativo en forma indirecta, ya que estimula las visitas periódicas a los centros de salud y además coadyuvan la presencia y permanencia de los niños en los centros escolares.

Comprendemos que la tarea de combatir el hambre y la desnutrición continuará siendo la tarea principal de los gobiernos de los países menos desarrollados, tal como se expresó en la Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición, realizada en esta misma Sede hace casi un año.

Por esta razón, en Honduras los programas de salud y los alimentarios han recibido un fuerte impulso en los últimos años y se ha hecho evidente en la práctica la necesidad de un adecuado sistema de vigilancia alimentaria y nutricional, dado que la focalización de las ayudas ante la disminución progresiva de los recursos, es cada día más apremiante.

No hay duda que las medidas proteccionistas del mercado externo, como las recientemente adoptadas en los países de la Comunidad Económica Europea en relación al banano, tienen un impacto en las inversiones y el empleo, y, por ende, en la alimentación de nuestros pueblos.

Nosotros nos hemos abierto, y otros países se han cerrado con su proteccionismo. Los enormes adelantos que en pocos años hemos logrado en productos no tradicionales, se han visto opacados por la continua disminución de los precios de intercambio y en la demanda de los productos tradicionales como el banano y el café. Esta tendencia no podría continuar si deseamos que los efectos del programa de modernización y desarrollo del sector agrícola hondureño se reviertan favorablemente en la generalidad de la población.

El Gobierno de Honduras continúa con denuedo impulsando este programa, y, como es comprensible, en su aplicación se han presentado limitantes que ha sido necesario afrontar, destacándose entre ellas los aspectos de comercialización externa de productos tradicionales. El financiamiento y la lenta adaptabilidad del productor nacional a una economía de libre mercado carente del tradicional proteccionismo estatal.

Realmente, señor Presidente, Honduras y los países centroamericanos, nos hemos abierto al mercado regional y mundial.

Finalmente, deseamos expresar que este programa renovador de la actividad del sector agrícola en Honduras, requiere aunar los esfuerzos internos de empleo de recursos con la asistencia técnica y financiera externa, debido a que los cambios en las políticas y las instituciones son profundas. Asimismo, los aportes y sacrificios son de gran magnitud. Naturalmente, se visualiza al futuro una perspectiva real de crecimiento de la actividad productiva nacional y mejoramiento del bienestar de la población hondureña que en mayor grado está radicada en el campo.

CHAIRMAN (Original language German): Because of other obligations elsewhere, the distinguished delegate from Nigeria is unfortunately not in a position to make his statement here. He has given me his statement in written form and asked that it be included in the minutes. The country statement of Nigeria will therefore be included in full in the verbatim report.

Mrs Hannelore A.H. BENJAMIN (Dominica) Mr Chairman, my delegation would like to congratulate you and the two Vice-Chairmen for chairing this most important Commission. My delegation is very impressed by the documents before us and wishes to thank the Secretariat for the hard work it has put in, although my delegation would have liked to see a less packed agenda. Our agenda is filled with so many important items, which means that we must address them all. If each delegate speaks for about eight or ten minutes on each item, I shall soon retire as a speechless delegate. Therefore my delegation will try to address the agenda before us more generally and will only come back if we talk bananas!

The ICN outcome is still not clear, due to financial resources. The same applies to UNCED, although UNCED had a major discussion on biodiversity and the Earth Summit approved the proposed Global Environment and Development Programme. The last Commission on Plant Genetic Resources proposed a global initiative for the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources, and we need to make certain that, while we need to increase the food supply in developing countries, where more than ever people suffer from malnutrition and under-nourishment, the global agenda is well addressed and well understood. Either we need to increase the rate of food production through high input farming methods, which are very costly but would help small farmers to increase agricultural productivity, or under more challenging environmental circumstances, greater attention must be paid to enhancing production of low-input farmers by improving farming practices such as cropping patterns and spacing.

The outcome of the Uruguay Round is still under discussion and can only be completed successfully if it regards with fairness a speedy liberalization of international trade for all countries, as this would help the developing countries to have freedom of trade and to promote job creation in order to reduce unemployment.

Developing countries could finally also have a flexible labour market. The Uruguay Round must be based on mutual stabilization and must have structural reform. Global challenges are mounting, mass poverty prevails in a large part of the developing world. Natural and man-made disasters are

proliferating and call for the need for further humanitarian and external assistance.

My delegation would like to point out that it is not enough to tell small farmers and small developing countries such as Dominica, "You must diversify." Diversification is the least of our problems. The realistic problem is that the farmers want to be assured that they have a market for their commodities. Diversification often takes one year before the commodities can be harvested.

How can a government in the Caribbean which already struggles with a deficit budget, handle the diversification from one crop to another? There have been occasions when Dominica has diversified into a crop that looked promising, but then the market fell away and the grower felt let down. The small farmer cannot understand that a government cannot control the market. It means that market data and assessments change quickly. Often small countries feel they have a good market, when along comes another country which can produce the same crop at a lower rate or is keen to win markets and is willing to trade at a loss. Dominica cannot do this because our farming is small peasant farming and the farmers cannot afford to take a loss of any kind. It is known that inflation in some industrial countries remains subdued, adding to a further price stability for developing countries.

Therefore, what the developing countries need are far better opportunities. They need trade recognition for the commodities and new responsibilities created through globalization. This would help to solve the problem in a framework of global, economic and agricultural cooperation, while the international trade market needs to be strengthened through a mutual financial system which gives the developing countries full cooperation and opportunities to liberalize multilateral trade and exchange arrangements. Until now the Uruguay Round is still imposing restraints on the developing countries' policies, as well as on trade regimes and exchange rates. Failure to reach agreement may affect more than world growth, in particular since the Uruguay Round's success will add more than US\$120 billion to world income, as was stated recently at the annual World Bank and IMF meeting.

Uruguay Round and GATT agreements are essential for the proper functioning of our economy and our agriculture. This means that the failure of the Uruguay Round would mark the decline of the multilateral trade system for everybody.

My delegation feels that, with FAO guidance and financial help we may be able to overcome the existing complex problems by promoting international cooperation and agricultural development. How?

Firstly, on a global scale, because of fundamental importance is equal free trade for all countries. Secondly, through GATT, by establishing clear and enforceable rules leading to increased trade and prosperity for all nations in agriculture, fisheries and forestry. Thirdly, new development in the international economy by increasing global integration, rapid technology innovations and greater independence among the various regions of the world. Fourth, in the Caribbean FAO needs to focus even more closely on bio-technology in agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

My delegation feels that the biotechnology in increasing food production is vital for all our Caribbean islands. The fisheries sector plays an

important social and economic role in small coastal states like Dominica and its neighbours. It contributes to food security and is of help in our effort to increase employment and development in our rural community. It will help our women in rural development. Our forestry is also of great importance and its impact is most forceful when we come to understand that we are at a time of many changes and challenges.

Therefore, my delegation would like to stress that FAO make every effort in promoting sustainable development of small islands development through a framework for sustainable agriculture, fisheries, forestry and rural development.

Mr Chairman, you have your heart in our countries. Please, do help us.

Carlos BASCO (Argentina): Me permito felicitarle, señor Presidente, por la forma en que está llevando las sesiones y también al señor Hjort por el documento presentado.

A continuación haré algunas consideraciones que me gustaría compartir con los otros delegados presentes.

A pesar del alentador crecimiento observado por los países en desarrollo durante 1992 frente a la recesión económica observada en los países desarrollados, las condiciones de la situación agrícola en muchos países en desarrollo siguen siendo preocupantes, y el comercio internacional de productos agropecuarios continúa seriamente distorsionado por las prácticas desleales de la mayoría de los países desarrollados.

Las perspectivas de crecimiento y comercio de los países en desarrollo continúan dependiendo del grado de recuperación económica general y de los países desarrollados en especial. Sin embargo, parece que no podemos ser demasiado optimistas. Se observa con preocupación la falta de liderazgo en buena parte de los responsables de la política económica para tomar las decisiones clave a los fines de dar impulso al crecimiento económico global y dejar de lado políticas proteccionistas que lo dificultan. Esta falta de liderazgo se expresa en las dificultades observadas en la Ronda Uruguay del GATT, que después de siete años tiene todavía dificultades para ser completada y cuyos resultados finales posibles ya son mucho menos ambiciosos que los previstos al inicio de la misma.

Los productos agrícolas representan sólo alrededor del 10 por ciento del comercio mundial pero constituyen una proporción significativamente mayor de los ingresos de exportación de muchos países en desarrollo y una proporción poco significativa de los ingresos de exportación de los países desarrollados. Sin embargo, la mayoría de estos últimos continúa resistiéndose a la liberalización del comercio internacional de los mismos.

Los precios de los productos agropecuarios continúan descendiendo durante los últimos años. Las variaciones de signo contrario entre los precios de los productos agropecuarios y los de las manufacturas han afectado negativamente más a los países en desarrollo que a los países desarrollados. En muchos casos, este deterioro de los precios y de las relaciones de intercambio se ha tratado de neutralizar con aumentos de la productividad y de la producción. Sin embargo, en muchos casos, esta respuesta puede poner en peligro el desarrollo sostenible a largo plazo.

Simultáneamente al panorama desalentador en los países en desarrollo, los incentivos para la producción agrícola de los países desarrollados superaron en la mayoría de los casos los existentes en el mercado internacional. Continúan la política tradicional de aislar casi totalmente las decisiones de producción de los precios que rigen el mercado internacional. Estamos observando consternados una suerte de planificación de la producción agropecuaria en algunos países desarrollados que compite mano a mano con los mejores tiempos de la planificación centralizada de países que la han abandonado. Algunos países desarrollados después de haber criticado durante 70 años la planificación económica, la aplican con el mayor desparpajo a la producción agrícola, distorsionando la toma de decisiones eficientes y el comercio internacional de productos agrícolas.

Con respecto al punto mencionado del documento respecto de los acuerdos internacionales sobre productos agropecuarios, esta delegación opina que generalmente no son los mejores instrumentos para asegurar buenos precios y no cree que valga la pena insistir demasiado en ese tipo de instrumentos.

El Gobierno de mi país ha priorizado su compromiso en todos los foros internacionales vinculados con los temas agrícolas, siendo estos los correspondientes a la producción, al comercio, a la tecnología, a la sostenibilidad o a la ayuda alimentaria. En todos ellos busca destacar la importancia de la agricultura para los países en desarrollo y la experiencia negativa de las políticas agrícolas de algunos países industrializados. En este último caso nos preocupan especialmente las prácticas tendientes a lograr el aumento de la productividad sin importar el costo ni monetario ni ambiental. La agricultura es una de las actividades más estratégicas y nobles, no sólo por su condición de principal fuente de alimentos, sino por las oportunidades de empleo que brinda a una parte sustancial de la población mundial. Es asimismo una de las alternativas básicas para el crecimiento de las naciones, especialmente aquellas en desarrollo.

Con este convencimiento, Argentina ha puesto en práctica una política de apertura y desregulación de su economía. Durante los últimos tres años hemos duplicado ampliamente nuestras importaciones. Sin embargo, hemos tenido dificultades para aumentar las exportaciones agropecuarias. Una de las principales causas han sido las prácticas restrictivas que llevan a cabo algunos países industrializados.

El proceso de desregulación señalado se ha verificado a través de la eliminación de una serie de reglamentaciones que operaban para beneficio de unos pocos. Por ejemplo, las innecesarias regulaciones al comercio exterior, al acceso de algunos mercados, a la comercialización, así como también los controles de precios y de producción.

Nos falta aún asegurar que los beneficios de la desregulación que hemos llevado a cabo lleguen efectivamente a los productores agropecuarios y no sean absorbidos por etapas ulteriores de las cadenas de comercialización y transformación. Sin embargo, estamos persuadidos de que las reglas de juego simples y transparentes son las únicas aptas para la actividad agropecuaria y la manera más idónea para asegurar un empleo eficiente de los recursos productivos. Aumentar la eficiencia en el uso de los recursos es la base para asegurar incrementos de la productividad y la competitividad de la producción agrícola. Para ello es fundamental que el productor responda a la señales de precios de los mercados, que es la mejor manera de lograr dicha asignación eficiente de los recursos. Sin embargo, muchas veces dichas señales no operan como deberían hacerlo. Las instrucciones observadas en los mercados agrícolas, resultado de prácticas

proteccionistas y de subsidios a la producción y exportación, envían señales al mercado que poco tienen que ver con la asignación óptima de los recursos.

También le otorgamos prioridad a incentivar la transformación de la producción agropecuaria. Agregar valor resulta clave para aumentar el ingreso del productor agropecuario. Estos enfrentan día a día mayores exigencias tanto por parte de los consumidores como por parte de las etapas posteriores de transformación. Estas últimas, desde la selección y empaque, hasta su procesamiento con destino al consumo final constituyen hoy en día simples etapas de una sola producción, la agrícola. Actualmente resulta imposible pensar en la actividad agropecuaria sólo como una producción de carácter primario. La agroindustria y, especialmente, la industria de la alimentación, son agricultura.

Esta concepción integral de la actividad colabora también para que el productor agropecuario tenga bien claro que produce para un mercado que exige calidades y características específicas y abandone las antiguas prácticas de producir sin interesarse por saber para quién lo está haciendo.

Sin embargo, la puesta en práctica de esta política se ve muchas veces dificultada y hasta impedida por las políticas de escalamiento tarifario implementadas por muchos países industrializados para proteger a sus ineficientes producciones.

Respecto de la Ronda Uruguay del GATT, la Delegación Argentina manifiesta su satisfacción por el reciente relanzamiento del proceso negociador a nivel multilateral tras dos años de escasos progresos.

La conclusión exitosa de la Ronda Uruguay es condición indispensable para superar la difícil coyuntura por la cual atraviesan actualmente la economía y el comercio internacional.

Reiteramos nuestro compromiso de desplegar todos los esfuerzos necesarios para mantener el dinamismo del proceso negociador durante el brevísimo plazo que resta, e instamos a todos los participantes a respetar los objetivos y principios establecidos en la Declaración de Punta del Este y los acuerdos alcanzados en la revisión de mediano plazo.

En consonancia con los objetivos de la Ronda Uruguay, muchos países en desarrollo, entre ellos la Argentina, han liberalizado en forma autónoma y significativa el acceso a sus mercados. Los demás participantes de la Ronda Uruguay, sobre todo los de mayor peso comercial, se han beneficiado con esta apertura. Sin embargo, los países en desarrollo no han sido objeto de reciprocidad; por el contrario, han visto agravada su situación por la violación de los compromisos de statu quo, la adopción de nuevas medidas proteccionistas y el no acatamiento de las recomendaciones de los Grupos Especiales del GATT. Una conclusión equilibrada de la Ronda requiere resultados satisfactorios en el área de acceso de mercados. Constatamos con inquietud que la situación continúa siendo insatisfactoria en sectores prioritarios para nuestros países, como lo son la agricultura, los textiles, los productos tropicales y los productos derivados de la explotación de los recursos naturales. Al mismo tiempo se formulan propuestas cero por cero que, si bien pueden ser beneficiosas para los países industrializados, no constituyen respuestas adecuadas a los requerimientos de los países en desarrollo. El sector agrícola es clave y prioritario para los intereses de nuestros países.

Para el éxito de la Ronda Uruguay y la consecuente adaptación de los resultados de un paquete final es imprescindible que se logren resultados significativos en este campo. Estos deben asegurar una liberalización sustancial del acceso a los mercados, la reducción del sostén interno y de los subsidios a la exportación y la instrumentación de medidas sanitarias y fitosanitarias sobre el avance de las disposiciones y disciplinas establecidas en el Proyecto de Acta Final.

Es indispensable que los grandes países comerciales adopten ya las decisiones políticas necesarias para concluir las negociaciones con resultados que, contemplando equilibradamente los diversos intereses, promuevan la liberalización, la expansión del comercio mundial, eviten la discriminación y fortalezcan el sistema multilateral.

Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago): May I at the outset commend you and the Bureau on the responsibilities entrusted to you to guide the affairs of this important Commission. I wish to thank the delegates who have spoken before us in this debate for the excellence of their contributions, the tone that they have set and the clarity with which they have expressed themselves. I think the mature debate bodes well for what will emerge as a package of recommendations from Commission I. This is, no doubt, due largely to the balanced nature and the objectivity of the report that has been laid before us, facilitated in great measure by Mr Hjort's introduction.

The SOFA Report is the first in a trilogy which we will deal with tomorrow and in the next couple of days, focusing on the world food and agricultural situation and outlook.

Having listened so far, it serves as an aperitif to what is going to be a rich menu of debate over the next few days, setting the stage, I am sure, for providing the green light out of the Green Room to many a debate in the Red Room on FAO's Programme of Work and Budget.

What does the report say as we look beyond and behind the figures, the charts and the data? It is quite clear that stagnating economies in developed and industrialized countries put limitations on the scope of market opportunities of primary commodities from the developing world. Constraints are also being placed on the availability of resources for development assistance. On the other hand, we know that in some developing countries there has been a bit of sunlight in that there has been progress in agriculture and economies have been developing. In that regard the food situation is improving, contributing to an alleviation of some of the problems of malnutrition. Likewise, because of the importance of agriculture to these economies and the rate of progress of agricultural development, incomes and employment rates are rising in some of these economies. On balance, the fact remains that poverty and hunger exist among millions and malnutrition abounds. We cannot afford to be complacent. That is why this Commission has to take due note of the contribution of the distinguished delegate of Dominica who gave a poignant cry from the heart on behalf of all small-island and resource-poor states, whether they be from the Caribbean, the South Pacific or the Indian Ocean.

I trust that that contribution is closely noted and the implications arising therefrom find some place in the recommendations of Commission I.

The problem that we face as we view the state of food and agriculture in this Commission is how to separate out for consideration and treatment in a

balanced way the urgent and the important, for in the nature of things the urgent always seem to dominate leaving scarce time and resources for focusing on the important.

What do we mean? We mean yes, this organization, the nations of the world, must continue with urgency to address the growing problems of hunger and poverty by emergency actions, by food aid. We must continue to treat the problems of degradation of natural resources by special action in terms of dealing with our watersheds and dealing with the pollution of our rivers. We must continue to develop and implement projects for the maintenance and construction, where necessary, of access roads and bridges into areas of agricultural development.

These are all urgent and are needed. But we must find time to focus on the important. In the context of agricultural development, the important has to do with policy reforms - policy reforms at the global, international level, and policy reforms at the national local level. For the technical solutions we will find to deal with agricultural problems will be reduced to nought if we do not work assiduously to deal with the deficiencies and the distortions in the policy framework. How do we go about it? I suggest that we need to forge strategic alliances amongst the countries of the world, the developed and the developing, the large and the small, the continental land masses and the small island states as our respected colleague has said.

The policies that must be addressed at the level of the countries of the world in the global and international context have to do with agricultural trade, some of which are being considered currently, hopefully to be resolved by December 15, but in a very serious way, taking into account those special and differential circumstances that attend the developing countries, that attend the least able, the small, the least resourceful, so that as we focus on free trade we also take account of fair trade. At the global and international level we also must deal with policies that have to do with access to technology. In this regard, the observations made in respect of biotechnology must be addressed urgently. These issues are on the policy agenda.

May I come full square in support of the observations made by El Salvador, France and Sweden. I thought that they treated the subject quite adequately but strategic alliances must also be sought and forged amongst the international and multilateral organizations which our governments have established and in which we have strong voices, and where we serve on governing bodies, to ensure that they collaborate, cooperate and reduce duplication of effort in dealing with these issue we have described, so that it is not only the nations but the organizations which are important also.

Within countries, governments and people must strike the strategic alliance if we are to give substance to the improvement of rural welfare, if we are to give some substance to policies that deal with population growth, if we are to give substance to policies that deal with education, land reform, agrarian reform. So that it is a mix of strategic alliances at the global and national level focusing on dealing with the deficiencies on the policy agenda side by side as we deal with the urgent matters of getting the technical aspects correct. That is what, in my humble submission, will lead us out of the dilemma.

In that regard, as I close, I suggest it also dictates and identifies the agenda for the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations. I

am saying, as we have said elsewhere in the Council, that it is critical and it is urgent for FA to seize the high-ground of policy studies, the policy analysis, the policy support, in order to prepare and enable us and empower us, the small island states, to grapple with and deal more adequately with these important issues on our policy agenda.

Dixon NILAWEERA (Sri Lanka): Mr Chairman, let me also congratulate you on your election as the Chairman as we debate this most important question that is being examined today. Let me also congratulate the Secretariat and the Director-General for presenting an excellent review of the States of Food and Agriculture in 1993. The Director-General, in his presentation yesterday, emphasized the basic issues which inhibit growth in this particular sector, a wide range of issues that are faced by the developing countries.

As Chairman, you are no doubt aware that practically all countries have taken conscious attempts to develop their agricultural programmes. These programmes have been strongly guided by the political will of the countries concerned and their commitments to agriculture. In countries such as Sri Lanka, production comes from the small farm sector. Some of the countries are now in the process of becoming newly industrialized countries. However, they have not relegated to the background the concept of increasing agricultural productivity. Unfortunately, such attempts are often stymied and hamstrung by outside forces which are beyond our control.

There are both agronomic and non-agronomic problems which have led to insufficient growth in this particular sector. We are now confronted with a major problem concerning crop production, namely yield stagnation. Our rice yields have been plateauing for the past several years, despite all efforts to organize the inputs and organize the farmers. We have not been able to achieve a break-through in yield stagnation which appears to be a common phenomenon in most of the Asian region.

In Sri Lanka, 80 percent of the rice are high-yielding varieties. Although there has been an initial drop in fertilizer usage, resulting from the withdrawal of the fertilizer subsidy, it crept up to acceptable levels. Access to resources have been organized in a satisfactory manner. Nevertheless, yield stagnation continues to be a factor to be reckoned with. Perhaps one way would be to consider increasing the use of better quality seeds.

We observe certain clear views being expressed in this document on biotechnology. Whilst the focus of the FAO is on the necessity of using biotechnology, the associated dangers are also recognized. It has become increasingly clear that biotechnology perhaps lends greater support to breaking yield stagnation which has retarded the increase in crop production efforts.

In this respect, there is an urgent need for intervention by the international organizations such as the FAO. Research efforts should be coordinated in a manner which would consciously address its mind to breaking the impasse of this particular problem, yield stagnation. Biotechnology may be one way by which steps in this direction could be taken. Of course, we recognize that it should be done consciously so that there would be no adverse effect on the total production system. FAO should supplement the efforts of the countries concerned by providing both technical and non-technical support.

Carlos DI MOTTOIA BALESTRA (Costa Rica): Quisiera antes de todo, señor Presidente, alegrarme por su elección. Nosotros nos conocemos desde hace muchos años y me da mucha alegría verlo presidir una reunión tan importante. Yo quiero limitar mi intervención a un único punto de los muchos que en este amplio tema interesan a la economía de mi país.

Es un punto de enorme importancia y que por lo tanto quiero subrayar en este foro de trascendencia tan grande, me refiero al cultivo del banano. Como usted sabe, le economía de mi país es esencialmente agrícola y se basa en dos productos principales; el café y el banano. El café es objeto de una crisis profunda desde hace años que todavía no hemos llegado a resolver de ninguna manera. Hay acuerdos recientes, sin embargo los precios no son de ninguna manera remunerativos, o sea, estamos destruyendo el capital nacional.

À estas alturas se agrega una nueva crisis completamente artificial, que es la del banano. Estuvimos trabajando sobre el banano, en el grupo intergubernamental y en los grupos productores desde hace muchísimos años. Yo me acuerdo que desde que yo atiendo a la FAO, y son decenas de años, siempre se ha tratado por parte de la Secretaría y por el fuerte esfuerzo conjunto de los representantes de los países, de integrar sobre las proyecciones futuras de producción del banano y, de lograr entendimientos, por lo menos de hecho, sobre las políticas bananeras de los países adheridos. Siempre en un marco de no limitar de ninguna manera a los mercados, o sea, en un marco de lo que es la filosofía del comercio moderno y de la agricultura moderna. A estas alturas sabemos desde mediados del año pasado que existe la disposición 404/9 de la Comunidad que es una completa violación de todo el bloque que contiene el Acuerdo General.

Es una completa violación porque lleva consigo un aumento rotundo de los aranceles que no está previsto en el Acuerdo General. Lleva consigo una discriminación profunda entre los distintos países productores. En la FAO hemos trabajado años y años estudiando y también proponiendo la misma Secretaría fórmulas para tratar de eliminar las relaciones que habían de división entre el productor. Ahora se crea una disminución artificial, además hay algo también que es una violación al Acuerdo General, y es una limitación de la cantidad. Se atribuye una cantidad máxima a toda la región, calculada no se sabe por qué, favoreciendo a los exportadores de grandes compañías que tengan licencias y se limita a la exportación también, mediante una reglamentación extremadamente estricta y de muchas otras maneras. Yo creo que a estas alturas, antes de hablar de un entendimiento en el GATT, sería oportuno que la Comunidad realizara el acuerdo que yo acabo de mencionar y tratara de adaptarlo a lo que es la filosofía del GATT, y no sólo a la filosofía del GATT sino a la letra del Acuerdo General, porque hay muchos puntos de las circunscripciones que violan completamente la letra del Acuerdo General. Hemos tenido el 15 de junio una reunión que reconoció varios de los puntos que los países, al cual pertenece el mío, habían presentado, y tendremos una próxima reunión en un futuro muy cercano.

Yo espero que ya antes de esto, haya un pensamiento para ayudar a los países que verdaderamente como recursos de vida y recursos económicos tienen su agricultura. Se trata de países como el mío, en los cuales, cuando se habla de agricultura, se habla sólo de dos o tres productos remunerativos que dan trabajo a una cantidad de gente.

Mrs Oülgönül BÜYÜKDORA (Turkey): Mr Chairman, at the outset, I wish to congratulate you on your election to the Chair of Commission I, and also to

the Vice-Chairmen on their election. I am confident that you will guide our deliberations towards a successful outcome.

As we all know, agriculture is still the sector which is seriously affected by diversity in world economic conditions. People dependent on agriculture still carry the heaviest burden of national adjustment policies, yet the world still falls far short of the objectives of freedom from hunger and malnutrition. Human resources in agriculture mean farmers, and we are all representatives of farmers. Through agriculture farmers earn, feed and export their products. In global terms, representing farmers means representing consumers in agriculture. By supporting farmers, consumption is promoted. Therefore collaboration is necessary between member countries for the efficacy of the work aimed towards agricultural development and strengthening cooperation among countries.

The fact that the world produces abundant supplies of food and agricultural products is no relief for most of the food-deficit, low-income countries and their rural populations. The structural imbalances between agricultural output and trade systems perpetrate the situation where there are embarrassing surpluses of food in some countries, shortages in others, and malnutrition still exists.

Environmental impacts on agriculture are important. We are glad to observe the consciousness of the world with regard to the environment and expect FAO to implement the results of the decision taken at the UNCED Conference. Most of the land suitable for agriculture is degraded by misuse of resources. Erosion of arable land, salinization, desertification and loss of biodiversity should be considered. Larger land is decreased by heritage considerations into unproductive areas. We expect FAO to launch programmes to solve the problem. Land reforms will help sustainable agriculture. Research into land consolidation and new measures of land tenure and distribution may be effective for the developing countries, but livestock development and animal health are milestones for food security. International action is even more essential for food security. In this respect, we expect FAO to cooperate with other organizations to eradicate animal diseases. Sound fisheries management is also important. The elaboration of new policies on revision of measures for fisheries are necessary.

Africa is still the continent most seriously affected by food shortage, requiring emergency assistance. Fourteen countries in the Region are currently facing exceptional food emergencies; half of them are also affected by civil strife. Equally, the situation in the Balkans further deteriorated in term of human rights resulting in food shortages and a growth of human suffering. We believe activities for the development of humanitarian assistance are just as important as peace-keeping operations. Turkey has gone to the limit of her budgetary means in contributing and being increasingly active as a donor in the sphere of humanitarian support and solidarity. Since 1992 my government has implemented an economic assistance package amounting to US\$900 million to 32 countries in four continents. We are firmly committed to continuing efforts in this domain. To increase efficiency and in terms of coordination we have set up the Turkish International Cooperation Agency. Over the same period 28 countries in three continents who have suffered natural or manmade disasters have shared US\$230 million from Turkey in cash or kind, and other various forms of relief and accommodation.

In this context, we propose the strengthening of FAO in order to contribute to economic development. There is potential in this respect, so our aim is

to canalize contributions in the most efficient way. We share the opinion that the best long-term hope for the prosperity of the world as a whole rests on the development of the developing countries. We believe that although developing countries' self-help is essential, stepped-up actions on behalf of the international community, and in particular of the developed nations, are decisive.

Although we are at the close of the twentieth century the economic policies of all countries are converging as never before. The time has come to make a concerted effort to create an international economic environment for sustainable development.

In conclusion I would like to reaffirm my government's unanimous wish to participate more actively and effectively in the work of FAO. We believe that agricultural development is an important aspect which will allow us to assume greater responsibility in the activities of FAO.

Ms Ioanna EFSTATHIOU (Greece) : Mr Chairman, as it is the first time I have had the floor, allow me to congratulate you and the two Vice-chairmen on your election.

We fully agree with and support the views expressed on this Item by the representative of the European Community this morning. However, we would like to make some additional remarks which are of particular importance for the Mediterranean countries.

Firstly, we would underline two important aspects related to fisheries management. On the one hand rational management of fisheries resources should be promoted in order to avoid overexploitation. In this sphere the active involvement of the local communities is fully recommended. Local authorities have a better knowledge of the resource characteristics as well as of the traditional fishing practices existing in the region. Consequently, the development of management at local level is of great significance. On the other hand, as environmental concerns gain more and more importance, we believe the protection of the Mediterranean Sea is urgent. Apart from the industrial residues, we have to take into account two other equally significant causes of pollution of the Mediterranean Sea, worsening the already bad situation of this resource. One is maritime transport and the other is urban waste.

The second remark I would like to make concerns forestry management. For the Mediterranean region the degradation of the forestry resource is related mainly, if not exclusively, to fires and drought. We believe there is a need to control and supervise systems to be adopted, otherwise the Mediterranean landscape and its biodiversity could be destroyed.

As far as these two vital issues are concerned we believe multilateral cooperation is indispensable. FAO, with the collaboration of the other competent international and regional organizations, can play a significant role in helping countries to face these acute problems on a sustainable basis.

Elias REYES BRAVO (México): Expresamos, Señor Presidente, nuestro reconocimiento a la Secretaría por el documento sobre la situación de la alimentación y la agricultura en el mundo.

El análisis mundial y regional que se nos presenta, nos ofrece un panorama interesante para el estudio y estimulante para la acción; es decir, para la toma de medidas concretas para dar solución a los problemas de la seguridad alimentaria.

El documento nos enfrenta de nuevo al tema de las subvenciones al campo, que por su magnitud en muchos países desarrollados llevan a una contienda financiera que atenta contra la vocación productiva de los países, afectando al medio ambiente y distorsionando mercados naturales.

Existe una necesidad inminente de que concluyan favorablemente las negociaciones de la Ronda Uruguay del GATT, así como de que exista una mayor disposición de los distintos bloques comerciales para un comercio equitativo.

En el capítulo por regiones se aborda el caso de México, en relación con el cual mi Delegación desea presentar algunas consideraciones.

Si bien en México, tal como se señala en el documento, no hubo un crecimiento significativo de la producción agrícola durante 1992, sí se alcanzó, sin embargo, la meta de autosuficiencia en algunos productos básicos para la dieta popular.

Por la trascendencia y complementariedad en las reformas que ha asumido el Gobierno de México en materia agraria, mi Delegación destaca que recientemente se puso en marcha un amplio programa dirigido al desarrollo agrícola, llamado PROCAMPO que incluye apoyos y estímulos a los productores.

Contra lo que asevera el documento que nos ocupa, mi Delegación quiere destacar que en México ha habido una cierta recuperación de la agricultura a partir de 1990, en virtud de los apoyos a la producción de maíz y frijoles, los cuales, si bien crearon distorsiones con otros cultivos, a partir de 1993 con el programa de PROCAMPO se busca revertir la distorsión no bajando los precios del maíz y el frijol, sino apoyando a otros cultivos.

El cambio legislativo operado en México en 1992 en materia agraria, tiene una mayor profundidad que sólo la liberalización de los mercados, dado que puede lograr este objetivo sin distorsiones que induzcan a la acomodación del capital. El espíritu de la nueva legislación agraria es dar una mayor libertad a los productores en sus decisiones y relaciones de producción. La nueva legislación también pretende una mayor certidumbre en la tenencia de la tierra y garantiza la inversión en el campo. Es una modificación que le da soberanía al producto sobre la tierra.

En relación a la liberalización de los precios, se protegió el maíz y el frijol, toda vez que estos cultivos son los de mayor consumo para los mexicanos y los que producen la mayoría de los agricultores, incluidos los marginales y de autoconsumo.

Para el resto de los granos se mantienen precios concertados que permiten por una parte, ofrecerlos a precio internacional para no distorsionar las cadenas de producción y abasto, y, por otra parte, apoyar con un precio de comercialización a los productores por un tiempo determinado que les permita ajustar sus esquemas productivos para hacerlos competitivos o bien identificar alguna otra actividad de producción que les resulte más rentable.

Los precios de los productos pecuarios están casi todos liberados y los apoyos que se les brinda están orientados hacia los insumos que consumen. El esquema de modernización de la agricultura para la creación de economías de escala, la inversión, y el dinamismo del mercado, no está sustentado en la posibilidad de la venta de tierras, sino más bien en el usufructo de ésta que deberá darse por la organización y asociación productiva.

Mi Delegación, Señor Presidente, sostiene que los esfuerzos que realiza México por su agricultura y su alimentación se inscriben en el ámbito internacional de los esfuerzos que hacen los diversos países para mejorar estos renglones de la vida social de nuestros pueblos.

Sra. Grafila SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Permítame, Señor Presidente, felicitarlo por su elección, así como agradecer a la Secretaría de la FAO por la preparación del documento C 93/2 y su suplemento, y al Señor Hjort por la clara presentación de los mismos.

La Delegación de Cuba quisiera hacer algunas observaciones en este importante tema referente al estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación.

Hemos apreciado en el análisis del documento C 93/2, que nos ocupa, que la situación alimentaria en términos generales no ha experimentado las mejoras necesarias y esperadas por los países en desarrollo.

La producción alimentaria sigue siendo inferior al incremento de la población y la distribución de los alimentos continúa siendo desigual. La Región de América Latina y del Caribe no está exenta de esta realidad.

A pesar de los ligeros incrementos per cápita, señalados en el documento, la mayoría de los países en desarrollo continúan presentando problemas alimentarios, especialmente en lo referente al acceso a los alimentos, y, por consiguiente en su seguridad alimentaria.

La situación específica de nuestro país fue expuesta por nuestro Ministro de la Industria Alimenticia en su exposición en la Sala Plenaria hace un momento. A todo lo expresado por él podríamos añadir que el deterioro que continúan sufriendo los precios de nuestros principales productos básicos, en los que se incluye el precio del azúcar, y que afecta sobremanera al comercio de nuestras principales fuentes de divisas, es una amenaza constante.

De otra parte, cada día necesitamos más divisas para importar productos de primerísima necesidad. Continúa el injusto intercambio desigual que afecta tan tristemente a las economías de nuestros países. Nuestro país, por razones que ya han sido expresadas, no tiene acceso a las principales fuentes de financiamiento, lo que hace aún más difícil la situación por la que atravesamos.

Quisiera aprovechar esta oportunidad para expresar el agradecimiento de nuestro Gobierno y nuestro pueblo a las muestras de solidaridad de otros gobiernos y pueblos, así como de los organismos internacionales, entre los cuales la FAO juega un papel destacado.

Mi Delegación, Señor Presidente, considera que la deuda externa y el pago de sus servicios, el intercambio desigual ya mencionado, y el proteccionismo, continúan siendo flagelos que golpean con más rudeza cada día mayor al mundo en desarrollo.

Las negociaciones de la Ronda Uruguay en el marco de negociaciones del GATT, muy próximos ya a la fecha en que deben concluir, continúan prácticamente estancados. A su alrededor, Señor Presidente, se mueven intereses muy poderosos que pretenden manipular con fines egoístas el comercio de alimentos, lo cual como expresara nuestro Jefe de Delegación en el Plenario, es como comerciar con la vida de los seres humanos. A esto se une la injusta práctica de utilizar los alimentos como arma de presión política, lo cual es condenado nuevamente por nuestra Delegación.

Para concluir, Señor Presidente, la Delegación de Cuba quisiera expresar su esperanza de que las deliberaciones de esta importante Comisión, y de este 27° Período de Sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO, que estamos celebrando no se conviertan en letra muerta.

Supote DECHATES (Thailand): Mr Chairman, on behalf of the Thai delegation, I wish to welcome you as Chairman of Commission I. I assure you of our cooperation for the successful deliberations and conclusion of this important meeting. Regarding the issue of the state of world food and agriculture 1993, I wish to commend the Secretariat for preparing the relevant documents, C 93/2 and C 93/2-Sup.1, which are very comprehensive, providing us with adequate information on the food situation of all major regions of the world.

Regarding agricultural production, the world has for years seen great variations in its annual output of food and agriculture, despite major efforts by the various international organizations to increase significantly agricultural production, particularly in the developing regions, which in many parts are densely populated and where undernutrition prevails. Of course, the agricultural environment may vary from year to year and from region to region. In the worst scenarios it even creates natural disasters.

We should make investigations and comparisons in normal years to ascertain what factors impede high agricultural productivity in developing regions which are geographically close to more productive countries. When environmental variables have been estimated and statistically discounted, we could examine productivity over time and gain more insight into the level of national/regional production management and farm technology and farm transfer programmes. Recommendations and efforts could then be directed toward those problem developing regions by FAO and related organizations for more efficient and effective measures for the enhancement of food and agricultural production. According to the Secretariat's review, the GDP growth of economies heavily dependent on agricultural exports will accelerate slightly, reaching almost 3 percent in both 1993 and 1994, with agriculture expanding faster than other sectors. However, the overall economy of Thailand, which falls into this group, is expected to grow at about 7.9 percent because of better external conditions, including the expected world economic recovery. World trade volume should expand at a faster rate than last year, but at the same time trade protectionism is likely to be more intense, which may have impacts on Thai exports, particularly tapioca products and textiles. Thailand's agricultural economy is projected to increase by 2.7 percent in 1993 due to a growth in crops, livestock, fishery and agro-industrial processing of 2.7, 3.4, 1.7 and 2.8 percent, respectively, whereas forestry will decrease by 15.1 percent.

With regard to fishery catch and distribution, it appears that world marine fish production declined a little for the third consecutive year, by

0.4 percent, to 81.5 million tonnes. This would seem to suggest that the global exploitation of overall marine resources has not yet resulted in a decrease, at least in the short run. However, we must guard against any widespread under-sustainability which might eventually occur in this regard.

Thailand has now become one of the leading world suppliers of fishery products with its larger catch and aquaculture, especially that of marine prawns and brackish-water fish. The latter type of fishery is regarded as very successful together with marine prawn culture.

On the other hand, although the national village inland fish culture programme has been launched for several years, the total fish intake as a protein source declined somewhat, to 20 kilograms per head per head. To counter this unfavourable nutrition situation, the Government now aims to enhance the nation wide inland fish culture programme to the extent that the local consumption rate will grow to 25 kilograms per head per year.

With regard to export prices of agricultural commodities, the situation has not been better than it was last year. In fact,, prices of agricultural commodities have tended to fall on the international market for at least a decade. The agricultural commodity exporting countries have suffered greatly, especially developing countries.

My delegation wishes for a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round of GATT, including the agricultural commodity trade, which will be of benefit to developing and developed countries.

Alhaji MAI M.JIR (Nigeria) : I wish to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, and your Vice-chairmen on your election. I wish also to commend the Secretariat and Mr Hjort on the excellent papers.

On reading the documents, one would find it really difficult to say which direction we should take to find a solution. This is particularly so in the case of Africa south of the Sahara.

Consider the debt burden of US\$183 billion (1992), debt arrears of US\$14 billion, the declining share of exports from 14 percent in 1969-1971 to 9 percent in 1989-91. The increase in multilateral loans which are expected to be rescheduled reduced net transfers and investments and the falling prices of primary commodities and loss or partial loss of access to international markets due to protectionism. One also observes the increase in the export share of developed countries and increase in imports for developing countries.

Other problems faced by the developing countries are well known to all of us. We must endeavour to find solutions.

The question of debt must be as a matter of urgency tackled in the interests of both the debtors and creditors. There is the possibility of the developing countries grinding to a standstill. The consequent chaos, instability and social upheavals would not be palatable to humanity.

The issue of debt forgiveness, cancellation and even possibility of freezing interest on existing loans should be given serious consideration.

On trade we wish the following issues to be addressed:

- a) Development of regional and sub-regional trade and markets;
- b) Special concessions and a defined quarter for agricultural products from the developing countries at the end of the Uruguay Round.

The statement raised in paragraphs 58 and 59 of the report on forest trade requires the mature consideration of this Commission. It is important that those areas of economic activity where the developing world can engage to improve their lot should not be hamstrung by undue regulation. Discriminating legislation that has been enacted by several consuming countries on timber trade should be reconsidered.

On the developmental efforts, nations, with FAO assistance, should:

- a) concentrate an improvement of traditional methods of production and improvement of medium-level technologies; and b) research and development in native plants and animals, etc., and patenting of improvements on nature's gifts.

The rights of farmers and the original owners of seeds and plants must be protected.

Nigeria's modest development is due to the following: a) relatively good weather; b) mobilization of the people on "food first" (25 000 committees formed and 750 Banks formed by these communities); c) less government in production, processing and marketing; d) Nigeria developed a National Agricultural Policy in 1988 which placed agriculture on the doorsteps of the private sector.

Making available production inputs including credit to farmers, developed strategic grain reserve at the federal level, buffer stock facility at the state level and off-farm storage at local levels; development of Women in Agriculture; price deregulation; Nigeria today is self-sufficient in the major staple grains, i.e., sorghum, millet and the largest producer of cassava in the world, while it has adopted a policy of supplementing local production of wheat by imports.

Improving the traditional storage systems; emphasize improving the human resource.

Food is a basic need and it is man's basic right. Access to food is not considered as important as the political right. Politics and political consideration without food would only remain on the papers they are written on. Access to food by all is, therefore, tied directly to human rights and democracy.¹

CHAIRMAN: (Original language German): I now close the afternoon's session which shall meet again tomorrow at 9.00 o'clock.

The meeting rose at 17.35.

La séance est levée à 17 h 35.

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.3

¹ Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request.

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 93/IPV/3

Twenty-seventh Session

COMMISSION I

Vingt-septième session

COMMISSION I

27° período de sesiones

COMISION I

THIRD MEETING
TROISIEME SEANCE
TERCERA SESION

(11 November 1993)

The Third Meeting was opened at 9.15 hours

Mr H. Redl, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La troisième séance est ouverte à 9 h 15

sous la présidence de M. H. Redl, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la tercera sesión a las 9.15 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. H. Redl, Presidente de la Comisión I

PART I - MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
PREMIERE PARTIE - PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE
D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
PARTE I - PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA
ALIMENTACION (continuación)

- 6. world Food and Agriculture Situation and Outlook (continued)
- 6. Situation et perspectives mondiales de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)
- 6. Situación y perspectivas de la agricultura y la alimentación en el mundo (continuación)

- 6.1. State of Food and Agriculture (continued)
- 6.1. Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)
- 6.1. El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (continuación)

Alcir CARVALHO REBELLO (Brésil): Monsieur le Président, je voudrais tout d'abord m'associer aux délégués qui m'ont précédé pour vous féliciter, ainsi que les vice-présidents, de votre élection à la présidence de cette importante Commission.

Je voudrais également remercier le Secrétariat pour la préparation du document soumis à notre examen et M. Hjort pour son introduction.

La situation mondiale de l'agriculture qui nous est présentée par le document C 93/2 et son supplément n'est guère réjouissante. Bien au contraire, elle est cause de grandes préoccupations pour ma délégation, même si l'on considère que la situation de l'agriculture au Brésil présente des aspects fort positifs.

Notre premier souci va à la faible croissance de la production agricole dans les pays en développement dans leur ensemble et en Afrique en particulier où l'on ne peut même pas parler de croissance mais de baisse de la production.

Allant de pair avec ces résultats médiocres de l'agriculture mondiale, on trouve la baisse sur le marché international des prix réels des produits agricoles. C'est un couple diabolique qui anéantit les efforts et le labeur de nos gouvernements et de nos agriculteurs et qui perpétue le sous-développement et ses séquelles: la malnutrition, la faim, la déchéance physique et sociale.

La baisse des prix agricoles a été particulièrement sévère pour le café, le cacao, le sucre, le coton et les fibres naturelles; mais plusieurs autres produits ont été touchés.

Pour atténuer les conséquences de la réduction des prix, plusieurs pays se sont engagés dans une politique de diversification des produits. Je dois dire que les résultats sont restés, dans la plupart des cas, en deçà des attentes, car la baisse s'est étendue à la plupart des pays tropicaux.

Cela dit, on considère qu'une amélioration du niveau de production et la disparition de la faim dans les pays en développement dépendront, dans une large mesure, de l'établissement d'un cadre international favorable au renforcement de leur capacité de production agricole. D'autre part, pour

les pays en développement, il semble tout à fait incompréhensible de s'engager à suivre les politiques de libéralisation du marché menées à un coût social fort élevé tandis que les pays développés continuent de maintenir des barrières commerciales injustifiées et des subventions onéreuses portant ainsi grand tort et apportant de sérieuses déformations à toute la structure productive et commerciale de notre planète.

Malgré le grand développement des secteurs industriel et tertiaire de l'économie brésilienne, l'agriculture joue toujours un rôle primordial pour l'engendrement d'emplois et de devises. La vitalité du secteur agricole brésilien peut être mesurée par la prévision faite, pour la prochaine récolte de grains, d'une production de 76 millions de tonnes, la plus élevée de notre histoire. L'agriculture brésilienne, hautement productive et bien diversifiée, rapporte environ 40 milliards de dollars par an, soit près de 11 pour cent du PIB national. Elle emploie 12,6 millions de personnes. Nos exportations agricoles, animales et végétales confondues, nous apportent 13 milliards de dollars E.-U. en devises, soit 35 pour cent de la valeur totale des exportations brésiennes.

Le secteur agricole au Brésil présente donc une performance satisfaisante. Il doit toutefois faire face au défi de l'efficacité économique, de la justice sociale et de la durabilité de l'environnement afin de nourrir, d'employer et de rémunérer 150 millions de personnes. Il doit par ailleurs augmenter sa pénétration dans les marchés mondiaux en devenant toujours plus compétitif. Cela ne serait pas trop difficile si l'on n'avait pas à faire face au protectionnisme et aux subventions élevées en vigueur dans les pays développés. Ces pratiques protectionnistes pénalisent doublement les pays en développement: d'un côté, les limitations de l'accès aux marchés développés empêchent les pays en développement de jouir pleinement de leurs avantages comparatifs dans le secteur agricole; d'autre part - et c'est encore plus grave - les subventions à la production et à l'exportation ont un effet négatif non seulement dans les marchés de l'OCDE mais aussi dans les marchés tiers.

Il est donc impérieux que la communauté internationale avance vers la libéralisation du commerce mondial des produits agricoles par une conclusion satisfaisante des Négociations d'Uruguay.

Le Brésil suit la phase finale des négociations en cours avec une grande préoccupation, conscient des dangers qui menaceraient l'agriculture dans le cas d'une faillite de ces négociations.

Enfin, ma délégation tient à féliciter le Secrétariat pour l'élaboration du chapitre dédié à la biotechnologie, ses avantages et ses dangers potentiels. Il s'agit là d'un thème qui mérite toute l'attention de la FAO et d'autres instances internationales.

Manuel José DIAS SOARES COSTA (Portugal): First of all, I would like to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on your election to the Chair of this Commission.

The excellent report prepared by the Secretariat is a very good background document for this debate. It provides useful and relevant information, organized in a well-designed format, containing well-balanced details. It is factual on the situation of agriculture in 1992. It gives appropriate information about the overall economic environment in which agriculture has been and will be inserted in the short term. It presents an adequate

outlook of current global issues in agriculture, nutrition, fisheries and forestry.

My delegation shares most of the views and concerns pointed out in this report. Particularly, we appreciated the overviews on the situation in developing countries in each region and the case studies of specific countries, assessing policy developments and reforms and their implications for agricultural performance in those countries, including the EC and Japan.

Unfortunately, once again in 1992, the overall balance of the agricultural situation is not too encouraging. The same and chronic problems of hunger and malnutrition in many areas of the developing world continue to be a matter of great concern for the international community. Almost 800 million people on our planet - 20 percent of the population living in developing countries - are suffering from famine and chronic sub-nutrition; 192 million children under 5 years suffer from acute or chronic protein/energy malnutrition; and some 2 000 million people, mostly women and children, are deficient in one or more micronutrients.

The global food supply has been out-pacing the demographic expansion during the last decades, increasing the overall per capita food supply availability so that the world is now producing enough food to feed everyone.

It has been shown that the potential still exists to increase food production to cope with the needs of population growth expected in the next decades. However, the fact is that the regional asymmetric development and distribution of food production, as compared to the asymmetric evolution and growth of the demographic status in the world, is still aggravating the situation of food availability and the access to it in several regions and many countries. It is the vicious circle of sub-nutrition and poverty, the relevant demographic expansion and imbalances, and the continuing threat to and deterioration of natural resources, more specifically the increasing pressures on fragile ecosystems and the continuing losses of biodiversity.

We also noted with concern that agricultural production in developing countries rose by only 1.7 percent in 1992, about half of the average growth of the previous ten years; that among the developing country regions only the Near East achieved some gain in per caput agricultural production, and that the Far East and Latin American and Caribbean gains were entirely offset by population growth. However, the outcome which gives us most concern in the year 1992 has been the 6 percent fall in agricultural per caput output in Africa which aggravated the already dismal and dramatic situation in the continent, particularly in the sub-Saharan African countries. Drought in southern Africa, civil wars and massive dislocations of population, along with large numbers of rural poor and disturbed agricultural production systems in vast areas of the continent - these trends must be urgently reversed. In Africa, all but six countries have recorded per caput production losses in 1992.

Also in Eastern Europe and the former USSR yet another year of production decline has been recorded for 1992, bringing the overall fall in the region since 1989 to 18 percent. The situation, therefore, is not very encouraging.

Food shortage situations and the number of countries requiring exceptional or emergency assistance persist or even increase. In Africa alone we see

14 countries facing exceptional food emergencies. Most significant is the fact that half of them do so because they are affected by civil strife and political instability which, of course, produce disastrous consequences for national food security, disrupting food production and the distribution of food, thereby paralysing markets.

More encouraging is the fact that due to increased production in the developed world, grain carry-over stocks built up again and therefore the level of international food reserves was brought up to the appropriate security level of 18 percent, indeed up to the level of 20 percent of the forecast trend utilization in 1993-94. We also noted that the forecasts of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the Link Project show that a remarkable feature for 1994-5 will be that the developing countries will continue to outpace the developed countries in economic growth, averaging five percent and six percent. However, this would be narrowly based, particularly because of the dynamism of a few countries in East Asia. But in many other developing countries, the forecast is not so optimistic. The existing enormous gap therefore still remains. Trade in agricultural production, both exports and imports, will expand, but it is expected that for sub-Saharan countries imports will expand in value at a faster rate than agricultural exports which will cause an increase in their agricultural trade deficit, doubling it from what it had been in 1991.

We are all aware that most of the problems which agricultural economies, trade deficits and even the difficulties of sustainable agricultural development in the developing countries are facing depend on the currently deeply depressed price of some basic commodities. The element of uncertainty about the recovery of world trade commodity prices is a matter of concern regarding future prospects. Forecasts show that we may see a firming of quotations for some commodities in the near future, as the Report points out. However, most of them - particularly cash crops - would only slightly or slowly increase while other commodities would even decline. This would have a considerable impact on the economies of most developing countries, particularly in the agricultural sector, although the overall expected trend for export revenues is to increase. The Report provides in paragraphs 31 to 35 a thoughtful analysis of the prospects for the two groups of selected developing countries, the low-income food-deficit countries, those with the lowest capacity to finance food exports, and those whose economies are highly dependent on agricultural exports. We share the views and observations made by FAO, but it should be noted that of the 31 low-income food-deficit countries there are at least twelve whose economies are highly dependent on agricultural exports - and of those, eight are in Africa.

On the selected issues discussed in the Report we would like to comment on the challenges, opportunities and risks provided by the development of biotechnology for the nineteen-nineties and their impact on agricultural production, agricultural productivity, food and nutrition as well as on the environment and biodiversity.

In paragraphs 121 to 157 the report gives an excellent review of the many issues regarding potential applications, and discusses the challenges that might result from the powerful tools provided by biotechnology and their impact on agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

Our delegation congratulates the Secretariat on having included this very stimulating section in the Report. In fact, after the so-called Green Revolution, the potential applications of biotechnology in agriculture at

large and in environment protection, shall be the most powerful revolution in the coming decades with regard to the future developments of sustainable agriculture. From now on, policy makers, forecasters and planners of sustainable rural development cannot afford not to take it into full consideration. Therefore, it requires from FAO's specialized service in biotechnology continuous and close monitoring of the everyday new developments in this area of knowledge, as well as a deep evaluation of the newly arising opportunities, the new challenges and issues. It needs a very dynamic approach from FAO because of the very rapid pace of the new technical evolution and the immense dimension of the challenges and issues that it will generate.

I am not going to spend any time on the importance of the many existing and potential techniques; they are included in paragraphs 131 to 143 of the Report. But on the other side of the coin there is a number of issues which need to be addressed, further discussed in detail and correctly evaluated.

I would just mention the impact that biotechnology is having on the way the research system operates. Particularly I would draw your attention, Mr Chairman, to the implications for the fragile and less-equipped institutions of the developing world. The knowledge gap it may produce may result in comparative disadvantages for the developing countries in benefiting from the new advanced techniques.

Other important issues are the property rights as they influence transfer of new techniques and applications of new products, and the Code of Conduct for Biotechnology as it relates to plant genetic resources. All these are immense tasks for FAO, and enormous challenges for all humankind. Our Organization cannot miss the opportunity. I believe it is extremely important for FAO to lead on these issues and to play its role. The appropriate use of biotechnology to enhance food and agriculture is probably the number one priority of the next decade. As the Report points out, we must maximise the positive effects, while minimising the negative ones.

György RASKO (Hungary) : This is the first intervention of my delegation in Commission I and I would like therefore to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on being elected to the Chair. I am convinced that your leadership will contribute to fruitful discussions.

The Report has correctly presented the poor performance of Central and Eastern European agriculture in 1992 - and unfortunately I must also say 1993 is another very poor year for Eastern and Central European agriculture. As a matter of fact, these countries which earlier were considered to be developed countries are now seen, at least for agriculture, as being developing countries. I must say this because no one in Central and Eastern Europe can compete with the most developed Western European countries. We are losing our so-called traditional markets, and not only is this the case for Hungary; it is happening in other Central and Eastern European countries, too. We cannot compete with the heavily subsidised Western European export products of other countries. This is why production has been declining for four or five years already in Hungary as well as in the other Central and Eastern European countries.

It is true that people can complain about the very disadvantaged conditions. After two or three years of political debate, Hungary decided

to follow a very pragmatic approach. We would like to build a competitive agriculture where we apply only a low percentage of support.

About two weeks ago, OECD reported on the Hungarian agricultural situation - a very important study. It turned out clearly that the subsidy and support in Hungary has been declining sharply during the Socialist regime when we had nearly the same subsidy level as the European regime; now the so-called aggregated PSE equivalent is only 8 percent.

The government in Hungary does not intend to increase the subsidy because, as a developing country, we cannot afford to subsidize our agriculture. The question is how quickly we can transform our agriculture into a really competitive one. This is why Hungary has opted for a real privatization, in the agriculture and food sector, too. This is a competitive-based privatization. Fortunately I can say that this was a correct decision by the government. So far about 90 percent of agriculture has been privatized and probably within a year we shall be able to finalize the privatization of the primary sector. After the privatization of the large-scale farms and collective farms in Hungary, medium- and large-scale farming will probably be characteristic. We shall therefore have a good chance of competing with other agricultures by maintaining the economy of scale in Hungarian agriculture. The average farm size of the transformed state farms is nearly 1 500 hectares and in the case of production cooperatives after the transformation into real economic entities the average size will stabilize between 1 000 and 2 000 hectares.

The food industry has been privatized up to 70 percent already. Here we have some problems because, due to the competitive bidding, Hungarian farmers were not able to win tenders and therefore about 90 percent of the privatization is due to foreign investors, mainly multinational and international companies, but maybe this will result in more efficiency in the Hungarian food sector and in a few years we may be able to compete at a very low export subsidy level with other countries.

The bad effect that this transformation has had is that rural unemployment has increased greatly. Three years ago Hungarian agriculture had about 700 000 full-time employees. Now there are no more than about 300 000.

Probably within one or two years' time only about 200 000 will remain. This has created enormous social problems in some areas, particularly in the east of Hungary. It is true that, on the one hand, we can develop a very competitive agriculture, but, on the other hand, we shall have quite a lot of problems with disengaged areas, where the unemployment rate in rural regions will rise greatly.

I believe that there is an enormous contradiction between developing countries and developed countries in the field of agricultural food trade, mainly because the wealthy countries apply a high percentage of export subsidies and other facilities to promote the exports of their farmers. This could unfortunately create a lot of problems for developing countries such as Hungary which had previously had a very protected market in Eastern Europe, in the so-called COMECON area. Now, due to these heavily subsidized food exports, we are losing our markets, and because of this we have had to decrease grain, meat, fruit and vegetable production by about 30 percent. This is also the situation in other Central and Eastern European countries. In spite of this we are optimistic - because the privatized agriculture should be more efficient and more competitive - that we shall be able to give adequate market conditions for Hungarian farmers and food companies.

We believe that within 10 years we may be able to turn around our agriculture and transform it into a very competitive one. This should also be advantageous for other Eastern and Central European countries. If this is not so, I am sure that these agricultures will decline in the future, too, and Western European food will take over the whole of the Central European areas. This is why somehow or other in the next couple of years between Western Central Europe and Eastern Europe it would be advantageous to create adequate market conditions in which the less-developed Central and Eastern European agriculture is able to survive these transition years which have created enormous social, political and economic problems in all countries. This is why we believe that in order to maintain our exports and our market share over the next couple of years in Hungary, for which exports are a key issue, only a competitive agriculture would be acceptable. I believe that other developing countries should follow this approach. This is not an easy objective to reach but if it is not done I am sure that conditions will worsen in the future, creating social and political troubles which will be a disaster for the future of Europe. This is why I would give more emphasis to creating adequate world food trade conditions in which all who are really competitive must have market shares too. It may then be not a question of increasing production but of improving the quality of food and providing environmentally acceptable conditions for Eastern and Central European agricultures. This is our goal, and I believe that other former Socialist countries, will follow this approach, too.

Hamouda HAMDI (Tunisie)(Langue originale arabe): Monsieur le Président, je voudrais vous adresser nos félicitations pour votre nomination à la présidence de cette Commission. J'espère que nos travaux seront couronnés de succès. Comme vous nous l'avez demandé, nous ferons quelques remarques très brèves. Le rapport qui nous est soumis est riche d'informations, et c'est un excellent rapport. Permettez-moi cependant de faire quelques observations.

Tout d'abord, je pense que l'endettement dû à des projets agricoles ne représente pas plus de 10 pour cent de l'ensemble de la dette, surtout dans les pays agricoles du Moyen-Orient.

Comme la participation du secteur agricole, que ce soit dans le PIB ou dans les exportations, est importante, on peut dire que le secteur agricole ne constitue pas une part importante de la dette extérieure.

En fait, c'est sur ce secteur agricole que repose une part importante du service de cette dette. Le bilan de cette dette est encore négatif même s'il s'améliore légèrement.

En raison du déficit vivrier, il est possible que les ressources affectées au secteur agricole ne soient pas suffisantes.

De plus, les perspectives de la production agricole dans ces pays ne sont pas du tout encourageantes, comme cela est signalé à la page 27 du rapport où l'on parle de la stagnation de l'économie des pays développés et de son incidence sur les pays en développement. Cette incidence est également négative sur le secteur agricole et les pays principalement agricoles, qui sont surtout les pays en développement. Ajoutons à cela que les prix mondiaux du secteur agricole ne sont pas du tout satisfaisants.

En ce qui concerne le financement des secteurs agricoles, il y a beaucoup de questions qui se posent aujourd'hui, parmi lesquelles connaître la stratégie de l'Organisation pour faire face à cette situation négative. Est-ce que le budget a été étudié pour décider de certaines priorités? Y a-t-il des priorités sectorielles ou régionales? Peut-on les préciser très clairement, afin que cela aide les pays donateurs? Peut-on rééchelonner les dettes de certains pays afin qu'ils puissent faire face à la situation agricole et alimentaire, prenant surtout en ligne de compte la situation financière très dure de l'Organisation? Il est donc nécessaire d'essayer de rééchelonner la dette de certains pays à déficit vivrier. Est-ce que l'on peut mettre une institution financière pour aider les pays importateurs nets de produits alimentaires, et cela surtout en vue d'une issue probable des négociations de l'Uruguay Round? Et là, qu'est-ce que l'Organisation compte faire à ce sujet?

Kutaiba H. HASSAN (Iraq): In the name of God the Merciful, the Compassionate. Since I am taking the floor for the first time, allow me to extend to you my sincere congratulations for your election to the chairmanship of this Commission. I am confident that your rich experience will effectively contribute to the success of its work.

My congratulations and best wishes also go to the Vice-chairmen.

We have read document C 93/2 and its annex document C 93/2 annex 1 with extreme care, and we believe it is our duty to extend, on behalf of our delegation, our thanks and gratitude to the Secretariat for preparing them so well, they are difficult to criticize.

We would be remiss if we did not thank Dr. Hjort for his excellent presentation of this document, as usual.

Furthermore, we have listened yesterday morning and afternoon and this morning to the distinguished delegates, to their invaluable evaluations of and comments on the contents of both documents dealing with the situation of food and agriculture in 1993.

As to the situation of food and agriculture in 1993 in my country Iraq, contained in the document under paragraph 4 entitled: Food Shortage and Emergencies, my delegation would like to give further details for the sake of clarity.

First, I would have liked that the account of the situation of food and agriculture in Iraq had not come under a paragraph with such frightening title. Indeed there is a food shortage in the country of the Euphrates and the Tigris, and a state of emergency of its ancient people.

The paragraph states and I quote: "Outside Africa, the food situation of the population continues to deteriorate in Iraq, as result of the serious and growing food shortage and the Government is facing the persistent problem in financing supplies..."

I should like now to briefly describe the situation of food and agriculture in Iraq, a description taken from a recent document in a scary title: Special Alert n° 237, issued by the World Food Programme/FAO Joint Mission to assess crops and food supplies in Iraq (July, 1993).

I will quote some excerpts from it:

- The mission went to Iraq and visited 17 out of 18 Governorates;
- The mission met with farmers and urban population and carried out independent market surveys to make first-hand assessments of food availability and prevalent prices;
- The mission went strengthened with staff from U.N. Agencies in Baghdad.

The mission concluded that:

- Had the prevailing conditions been normal, Iraq would not have suffered a lack of food security
- Iraq would not have been among countries eligible for humanitarian assistance, for it has an abundance of natural resources and it is capable of securing its food and other needs through trade imports.

However, the economy of the country was destroyed not only because of the last war and the civil disruption and disturbance that ensued but mainly because of the sanctions maintained since August 1990, which practically paralyzed the whole economy of the country and led to a situation of persistent deprivation, chronic hunger, endemic food shortage and large-scale human suffering.

The mission confirms a noticeable deterioration in food supplies all over the country and notes with deep concern the emergence of indicators known to precede the large-scale famines, such as:

- astronomical price increases, collapse of per capita income levels, pervasive unemployment, sharp drop in food intake, generalized depletion of personal property, high levels of spread of diseases, high crime rates, rapid swelling of the numbers of the destitute;
- observes that, in fact, a large number of Iraqis currently received less food than the population of the African countries struck by disasters;
- believes that the current sanctions, if maintained, would lead to a further deterioration of an already serious food supply problem in Iraq;
- believes that a durable solution to the existing crisis lies in reviving the Iraq economy which will be possible to achieve only if international trade with Iraq is resumed;
- believes that such an action would not only lead to alleviating human suffering, but also to releasing scarce humanitarian assistance (earmarked now for Iraq) for their beneficial use, as it should be, in helping large numbers of people suffering from hunger in other parts of the world.

I am not going to discuss the contents of this alert. I would like simply to ask: how can we achieve the desired food security pursued by this Organization, while it is inexistent in my country? How can we follow-up the decision of the International Conference on Nutrition and implement its plan of action while my country is deprived of the most basic supplies needed for continuous agricultural production and to provide food to its people? How can we plan for development? How can we plan for sustainable

development? How should we interpret the Organization's motto that Nutrition is the focus of development while my country is witnessing the emergence of indicators known to precede large scale famines ?

Notwithstanding this atrocious picture of the situation of food and agriculture in Iraq, I am duty bound to fully appreciate the role played by the Organization, in the persons of its Director-General Edward Saouma and his Deputy Dr. Hjort, in effectively contributing to the provision of some necessary supplies for agricultural production such as fertilizers, pesticides, seeds and reserve tools; supplies which my country has been prohibited from acquiring using its frozen assets. Moreover, we cannot forget on this occasion to highly value the dynamism and efforts of OSRO and of the office of Field Development, which directly supervised the delivery of this assistance.

In conclusion and in reference to the afore-mentioned alert, I should like to invite this august Committee, whose members have unanimously agreed on the eradication of hunger and the elimination of all forms of malnutrition through the implementation of the World Declaration on Nutrition, to carefully examine the recommendations of this alert and to take them seriously with a high sense of humanism.

I should also like to propose that our Committee submit a resolution or a recommendation to the Conference on the same lines as the recommendations of the alert and that this alert be included as one of the important documents of the Conference.

Abdelkader EL MAZHOR (Maroc) : Permettez-moi d'abord de vous présenter mes félicitations pour votre élection à la Présidence de cette Commission ainsi qu'aux deux Vice-Présidents.

Je saisis également cette occasion pour remercier le Secrétariat pour la qualité des rapports qui nous ont été remis et surtout de l'effort louable qui a été déployé pour les analyses et la présentation des données.

Monsieur le Président, j'ai suivi avec intérêt l'excellent exposé d'introduction fait par M. Hjort, que je félicite également, ainsi que les interventions des honorables représentants.

J'enregistre avec satisfaction les efforts fournis par la FAO, la CEE et d'autres organismes internationaux ou pays pour aider les pays en développement à améliorer leur production agricole.

Monsieur le Président, malgré ces efforts, les résultats, tels qu'ils ressortent du rapport sur la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture 1993, ne sont pas encourageants et la situation des pays en développement, et en particulier en Afrique, devient de plus en plus préoccupante. Je citerai quelques constats pour illustrer cette situation.

- La baisse du taux de croissance de la production agricole dans les pays en développement

. Les deux tiers des pays en développement ont enregistré des niveaux de production vivrière par habitant inchangés ou plus faibles comme c'est le cas en Afrique.

- L'Afrique reste le continent le plus gravement touché par les pénuries alimentaires nécessitant une aide exceptionnelle et/ou des secours d'urgence.
- Un accroissement démographique dépassant celui de la production alimentaire.
- Quarante-sept pays les moins avancés devraient connaître en 1993 leur quatrième année consécutive de ralentissement de l'activité économique.
- L'augmentation de la dette extérieure des 116 pays en développement qui devrait atteindre en 1992 1 510 milliards de dollars contre 1 418 en 1991
- L'Afrique enregistrera une remontée de sa croissance, mais cette dernière restera bien inférieure à la moyenne des pays en développement et les gains par habitant seraient faibles
- D'après les projections, le déficit commercial agricole dans l'Afrique subsaharienne devrait doubler en 1994 par rapport à 1991 et ce malgré une forte reprise des exportations
- La dégradation des termes nets de l'échange entre les exportations de produits agricoles et les importations de produits manufacturés (3 pour cent en moyenne par an avec une baisse plus importante pour les pays en développement)
- L'augmentation de la production dans la plupart des pays développés, puisque l'ESP est passé de 30 à 44 pour cent en l'espace de 10 ans pour 22 pays membres de l'OCDE. En plus de cette production, des subventions sont encore accordées à l'exportation, créant ainsi une distorsion des marchés mondiaux des produits agricoles.
- Et enfin, la lenteur des négociations au sein du GATT.

Monsieur le Président, la situation du Maroc a été brièvement traitée dans la partie réservée au Proche-Orient et l'Afrique du Nord (par. 372 à 391). Mais si vous le permettez, je voudrais rappeler que le Maroc a, depuis son indépendance, réservé la priorité au secteur agricole dans ses plans de développement économique et social. Ce choix se trouve justifié par le rôle que joue l'agriculture dans l'économie nationale, notamment en matière d'emplois, de revenus, de valeur ajoutée, de limitation de l'exode rural, d'exportations, d'approvisionnement du pays des produits de première nécessité, etc. Les nouvelles orientations assignées à ce secteur, compte tenu de l'effort considérable de modernisation entrepris depuis l'indépendance et de l'évolution du contexte économique national et international, peuvent se résumer comme suit : premièrement, la contribution à la garantie de la sécurité alimentaire. Deuxièmement, une meilleure intégration de l'agriculture dans l'environnement économique national et international. Troisièmement, la protection et la conservation des ressources naturelles. Et enfin, l'amélioration des revenus des agriculteurs.

Par ailleurs, le Maroc s'est engagé depuis 1983 dans un programme de réformes économiques ou d'ajustement structurel. Pour le secteur agricole, l'objectif visé est l'amélioration de notre efficacité en matière de production agricole et la recherche d'avantages comparatifs nouveaux et,

par conséquent, l'amélioration de la compétitivité de nos produits sur le plan international.

Des résultats encourageants ont été enregistrés après 1985 (puisque la baisse des déficits courants et budgétaires atteint des niveaux acceptables: moins de 5 pour cent du PIB).

Plusieurs réformes ont été donc engagées dans le cadre de ces programmes d'ajustement tels que la libéralisation des prix, du commerce extérieur, la privatisation des entreprises publiques, etc.

Malheureusement, le Maroc a été confronté en 1992 et 1993 à deux campagnes consécutives de sécheresse; ce qui n'a pas manqué d'affecter le niveau de la production, notamment dans les zones pluviales.

Pour la campagne en cours, les conditions climatiques sont jugées, jusqu'à présent, favorables pour un bon déroulement. Mais au cours de cette semaine, des observations d'essaims de criquets pèlerins sont signalés dans le sud du pays en provenance certainement de la Mauritanie et, compte tenu des conditions favorables, l'invasion devient imminente. Et si elle n'est pas stoppée, elle va compromettre la récolte de certaines cultures, mais surtout elle pourra facilement dépasser les frontières marocaines. Je reviendrai peut-être sur ce point le moment opportun.

Mais avant de conclure, je voudrais me joindre aux représentants qui m'ont précédé pour insister sur la nécessité d'augmenter l'aide au développement agricole, de renforcer la coopération avec les pays en développement, de soutenir les projets de protection et de conservation des ressources naturelles et de l'environnement, de favoriser le transfert des technologies, de contribuer à activer les négociations au sein du GATT et agir pour convaincre tous les pays de l'intérêt réciproque d'un commerce libre sans entrave de quelque nature que ce soit, et enfin d'aider les pays en développement à la mise en place de programmes de réforme économique.

Julio LUCINI CASALES (España): Permítame, señor Presidente, en primer lugar, agradecer el esfuerzo realizado por la FAO para poner a disposición de todos los presentes, y en consecuencia de todos los países, un informe tan completo como el que estamos analizando, relativo a la situación actualizada de la alimentación y la agricultura.

El estudio de esta fotografía de la situación agraria mundial y su relación con el entorno económico general, puede ser un elemento más de apoyo a todos los países para establecer, corregir o completar los estudios en los que se base su propia política agraria nacional.

No obstante, y con el mayor ánimo constructivo, queremos hacer algunas indicaciones que suponemos habrán saltado también a la mente de otros lectores del documento.

Las previsiones, tanto en producción como en precio, relativas a los productos básicos, tienen en estos momentos un alto índice de indefinición debido a los cambios que se avecinan para ajustar ambas cifras al futuro comercio mundial provocado por el fin de las negociaciones en curso de la Ronda Uruguay del GATT. Es pues imprescindible que nada más cerrarse las negociaciones mencionadas, y a la vista del contenido de las mismas, se comprueben las referidas previsiones. No podemos olvidar que pequeñas modificaciones en origen pueden ocasionar desviaciones apreciables a escala nacional y alteraciones importantísimas a nivel mundial.

Por otra parte, la crisis económica mundial que estamos atravesando, la cual nadie pone en duda, va a provocar ajustes inevitables. Entre ellos no se debe despreciar, como se recoge en el documento, una menor asistencia exterior a la agricultura por parte de los países desarrollados que, junto con las consecuencias del nuevo orden comercial al que nos dirigimos, hará que exista una menor cantidad de excedentes para poder utilizar en programas de alimentación, tanto en situaciones normales como de emergencia.

Esta realidad llega a mi Delegación a pedir que se estudien con todo rigor todos los proyectos de campo que vaya a acometer la FAO y que se dé especial prioridad a aquéllos que sirvan para aumentar la producción de los alimentos que cada uno de los países en desarrollo siempre han venido produciendo y que actualmente, por diversos motivos, son claramente insuficientes.

No creemos separarnos mucho de la realidad futura si admitimos que, de una u otra manera, los países desarrollados buscarán la forma de apoyo más conveniente a sus productores agrarios, dado el compromiso y la obligación que sus responsables políticos tienen con los mismos. Hay que buscar las fórmulas para que esta realidad entre en equilibrio con otras realidades mundiales, como en estos momentos se está haciendo en las negociaciones ya mencionadas de la Ronda Uruguay, y para que se consigan los acuerdos más realistas y beneficiosos posibles.

En el mismo sentido de ajuste a las nuevas situaciones de producción y mercado, creemos conveniente, en cuanto a las ayudas alimentarias concretas, que se establezcan nuevos criterios para dar entrada en las listas de productos a utilizar nuevos alimentos con los que equilibrar unos posibles decrementos totales. Los actuales porcentajes de 90 por ciento de cereales y 10 por ciento de otros productos alimenticios no parecen constituir un equilibrio adecuado.

La esperanza de que el comienzo de la recuperación y salida de la crisis ya mencionada puede estar cerca, nos hace incidir en que se tengan en cuenta las nuevas coordenadas de demanda y oferta que tendrán vigencia al final de la misma.

La referencia del documento en cuanto a capturas totales de pescado y los porcentajes de su utilización en alimentación humana y en otros fines, nos incita a proponer que se estudie la posibilidad de emprender campañas de aceptación del mismo en la dieta humana, especialmente en determinadas comarcas de ciertos países en desarrollo. Esta sugerencia se hace desde el convencimiento de un país, que no sólo está entre los que se encuentran a la cabeza de los consumidores de estos alimentos, sino que se muestra preocupado por el abandono de la dieta mediterránea en la que el pescado es un elemento básico.

Como se apunta en el documento, la malnutrición está unida a problemas educacionales. Por tanto, no es fácil abordar las soluciones de forma aislada. Habrá que hacerlo atacando simultáneamente problemas varios que, si bien pueden tener un orden prioritario, no se pueden aislar unos de otros (sanidad, educación, ocio, cultura, trabajo, etc.). Ciertos ejemplos sacados de la realidad que el documento nos ofrece, como es el de Tailandia, así lo corroboran.

No queremos dejar de apuntar aquí lo que para nuestro país ha sido un arma eficaz al abordar problemas de este tipo. Se trata de los servicios de

extensión agraria, los cuales han actuado en el medio rural sobre la base de equipos polivalentes de divulgación agraria. Tales equipos de técnicos, con residencia y actuación en las propias localidades rurales, establecen un programa de actividades común, acordado con los propios afectados. Se atiende así, simultáneamente, a los problemas de la producción agraria, del hogar de la familia campesina, - entre ellos los correspondientes a la alimentación equilibrada, barata y en gran medida de autoproducción - y de la comunidad a la que la referida familia pertenece. La eficacia de sus realizaciones ha quedado patente en España.

En relación con los problemas actuales de la silvicultura, que el documento recoge, sólo queremos indicar el enorme interés que nuestro país tiene por la explotación forestal sostenible en bosques de zonas templadas. Así, por todo lo anteriormente mencionado, mi delegación apoyará cuantas iniciativas se establezcan en este sentido y colaborará al máximo en las mismas.

Para terminar, señor Presidente, quiero referirme aún a la parte del documento que hace mención a los retos y las posibilidades que ofrece la biotecnología. Una ordenación dentro de cada país y un control adecuado de los acuerdos internacionales que sobre estas prácticas se establezcan, la convertirán en un arma más, de la máxima utilidad, para combatir el hambre y la pobreza. Los avances de la biotecnología están muy unidos a la diversidad biológica, tema por el que existe un interés especial en nuestro país. Por todo ello, por la colaboración que España ha ofrecido siempre en este ámbito, estamos dispuestos a prestar toda nuestra ayuda para que se hagan efectivos los compromisos internacionales que ya están en marcha y a trabajar en la redacción y entrada en vigor de aquéllos que se encuentran actualmente en debate.

Mme Amina BOUDJELTI (Argérie): C'est avec beaucoup d'attention et d'intérêt que nous avons pris connaissance du document C 93/2. Cette compilation d'informations utiles est pour nous un instrument précieux et nous tenons sincèrement à en féliciter et à en remercier le Secrétariat. Nous remercierons également M. Hjort pour l'exposé introductif clair et concis qu'il a bien voulu nous présenter en début de débat.

Sous ce point consacré à la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, je voudrais plus particulièrement évoquer les problèmes ayant trait à l'Afrique, région à laquelle appartient mon pays. Quitte à répéter ce que nombre d'entre nous ont déjà dit ici, je tiens à exprimer la préoccupation et l'inquiétude de mon pays au sujet de la situation agricole et alimentaire du continent. Seize pays, nous dit-on au paragraphe 159, ont accusé des taux de croissance négatifs en 1992 et la production par habitant a donc reculé pour la sixième année consécutive.

Comment s'en étonner lorsque les prix des principales exportations du continent, telles que le cacao et le café, continuent de baisser respectivement pour les sixième et huitième années consécutives, lorsque les calamités naturelles, telles que la sécheresse, ne cessent de s'abattre sur l'Afrique? Comment espérer également renverser toutes ces tendances si ce n'est par une mobilisation constante de tous les moyens - ces moyens insuffisants au départ et largement rendus inutilisables par les guerres et les troubles intérieurs qui sévissent dans de trop nombreux pays africains? C'est dire si la solidarité internationale en général et l'aide au développement en particulier sont importants pour nous. Nous savions la FAO importante à ce sujet; elle devient indispensable dans ce genre de

situation, non seulement pour catalyser l'assistance multilatérale mais pour renforcer les capacités nationales des pays concernés.

Qu'il me soit permis maintenant de formuler quelques remarques concernant la politique agricole de mon pays. L'Algérie souffre d'une dégradation importante de ses ressources naturelles. Elle connaît également des problèmes en ce qui concerne l'eau. Ainsi, ses faibles ressources en sont encore insuffisamment mobilisées. A cela s'ajoutent également, pour elle comme pour les autres pays du continent, des calamités naturelles, telles que la sécheresse mais aussi les inondations, et des fléaux majeurs comme le criquet pèlerin. A ce propos, je me contenterai pour l'instant d'évoquer ce problème malgré l'actualité brûlante qu'il revêt pour les pays de notre sous-région et l'urgence de lui trouver des réponses adéquates. Puisque la Commission nous a autorisés à avoir une discussion distincte dès la fin de ce débat, je me contente d'évoquer ce problème qui sera débattu longuement bientôt.

Pour revenir aux problèmes concernant notre pays, faut-il donc rappeler que la sécurité alimentaire demeure la préoccupation primordiale de l'Algérie? Aussi, notre pays concentre-t-il ses efforts sur la préservation des écosystèmes en général. Il va aussi s'attacher à promouvoir l'organisation financière, permettant une sécurisation et une stabilisation des producteurs, ce qui implique nécessairement la mise en place d'un mouvement professionnel agricole capable de se prendre en charge et de constituer un partenaire économique important.

Pour terminer, il est d'usage de rappeler, dans de tels exposés, les programmes ou actions sur lesquels on souhaiterait que la FAO puisse concentrer ses efforts. Nous ne sommes qu'au début de nos travaux et ma délégation reviendra certainement sur ce sujet sous d'autres points de notre ordre du jour.

Permettez-moi tout de même de rappeler ici certaines orientations prioritaires de la coopération et du développement agricole qui devraient, selon nous, concerner plus particulièrement le transfert de technologies, l'assistance en vue d'élaborer et de développer des politiques nationales et surtout d'aider à leur mise en oeuvre dans des domaines tels que le développement agricole durable, le développement rural et le soulagement de la pauvreté, l'intégration régionale, le rôle des femmes dans le développement et la gestion des catastrophes naturelles.

Maung MAR (Myanmar): Firstly, I would like to congratulate the Chairman and the Vice-chairmen on behalf of the Myanmar delegation on their election to the chair of this important Commission.

As regards the State of Food and Agriculture, the annual change or growth in world food, agriculture, crop and livestock production are less than population growth. Therefore, we need to produce more food and more produce from agriculture and livestock. In this connection, we should be careful to ensure sustainable production. We must not only think about short-term production but also about long-term production.

As is mentioned in the document on the State of Food and Agriculture 1993, there exists an advanced technology for increasing food production. This is known as biotechnology. Although biotechnology is a good tool to increase food production, it is necessary to be careful so as not to have bad effects.

We would also like to point to the decline in agricultural commodity real prices. This has affected the earnings of exporters, especially those to the developing countries.

Another point which we would like to highlight is the technology gap between the developed and the developing countries. More TCP programmes and technology transfer programmes will be needed by FAO for the developing countries. We are trying our best to increase food production, not only for consumption but also for world food security. The annual production of paddy alone could increase from the current 13 million tons by the double-cropping of summer rice. Similar measures could be taken for other annual crops.

We are also trying to ensure in the dry zone area of Myanmar, which is the pocket of the rural poor, that there is more food production by means of constructing more irrigation facilities and through agroforestation.

We have also been very careful with environmental protection. Therefore, we adhere strictly to Myanmar's selection system of timber production, which is one of the least disruptive timber practices environmentally, and through biodiversity. At the same time we remain committed to the introduction of sloping agricultural land technology in watershed areas and agroforestry practices in the dry zones. In this connection, Mr Sang K. Choi made an outstanding contribution to win the 1993 B.R. Sen Award.

We are trying to do our best with our limited resources. Our delegation would like to have more support and assistance from FAO in all these aspects.

Freddy ABASTOFLOR CORDOVA (Bolivia): Ante todo deseo expresarle mis felicitaciones a usted, señor Presidente, en ocasión de su acertado nombramiento y felicitar al mismo tiempo a la Secretaría de la Organización por la excelente preparación de los documentos que analizamos en esta oportunidad.

La agenda de la presente Conferencia me induce a pensar que las preocupaciones de la Comunidad Internacional se han intensificado en los últimos años en lo relativo a temáticas como el medio ambiente, comercio internacional, ajustes estructurales en nuestras economías y los flujos de cooperación para el desarrollo.

Sin embargo, la mayoría de los países del tercer mundo aún tropieza con una serie de dificultades, para estructurar programas que permitan una eficaz acción para desterrar el fantasma del hambre y la desnutrición.

En lo que respecta al comercio de los productos agrícolas nuestros países encuentran serios obstáculos en sus posibilidades de exportación hacia mercados con gran poder de adquisición.

El proteccionismo que subsiste en varios países crea una incertidumbre en el orden económico y comercial que limita dramáticamente nuestras posibilidades de inserción en el comercio agroalimentario mundial.

En tal sentido queremos dejar establecido que Bolivia continuará participando activamente en los distintos foros internacionales, como la Ronda Uruguay, a fin de contribuir al desmantelamiento de las políticas proteccionistas que distorsionan el comercio agrícola internacional.

Por otra parte, estamos presenciando transformaciones muy profundas a nivel mundial en el ámbito político, social y económico.

Dichos cambios influyen en el drama de los países en desarrollo, pues existe el manifiesto temor de que los recursos de la cooperación financiera y de asistencia técnica, destinados por los países desarrollados y los organismos internacionales, hacia nuestras naciones, sean desviados a otros objetivos emergentes de un nuevo orden internacional.

Empero no debemos claudicar en la búsqueda de alternativas y mecanismos que nos permitan dar soluciones graduales pero efectivas que no signifiquen quitar a unos para dar a otros.

Ahora permítanme referirme muy brevemente a mi país, Bolivia.

Tenemos aproximadamente 690.000 unidades agropecuarias productivas: el 93 por ciento está compuesta por campesinos pobres, de los cuales el 70 por ciento se encuentra en el nivel de pobreza crítica.

Nuestro crecimiento demográfico sigue siendo mayor que el crecimiento de la producción de alimentos. Si bien es cierto que hemos conseguido significativos incrementos en nuestros niveles de producción y productividad en los últimos años, aún no hemos logrado la seguridad alimentaria para nuestro pueblo.

La resolución de estos problemas implica primero la fijación de objetivos de mediano plazo como impulsar el desarrollo de la economía campesina para garantizar la autosuficiencia alimentaria y hacer frente a la ayuda problemática social en el área rural. Para esto es necesario también asegurar un crecimiento anual de la producción de alimentos mínimamente equivalente al de la población y ampliar el volumen de nuestras exportaciones agrícolas. Sin embargo estos objetivos no pueden ser alcanzados si no contamos con la cooperación internacional.

Para finalizar, deseo expresar mi convicción y mi fe en este encuentro como instrumento unificador de nuestros esfuerzos y voluntades encaminadas a encontrar mejores días para el planeta.

J.A.M. Van SLUISVELD (Netherlands) : Mr Chairman, please allow me to make some comments on specific parts of the document in front of us. In the part dealing with specific issues, mention has been made of the low prices of commodities on the world market, and in connection with the low world market prices reference has been made to international commodity agreements. I want to remind you that these agreements were meant to stabilize prices, not support prices. The agreements should mitigate the price fluctuations caused by temporary supply surpluses or deficits. This means that price stabilization instruments like buffer stocks, export quotas, stock retention schemes, are not suitable for, and cannot cope with, structural over-production or deficits.

In this context I want to mention the new international Cocoa Agreement which has been agreed upon by cocoa producing and consuming countries in July of this year. In this agreement extra emphasis has been laid on the coordination of production policies by producing countries in consultation with cocoa consuming countries.

On the other side, consuming countries committed themselves to remove or decrease where possible the barriers for cocoa consumption expansion.

The low cocoa prices that still exist have been caused by over-production for a period of at least seven years in a row. Worldwide stocks in this period reached unprecedented levels of more than 1.5 million tons. We hope that this new agreement can come into force soon and we sincerely hope that the new big producing countries, like Malaysia and Indonesia, will join the International Cocoa Agreement 1993 also so that producing policies coordination can be as effective as possible and that the supply of, and demand for, cocoa on a world scale can be kept reasonably in balance.

On coffee, I want to stress that we very much regret that producing and consuming countries could not reach a conclusion on a new international agreement containing universal export quotas. As you know, the old agreement deleted in July 1989 its economic provisions, mainly because of the inability to reach agreement on a solution which would cope with the unacceptable parallel in the market on coffee.

In paragraph 118 on page 59, reference has been made to an initiative by my government in connection with tropical forests, tropical timber. My government developed a position concerning tropical rain forests some years ago. This position includes an objective to try and use in our country, from 1 January 1995, only tropical timber originating from sustainably managed forests. In the Tropical Timber Council of the International Tropical Timber Organization, a similar objective has been agreed on between producing and consuming tropical timber countries, namely the AT 2000 objective.

In this connection, the Netherlands reached an agreement between the Government, the timber trade, the building industry, trade unions, non-governmental organizations like the World Wildlife Fund and IUCN, in order to try to achieve the objective of using only tropical timber from sustainably managed forests as soon as possible. This agreement has to be seen in the light of the objective for AT 2010, so the Netherlands can be seen as a test to see if this objective 2010 is achievable in the near future.

I have a few comments on paragraph 87 regarding fisheries. I note that the international industrial fleets have to pay for the right to fish in the 200-mile economic zones.

In paragraph 90, I note that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982, apart from the rights and duties of the coastal states, also includes the rights and duties of the high seas fleet.

In connection with the tropical forest I am afraid I missed reminding you, Mr Chairman, of the ongoing United Nations conference and negotiations for a successor agreement to the International Tropical Timber Agreement. In this conference, which has had already three rounds, the producing and consuming countries were still unable to bridge the gap on a number of major differences of opinion, and it was decided to reconvene this conference for the fourth and last time on 10 January 1994 for a period of two weeks.

We hope that the main problems - whether the agreement is to cover only tropical timber or whether it also includes timber from temperate or arboreal zones, and the other objective of sustainable management of

tropical forests at least from the year 2000 - we hope that these problems can be solved so that the achievements of the old agreement which will expire on 1 March 1994 and which cannot be extended can be consolidated and preserved by reaching an agreement in January. It would be very regrettable if a solution could not be found.

Ulrich KNÜPPEL (EEC): I would like to briefly reply to the statement by the delegate of Costa Rica on bananas and add some elements of my earlier statement on the subject.

Firstly, among other things, the delegate of Costa Rica referred amongst others, to the differentiated treatment applied by the Community with regard to African, Caribbean and Pacific countries on the one hand, and other exporting countries on the other. At earlier occasions we had already pointed out that such a differentiated treatment is essential to help maintain supports from ACP countries for which banana exports are vital and which would not survive if the differentiated tariff treatment did not apply.

Secondly, the delegate of Costa Rica wondered how the import tariff quotas were calculated. I suppose that this is a reference to the Community's negotiations under Article XXVIII of GATT. I may inform you that the tariff quotas are based on the average annual imports from the different supplying countries during the years 1988 to 1991, which is the most recent three-year period for which complete statistics are available.

Thirdly, Costa Rica is also a party to Article XXVIII negotiations on bananas to which I have just referred, and will therefore be able to fully represent its interests in those negotiations.

The meeting rose at 10.45.

La séance est levée à 10 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 10.45 horas.

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 93/1/PV/4

Twenty-seventh Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt-septième session
COMMISSION I

27º período de sesiones
COMISION I

FOURTH MEETING
QUATRIEME SEANCE
CUARTA SESION

(11 November 1993)

The Fourth Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours

Mr Hermann Redl, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La quatrième séance est ouverte à 15 heures

sous la présidence de M. Hermann Redl, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la cuarta sesión a las 15.00 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hermann Redl, Presidente de la Comisión I

PART I - MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)

PREMIERE PARTIE - PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE

D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)

PARTE 1 - PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)

- 6. World Food and Agriculture Situation and Outlook (continued)
- 6. Situation et perspectives mondiales de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)
- 6. Situación y perspectivas de la agricultura y la alimentación en el mundo (continuación)

- 6.1. State of Food and Agriculture (continued)
- 6.1. Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)
- 6.1. El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (continuación)

Nikolai MICHAILOV (Bulgarie): Monsieur le Président, je vous félicite à mon tour à l'occasion de votre élection au poste responsable de président de cette Commission. Je souhaite que les travaux de celle-ci soient couronnés de succès et je n'en doute pas, étant donné votre expérience et votre grande compétence.

Le matériel présenté par le Secrétariat mérite toute notre appréciation vu les faits, les chiffres et les analyses qu'il contient. Nous remercions spécialement le Secrétariat pour la présentation faite, aux paragraphes 462 à 496, de la situation de l'agriculture en Bulgarie. Cette présentation est juste, mais la vie est très dynamique.

Le processus de restitution de la propriété des terres agricoles continue avec de grandes difficultés (financement insuffisant, manque de cadastre approprié, problèmes de remembrement des terres). Néanmoins, nous avons déjà quelques milliers de fermes privées et environ 1 500 coopératives de propriétaires terriens privés. D'ici à la fin de cette année, nous pourrions avoir, estime-t-on, entre 55 et 60 pour cent des terres privatisées.

Il est très difficile pour les producteurs d'obtenir des crédits et ceux-ci sont octroyés à un taux d'intérêt très élevé (plus de 55 pour cent) étant donné l'inflation, ce qui entrave gravement la production normale.

A cela s'ajoute le problème provoqué par le marché intérieur restreint, le faible accès aux marchés internationaux et les pertes importantes dues à l'embargo imposé par les Nations Unies à la Serbie, ainsi qu'à la dure sécheresse de cette année.

La Bulgarie est un pays déjà associé à la Communauté européenne mais, malheureusement, la convention signée en mars dernier n'est pas encore ratifiée par l'Union européenne, ce qui aggrave la situation dans le secteur.

Nous appuyons les constatations faites par certaines délégations: la Suède, quant à la nécessité d'avoir plus d'investissements parallèlement à la restructuration; la France, de stimuler et de maintenir la production agricole nationale; et la Hongrie, à propos de la création d'un système correct concernant les marchés des produits agricoles en Europe, vu les

efforts faits par les pays d'Europe centrale et orientale pour avoir une agriculture non subventionnée.

Nous apprécions beaucoup les travaux effectués dans le domaine des ressources génétiques, et plus particulièrement les ressources phytogénétiques. A cet égard, au mois d'août dernier, un atelier de travail a eu lieu dans mon pays, organisé avec la participation de 27 pays.

Pour terminer, je me permettrai de faire quelques petites recommandations: premièrement, à l'issue des discussions et conclusions de la Commission, de compléter le programme de travail 1994-95 avec des études et des travaux ayant pour but d'obtenir des solutions possibles pour améliorer la situation de l'agriculture dans les pays et dans les régions; deuxièmement, de procéder à une révision des projets de développement menés par la FAO et par d'autres organisations afin d'augmenter leur efficacité; troisièmement, dans le domaine de la biotechnologie, d'envisager, parallèlement aux autres mesures prévues, l'exécution de nouveaux projets appropriés afin d'améliorer le rendement et le niveau de la production dans les pays et les régions respectifs.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL First, I want to express appreciation on behalf of the staff in particular and the Organization in general for the many compliments that have been extended on the documents. This is a very strong incentive to keep these people working in a quality fashion.

Secondly, I wish to assure you that the errors of fact or interpretation that have been brought to our attention, and in particular those mentioned by Colombia and Bangladesh, but also any others, will be taken fully into consideration.

With respect to the comment concerning Colombia's National Coffee Fund, it would seem to me that we could take care of that matter with a relatively small amendment saying words to the effect "support" instead of "subsidy", and add to the sentence that it is "a highly effective price stabilisation measure."

We do appreciate having the additional information that was provided on the purposes and role of that fund.

I simply want to note the comments that were made, several comments, about biotechnology but I do not recall any item that requires any response on the part of the Secretariat. Also, we have taken note certainly of the comments made with respect to the banana issue. There have been a couple of references to the locusts issue. That matter will be taken up in a moment.

With respect to the intervention on the part of the representative from Japan, we note the offer of Japan to host an International Conference on Sustainable Contributions of Fisheries to Food Security. This offer was placed before the Council last week and was very well received by Council, I might add.

As far as the question that came from the Representative of Japan about FAO's contribution to the Population and Development Conference, that will be forthcoming, I would appreciate that we postpone the discussion on that until we take up the matter that involves the implementation of the Plan of Action on Women in Development because it is that unit which is busy

already in making preparations for our contribution to the Population and Development Conference.

In response to a comment about the decline in investment in agriculture, here again is a topic that we will have an opportunity to revert to in a short period when we consider the document Agriculture: Towards 2010 but I would like to note that the World Bank itself has come to the conclusion that the case for an increase in agricultural investment is persuasive. I would also, of course, remind the members that FAO is very active in helping Member Nations prepare agricultural investment projects not only for the World Bank but also for the main regional banks as well as IFAD.

I wish now to comment upon the substantive comments and information that was provided by several delegations on policy and structural change taking place within their own countries and also the comments about FAO's policy advisory role vis-à-vis the World Bank and others and in general the threat to policy reform from external sources.

In a good number of statements it appears to be implicit in what was being said that this threat to internal policy by external sources would be removed, should the GATT come to a successful conclusion. Please be aware that, as presently formulated, the proposition with respect to subsidization of agricultural products in international markets is to be phased out gradually over the next decade. That is, if there is an agreement, you will not immediately see a significant reduction in this threat from external sources; the international markets will continue to be distorted, perhaps not to the same degree and as time goes on supposedly to a lesser degree, but, nevertheless, there will continue to be in the initial instance considerable distortion in international markets. Therefore, your task, as far as national policy is concerned, is to ensure that you protect your agriculture from these distorted markets in the international sphere.

There was the wish and hope that in addition to free trade we would have fair trade. Certainly, that, I am sure, is a wish to which all concerned can subscribe. The fact of the matter is we do not have fair trade at the present time and we are not likely to see it for some time in the future. All of this, of course, was related to another common theme that came through and that is concern over the level and the decline in the prices for agricultural commodities generally and particularly those important to developing countries.

There was a plea for assistance in helping to identify markets, I believe most vividly expressed on the part of the delegation from Dominica. Perhaps we should be considering more seriously than at present, as part of FAO's role and because of its perspective in looking across situations from country to country and region to region, as a part of our policy advisory function, at the market opportunities based upon the comparative advantages of the different countries. I put this forward mainly as a thought.

Finally, with respect to the policy advisory role of the Organization, please be assured that we will respond to the limits of our ability and resources to your requests for assistance on policy matters. I personally believe that advice on agricultural policy can better be obtained from this Organization, given its depth of knowledge on agricultural matters, than from others.

The World Bank was mentioned as having become a major policy adviser. That is so. There is no doubt about it. The World Bank has an important role with respect to macro-economic policy, structural adjustment activities and so forth. We do not pretend or intend to become a competitor of the World Bank on macro-economic policy. However, to fulfil our responsibilities to you, the members, we must have a clear enough understanding of the impact of macro-economic policies to be able to help you see the impact on food and agricultural policies and how best the latter can be structured and fine-tuned to facilitate the attainment of the national objectives that have been approved for your agricultural sectors.

I believe that covers the main points. If there were any other specific matters, my colleagues or myself will be prepared to respond to you.

CHAIRMAN (Original language German): You will all recall Mauritania's statement made yesterday. We agreed, as a result of that, it is essential that right after discussion of Point 1 we deal with the desert locust situation in west and northwest Africa.

May I refer you to document C 93/INF/18. I ask the Assistant Director-General to be good enough to introduce this document.

-The Desert Locust Situation in West and Northwest Africa

-Situation du criquet pèlerin en Afrique de l'Ouest et du Nord-Ouest

-Situación de la langosta del desierto en Africa occidental y nordoccidental

H. De HAEN (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department) : I have to report to the Conference on another issue which has given rise to considerable concern during the last twelve months, which is another aspect of the situation of food and agriculture, the item under discussion, and which is of great concern to a large number of countries. This relates to the age-old menace of the desert locust. Widespread heavy rains at suitably timed intervals led to a recrudescence of locust populations in the countries around the Red Sea in late 1992 and in early 1993, and of course the need to relaunch anti-locust campaigns.

The Director-General of FAO has reactivated the Emergency Centre for Locust Operations, ECLO, to coordinate the campaigns and facilitate the procurement of the assistance needed. Although large-scale campaigns were conducted in the Red Sea trench area, in particular in Saudi Arabia, some swarms did form and these started to move off the coastal plains into the interior in early March 1993. Further breeding occurred during the spring and early summer, and further swarms were produced which moved eastwards as far as Pakistan and India and westwards as far as Mauritania.

As in the 1986-1989 plague, which many of you will remember, the international donor response to appeals for assistance has been prompt and purposeful. The latest information from the field which we now have indicates that the situation which appeared to be deteriorating during the summer has now markedly improved in India and in Pakistan, but is still serious in other parts and other countries, in particular in Mauritania and Senegal. Further assistance is therefore still needed and is still being provided.

As you will see from the information contained in document C 93/INF/18, FAO has been actively assisting, I would say, all affected countries at times when it was needed, and is still doing so, through a large number of projects funded both through bilateral and multilateral funds, as well as through TCP.

If the campaign can be pursued with vigour in the next few weeks, I believe we should be able to eliminate the remaining hopper bands and swarms, and we are pleased to be able to report to you that so far, of course with exceptions, damage to crops has been light. Most of the swarms were feeding in deserts and only a few have affected on a large scale, in some countries, crops per se.

That is my introduction and we will attentively listen to the debate and then answer any questions you may have.

Ramdane KELLOU (Algérie): Permettez-moi d'abord de remercier le Secrétariat de la Conférence pour avoir inscrit ce point à notre ordre du jour. Permettez-moi aussi, si cela est possible et nécessaire, de rappeler un certain nombre de points.

Nous avons vécu et nous continuons de vivre depuis quelques mois, dans la région de l'Ouest et du Nord-Ouest de l'Afrique, et probablement dans la région centrale et de l'Asie du Sud-Ouest, la menace acridienne, qui rappelle malheureusement par l'ampleur qu'elle connaît déjà dans certaines régions, et surtout celle que nous attendons prochainement en hiver et au printemps, celle des années 86-87, comme vient de le dire M. le Sous-Directeur général de la FAO. A cette époque, plus de 100 millions de dollars ont été dépensés dans ces pays. A l'heure actuelle, près de trois millions d'hectares ont déjà été traités, ce qui correspond globalement à une dépense de 50 millions de dollars. Les risques sont très grands pour tous les pays de l'aire d'invasion, y compris le mien.

Je voudrais ici, tout particulièrement, remercier très sincèrement la Communauté internationale et notre organisation la FAO pour la réponse très sensible et diligente qu'elle a apportée dès le premier mois, lorsque le début des invasions acridiennes s'est signalé. Malheureusement, cette réponse bien qu'étant sensible et rapide reste à notre avis très insuffisante au regard de ce qui nous attend.

Nous lançons encore un appel à la Communauté pour renforcer son aide, afin de mettre en oeuvre les programmes d'urgence que nous avons arrêtés, notamment à Tunis, à Alger et à Agadir, pour ce qui concerne notre région, et notamment la mise en place de façon progressive de réseaux de prévention ou de lutte dans toutes les régions concernées, y compris la région de l'Afrique centrale et de l'Asie du Sud-Ouest. Ce réseau, à l'instar de celui qui a été établi pour la région de l'Ouest et du Nord-Ouest de l'Afrique, devrait intégrer non seulement la disponibilité de moyens matériels, mais surtout la formation, la recherche, la collecte et le traitement de l'information météorologique qui constitue un facteur primordial dans la prévention acridienne.

Nous pensons proposer au Secrétariat ou au Comité de rédaction de la Conférence, un projet de résolution dans ce sens.

A.W. KAZI (Pakistan) : We are very grateful that you have given us a chance to speak on a subject which has been of very great concern to us during the last four months. We have seen the FAO report, C 93/INF/18, which gives very detailed information about the desert locust situation, but, as you will kindly note, this report is mainly concerned with the situation of locusts in Africa. May I submit for the information of the delegates to this Commission that since last July Pakistan and our neighbouring country, India, have lived through the most major locust attack since 1985. It was one of the worst locust attacks in our history. As you will kindly appreciate, both India's and Pakistan's combined population is almost one billion people. This attack posed a very potential threat to the standing summer crops in both the countries, which posed great and grave danger to the overall food security, not only of the region but of the entire world.

The locust swarm first hit the southern part of Pakistan on 11 July and two days later the northern part, in the Punjab. From then until the end of last month we have been in a condition of war in combatting the locusts and trying to contain them within the desert areas. It has been through very intensive efforts on our part, and with the active assistance of FAO and donor countries, that we have been able to contain the threat within the desert areas so that the locusts did not spill over to the irrigated areas just at the edges of the desert.

We would like to add that the FAO both in Islamabad and Rome were kept fully informed of the operations. In fact, the local UN and FAO authorities were actively associated with our operations. In this connection, we gratefully acknowledge the active role played by the Head of the UN Mission in Islamabad, and the FAO representative in Islamabad. We are also grateful to other donors who agreed to provide financial and material aid through FAO for fighting the locust scourge.

We consider it most fortunate that our country and neighbouring India escaped a major disaster at this time. This may not be so next time unless we take some concrete steps to ensure our preparedness and availability of resources. For this, we would like to propose certain measures for the consideration of this Commission. First, we should establish immediately at least one, if not two, task forces - one for Africa and one for Middle and Eastern Asia - to review all aspects of the recent upsurge in Africa, the Middle East and the Indo-Pakistan sub-continent. This task force would produce results on the upsurge and what steps should be taken to avoid a repetition. We are suggesting this for one main reason. It was in April 1993 that we, for the first time, approached the FAO authorities expressing our grave doubts about the locust upsurge in Africa and its possible implications for the Middle East and the sub-continent. Until the end of July the thinking was that the locusts would not travel eastwards and would not hit the sub-continent.

It was only at the beginning of July that we received a report that there was grave danger of the locusts travelling eastwards. We would like to avoid a repetition, and would like more reaction time because once the locusts hit the deserts in India and Pakistan we have little reaction time because we have vast areas under cultivation through barrages and canals. They are just on the edge of that.

In Pakistan alone, over 21 million hectares are under crops, and almost 17 million hectares are irrigated through canals and coverts, so the stakes are too great. We would hope that something can be done so that the situation will not be repeated.

Secondly, like the world food security arrangements, there should be some standing arrangement under which the availability of the essential inputs such as pesticides may be made. These are direly needed at the time and should be made available at very short notice. This time we did receive a good response through the aegis of FAO and the United Nations authorities in Islamabad, and we are very grateful to them.

The main point about arranging a commodity like pesticides is that it takes time. We have very good standing arrangements with the Plant Protection Department, but at times pesticides become a problem because we cannot import enough and keep a store because they have a limited shelf life. Therefore, we suggest that there should be a standing arrangement whereby the basic requirements of emergency essential pesticides for locust control and spares are made available at short notice. This will go a very long way towards controlling the locust threat wherever it raises its head.

The best thing of all, of course, is that it should not be allowed to raise its head, but when it does we must have a fall-back position. That is as I have suggested.

Those are the basic suggestions and submissions I wanted to make. Once again, I request the Commission that as in the case of Africa where a detailed report has been given, it would be much appreciated if a similar report could be prepared and circulated especially for India and Pakistan, for which the material has already been furnished to the FAO authorities.

Gamal Mohamed AHMED (Sudan) (Original language Arabic): First of all, Mr Chairman, may we congratulate you and the two Vice-Chairmen on your election in order to preside over this important Commission. We should like to express to the Secretariat our sincere gratitude for its concern with the question of desert locusts on the agenda of this Conference. We thank the Secretariat for their comprehensive document submitted so ably through Mr de Haen.

The danger of desert locusts in Africa exceeds the danger of desertification and drought which is hitting the African continent, because locusts attack everything that is green - forests, pastures and plantations, wherein poor farmers have put everything they own. Regretfully, locust waves usually come with a good rainy season and thus the old proverb holds which says that what is not taken by drought is taken by locusts.

We were happy to have the Emergency Centre for Locusts Operations reopened and to have Mr Papisolomontos reappointed as Director of the Centre, which has given the Organization an important step forward with regard to earlier warning operations, data collection, dissemination and publication. Meetings have been held and goals have been addressed. The donor community of countries has responded to the appeals addressed to them by FAO. Yet the menace is still there and threatens considerable regions. The matter has to be dealt with by various means, because our regions will be exposed to the menace unless a control strategy is applied as well as a prevention strategy in order to prevent the menace which will continue to exist.

Locusts know no boundaries. The question has to be dealt with on a regional basis, and steps have to be taken in order to conduct regional control operations and preventive procedures. Herein lies the role of regional locust control organizations such as the Organization for Desert Control in

East Africa, which should be provided with sufficient support and subsidies to enable it to play its role in the control of locusts in the countries of East Africa.

National mechanisms for control should be consolidated by strengthening the communication and reporting systems and developing other land control systems. Mechanisms should be consolidated to continue operations in the stagnant season in order to conduct efficient control systems. It is essential to reactivate the pesticide bank and to propagate its service to cover all the affected countries.

In considering the attached list of assistance we express gratitude to the donor countries for the assistance extended to our countries in terms of locust control, yet we are certain that current requirements call for further assistance and support. That is why we call on the international community to consolidate their current efforts for desert control and to elaborate a support strategy on a continuing basis in order to eradicate this serious menace by supporting and consolidating research, developing other technicalities of control and advising on effective pesticides which are environmentally friendly.

My government has recently played its part on a full basis in control operations, despite our limited resources and our fragile economic situation. We are committed to playing this role in order to protect our plantations, and agriculture in neighbouring countries. My delegation wishes to support the proposal of the delegate of Algeria that this Commission adopt a draft Resolution on desert locusts in various affected regions. We hope that such a draft Resolution will be submitted to the Conference.

OuId Mohamed Ahid TOURAD (Mauritanie): Merci M. le Président. Je vous remercie de me donner encore une fois la parole. Je ne tiens pas à me répéter. L'essentiel a été dit hier dans mon intervention qui reflète la situation grave du criquet pèlerin dans mon pays. Je joins ma parole à celle du délégué algérien pour que l'on tienne compte du projet de résolution qui a été rédigé à cette intention.

Abdelkader EL MAZHOR (Maroc): Merci M. le Président. Comme je l'ai dit ce matin, le Maroc a été confronté en 1992 et 1993 à deux campagnes consécutives de sécheresse. Pour la campagne en cours, les conditions climatiques sont jusqu'à présent jugées favorables. Mais les observations d'essaims de criquets pèlerins sont signalées dans le sud du pays en provenance de la Mauritanie. Et, compte tenu des conditions favorables, l'invasion du pays par les criquets devient imminente. Aussi, le Maroc se joint à tous les pays menacés par l'invasion pour lancer un appel solennel et pressant à tous les pays représentés ici, à la FAO, aux pays donateurs et aux autres organismes internationaux pour agir rapidement, afin d'aider les pays touchés par ce fléau à stopper d'abord l'invasion, et à mettre en oeuvre par la suite un programme de lutte préventive pour l'ensemble de l'aire d'invasion du criquet pèlerin.

Je remercie le Secrétariat d'avoir bien voulu retenir ce thème parmi les discussions de notre Commission aujourd'hui. Et je vous signale que nous soutenons le projet de résolution qui vous sera présenté par l'Algérie à ce sujet.

Ahmed Bin Mohamed AL-HINAJ (Oman) (Original language Arabic) : At the outset may I express to you, Mr Chairman, on behalf of my country sincere congratulations on your election and that of the two Vice-chairmen for this important task. I should like to speak before this august commission not as the delegate of Oman but as the Head of the Regional Organization for Desert Locust Control in the Middle East.

This year, countries of the region have been exposed to violent attacks by desert locusts, and extensive efforts by member countries have been exerted in order to face this scourge. I avail myself of the opportunity to express sincere gratitude on behalf of the countries of the region to FAO and the donor countries for the kind assistance received by the countries concerned.

I should also like to confirm the necessity of cooperation between the various countries and organizations concerned in terms of control. I associate myself with the preceding speakers in underlining the necessity for establishing a global strategy for locust control, particularly a preventive strategy, in order to overcome this serious menace threatening basic crops in the world.

Parviz KARBASI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): In the name of God. To be brief, I would bring to your attention that the locust does not know a border; it flies anywhere the wind would like to move it, and destroys food, thereby creating more poverty. In this regard, my delegation wishes to associate with all the people who have supported the draft Resolution. We appeal to the community to set up this task force, and move in this direction as an international issue.

Idi MAMAN (Niger): Merci, Monsieur le Président. Le Niger, comme vous le savez M. le Président, fait partie des zones menacées par le criquet pèlerin. C'est donc consciente de ces dangers que la délégation du Niger soutient sans réserve la proposition du projet de résolution présentée par l'Algérie.

Alhajl MAI M. JIR (Nigeria): I wish to associate myself with, and support, the draft Resolution proposed by Algeria. Nigeria, especially the northern part, is very close to Chad, Niger and northern parts of Cameroon and Ghana. Therefore, we support this draft Resolution.

CHAIRMAN (Original language German) : It appears that no-one else wishes to speak. Before I give the floor to Mr de Haen, I would ask the delegate of Algeria to hand the draft text of the Resolution to the Secretariat as soon as possible so that the Secretariat can send it without delay to the Resolutions Committee.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

A.W. KAZI (Pakistan): This is an international problem affecting Africa, the Middle East and the sub-continent of India and Pakistan. Algeria's

draft is perfectly all right, but I would ask if a draft could be prepared by two or three member countries so that a unanimous draft can be put to the Commission.

CHAIRMAN (Original language German): It appears to me that the Algerian proposal received very broad support from a whole series of delegations and I would therefore assume that the text which will be given to the Secretariat is one which has previously been agreed upon by the delegations which have supported it. The delegate of Algeria is nodding, so I take it that that is the case. We will therefore wait for the agreed-upon resolution to be presented to us.

Parviz KARBASI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): In the name of God. If you agree, Mr Chairman, I think it would be a good idea for the resolution to be read because some of the other delegations do not know its terms.

H. DE HAEN (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): I should like to thank all those who have spoken for the many expressions of compliment and for the support of the programmes by which we try to assist countries affected by the locust upsurge. You have unanimously supported not only the need to engage in action to fight the locust but also in prevention programmes. You have also emphasized the need for timely alerts. Let me assure you that we, at FAO and at ECLO, do everything possible to inform everyone about new observations and forecasts as far as we can. For that purpose we use the Desert Locust Bulletin, which all countries should receive, and we send telexes if we have interim information. The Locust Bulletin is updated monthly, but we do not wait for the next issue; we inform you as soon as we have information, and we also try to be as timely as possible in the case of the eastward movement affecting Pakistan later on.

The delegate of Pakistan made a proposal with two specific items in it, one being a task force to analyse the experience of the current campaign in order to come up with better indicators of the menace and of possibilities of future upsurges. We will study this proposal, but let me assure you that the team which we have on board here, in collaboration with the national teams, is already very much engaged in collecting information and in trying to draw conclusions, which we shall then make available to all of you in forthcoming issues of the Locust Bulletin, and I am sure that at a later session of the Desert Locust Control Commission we will give you a comprehensive report about experiences of this campaign, which hopefully will be over as soon as possible.

The second item in the proposal made by Pakistan concerned the old idea of a pesticide bank. This bank, if we may call it that, does exist, and it takes the form of contractual arrangements which we have made with a number of producers who, through these arrangements, can now provide any quantity required within two days. Some of your countries have already benefited from the arrangement in the current campaign. This also applies to equipment. Therefore I can gladly reply to the distinguished delegate from Pakistan that this idea is already in practice in the current situation.

Concerning reports for the Asian Region, I can assure you that whatever we know is being documented, and has been documented in the Desert Locust Bulletin. The report before you in the conference document admittedly

concentrates more on Africa, although Pakistan is mentioned there. This may be due to the fact that the proposal to put this on our agenda under this item was originally made at a meeting of African Ministers. However, full information on the rest of the world is available to everyone.

I think we all agree that prevention is the most important task, especially in periods between upsurges when attention and interest in continued surveillance tend to be superseded by other priorities. I can only confirm what has been said by several of you: continuing surveillance is important, as is improvement of forecasting methodologies using meteorological information and also physiological information. The better we understand the causes of the behaviour of locusts, the better we can predict their future behaviour and outbreaks. Therefore we support, and try to find, donors and countries which are interested in research. There is a research agenda and there are research projects being carried out, although some think that much more could be done to invest in research in order to improve our understanding of the behaviour of locusts and of forecasting possibilities. In this context, and in particular in relation to the current campaign, which is costing a lot of money, I should like to take this opportunity to thank all donors who are involved through FAO and, on behalf of all countries affected, perhaps I could extend that appreciation to donors supporting whatever programme it may be, be it bilateral, be it multilateral, to combat the locust. Without that support, we should not be where we are now, and therefore I thank them.

I cannot comment on the resolution. We will study it with attention when we receive the draft text, which we await.

I hope I have answered all your questions. If I have not, please let me know.

CHAIRMAN (Original language German) : Thank you for your statement, Dr De Haen. I should like to support the last part, in particular, of what you said, and I appeal to the delegate of Algeria to be kind enough to send us as quickly as possible the text of the coordinated draft Resolution.

6.2. World Food Security and Nutritional Status

6.2. Sécurité alimentaire et situation nutritionnelle dans le monde

6.2. Seguridad alimentaria mundial y estado nutricional

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, despite considerable progress in recent decades, the world still falls far short of the goal of adequate nutrition for all. Approximately 780 million people, mainly in Africa, south Asia and Latin America, do not have enough food to meet their basic daily needs for energy and protein. More than two billion people subsist on diets that lack the essential vitamins and minerals required for normal growth and development.

We have already considered the food supply situation as well as the near-term prospects for population and incomes growth, key factors in the demand for agricultural product. The situation with respect to international market prices has also been reviewed.

Although availability and stability of food supplies at the national and global levels are important dimensions of better nutrition and food

security, they do not necessarily ensure physical and economic access to adequate food on the part of all individuals, and there is no guarantee that this food is of sufficient variety, quality and safety to ensure the nutritional well-being of the population. This was the main concern expressed during the International Conference on Nutrition which took place in Rome last December.

Over the last years FAO has made considerable efforts to provide assistance to member countries to ensure food security and nutritional well-being on the part of all individuals.

FAO has been providing support and technical assistance for many years on nutrition assessment, evaluation, food quality and safety, control of food contamination, improved and more nutritious food supplies and nutrition education. At present, our Food Policy and Nutrition Division has more than 80 ongoing projects in these areas, and this Division is actively involved in providing support to many member countries which have committed themselves to strengthening ongoing programmes and activities related to nutritional improvement by endorsing the World Declaration and Plan of Action for Nutrition adopted by the International Conference on Nutrition.

Under the expanded mandate of the Food Security Assistance Scheme FAO has also been providing assistance since 1989 for the formulation of comprehensive food security programmes which address many of the objectives subsequently endorsed by the ICN. Thus far such assistance has been provided in 23 countries and four sub-regions and pipeline activities are under preparation in several more countries. This assistance has built on the preparatory work for the ICN at country and regional level, in particular as regards utilization of the in-country working groups and food security and nutrition assessments.

As a first step in ICN follow-up many countries have already undertaken the preparation of a national plan of action, many with assistance from the international community and the United Nations. As the lead agencies mandated to work in the areas of food, health and nutrition, FAO and WHO have been working closely together to coordinate assistance to those countries that have requested it and to promote balanced and appropriate attention to food, agriculture and health for improving nutrition.

FAO has made particular efforts for promoting ICN follow-up activities and providing technical support to countries. FAO Country Representatives have been requested to promote the preparation of a national plan of action for nutrition and project activities within such plans by establishing and maintaining contact with the government ministries, NGOs and other public and private institutions. FAO Country Representatives have also been requested to promote ICN coordinating groups of international agencies involved in areas related to nutrition improvement.

FAO has also distributed guidelines for developing national plans of action for nutrition. The Guidelines suggest steps to follow in preparing these plans and encourage member countries to establish mechanisms for securing the intersectoral and interagency collaboration required for effective ICN follow-up.

Over 40 countries have requested FAO assistance in preparing or revising their national plans of action. Technical assistance from staff members and international consultants has been provided to a number of countries. In

other countries, the Organization is working vigorously to identify the nature of the assistance required, and to meet each request.

FAO is also working to follow-up the ICN at the regional level. For example, FAO, in collaboration with WHO, has begun holding a series of inter-country meetings to promote regional collaboration and exchange of information on national plans of action. Meetings have been held in 1993 in Thailand for the Asia and Pacific Food and Nutrition Network, and in Honduras for the Central American Countries. These will be continued in other regions in 1994.

At the international level, FAO fully endorses the need for continued and expanded collaboration among a wide range of multilateral and bilateral organizations. The Administrative Committee on Coordination chaired by the Secretary-General, and its Sub-Committee on Nutrition has an important role to play in this regard by providing a forum for agencies to discuss and agree on mechanisms for coordinating their nutrition-related activities and/or a means for preparing consolidated reports on progress made.

I should also draw delegates' attention to the fact that implementation of the ICN Plan of Action was a main item on the agenda of the informal meeting of INGO representatives attending the Twenty-seventh Session of the FAO Conference which took place on Tuesday. The report of this meeting will be available but not until next week. Briefly, many of the organizations represented had participated in the ICN and reiterated their commitment to support the implementation of the Plan of Action particularly at national level. INGO representatives stressed a number of points including the importance of encouraging the production of traditional food crops, the critical role of women in ensuring household food security and the need for nutrition education, with special attention to rural men and women.

In order to ensure the vigorous and coordinated implementation of activities recommended in the World Declaration and Plan of Action for Nutrition, each UN agency and other concerned international organizations were requested by the ICN to consider the ways and means of giving appropriate priority to nutrition-related programmes and activities. I am pleased to report that FAO has made a particular effort in this sense by incorporating in the design of two special action programmes activities to strengthen the Organization's capacity to assist member countries to develop, implement and monitor food security and nutrition plans and programmes as mandated by the ICN and by the FAO Committee on World Food Security, the Council and the Conference in 1983.

The Special Action Programmes to which I have just referred are presented in paragraphs 54 to 64 of the document before you, so I need not go into detail at this point.

We are confident that the Special Action Programmes will allow the expertise available in FAO to be channelled more effectively than up to now into specific field actions aimed at improving access to food and nutritional well-being. We hope that they are designed in a manner which our donor governments will find sufficiently attractive to commit extra-budgetary resources, because it is only with extra-budgetary resources that the goals and aspirations in the ICN Plan of Action can be implemented.

Finally, I would like to indicate that FAO and WHO are mandated, as part of the ICN recommendations, to prepare a consolidated report on the efforts of

the UN agencies in their implementation of the ICN Plan of Action and on its implementation by member countries. This document will be submitted to the FAO Conference in 1995.

In closing, Mr Chairman, I would like to acknowledge with thanks the extra-budgetary contributions made by Belgium, Canada, the EEC, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States to support the preparations for and holding of the ICN. This direct support to FAO and WHO, as well as considerable bilateral support between developed and developing countries and from other international agencies enabled the ICN to achieve its original objectives. This support has been complemented by important financial contributions from donors participating in the Food Security Assistance Scheme. With the momentum provided by the ICN to improve food security and nutrition in all countries, we are hopeful that the many programme and project formulation requests for improving food security and nutrition under the new FAO Special Action Programmes concerned with food security and the continuing ICN implementation process will also receive strong support from donor countries and international funding programmes.

Jean Paul ADRIANSENS (Belgique): Je voudrais d'abord remercier le Secrétariat pour la présentation du document et M. Hjort pour son introduction. Je ferai cette déclaration au nom de la Communauté européenne et ses Etats Membres.

C'est avec intérêt que nous avons analysé le document C 93/22 qui donne les grandes lignes de la situation des pays en développement en matière de sécurité alimentaire et de nutrition et traite de la suite à donner à la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition. Une première réaction au document est que la Communauté européenne et ses Etats Membres partagent, dans une très large mesure, avec la FAO, un vif intérêt à travailler sur des programmes et approches qui contribuent à réduire l'insécurité alimentaire tant au niveau des ménages qu'à celui des pays. En conséquence, comme déjà indiqué dans notre déclaration sur le point de l'ordre du jour consacré à l'état de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, nous tenons à souligner l'importance de l'aboutissement de la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition et l'élan qui en découle.

A cet égard, quoique la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition ait unanimement été considérée comme un succès, il serait trop optimiste de croire qu'elle a déjà permis d'aboutir à une sensibilisation accrue sur la situation nutritionnelle mondiale. Beaucoup de travail nous attend dans ce domaine: ce qui nous reste à faire pour la mise en oeuvre du plan d'action est très largement supérieur à ce que nous avons déjà accompli dans le cadre de la préparation de la Conférence. La participation concertée des institutions multilatérales, des organismes bilatéraux et des organisations non gouvernementales est une condition de notre réussite. Souhaitons que ces programmes soient dotés de moyens appropriés. Depuis la dernière Conférence générale, la Communauté a poursuivi ses principaux programmes relatifs à la sécurité alimentaire, orientés tant vers les ruptures à court terme dans l'approvisionnement et les situations d'urgence, que vers une vision à plus long terme en ce domaine. J'aimerais donner quelques indications sur ce que cela signifie en termes pratiques.

L'aide alimentaire concernant les situations d'urgence et de non-urgence considérées ensemble a de nouveau atteint environ 20 pour cent de l'aide publique au développement de la communauté.

En 1992, en termes de volume, 3,8 millions de tonnes de produits alimentaires ont été mis à disposition avec de substantielles liquidités destinées à couvrir les transports. Ces données incluaient le Programme spécial d'aide alimentaire en faveur de 18 Etats africains et autres les plus touchés par la sécheresse et les conflits armés en 1992.

L'Office humanitaire de la Communauté européenne (ECHO) a été créé en avril dernier. Il s'est vu confier la tâche importante d'oeuvrer dans toutes les actions d'urgence, dans le domaine alimentaire et non alimentaire, de la Communauté européenne, de manière à répondre rapidement aux situations d'urgence à travers le monde entier.

Des systèmes d'alerte rapide sont appuyés: mis à part le DIAPER (suivi permanent pour le Sahel), la Communauté contribue également volontiers aux systèmes d'information globale et d'alerte rapide (GIEWS) mis en place par la FAO. De la sorte, divers systèmes nationaux de contrôle sont actuellement financés.

La Convention sur l'aide alimentaire donne lieu à l'utilisation la plus large possible. Ceci inclut, entre autres, le recours par la Communauté et ses Etats Membres, lorsque cela est approprié, à l'aide alimentaire triangulaire, avec pour objectif de promouvoir le commerce entre les pays en développement et à l'intérieur de ceux-ci. Ces achats, en plus d'une mobilisation des excédents de production locale, donnent aussi la possibilité de procurer aux bénéficiaires les produits alimentaires appropriés, souvent à meilleur marché et plus rapidement. La Convention sur l'aide alimentaire a incontestablement le mérite d'avoir contribué à la sécurité alimentaire en insistant sur les engagements pluriannuels en matière d'aide.

A notre avis, un problème continue d'appeler une attention particulière dans les activités de sécurité alimentaire: l'accent mis de plus en plus sur le traitement des perturbations à court terme au détriment des orientations à long terme susceptibles d'encourager ce type de sécurité; en d'autres termes, le lien entre secours et développement. La pratique quotidienne en cette matière prouve que le court terme est l'ennemi du long terme. Ce dernier ne peut connaître de progrès que si l'on fait de la sécurité alimentaire l'un des principes directeurs de toute politique et programme pertinents de développement et si l'on assure des conditions de stabilité et un engagement politique permettant de les mettre fructueusement en oeuvre.

Le Conseil des ministres du développement de la Communauté a décidé au printemps dernier de mettre un nouvel accent sur la sécurité alimentaire parmi ses politiques et programmes et d'étudier les méthodes de nature à améliorer la coordination. Comme premier pas vers la formulation d'une politique en ce domaine, une réunion d'experts en matière de sécurité alimentaire de la Communauté et de ses Etats Membres a été organisée le mois dernier. Le lien entre secours et développement évoqué ci-dessus a figuré parmi les points clés de la discussion. Améliorer la coordination ne signifie pas mettre sur pied de vastes programmes nouveaux. Au contraire, une fois les grandes lignes définies au niveau des politiques, la part du lion dans la coordination doit revenir au niveau opérationnel, donc à celui des pays bénéficiaires, mais seulement d'une manière très légère. A ce point, des choix quant aux questions "où, comment, quand, qui" demeurent encore tous sujets à discussion.

Permettez-moi d'évoquer brièvement un exemple intéressant combinant avec succès orientations de sécurité alimentaire à court terme et à long terme, coordination entre donateurs et constance de la ligne politique du gouvernement. Il s'agit du Programme de restructuration du marché des céréales (PRMC), au Mali, lancé il y a douze ans lorsque le marché malien des céréales était entièrement contrôlé et réglementé et la production nationale largement insuffisante pour répondre à la demande.

Le pays n'appartenait pas encore à l'Union monétaire de l'Afrique de l'Ouest. L'objectif du PRMC était de libéraliser et de stabiliser le marché des céréales. Son instrument principal était un engagement pluriannuel des donateurs pouvant s'élever jusqu'à 58 000 tonnes de céréales (dont une partie minime en monnaie), gérées comme un stock régulateur modeste destiné à la stabilisation des prix et à la sécurité alimentaire. Donneurs et pouvoirs publics assuraient la gestion conjointe de ce stock, avec, en particulier, la mise en commun de recettes dans un même fonds de contrepartie. Celui-ci était utilisé à diverses fins, toujours liées cependant à la commercialisation et au stockage des céréales (crédit d'avances sur récolte, entreposage, conditionnement, etc.). Il servait également à la gestion et la distribution de toute l'aide alimentaire en céréales.

A présent, l'accent se déplace vers la modernisation du marché des céréales et de leur stockage, qui sont maintenant intégralement libéralisés, à l'exception d'un petit stock régulateur. Au cours des 12 dernières années, la production totale de céréales au Mali s'est accrue beaucoup plus que la population: le pays est aujourd'hui presque autosuffisant dans cette denrée (sans que l'on puisse prétendre que ceci soit entièrement dû au PRMC: des pluies appropriées ont été vitales).

On tirera de cet exemple la conclusion que secours et développement peuvent aller de concert. J'espère que beaucoup d'autres cas seront cités au cours de cette conférence.

Dans ce contexte, la récente initiative du Conseil "Développement" de lancer un programme de réhabilitation à l'intention particulière des pays subsahariens doit être également mentionnée. Cette initiative envisage le passage de l'aide d'urgence à la réhabilitation et s'avère ainsi en cohérence avec un souhait de rétablir la sécurité alimentaire dans ces pays qui ont été gravement affectés par la sécheresse et la guerre.

Monsieur le Président, j'espère que vous conviendrez avec moi que la question des orientations que nécessite sérieusement à plus long terme la sécurité alimentaire mérite d'être soulevée dans toutes les conférences et enceintes internationales appropriées. Entre autres, on peut songer au Programme alimentaire mondial, au Conseil alimentaire mondial, au Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, à la CNUCED.

Ibrahim HASAN (Indonesia): I would first like to join other delegations in congratulating you on your election as Chairman of this Commission. Allow me also to extend our deep appreciation to the Secretariat which has provided very good preparation with the documents. May I thank the Deputy Director-General for his very informative introductory remarks on food security and nutritional status.

My delegation shares the view that food security and nutritional status are both very essential and therefore should be responded to seriously. Food

security is a fundamental goal of nations around the globe, for very basic considerations and reasons. There is widely accepted truism that national resilience and freedom without adequate food security is an illusion.

In developing countries where there is a large population related to available agricultural land, economic and political stability can be provided only by a government that has solved its domestic problems of food security. Food security for individual households in rural areas and stable food markets in urban areas are essential to begin and maintain the process of economic growth, stability and equity.

The decades of the 1970s and 1980s have presented us with a disturbing picture of most regions having suffered from stagnation, malnutrition and declining economic growth and development, not only in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union but also in several countries across Africa and South America. Even the United States and some European countries are still trying to cope with a prolonged recession. Several countries in Asia and Southeast Asia have to learn how to maintain a steady pace of rapid economic growth and keep successfully their food security.

Indonesia has now almost completed the first 25 year phase of its long-term development plan. During that period it has not only succeeded in changing its position as a traditional major rice importing country into one of being self-sufficient in 1984 but has also made enormous strides in providing food security for its large and diverse population of more than 185 million at present.

The Indonesian model of development of basic policies, strategies and programmes, as adapted by the country in pursuing its fundamental goals of food security, growth, stability and equity in an integrated fashion is a useful model to share with other developing countries facing similar problems.

The Government of Indonesia has adopted a dual strategy to implement its food security policy, namely a production strategy and food price stabilization policy. This dual strategy contributes to promoting growth of the national economy with special emphasis on raising farm incomes and achieving self-sufficiency in food, mainly rice. Having achieved self-sufficiency or adequacy of supply does of course, to some extent guarantee food security. As defined by FAO at its 22nd Session in 1983, the concept of food security encompasses three components: (1) adequacy of supply throughout the country; (2) stability of supply throughout the year and (3) access to food, physical and economic, on the part of those who need it.

Under the dual strategy, fulfilment of the FAO concept of food security is being pursued under the government's food price stabilization policy, the aim of which is to maximize stability in the flow of the rice supply throughout the country and throughout the year.

Strengthening food security also involves the need for greater cooperation in regional levels as well as broader levels among developing countries. In this regard, my delegation would like to draw your attention to the concerns expressed by the Head of State or Government of the non-aligned member Countries on the importance of food security.

Following the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN), Indonesia has formulated strategies and policies in food and nutritional development. The

national food strategy is directed towards producing sufficient food at national level through food diversification and income-generating activities. On the other hand, the national improvement strategies and policies are directed to meeting food sufficiency at household level, to alleviate micronutrient problems, especially in the poor areas, and to prevent the imbalance in nutrition due to changes in lifestyle and higher income, as well as to protect consumers through improved food quality and safety.

In the coming five-year development plan, food policy implementation is based on the national capability to increase food production, to maintain food security and price stability, to develop quality and safety of food, and to promote diversification in food consumption.

Facing the future challenges, as well as anticipating the rising problems, a Ministry of Affairs has been set up by our government. The Ministry has four main functions related to food problems: coordinating food policy formulation, planning for food programmes, coordinating related institutions on food-related matters as well as encouraging people's participation in both household and rural food security.

Several weeks ago our nation celebrated the Thirtieth World Food Day under the title of "Harvesting Nature's Diversity". We in Indonesia stressed food diversification with special attention to the effort of developing our local ethnic food. This special attention is given as we realize that ethnic food is based on local food material and is nutritionally sound, while on the other hand we need to develop our local food in response to the globalization of the market economy.

Finally, my delegation welcomes FAO support and activities in improving nutritional well-being through community development, enhanced household food security and improving food quality and safety.

Mrs S.L. BASSETT (United Kingdom): May I begin by expressing thanks for the introduction to this report and to the Secretariat for its production. It was received by us with interest.

The overall food situation is less parlous than last year but there is still a large continuing food need in many parts of the world.

The United Kingdom therefore supports the World Declaration and Plan of Action for Nutrition which calls for vigorous and concerted effort at all levels to reduce global hunger and malnutrition. We must, however, recognize that poverty, social inequality and the lack of education are the root causes of hunger and food insecurity and that greater effort should be made to direct resources to those most in need to raise their productive capacity. It is essential that these people receive adequate quantities of nutritionally-balanced food.

It must be recognized that adequate supplies of food at the national level, although necessary, do not guarantee food security: what is important is that households should have physical access and adequate purchasing power for food.

It is now a year since the ICN and it is reasonable to consider what progress has been made and, in particular, how far FAO divisions have identified areas for the reallocation of resources so as to maximize their

contribution to relevant action, that is what changes have been made to the priorities in programmes of work to ensure proper follow-up to the ICN.

We welcome the ICN Plan of Action focus on the strategies and actions necessary to reach the overall objective of ensuring proper access by all to the food necessary for safe and adequate diets. In particular, we strongly support the view that food security should not be treated as a specific policy issue but framed within the context of a comprehensive macro-economic policy programme. With this in mind, it is our view that it is right that individual countries should set their own nutrition goals, and national plans to achieve them.

We are pleased that FAO link policy advice and projects to country programme strategy and development framework but believe it will not be sufficient for FAO simply to provide guidelines to Member Governments. If these plans are prepared through dialogue and partnership there will be a real opportunity for countries to identify needs and help them prioritize their resource allocations and improve programme management.

We also support FAO's initiative to provide policy analysis and advice (in line with its comparative advantage) to assist member countries to implement the ICN Plan of Action. We agree that this strategy should attempt to incorporate nutritional objectives into development programmes and the need to provide care to the socio-economically deprived and nutritionally vulnerable.

We support the need for greater FAO collaboration with other donor agencies and congratulate FAO on the way in which the ICN process secured the participation of UN, bi-lateral and non-governmental organizations with their collective wide range of expertise.

If Special Action Plans are to be effective they should be supported by thorough economic and social analysis. The need to identify the different socio-economic groups of the rural poor and the causes of their poverty is crucial both to achieve improved targeting of beneficiaries and to identify options to eradicate poverty.

We welcome technical support for the development and maintenance of management information systems for policy analysis, programme formulation and monitoring, and particularly support initiatives to monitor the nutritional impact of development policies and programmes for the poor.

We support FAO's role in four important areas: as a global advisory body on agriculture and food issues; in promoting and fostering marketing systems, especially for the benefit of the nutritionally vulnerable; in developing national food and nutrition information systems to identify and monitor the at-risk population groups; on improving consumer awareness and nutritional education programmes.

We welcome FAO's efforts to advise member countries in identifying priority problems, reviewing and preparing National Plans of Action for Nutrition, but suggest that the capacity of FAO to support the areas listed under section 5.2 paras 60-64 is limited. FAO's advantage is greatest in those areas where it provides global advice and alerts donors and national governments to agricultural and food issue problems, for example the excellent work of GIEWS. The design and implementation of specific projects must be in collaboration with other UN agencies or left to other donors with greater expertise and the collaboration monitored and evaluated at

project, country and regional levels with ultimate evaluation responsibility with the UNACC Subcommittee on Nutrition, as identified in the ICN Plan of Action.

We cannot accept the view expressed in the paper of structural adjustment programmes and their alleged damaging impact on food security. Food subsidies have declined in many adjusting countries because they were financially unsustainable and often failed to reach the most vulnerable groups. Also as subsidies are paid for through general taxation, without supportive analysis, it would be unwise to support the view expressed as the cost of a subsidy (that is the tax bill) can often fall disproportionately on low-income groups, reducing their economic access to food.

The United Kingdom has been active in the past year towards fulfilling our commitments under the ICN Plan of Action. The "Health of the Nation" United Kingdom Government paper sets out the nutritional aspects of its health strategy. It focuses on the particular needs and circumstances of the United Kingdom and is consistent with the approach adopted in the ICN Plan of Action. The key priority areas are coronary heart disease and stroke, cancers, mental illness, HIV/AIDS and sexual health, and the prevention of accidents. We are pleased to report that the United Kingdom is now well advanced in the development of a National Plan of Action to meet the goals and objectives of the World Declaration for Nutrition.

Finally, we look forward to reading the FAO/WHO report on the implementation of the World Declaration and Plan of Action for Nutrition, due to come before us at the Conference in 1995.

Ms Guri GRONOLEN (Norway): Mr Chairman, I would first like to congratulate the Secretariat for an interesting document prepared for the Conference. I also appreciated the introductory statement on this agenda item.

It is positive to see that FAO considers the world nutrition situation in view of the outcome of the ICN. Obviously priorities have to be made because of the very broad spectrum of problems and suggested actions, and priorities will always be subject to discussion. As the document C 93/22 stands, certain assumptions seem to be embedded in it. One is that liberalization of market policies has mainly positive effects on the nutrition situation in developing countries. This assumption has over and over again been shown to be incorrect. In fact, one could say that extra attention is needed during liberalization because it easily leads to widening of the gap between rich and poor and marginalization of vulnerable groups, which will increase the potential for serious repercussions on their nutrition situation.

The Norwegian delegation is happy to note that improvements were recorded in the global food security situation in 1992. In particular, we are pleased to note that improvements were recorded for many developing countries.

However, still nearly 800 million people regularly do not have enough to eat. This situation is not acceptable and it is therefore with deep concern we note that in many countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean the food security status has not improved. On the contrary, compared with 1991-92, per caput production in 1992-93 has fallen in 70 percent of the low-income, food-deficit countries.

It is my delegation's view that FAO has a major role to play in the international response to this situation. Therefore, we support that FAO in the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium gives priority to the follow-up of the ICN.

The Norwegian delegation took an active interest in the ICN, which we consider to be a success. The main responsibility for the follow-up of the Conference rests with the national governments. The FAO and WHO, in collaboration with other UN organizations, have a responsibility in providing assistance to governments in the follow-up process.

However, ICN recommended that ACC/SCN should play an active coordinating role in the follow-up of the Conference. SCN is not mentioned in paragraph 38 or in other parts of the document. In my delegation's opinion this Committee functions well and has an important role to play.

Chapter 4.3 outlines specific FAO support and activities for the follow-up of the ICN. Five of the eight themes discussed at the ICN are included on the priority-list in paragraph 43. The most concrete and clearly specified activity is "Improving food quality and safety".

This is surprising, considering that the poor countries probably would prioritize differently when faced with serious nutrition problems. Nutrition problems are often caused by poverty and not necessarily by food quality and safety. The theme "Caring for the socio-economically deprived and nutritionally vulnerable" is not part of the prioritized areas of FAO mentioned in paragraph 43. Neither is theme 8 "Incorporating nutrition objectives into development policies and programmes" on the priority list. Norway considers they are objectives essential in any nutrition undertaking whether a comprehensive nutrition policy, strategies, programmes, projects or a single activity.

During the process towards IC and at the ICN itself, Norway was very concerned that breast-feeding was not mentioned in the background documents. Breast-feeding is nevertheless reflected in the recommendations of the ICN. The Norwegian delegation is disappointed to note that the importance of breast-feeding is not mentioned in the document before us. The linkages between the situation of poor rural women as agricultural producers and caretakers and young-child malnutrition are obvious and call for increased and sustained attention.

My delegation notes with satisfaction that each division in FAO is to review its programme of work, in the light of the outcome of the ICN, and that support from different divisions within FAO will be coordinated through special action programmes on food security and nutrition. We think it is important that the entire Organization works together in the same direction.

In the FAO Special Action Programmes we note again that food quality has a prominent part. It is stated that FAO will assist countries "within the framework of sound macro-economic policies" providing services to member countries. Sound macro-economic policies will vary, e.g. according to country, context and political ideology. What FAO means here is therefore unclear. It is probably in this context that FAO has prepared the guideline "Developing National Plans for Nutrition". The Norwegian delegation finds it disturbing that capacity-building in the countries concerned is absent from document C 93/22 and the guideline. Without a strong focus on capacity-building which should enable the countries to do the job

themselves, the dependency on expert help from outside is maintained. We hope that FAO has not forgotten this very important aspect.

The document before us reflects a top-down approach, and so does the Guideline mentioned. This is worrying for the future work and follow-up of the ICN Plan of Action. What is important in the present global nutrition situation is to create a sustainable process where the overall goal is that the countries themselves manage to solve their problems on their own. Here, capacity-building plays a major role. Unfortunately Norway cannot see that FAO is trying to create the necessary processes to enhance capacity building; rather the approach chosen may create more dependency.

Quintiliano PEREZ BONILLA (España): En primer lugar, señor Presidente, queremos felicitar a la Secretaría de la FAO por la magnífica labor a la hora de redactar el documento C 93/22 que enmarca de una forma objetiva el alcance del problema. Entendemos que el tema es suficientemente importante para abordarlo con la profundidad y el detenimiento que merece, con el fin de sacar las conclusiones que permitan mejorar la calidad de vida de la población humana.

Se ha recordado aquí la Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición resaltando la capacidad y la necesidad de que las familias puedan proporcionar a todos sus miembros alimentos suficientes que aseguren una ingestión adecuada. También queremos recordar lo incluido en la Declaración de Barcelona sobre los derechos alimentarios del hombre, en marzo de 1992, señalando también que todo ser humano tiene derecho a una alimentación suficiente y saludable, y la comunidad internacional, los organismos internacionales, los gobiernos y los poderes públicos deben reconocer este derecho de actuar en consecuencia contribuyendo a hecerlo efectivo. Sin embargo, en la actualidad, si realizamos un estudio global sobre la situación de la población humana dentro del marco de la seguridad alimentaria, comprobamos cómo esta situación es contradictoria en sí misma. Efectivamente, existen en el mundo hoy dos situaciones contrapuestas y negativas para proporcionar a la población una capacidad alimentaria adecuada. Por una parte - y lo ha señalado recientemente el señor Hjort - existe un conjunto de países aún no desarrollados donde viven cerca de 780 millones de seres humanos que no pueden satisfacer sus necesidades básicas, junto con otros 2 000 millones que padecen insuficiencias nutricionales.

Por otra parte, y en los países industrializados, el nivel de desarrollo ha llevado a su población al empleo de un conjunto de dietas alimenticias desequilibradas, que originan problemas de gran importancia, incidiendo negativamente sobre la salud.

Es, pues, necesario considerar estas dos situaciones con el fin de corregir los desajustes nutricionales que se producen en la actualidad en los países más avanzados, evitando que los mismos problemas puedan repetirse en el futuro en aquellos otros países que ya están alcanzando, o van a alcanzar próximamente el llamado estado del bienestar.

A medida que los países alcanzan una situación de mayor desarrollo, aparecen en su población un conjunto de cambios y modificaciones que inciden de forma muy directa en los hábitos alimenticios destacando entre ellos: modificaciones económico y sociales por el aumento del nivel de vida; incorporación de la mujer al trabajo extradornestico; mayor consumo de alimentos fuera del hogar; aumento de la restauración colectiva en guarderías, comedores escolares y laborales; movilidad social, éxodo rural;

problemas originados por la propia modificación de la situación familiar con una tendencia progresiva a la disminución en el número de hijos; problemas en la modificación de las características demográficas, fundamentalmente por un avanzado estado en la edad de las personas; problemas en modificaciones originadas por avances industrializados; aumento de la tecnología alimentaria; aumento en el consumo de platos precocinados, etc.

Todo lo anterior ha dado lugar a cambios en los hábitos alimenticios observándose, fundamentalmente, en estos países desarrollados, aumentos en el consumo de alimentos de origen animal ricos en proteínas y en grasas. Estos hechos pueden repetirse en el futuro en aquellos otros países que se incorporan paulatinamente al grupo de los países industrializados, siendo necesario tenerlos en cuenta con el fin de evitar la aparición en los mismos de un conjunto de nuevas patologías como consecuencia de la evolución de las propias civilizaciones.

Aparecen un conjunto de nuevas patologías entre las que cabrían destacar las cardiopatías, problemas cancerígenos, obesidad, caries dental y anemia ferropénica en la infancia, anorexia nerviosa, diabetes, y demás.

En consecuencia los poderes públicos deben considerar los problemas planteados anteriormente, educando a la población para que realice un consumo racional de los alimentos, promoviendo la mejora de la nutrición mediante el establecimiento de hábitos alimenticios saludables y cambios en la elaboración de los alimentos para elevar su calidad nutricional y prevenir las enfermedades relacionadas con la dieta.

En este sentido se ha podido comprobar a nivel científico, en España por ejemplo, que el desarrollo y la extensión de la denominada dieta mediterránea es un factor favorable para el descenso de la incidencia de algunas de las patologías señaladas anteriormente.

Esta dieta, formada fundamentalmente a base de frutas y hortalizas, pescados, aceite de oliva, vino, legumbres y cereales, permite, por una parte, la utilización de los recursos propios, contribuyendo, por otra, a un mayor equilibrio nutricional de la ingesta de la población.

Por todo lo anterior, y en esta línea, España ofrece su más absoluta colaboración a todos aquellos países que se encuentren en esta situación para abordar conjuntamente el estudio de los puntos críticos que inciden de forma negativa en un desarrollo armónico de la cadena agroalimentaria en todos sus eslabones: producción, transformación y consumo, con el fin de evitar que cometan aquellos errores dietéticos y nutricionales que ya se han observado anteriormente en otros países desarrollados.

Ofrece, asimismo, su colaboración para abordar conjuntamente cuantos estudios sean precisos, con el fin de profundizar en el campo de las ciencias de la nutrición y en el binomio dieta-salud, en la línea ya apuntada anteriormente, de potenciación y utilización de los recursos propios y adecuación de las dietas autóctonas a los principios de seguridad, mantenimiento de la salud, satisfacción de las necesidades nutricionales y servicio del alimento en cuanto a la utilización práctica del mismo.

Por último, Señor Presidente, ofrece también su colaboración como plataforma de acercamiento y apertura de nuevas situaciones de mercado y posibilidades de nuevos intercambios de productos afines, que permitan un

desarrollo armónico de dietas tradicionales fomentando el consumo de los recursos disponibles, y evitando el abandono de los regímenes alimenticios autóctonos y la sustitución de los mismos por tendencias y modas alimenticias extrañas, a los hábitos y a las culturas de los pueblos.

Arnaldo BADILLO ROJAS (Venezuela): Nuestra Delegación, Señor Presidente, se une al reconocimiento que otras delegaciones han expresado a la Secretaría por la realización de este informe C 93/22 sobre el estado de la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición.

Deseamos solamente llamar la atención de la Secretaría sobre una frase contenida en este informe que, por la forma en que está redactada, al menos en la versión española, pudiese llevarnos a aceptar una interpretación con respecto a la cual no estaríamos de acuerdo. El punto al cual hago referencia corresponde al párrafo 4 del documento en español, y más concretamente a la frase contenida en las dos últimas líneas de este párrafo, donde se dice textualmente: "Lo importante es que las familias tengan acceso físico a los alimentos y disfruten del poder adquisitivo suficiente que les dé "derecho" a ellos".

Creemos, señor Presidente, que esta idea de que el derecho a los alimentos viene dado por el poder adquisitivo de las familias, aun cuando en el documento en español venga indicado entre comillas, debe constituir un error de traducción o interpretación que debe corregirse, ya que esta afirmación estaría en marcada contradicción con el contenido de la Declaración Mundial sobre la Nutrición suscrita por los Estados Miembros de la FAO en la Conferencia Internacional de Nutrición de 1992; por no mencionar la propia Declaración de los Derechos Humanos donde se reconoce que el acceso a una alimentación nutricionalmente adecuada y sana es un derecho de cada persona sin condicionamiento alguno, y reconoce también que el problema principal a atender por los gobiernos reside más bien en cómo corregir o compensar el acceso desigual de la población a los alimentos, a fin de garantizar ese derecho.

Creemos que si la frase en cuestión se redactara colocando la expresión: "para acceder a ellos", en lugar de la expresión: "que les dé derecho a ellos", quedaría enmendado este error.

Debo reiterar que nuestra observación se refiere al texto en español del informe 93/22.

Christian BONAPARTE (Haiti): Ma délégation estime que le document C 93/22 dont nous sommes saisis est relativement complet et explicite sur la situation nutritionnelle dans le monde. Encore faut-il se rappeler que plusieurs milliers de pages pourraient être consacrées à un sujet aussi vaste. Aussi avons-nous l'intention de ne donner ici qu'un bref aperçu du tableau complet et je compresserai donc les quelque 25 pages de remarques que j'avais préparées.

Tout d'abord, ma délégation avait suggéré que soient préparés des tableaux par région puisqu'il s'agit d'une situation qui concerne entre 40 et 60 pour cent de la population mondiale. Il faudrait donc avoir des tableaux un peu plus explicites. Notamment, des tableaux comparatifs par région auraient pu être fournis outre ceux de la production et de la consommation qui figurent en annexe. Cela pourra bien sûr se faire lors d'une prochaine occasion.

Le Secrétariat a compilé une masse énorme d'éléments, d'une façon régulière, comme en témoignent les paragraphes 2 et 3 ainsi que les paragraphes 6 à 10 du document.

Haïti, pays des Caraïbes, est l'un des pays les plus touchés par la malnutrition dans le monde. C'est un pays où les pauvres ne sont pas seulement pauvres mais miséreux. Aussi ma délégation comprend-elle peut-être mieux les données qui nous sont fournies et porte-t-elle une attention plus particulière aux propositions des programmes d'action de la FAO.

Cependant, comme c'est le cas pour d'autres pays membres qui souffrent de la même situation que celle qui prévaut en Haïti, ma délégation reste quelque peu perplexe quant au suivi de la CIN tel que présenté dans le rapport mentionné dans le document, notamment au chapitre V. En fait, la CIN fournit certes un cadre technique pour les plans nationaux et souscrit aux grands principes. Mais où va-t-on? Cela n'est pas très clair. Comment les engagements de cette Conférence, repris dans les paragraphes 37 et 38 du document, pourront-ils être réalisés de façon distincte? Il ne s'agit pas de complémentarité mais d'objectifs qui requièrent des actions plus amples de soutien de la FAO pour l'analyse des politiques et la planification des programmes. Telles que présentées, ce sont des actions essentielles d'accord mais sans fonds additionnels et sans engagements des pays donateurs qui ont avalisé la déclaration de la CIN. Sans possibilité rapide de coopération technique entre les pays en développement, comment allons-nous dire à nos 7 millions d'Haïtiens, nos 7 millions de compatriotes, qu'il faudra encore attendre deux ans avant que nos autorités puissent au moins les rassurer quant à une sécurité alimentaire probable ou proche?

En Haïti, 10 pour cent de la population reçoit une seule ration alimentaire par jour, 100 000 personnes sont dans un état désespéré de dénutrition. Ne confondons pas ici seuil nutritionnel et bien-être nutritionnel, comme on le fait dans le rapport. Il y a en Haïti 4 000 enfants de moins de trois ans qui meurent chaque année.

Il apparaît à ma délégation qu'il faille nous investir davantage - comme cela est mentionné au paragraphe 44 - dans le développement agricole et communautaire, mais de façon prioritaire et en pleine réconciliation avec l'objectif du plan à moyen terme préparé par le Secrétariat de la FAO qui est en discussion à la Commission 2.

Cette délégation a toujours apprécié les efforts du Secrétariat pour présenter et argumenter les programmes envisagés. Nous ne voulons pas remettre en question la validité des remarques qui nous sont présentées ici. Mais nous commençons à entrevoir, après la lecture du paragraphe 45, que les vrais moyens sont effectivement donnés pour le prochain biennium pour établir un centre de références, de formation et de recherche en matière de qualité des aliments et des pesticides. Selon ma délégation, cette Commission devrait travailler pour fournir une réponse et indiquer aux pays membres les moyens avec lesquels la FAO pourrait aller au devant des besoins des Etats Membres dans ce domaine, en particulier pour favoriser le commerce international des denrées, grâce à l'harmonisation des contrôles.

Il est question de plusieurs programmes et notamment des trois grandes priorités des programmes à moyen terme. Nous pensons également à la biodiversité. Pourquoi? Parce qu'on constate que pour certains pays comme c'est le cas en Haïti, avec la dégradation des sols et la pression

démographique, les écotypes locaux sont détruits, ce qui provoque une importation exagérée et inutile d'autres éléments.

Les programmes présentés viennent à temps pour permettre aux pays de conserver les pesticides et de conserver leur patrimoine phylogénétique, parce qu'en conservant cette richesse pour les générations futures, c'est aussi conserver l'économie des pays concernés.

Dans le document que nous avons longuement parcouru, il est indiqué que la FAO participera avec l'OMS à la réalisation des objectifs et du suivi de la CIN. Mais quel est le chronogramme commun? Quelles sont les actions déjà entreprises par l'OMS en collaboration avec la FAO? Cela a été mentionné mais ce n'est pas clairement défini.

De la même manière, le paragraphe 51 mentionne les consultations avec d'autres organisations concernées en la matière, mais lesquelles? Et dans quels temps? Comment cela a-t-il été fait? Quels en sont les résultats? Nous ne voulons pas être critiques, nous voulons être positifs.

Les pays membres doivent être reconnaissants à la FAO qui a déjà prouvé son efficacité et combien elle est indispensable pour les pays en voie de développement, notamment en ce qui concerne son concours en matière technique. Mais Haïti se pose la question comme d'autres pays membres: quelles sont les autres organisations concernées dans le rapport.

Un rôle accru de coordination s'impose pour atteindre au plus tôt l'objectif de notre travail à tous qui est le recul de la misère, l'option de l'accès au minimum indispensable de façon régulière et l'amélioration des conditions de vie de 60 pour cent de la population mondiale et de 100 pour cent de la génération future.

Pour terminer, cette délégation appuie le rapport, avec nos remarques que nous voulons positives et non pas critiques, et demande l'appui de tous les pays membres au Programme d'action spécial d'aide en matière de politiques et de programmation pour la sécurité alimentaire et le développement agricole et rural durables dont il est question aux paragraphes 56 à 59.

La délégation d'Haïti appuie également les autres programmes identifiés et souhaite avoir un tableau budgétaire particulier concernant ces questions.

TANG ZHENGPING (China) (Original language Chinese): Firstly, may I thank Mr Hjort for his presentation? We have read this document on food security and nutritional status with great interest. The document deals with the main problems of this subject in great detail and contains a clear analysis, and an in-depth one, of the situation.

Having looked at the changes that have come about in food security in developing countries' households and the parameters that affect this situation, the document points out a very worrying fact. In spite of sufficient food availability in the world, 20 percent of the developing world's total population is chronically undernourished. I would not like to go into detail about the geographical distribution because the document has done so in a detailed manner.

However, may I point out some things, because it is the poor and the vulnerable who are not able to produce or to purchase sufficient food. My delegation would like to support the analysis prepared by the Secretariat

referring to the main problems regarding food security, as well as the very detailed conclusions in that report.

The final objective of food security must be to ensure physical and economic access to food in sufficient quantities to everybody. At world level, although there are sufficient stocks, it is of great importance that low-income countries and food-deficit countries are able to import food products.

On the other hand, adequate food availability at a national level does not mean that it is adequate at household level.

In view of all this, may I make some proposals? First of all, food-deficit countries should undertake structural adjustment, and give more importance to food production, in order to improve the level of self-sufficiency. We believe this is a priority which might ensure food security at a national level.

Secondly, it is necessary to prepare projects or special programmes on food security in order to ensure for the poor and the vulnerable real access to food essential for survival.

On education and human resources, efforts should be made in order to increase their capacity for self-sufficiency. Furthermore, the international community should increase its aid to food-deficit countries. Aside from humanitarian aid, this assistance should be closely linked with development projects so that these countries can improve their production capacity.

Fourthly, we are satisfied to note that, since the ICN held last year, FAO has undertaken quite a number of activities in this sector and obtained encouraging results. We hope FAO will make renewed efforts in order to mobilize even more resources, including extrabudgetary funding, and that it will take sufficient measures in order to guarantee a good follow-up of ICN.

Sra. Grafila SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Permítame, señor Presidente, agradecer a la Secretaría por la preparación del documento C 93/22 y al señor Hjort por la excelente presentación del mismo.

Este tema referente a la nutrición y a la seguridad alimentaria es un tema de gran interés para la delegación de Cuba. El Sr. Hjort nos ha recordado que la alimentación y la nutrición forman parte de los derechos fundamentales del hombre, así como también nos ha mencionado los esfuerzos que realiza esta Organización para ayudar al logro de este noble propósito.

Nuestro país concedió gran importancia a la celebración de la Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición y por consiguiente estamos muy interesados en dar continuidad a los acuerdos tomados en la misma, o sea a su Plan de Acción. En tal sentido, en Cuba ha continuado funcionando muy activamente el Comité Multidisciplinario e Intersectorial que se creó para los preparativos de la CIN con el objetivo de actualizar nuestro Plan de Acción Nacional para la Nutrición, a la luz de los resultados de la mencionada Conferencia y de la situación específica de nuestro país, siendo el principal objetivo continuar garantizando nuestra seguridad alimentaria; teniendo en cuenta además el reforzamiento de todas las medidas encaminadas a mantener la garantía de la calidad e inocuidad de los alimentos y la

educación en materia de nutrición, así como la lucha contra las enfermedades causadas por carencia de micronutrientes; poniéndose en marcha recientemente un programa mediante el cual todas las personas reciben de manera gratuita un complemento de vitaminas del complejo B, que formó parte de un grupo de medidas que el país puso en práctica para enfrentar de manera integral la epidemia de neuritis óptica que nos afectó recientemente.

También se están logrando grandes progresos en el incremento de la lactancia materna, por considerar que es de suma importancia tanto para los niños como para las madres.

Como expresamos anteriormente, ya estamos trabajando en la actualización de nuestro Programa Nacional. Sin embargo, Cuba está interesada en recibir la asistencia de la FAO para finalizar el Plan de Acción Nacional para la Nutrición. Cuba también ha participado activamente en las actividades organizadas por la FAO para dar seguimiento a este Plan de Acción de la CIN, especialmente en la reunión organizada para nuestra área y que se celebró recientemente en Honduras.

Finalmente, quisiéramos agradecer a todos los países e instituciones que contribuyeron con la FAO y la OMS para la celebración exitosa de la CIN, así como su contribución actual al cumplimiento de su importante Programa de Acción.

Mme Evelynne SENGSUWAN (France): La délégation française s'est déjà exprimée au cours de l'examen du point précédent sur l'évolution de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. Mon propos se limitera, par conséquent, à quelques observations sur trois aspects particuliers du document C 93/22, observations qui complètent l'intervention faite par la Belgique au nom des Etats Membres de la Communauté européenne.

Il s'agit, en premier lieu, de la mise en oeuvre de nouvelles politiques économiques dans le cadre de programmes d'ajustement, et de leurs effets sur la sécurité alimentaire des pays en développement.

Comme le souligne le rapport, certains essais de libéralisation trop rapides, en imposant des sacrifices trop lourds, se sont révélés inapplicables. Cela a conduit les gouvernements de ces pays à adopter des mesures pour protéger les conditions de production et de commercialisation des produits locaux.

La libéralisation, certes nécessaire, des économies des pays en développement structurel ne doit pas se faire au détriment de leur stabilité. Elle ne doit pas non plus entraîner une diminution de la production intérieure, trop durement concurrencée dans un marché plus libre, ni une réduction de l'accès des ménages aux produits alimentaires.

En conséquence, les productions locales d'aliments de base doivent être encouragées et, le cas échéant, protégées, afin de permettre leur maintien et leur développement.

Comme on peut le constater, de nombreux pays sont conscients de cette nécessité et des mesures d'organisation intérieure des marchés sont prévues dans la politique de l'Etat pour protéger la production locale.

Ces politiques permettent également de limiter l'exode rural vers les villes.

Le deuxième point que je souhaiterais aborder est celui du suivi de la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition.

Il convient d'insister sur l'importance de l'évaluation et du suivi de la situation nutritionnelle des pays, préalable indispensable à la mise en oeuvre des plans d'action opérationnels prévus par cette Conférence.

A cet égard, l'amélioration de la capacité des pays en développement pour la collecte et le traitement des données est une priorité. De manière générale, les programmes de formation des cadres nationaux et de sensibilisation des décideurs pour une meilleure prise en considération des problèmes nutritionnels doivent être soutenus.

Nous approuvons les activités de l'OAA dans le domaine de l'éducation nutritionnelle, tout particulièrement en faveur des groupes vulnérables. Le suivi de l'état nutritionnel des ménages ainsi que l'amélioration de la qualité des aliments en micronutriments constituent également des axes prioritaires de l'action de l'OAA.

Je ferai en dernier lieu quelques commentaires sur le programme de l'Organisation en matière de sécurité alimentaire.

L'approche multidisciplinaire adoptée dans ce domaine reçoit notre appui. Mais cet effort semble encore trop modeste et devrait donc être intensifié.

Nous approuvons la méthodologie définie pour l'élaboration de programmes complets de sécurité alimentaire. Nous souhaiterions cependant avoir une vision synthétique des résultats de son application. Il nous serait également utile de mieux cerner les obstacles à l'extension générale de ce programme. Enfin, l'approche régionale devrait, de notre point de vue, être développée.

Sans remettre en cause l'intérêt des activités décrites dans la partie V du document, la délégation française estime que les programmes proposés restent sur bien des aspects trop généraux et devraient être centrés sur des priorités essentielles, compte tenu des moyens financiers limités de l'OAA.

Avant de terminer, je formulerai une remarque à propos du thème de la lutte contre la pauvreté évoqué dans le document. Il s'agit d'une question importante et l'Organisation ne doit pas agir isolément. La concertation et la coordination de l'ensemble des partenaires concernés nous semblent indispensables.

Eberhard SCHMAUZ (Germany) (Original language German): This document, C 93/22, on food security and the food situation, for which we would like to thank the Secretariat and Mr Hjort for his introduction, is closely linked to document C 93/2. This has already been discussed in great detail in this Commission. Furthermore, we see there are a number of cross references to the topics of Agriculture: Towards 2010, environment and sustainable growth and integration of women in rural development, which is something that we will be discussing in our deliberations in this Commission over the next few days.

Would you allow me to make a few general comments? I would also like to refer to a number of specific points in this document. Food security is an elementary and fundamental human right. It is the central concern of FAO. In the preamble to the FAO Statutes it is embodied as one of the main targets of the Organization.

In this document reference is made to the decisive factors which play a role in food security. This makes it clear that we need to have a differentiated perception to be able to assess to what extent food security at national and regional and also at family-household level could be achieved. Full food security will only be in place if every person within a family has access to adequate and balanced diet.

In Chapter 1 of the document it is very clearly shown - and here a number of delegations have referred to this matter already - that 20 percent of the population in developing countries is chronically undernourished; that means about 800 million people. In other words, the target set ten years ago in the bodies of FAO, including the Conference of FAO, that people at any time should have physical and economic access to food could not yet be achieved for many millions of people. Against this background we are very pleased to note that in a series of developing countries the economic situation, measured against GDP and per caput income, has improved. Paragraph 6 however shows quite clearly that this positive development, is not true particularly for many African countries but also for countries in other regions, as we have heard already this morning.

Paragraphs 11-18 which discuss the pros and cons of state price controls, at the problem of the removal of state market intervention and the effects of liberal trade practices in developing countries. This shows quite clearly that the causal connections and links are extremely complex. It shows that under the conditions prevailing, there are problems in allowing free rein to the principles of the free market. It is, therefore, even more important that the GATT negotiations be brought to a successful conclusion quickly so that we can get a fairer world trade system which in the future would take more account of the interests of developing countries.

Sustainable food security presupposes the interaction of a number of factors. There are three important pillars to this. The first is agricultural production, the second environment and the third the development of the population. This means that the basic preconditions for sustainable food security include the necessary economic, environmental, trade, social and political environment in the respective countries. In this connection the action plan of the International Conference on Nutrition is of particular importance. We are very pleased that FAO assists developing countries in implementing these plans. Here the very specific action programme of FAO on food security and sustainable development of agriculture and the programme on nutrition and food quality can also make their contribution. We support the measures taken within those programmes which are referred to in paragraphs 55-63 in greater detail.

Food security can only in the long term become something that we can achieve if it is part of an integrated, comprehensive approach. Here we need targeted help and support as part of development cooperation of industrialized countries. We also need greater cooperation amongst developing countries. Against this background, we support the setting up of an expert panel as part of the Special Action Programme of FAO.

We particularly welcome the fact that the programme described in paragraph 64 is being constructed as a concerted action which will involve other United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations.

Ms Piera MARIN (Italy): The general picture of the world's food and nutrition situation shows small but significant progress on lessening the proportion of the undernourished population in the Third World. The improvement, however, is quite uneven with entire regions lagging behind and showing, sadly, constant figures of a high prevalence of malnutrition. We are thinking of Africa, where per caput cereal production has fallen in most of CIFD countries.

We also need to exert some caution in our satisfaction at the decrease in the percentage of malnutrition elsewhere in the Third World because these populations have much increased in numbers, thus increasing the absolute figures of people without sufficient food and decreasing the first impression of a very satisfactory trend.

Thus, food aid and other actions directed at improving household and food security will remain a necessity in the coming years, making the constant monitoring of the situation and the early warning of emergencies a pressing need.

The action of FAO and other international bodies in this area is highly appreciated.

In this context we would like to emphasize that Italy places her highest expectations on the follow-up activities of the International Conference on Nutrition where the countries and the UN agencies pledged to defeat world hunger and malnutrition in the near future.

As the country that has hosted the ICN works, we are particularly interested to see that action is taken and impact is monitored. We also wish that the vigilance on the phenomenon of malnutrition in the developing countries be maintained and that monitoring of the implementation of the Plan of Action for Nutrition should continue.

Italy wishes also to remind you that within the context of the resolutions of ICN, the worrying problems of diet-related, chronic diseases have been indicated as current in many developed countries and as emerging problems in the developing countries.

Italy feels that FAO has a very important role to play in this context and that the framing of agricultural policies should, in this modern era, be made bearing in mind the unhealthy outcome of an unbalanced diet.

Tae-Jin KWON (Korea, Republic of): On this occasion, I would like to express appreciation for your report on Food Security and Nutrition.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to the members who participated in the follow-up action on the ICN in SOFA and in the FAO's Special Action Programmes on food security. It is my hope that in this session we shall have a meaningful discussion on the report which will bring forth fruitful results to the satisfaction of the many countries concerned.

It was reported that the price of food will gradually increase in most countries in Asia, Latin America and Africa. As regards production, the prospect for the coarse grain production in the year 1993 was favourable in most regions of Africa, excluding North Africa and eastern Africa. The overall outlook for Asian coarse grain production in 1993-94 was favourable. We believe these situations will contribute towards improving the supply of food and nutrition in these regions.

However, the rice harvest for 1993 in the countries of Far East Asia, including Korea, is unfavourable due to the overall cold weather in this region. In addition, cereal stocks in 1992-93 were not up in the developing countries. We should note that these conditions will cause a price increase in food grains in the world market and affect the food supply in the developing countries.

I would like to point out that government expenditure for food subsidies and support for farmers have shown a trend towards reducing. This trend has been, in most cases, caused by the insufficient budget for the agricultural sector and the structural adjustment programmes. In this connection, it should be emphasized that most governments will give special consideration to agricultural producers, particularly small farmers in the developing countries, for their food security.

In order to ensure world food security and to improve the situation of malnutrition in developing countries, it will be necessary to help the developing countries to overcome their economic backwardness. International programmes should be set up to provide adequate opportunities to promote development in the field of agriculture such as sustainable agriculture, family farms, rural communities, and agricultural infrastructure.

It is my belief that developing countries which have suffered from food-deficiency should be allowed to regulate the imports of agricultural products from developed countries within a certain framework. Such regulation of diversified programmes for the development of sustainable agriculture should be accelerated in these countries. On the other hand, the level of regulation for food production in developed countries should be reduced for the purpose of providing better market access for developing countries and of contributing to the improvement of agricultural trade.

On behalf of the Korean delegation, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation for the great efforts made by FAO for the improvement of nutritional well-being, the assurance of food quality and safety, the combatting of micronutrient deficiency diseases, and the promotion of nutrient education. In relation to these FAO activities, I hope that all action programmes should be continuously implemented at the national, regional, and global levels through close cooperation among nations and the international organizations concerned.

On the occasion of this session, my delegation hopes that ongoing Uruguay Round negotiations will be concluded with fair consideration for all participating countries. However, we believe the existing text on the agricultural negotiations of the Uruguay Round does not reflect the special interests of food importing countries and exporting countries or developing and developed countries in a balanced and equitable manner.

With a view to assuring the stabilized supply of food and the development of agriculture in developing countries, the agricultural negotiations should give special consideration to coordinating the interests of all

countries. In particular, some exceptions must be made for the security of food, the extra economic effects of agriculture, and the conservation of national land in food importing countries.

Ms Thakane ADORO (Lesotho): Allow me to congratulate the Secretariat on the highly informative document before us.

As regards food security, we would ally ourselves fully with the contents of paragraph 3 which stipulates that ensuring household food security is a necessary condition for improving nutrition, but by itself is not sufficient. Indeed the food secured should always be nutritious enough to combat malnutrition and other diseases.

Lesotho supports fully the liberalization of agricultural marketing policies, and plans are already under way to privatize our main marketing agency. We are, however, concerned that too rapid a process of liberalization in the developing countries can lead to a decrease in domestic production as local producers find themselves unable to adapt to more open markets, as paragraph 16 clearly states.

Overall, food production in Africa is unsatisfactory, especially in the southern African sub-region, due to man-made and natural calamities. We in Lesotho have been unable to recover fully from the effects of the 1992 drought due to late rains, and as a result our production was below average despite estimates for 1993. We are, therefore, still faced with food supply difficulties.

We wish to reiterate our support for the World Declaration and Plan of Action on Nutrition. At this juncture, we wish to urge FAO to continue to assist countries to prepare their plans of action. We also support fully the contents of paragraphs 41, 42 and 43.

We are happy to learn that FAO will continue to assist member countries in implementing standards and codes prepared by the FAO and WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission to maintain and improve food quality.

We would also call for the strengthening of this important sector in FAO in order to enable it to assist Member States in a more balanced manner.

C.B. HOÛTOAN (Netherlands): First of all, I would like to thank Mr Hjort for his introduction and the supplementary information to the document.

The Netherlands delegation is of the opinion that the document is rather descriptive. Of course, this is useful but we would rather have had this document come to conclusions. To mention one, what effect would the various government measures have on the food security situations of especially vulnerable groups?

The Netherlands are of the opinion that food security is predominantly an objective rather than an organizational principle. The proposed Special Action Programme for Country Policy and Programming Assistance for Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development - PSF/SARD -underline this opinion. They mean an increased cooperation between the various divisions and services within the Economic and Social Department, and we appreciate that.

Moreover, we would have had more appreciation had mention not only been made of increased cooperation between the various departments and their divisions and services, which in our opinion is a must, but had this also been more elaborated. The Netherlands has always favoured such a broad approach to food security.

The new SAP nutrition/food quality is based on technical merit, but an overlap with the SAP which was discussed earlier is not imaginary. We request the Secretariat to watch this carefully to prevent possible overlapping.

I have a last remark on food security. Paragraph 44 underlines a bottom-up approach with food in secure households as a point of departure for an item in programmes and projects. However, we are missing the complementing activities on a macro and sectorial level. We are somewhat concerned at this isolated approach.

I will proceed now with some remarks on the follow-up of the International Conference on Nutrition. As you may be aware, the Netherlands delegation to the ICN placed much emphasis on the follow-up at the Conference. We made a large intervention on this issue during COAG, and as a follow-up to that we would like to know how the situation is at present. We are interested in the following.

At local level, the follow-up situation in the various countries: what activities are under way? How many countries have asked for assistance? To what extent was FAO able to respond? What is the situation regarding the financing of the various activities?

At the regional level, we already have the question: is there any progress with regional initiatives? How many networks are being developed or are being supported? We already have information from Mr Hjort on this on the Thailand and Honduras network and we are looking forward now to the more extensive reporting of that.

Regarding the FAO itself, what are the developments inside the FAO Secretariat? How many junior professional officers have been recruited so far to assist at national level in drawing up a national action plan? What has been done within the FAO Secretariat to sensitize FAO staff for inclusion of more nutritional aspects in the various programmes?

We are in the process of preparing a resolution that takes care of the questions I have just posed and that relate to the follow-up of ICN. More specifically, such a resolution should concentrate on elements of regional cooperation and should stimulate nutrition awareness in the programmes and projects of FAO.

We will proceed to the Resolutions Committee with a properly considered resolution. We will take care of the distribution of this resolution to this Commission so that, if required, it can be discussed in the normal way.

CHAIRMAN (Original language German) s I would like to thank the delegate from the Netherlands for that contribution, but I would ask that the text of this resolution be submitted to the Secretariat, or to the Resolutions Committee as soon as possible.

Carlos BASCO (Argentina): La Delegación de Argentina expresa su profunda preocupación acerca del hecho de que todavía el 20 por ciento de la población del mundo en desarrollo sufría desnutrición crónica en 1988/90, y que su consumo de alimentos era insuficiente para cubrir ni siquiera las necesidades energéticas mínimas. A pesar de los avances observados, la situación es especialmente preocupante al comparar con el mundo industrializado, e incluso podría decirse obscena, por la sofisticación y exigencias en materia de consumo de alimentos que llevan a producir hasta problemas de salud causados por excesos de comida, cuando en estos años de globalización de mercados e información, otras partes de la población sufren problemas de desnutrición como los que se conocen.

Se observa también con interés y agrado lo indicado en el documento acerca de que la liberalización de las políticas comerciales nacionales en algunos países han permitido mejorar la disponibilidad material de los alimentos donde han sido aplicadas.

A largo plazo estas políticas permitirán mejorar la situación observada. Sin embargo, se deberán asegurar mecanismos de ayuda en aquellos casos que lo ameriten, especialmente en situaciones de emergencia.

Arrow Solomon OBURŪ (Kenya) : As this is the first time my delegation is speaking in this Commission, Mr Chairman, allow me to congratulate you on your election to the chair. We believe that your successful guidance will facilitate fruitful deliberations, and that the conclusions of the Commission will give hope to the millions of starving and malnourished people in the developing countries.

We commend the Secretariat for their exposition of the status of food security prevailing currently, as stated in the introduction of document C 93/2 and its supplement on the State of Food and Agriculture. We subscribe to the concept that food security is inseparably linked to physical and economic access by all people at all times to a balanced diet. However, while the document indicates a disparity situation in which the developing countries, especially those in Africa, are locked, it does prove that poverty is the parent for both stagnation and declining growth in food and agricultural output, and therefore is the fundamental catalyst in food insecurity, especially access to quality food.

The economies of sub-Saharan Africa are heavily dependent on earnings from trade in agricultural commodities. Persistently falling prices of agricultural products set against consistent rises in the cost of inputs, most of which are imported, condemn farmers to infinite poverty, consequently inhibiting their capacity to produce sufficient food.

The Kenya delegation therefore considers economic improvement, with its enhanced purchasing power, is a necessary ingredient in guaranteeing food and nutrition security. In this regard the international community must see that improvement of agricultural commodity prices is essential to ensure food and nutritional security.

Amorim CRUZ (Portugal): La délégation portugaise, après avoir analysé les excellents documents préparés par le Secrétariat, manifeste sa préoccupation face à l'évolution de la situation alimentaire et nutritionnelle dans plusieurs pays en développement, particulièrement en Afrique, où s'est vérifiée ces vingt dernières années une croissance

dramatique du nombre de personnes souffrant de malnutrition, contrairement à ce qui s'est passé dans d'autres régions du monde.

La situation est particulièrement dramatique dans quelques pays d'Afrique, au sud du Sahara, auxquels le Portugal est profondément lié depuis plus de cinq siècles. Dans ces pays, à cause de la sécheresse, de la guerre civile, de l'instabilité politique, du déplacement des populations et d'autres facteurs, on a constaté une dégradation accentuée de l'état nutritionnel et de la santé des populations; on a relevé, dans certains de ces pays, une prévalence très élevée de malnutrition protéino-énergétique aiguë, d'anémies dues à la déficience en fer et de maladies dues aux carences en iode, vitamine A, etc.

Le Portugal renforce l'opinion exprimée par le Représentant de la Communauté européenne au sujet de la nécessité de donner la priorité aux mesures visant à appuyer le développement à long terme plutôt qu'à court terme.

Cependant, étant donné la grave situation dans laquelle se trouvent les pays dont nous avons parlé, le Portugal en appelle à la communauté internationale pour que soient accordés à ces pays tout l'appui possible afin qu'ils connaissent la stabilité politique, et l'aide nécessaire pour réduire le plus rapidement possible les graves problèmes nutritionnels et sanitaires qui affligent leur population.

Parviz KARBASI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): In the name of God. It is my pleasure to thank FAO for its activities on world food security, and for the excellent document C 93/62. I would also like to thank -Mr Hjort for his excellent introduction.

The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran is pleased to welcome the joint cooperation of WHO and FAO in the implementation of ICN, but we believe it is not sufficient. Without food security, biodiversity will suffer and will be degraded; oceans will be even more polluted, forests will be destroyed, the ozone layer maybe will disappear, refugees from poverty and hunger will increase, and the rich will watch the poor and hungry die. It is already late for stopping this catastrophe easily. Many delegates have talked about the need for some coordination, and this is a point I would like to comment more upon.

The objective of world food security is to ensure all people at all times have both physical and economic access to the basic food they need. This is the minimum human right. We have just heard that two billion people are suffering from some kind of insufficient food supply, or food security, malnutrition and so on. We believe world food security needs much more attention from the world community. This is a most critical issue and it is essential that we respond seriously to it, and take a coordinated approach. We believe that strong policy coordination on food security by the Member Nations of the United Nations - but not ACC of the United Nations - is one of the first and most important steps, and may be a good mechanism.

We believe the policy of coordination of world food security could be discussed in a high-level forum composed of the ministers with competence for food security from developing countries, and the ministers of cooperation or development or agriculture of the developed countries and the chairmen of all UN agencies. This kind of coordination with a system of expertise on food security would be able to coordinate and harmonize a

world food policy. This high-level world food coordination would call for harmonised national action on food security in each country. We believe that food security is a prerequisite for the implementation of UNCED and sustainable development. Without food security sustainable development and environmental protection is just a lot of talk by the international media - nice to hear and read about.

My delegation believes that FAO should seek for a new policy coordination to cover all the objectives of world food security with the assistance of the UN agencies. We recommend the World Food Security Council to coordinate the food security policy coordination instead of the World Food Council whose Secretariat in Rome was unfortunately closed by the Secretary-General .

Ma Carol KRAMER (United States of America): My delegation would like to express its appreciation to Mr Hjort and the Secretariat for their efforts in supporting food security and improved nutrition.

The Food Security and Nutrition Status Report, document C 93/22, provides a useful overview of the current food and nutrition situation and future outlook in developing countries. As the document points out, food security is more than the availability and access to food. In addition to food entitlements, it encompasses improved utilization of food at the household and individual level.

In this context nutrition and food safety education and communication can make important contributions in supporting sustainable solutions to food security problems. The capacity to monitor and assess food insecurity situations is also essential if those countries most in need are effectively to utilize scarce resources, and provide adequate nutrition to their people, as the ICN Declaration states.

We suggest that, if this report is to be produced on a continuing basis, it should go beyond the issue of food supplies and report on other important nutritional problems, such as the incidence of diet-related diseases and measures to deal with them, since they are a growing problem in developed and developing countries alike. In addition to relating developments in ICN follow-up, the report could perhaps address one major nutritional issue in some detail.

FAO has an extremely important role to play in carrying out the mandates of the International Conference on Nutrition. As one of the co-sponsors, FAO has special responsibilities in seeing real results generated from the commitments made in Rome. FAO's decision to introduce a more integrated approach to its provision of policy advice and programming assistance is a positive step and one which must be translated into action. FAO programmes in nutrition education, agricultural production and technology and food quality and safety should take into account and incorporate the food security and nutritional concerns outlined in the ICN final documents.

At this point I should like to comment that the US supports the excellent intervention made by the delegate of the United Kingdom. In particular we echo their support of FAO's role in the four important areas mentioned previously: as a global advisory body on agriculture and food issues; in promoting and fostering marketing systems for the benefit of the nutritionally vulnerable; in developing national food and nutrition

information systems to identify and monitor the at-risk population groups; and in improving consumer awareness and nutritional education programmes.

We also agree with the UK that, if special action plans are to be effective, they should be supported by the thorough economic and social analysis previously called for, supporting the need to identify the different socio-economic groups of the real poor and the causes of their poverty.

I should now like to comment on some specific efforts in which the United States is involved in this area. In those countries where food availability and access continue to be insufficient, the United States provides emergency assistance and development support under PL-480, our Food for Peace legislation, Food for Progress and Section 416b donations of government-owned commodities. In fiscal year 1993 these programmes reached an historic high. Total USAID food donations climbed to roughly 3 billion dollars, providing 13 million metric tons of commodity assistance. I might add that this was roughly US\$2.5 billion worth of commodities plus transportation. Of that US\$2.5 billion, roughly US\$900 million went to the newly independent states: that is, of the 13 million metric tons, about 7 million were allocated to the newly independent states.

The US\$50 million OMNI (Opportunities for Micronutrient Interventions) project which was announced at the ICN by the United States has now begun. Through OMNI, assistance will be given to host countries to help them develop sustainable programmes aimed at increasing and improving the availability, the access and the consumption of micronutrients by vulnerable individuals. It will be the largest single global effort to address micronutrient deficiency.

USAID also funds a collaborative effort with IFPRI (the International Food Policy Research Institute), which is one of the research groups comprising the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). Activities focus on the development of improved crop varieties, which can increase food supplies and lower prices, raising farm profits and rural employment. Special emphasis is placed on adopting micronutrient rich food production technologies through plant breeding and better agronomic practices and food processing.

Finally, the United States has already begun work on its National Plan of Action on Nutrition. Public hearings have been held to solicit suggestions for new initiatives, legislation and changes in existing government regulations. Consumer, food industry and private voluntary groups have all submitted recommendations for the US National Plan of Action, which will cover both domestic nutrition activities and US Government programmes to assist other nations in building their food security, solving their food safety problems and improving nutrition among their people. A first draft of the US Plan will be available for public comment in the spring of 1994 and we anticipate that congressional hearings will be held on the Plan before it is finalized.

Iain C. MacGILLIVRAY (Canada) : Allow me, like others, to thank Dr Hjort for his succinct update on the contents of the document before us.

Canada strongly supports the aims and purposes of the community of international nutrition, their agencies, partners and collaborators. We are encouraged that increasing attention and action are now being focused, by

donor and developing countries alike, upon improvement of nutritional well-being globally, We extend our support to this worldwide effort to the achievement of ICN goals.

With reference to document C 93/22, the section on food production and outlook in the developing countries is important and addresses squarely one of FAO's basic concerns.

The section on access to food is also essential and worthy of further examination. However, the Committee on World Food Security examined some promising work of the Secretariat on food security indicators, and a fuller exposure in this area would be welcome. Although the indicators chosen are important, the country coverage is only partial and one is left to guess at overall trends. The Canadian delegation would like to see more comprehensive coverage in terms of countries, as analysis of future access indicators possibly developed for future committees on world food security.

We feel that the section on follow-up to the ICN could usefully be given greater precision. As an example of how more specific information could be provided, I would like to refer to a few initiatives taken by my own country; I am sure that other countries could provide other examples. Canada has been actively involved in furthering programming aimed at the virtual elimination of micronutrient malnutrition in developing countries. The Canadian International Development Agency, CIDA, is a founding member and donor to the newly created Micronutrient Initiative, located at the International Development Research Centre in Ottawa. The Micronutrient Initiative aims to facilitate action at the country level by putting in place sustainable national control programmes to address vitamin A deficiency, iron deficiency, anaemia and iodine deficiency disorders. Even though this is a relatively new undertaking, results have already become apparent: for example, in the funding of key priority projects including small-scale operations, research projects aimed at solving critical programming questions and issues. Further, with CIDA financial support, the Micronutrient Initiative Programme, in July of this year in Ottawa, hosted a vitamin A policy consultation. This meeting brought together some 50 Vitamin A experts and programme managers from developing countries. The discussion on vitamin A policy resulted in a state-of-the-art Guideline that will assist in the design and implementation of viable programmes. The Guideline critically examines the role of the high-dose capsule in endemic areas, which to date is a controversial issue in vitamin A programming.

Similarly, Canada, over the past year, has funded workshops in a series of developing countries aimed specifically at mobilizing the private sector to become involved in the fortification of food supplies to ensure adequate micronutrient intake of at-risk populations. Working with UNICEF in Central America just two weeks ago, one such workshop resulted in a six-country federation of salt producers which has endorsed universal salt iodization by the end of 1995, this being a mid-decade ICN goal, a necessary step towards the elimination of iodine deficiency disorders by the year 2000.

Relatively speaking, neither of these initiatives required large amounts of funds, rather the reallocation of existing funds and priorities. Further, both of these initiatives specifically address known gaps in existing programmes. The lesson to be learned here, we would suggest, is that it is possible, even during times of resource constraint, to move at a quickened pace, utilizing existing mechanisms to address known needs and to achieve early results. To achieve the ICN goals, we should identify new and innovative approaches, fund them adequately and implement them without

delay. Mechanisms for the global monitoring and evaluation of such approaches need to be in place and utilized to the maximum extent so that information is widely available, consistently up-dated and acted upon.

In addition, there has, we believe, been too little coverage of the actions of other United Nations organizations such as the Administrative Committee on Coordination's Sub-Committee on Nutrition and the World Health Organization. Both are vigorous partners in the ICN follow-up and their collaborative work deserves much more coverage.

Canada would like to support the comments which have been made by the delegate of the United Kingdom, supported also by the delegate of the United States, with regard to the role of FAO in the four areas mentioned, specifically with regard to a global advisory body for improving consumer awareness and education programmes.

The Canadian delegation believes that to date there has been too much repetition between the documents, which contain few hard facts and much generality. We subscribe to the comments made by the delegate of the Netherlands specifically on these points. Achieving the ICN goals will call for considerably more vision as well as concerted and demonstrated willingness on FAO's part to report in a very open fashion on results of programmes rather than upon structure and future intent of programmes. FAO Conference documents need not repeat what is available elsewhere, rather they should take maximum advantage of their large leadership, to motivate, to share experience and to report results.

Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago): Mr Chairman, with your permission and that of the delegates, the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago will submit for inclusion in the final verbatim report its comments and contributions to the debate on this item.

CHAIRMAN (Original language German): Thank you. Your statement in its entirety will be put into the verbatim report.

Antonio CABRALES (El Salvador): He querido intervenir, tal vez, para dar un poco de experiencia que hemos tenido en nuestro país y que me gustaría compartir con todos los delegados. Comenzaré por decir que la seguridad alimentaria sin lugar a dudas es una aspiración, una aspiración de todo el mundo en desarrollo. Los países industrializados lograron esa aspiración después de su experiencia de la primera y segunda guerras mundiales. Fue luego cuando ellos decidieron una política de producir alimentos a cualquier costo. Así fue como nacieron precisamente los subsidios europeos y así también fue que tenemos tantos excedentes de parte del mundo desarrollado en cuanto a alimentos; y creo que no podemos culparlos después de haber vivido dos guerras mundiales. Ahora vemos que precisamente esa política, que fue exitosa, nos da tantos problemas al mundo en desarrollo. Pero bueno, eso es nada más que un poco de historia, la pregunta realmente que me gustaría llegar a fondo esta tarde es cómo hacer una realidad esa aspiración de todos nosotros de experimentar la seguridad alimentaria. Nuestra experiencia en los últimos cuatro años y medio es que se requiere realmente de la elaboración de una política integral de producción de alimentos, política que debe de tener como base principal incentivos al productor, quizás yo respondo mucho a esto porque fui agricultor por más de treinta años y creo que muchos aquí también, y sabemos muy bien que al

mejor incentivo que responde el productor es con los precios, y los precios deben de ser rentables, de lo contrario nadie produce para perder dinero. Esto sólo se logra con una política muy integral, vuelvo a repetir, y quiero aquí compartir un poquito la experiencia de los últimos cuatro años y medio en nuestro país y lo hago, señor Presidente, no por destacarnos en ninguna forma, sino más bien por compartir estas experiencias.

Yo, como Ministro de Agricultura, puedo decirle que le he dedicado el 80 por ciento de mi tiempo a esta problemática, quizás mucho tiempo a ello, pero era porque teníamos doce años de guerra y el señor Presidente Cristiani me dijo: Señor Ministro quiero que exista suficiente maíz, frijol y arroz en nuestro país. No sabía como elaborar una política alimentaria para lograr la seguridad alimentaria. Pedí ayuda al Banco Mundial, a buenos economistas, así que lo que yo relato no es de mi propio pensamiento, sino de buenos asesores. Lo que hemos hecho es poner en práctica lo que a nosotros se nos dijo que deberíamos hacer. Primero, se necesita una política muy coherente en la parte macroeconómica y aquí sólo quiero relatar muy brevemente una experiencia propia en cuanto a lo que es el tipo de cambio. Mi sufrimiento era que íbamos a poner a flotar nuestra moneda y que el tipo de cambio se iba a elevar; yo comprendía, como Ministro, que eso iba a incentivar mucho las exportaciones de café, azúcar, algodón, etcétera; pero lo único que sabía era que me iban a costar más todos los insumos, fertilizantes, semillas, insecticidas, etcétera, y mi miedo era subir los costos de producción a los productos básicos de alimentación y que me iba a poner en problemas más grandes.

El Dr. Harburger, conocido economista mundial de la Universidad de Chicago, me decía: Antonio, no se preocupe, la agricultura es muy transable, es muy "tradeable". Yo no sabía lo que quería decir transable, era agricultor y estaba aprendiendo a ser Ministro, pero tenía un buen economista que me estaba asesorando y decía: bueno aquí hay que persignarse nada más y esperar a que el Dr. Harburger tenga razón en lo que me decía. Lo que les puedo decir es que aprendí que la agricultura es muy transable, y que el tipo de cambio es una de las cosas más importantes para producir alimentos en cualquier país del mundo, y aquí se ha producido mucha hambre en el mundo y mucha pobreza en el mundo en los últimos treinta años, porque los políticos han manipulado el tipo de cambio. El tipo de cambio es sagrado y hay que dejarlo que sea un precio sin ninguna distorsión. Puedo decirles, señores, que cuando hay un tipo de cambio real todo comienza a cambiar en un país, y una de las primeras cosas son los precios a los granos básicos que comienzan a verse mejorados.

Menciono esto para que ustedes nada más comprendan lo que es una buena política de tipo macroeconómico. Luego debe de tener una política también muy coherente y acorde. Se deben eliminar los controles de precios; se deben eliminar los precios de garantía; se tiene que tener fe o no en el mercado. Yo voy por muchos países y veo que dicen sí estamos viendo economía de mercado, pero no quitan las distorsiones porque no tienen fe en el mercado, y yo les digo tírense a la piscina de una sola vez, quiten toda clase de distorsión porque no pueden estar peor de como están. Lo más probable es que van a estar mejor al quitar todas esas distorsiones, hay que aprender a tener fe en el mercado. Luego hay que tener una política sectorial también bien elaborada. Aquí las bandas de precio juegan una parte muy importante; como decía el señor Hjort esta mañana temprano. Otra aspiración nuestra es que debería de existir libre mercado y justo mercado. El dijo que la realidad es que no existe un justo mercado, y por eso dijo una cosa muy importante; debemos proteger nuestros mercados, y una forma de protegerlo y causar la mínima distorsión es la banda de precios que son

legales en el GATT. Hay muchas clases de bandas de precios, pero hay una legal en el GATT que conlleva muy poca distorsión y es la forma de protegerse contra los granos básicos de otros países, pues donde los subsidios se tienen que controlar las donaciones. Aquí también siento, señor Presidente, que muchos países quieren la seguridad alimentaria, pero por otro lado piden donaciones enormes de alimentos. En mi país, que es muy pequeño, un barco de arroz puede distorsionar todos los precios de la cosecha de arroz en El Salvador; un barco que llegue al puerto, de eso estamos hablando muchas veces en nuestros países, en otros países se requieren diez barcos, cinco barcos, no sé, pero son economías pequeñas en donde la distorsión de precios es muy fácil lograrla, como vuelvo a repetir, en el caso de El Salvador, con un barco que llegue lleno de arroz. Luego, la forma en que se administran estas donaciones en mi país, iban a dar a todos lados menos donde debían de dar; no llegaban a los damnificados, no llegaban a los grupos vulnerables, sino a las panaderías, al comercio, etcétera, etcétera. Eso hay que eliminarlo, si no no va a haber nunca seguridad alimentaria. Hay que tener cuidado con las importaciones y en muchos países se importa cuando está saliendo la cosecha, y si está uno en una economía de mercado, esas son señales nefastas para los productores; no hay cosa que más pueda frustrar a un productor, que ver que de repente sale anunciado en el diario que llega maíz o frijol al país, donados en momentos en que la cosecha está por salir.

Se necesita crédito, pero lo que yo he aprendido es que no es sólo crédito para producir, sino crédito para comercializar. El año pasado tuvimos nosotros en El Salvador la cosecha más grande de maíz en la historia, tuvimos que sacar crédito para que los ganaderos, los avicultores, las fábricas de concentrados, tuvieran crédito para comprar esa gran cosecha. Sacamos más de 250 millones de colones para crédito, y eso hizo que los precios no bajaran de la noche a la mañana, antes no había crédito para comercializar. Parecen cosas muy sencillas, pero no se hacían antes, hoy se hacen y las cosas cambian.

Luego, se necesita, lógicamente, pero son las cosas a más largo plazo, tener investigación adecuada, extensión adecuada, educación agrícola y también reservas de grano, reservas estratégicas para cualquier eventualidad de un desastre de tipo natural. Nosotros mantenemos un mes de reserva estratégica, porque un mes es lo que dura importar grano de cualquier parte del mundo, así es que mantenemos un mes, no para estar influyendo en el mercado, sino por cualquier desastre.

Quiero decirles que también no todo es de color de rosa en nuestro país, porque estamos produciendo ahora mucho maíz, mucho frijol, mucho arroz, pero el costo de la parte de la erosión no la hemos podido medir todavía, y sabemos que tenemos, por estudios que hemos hecho, apenas unos veinticinco años más de suelo para producir, por eso es que también hay que tener cuidado con la parte de la sostenibilidad. A través de la FAO, estamos elaborando ahora en El Salvador una política nacional de agricultura sostenible, porque de lo contrario en veinticinco años no va a haber tierra para seguir produciendo el maíz, el frijol; porque casi todo ello se produce en terrenos muy inclinados donde hay mucha erosión.

Como pueden ver, este éxito, siento yo, que se debe al mucho trabajo, a políticas bien elaboradas y quiero hacer énfasis en lo siguiente: no puede haber éxito si se hacen dos cosas bien hechas, tiene que hacerse todo bien hecho, si falta un factor se viene para abajo la seguridad alimentaria; si no hay el crédito suficiente para la comercialización se van los precios

para abajo, y ya nadie quiere sembrar el próximo año, o sea, la experiencia nos ha demostrado que si son diez los pasos que hay que hacer, hay que hacer diez, y bien hechos, no se pueden hacer ocho ni nueve, tienen que ser diez, y entonces se logra la seguridad alimentaria. Yo siento que la FAO nos puede ayudar en la transferencia de tecnologías, siento que nos puede ayudar a combatir el locus, o el chapulín, que decimos nosotros. Nosotros tuvimos hace cuatro años una plaga muy fuerte, nos mandaron al famoso Dr. Scarfe y hemos estado luchando duro, tanto Honduras, Nicaragua y El Salvador. Hemos logrado disminuir enormemente la población de locus y ya no es un peligro, siento que la FAO puede ayudar mucho ahí. Creo que la FAO nos puede ayudar en la parte de hacer conciencia en cuanto a lograr un comercio libre y justo, pero somos nosotros los países, y su política integral, tanto macro, micro, y sectorial, los únicos que pueden resolver el problema de la seguridad alimentaria.

A. VESTEN PEDERSEN (Denmark): We wish to thank the Secretariat on the excellent document. The report provides a mixture of the actual position and the development in the food security and nutrition situation in developing countries.

The report notes that food supplies are adequate on the global level and also that the number of chronically undernourished people in developing countries has been declining over the past twenty years to an estimated twenty percent in 1988-90.

The report also notes - and we agree - that people primarily affected by malnutrition are the poor and disadvantaged who live in marginal environments and are poorly educated.

It is therefore encouraging to note the figures in the report on growth of GNP in developing countries showing a growth in 1992 of 4.8 percent and thus a better performance than that of the developed countries. The GNP per caput in the developing countries is also increasing, but not at the same rate as the overall growth in GNP, reflecting also the steady growth in population in some of these countries.

It will on this background take an immense effort to assure the future supply of carbohydrates, proteins and other essential nutrients and this will put further strain on the production resources and the environment.

It is stated in the report in paragraph 14 that the trend towards reducing government participation in agricultural marketing is continuing and in paragraph 16 that the policy changes involving more liberal trading systems can be expected to improve the availability of food in countries adopting such policies.

We very much welcome this development and more countries should be invited to adopt such policies. At the same time governments should be prepared to deal with problems that might arise for the domestic production and local producers when markets are opened up.

On the question of the World Declaration and Plan for Nutrition and Plan of Action for Nutrition we note that FAO and WHO will prepare a report on the implementation to be considered by the governing bodies in 1995 and we look forward to receiving this report.

FAO's support for the programme includes community development and enhanced household food security. Farming is the major activity and means of livelihood for many of the world's poor and it is therefore essential to improve the incomes of farmers and living conditions in the rural areas. On this we agree with the report.

Another area of FAO support is improvement of food quality and safety. Farmers are fully aware of their fundamental responsibility to provide the consumers with safe high quality food products. Perhaps it is often overlooked that farmers themselves are consumers and as such equally concerned with providing their families with safe nutritious food.

We find it interesting that FAO is considering action to establish effective working relations with the food industry to assure compliance with food legislation and regulations, promote food import/export inspection systems etc. and in particular we find the cooperation with GATT in relation to sanitary measures and technical barriers to trade to be of interest, in particular when the present GATT trade negotiations are concluded.

Finally, inter-agency cooperation in ICN follow-up activities is important. In particular, we would support FAO cooperation with NGOs. We find it essential to establish and expand this cooperation.

Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago): The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago thanks the Secretariat on this further exposition which effectively extends on the information provided in the SOFA 1993 Report.

Our own experience suggests that the current household food security and nutrition status in many developing countries may be seriously compromised as governments struggle to curb budget deficits and grapple with the policy prescriptions related to structural adjustment programmes. The pace and degree of the adjustment process often wreak social havoc in our countries, with the most vulnerable groups bearing the brunt of the impact. The social security and safety net measures are often too limited in scope and not timely in application to sufficiently cushion these adverse effects.

Reduced employment opportunities in the state, parastatal and private sectors, reduced food subsidies and a general reining in of government spending, all take their toll in reducing economic access to food by many. And while the effective impact on the nutritional well being of our populations has not been measured, it is clear that it is significant.

This is further exacerbated when trade reform impacts adversely, at least in the short term, on our vulnerable agricultural sectors resulting in a decline in rural self-employment opportunities and contributing to the rural-urban drift.

Accordingly Mr. Chairman, we caution not so much the nature of these policy changes that are being followed at the macro and sectoral levels, but the pace and degree with which they are being implemented.

These are significant changes impacting on people's lives and welfare. Sufficient time should be allowed for adjustment and transition without

undermining the effectiveness of these needed policy changes on their credibility, in light of the experiences of the intended beneficiaries.¹

Ermond HARTMANS (Observer for Caritas International): I take the floor in my capacity as the elected chairman of the Informal Meeting of International Non-Governmental Organizations which took place here in FAO on Tuesday, 9 November. At this meeting, there were 38 participant members, of whom 36 came from International Non-Governmental Organizations having formal relations with FAO.

As I am speaking for the first time at this Conference, I should like to take this opportunity in the name of all the participants at the NGO meeting to express warm, wholehearted congratulations to Mr Jacques Diouf on his election as future Director-General of FAO. As I have known Mr Jacques Diouf personally for many years, I know he has great sympathy and appreciation for the work of NGOs. I have no doubt that he, coming from a continent where so many NGOs have major activities, will further strengthen and intensify the already existing collaboration between FAO and NGOs.

At the same time I wish to thank Mr Saouma for his personal interest and endeavours to make NGOs a real part of the work of the Organization. This came to a culmination during the ICN where some 150 NGOs were present here in Rome. As was mentioned by the Deputy Director-General in his introductory statement, and in the Journal of 10 November, the participants at the INGO meeting discussed sustainable development and participatory approach, with special reference to the implementation of the ICN Plan of Action, and also the UNCED Agenda 21 and the FAO Plan of Action for Women in Development - three topics which, to a great extent, are interlinked, as was clearly evidenced by the discussions at the NGO meeting. A report on the deliberations of the NGOs, with observations and suggestions, is presently being processed and should be available next week, as was mentioned by Mr Hjort.

Unfortunately, this report could not be ready before this meeting on World Food Security and Nutritional Status. It should, however, be in your hands before the other two topics come up for discussion next week on Tuesday and Thursday.

Allow me to make a few comments relating to the present topic under discussion. The NGOs expressed satisfaction that the ICN Plan of Action emphasizes the basic need to increase food production, especially for the really poor and undernourished, and the vital role women play in this respect. It is also noted that the NGO involvement at national and local level in partnership with government is emphasized in several sections of the Plan of Action. Here only a few delegates during this meeting have mentioned the role of NGOs in food assistance and rehabilitation for permanent food security. NGOs are of the opinion that our participatory approach must include various groups of society involved in all activities related to the ICN Plan of Action. This would ensure that the decision-making process takes into account the real needs of the people and especially the needs of the rural poor and the voiceless who are the special concern of the NGO Organizations.

¹ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request

The following matters received special attention at the meeting. I mention a few.

First, the importance of encouraging the production of traditional food crops such as roots, tubers and pulses as they are the staple food of many continents in the humid and sub-humid tropics, in Africa, the Caribbean and elsewhere. In particular it was stressed that planting material and seeds of the best available variations be readily available to small farmers in the rural areas. As a personal observation, I wish to draw attention to the potential use of cassava kept in the ground as a food resource for food security purposes rather than only relying on cereal supplies which may not be the traditional crops for either production or consumption.

Second, the need for producers to receive remunerative prices for food crops and the importance of having access to the necessary inputs and credits at reasonable costs. This was emphasized a few minutes ago by the delegate from Kenya.

Third, the potential negative effect of food aid and especially dumping on local food production and markets.

Fourth, the potential decrease of local production with a too rapid process of liberalization of trading systems and the consequential detrimental effect on small farmers.

It was stressed that the role of NGOs is important in improving levels of education generally but also in providing correct nutrition education and information at all levels. Special attention in this connection should be given to the rural sector, including both men and women.

Finally, it was stressed that the guidelines for the Plan of Action at the country levels should be simple and pragmatic so that ordinary rural people with little or no education can understand them.

I am aware that several delegates in their statements have mentioned one or more of these issues which reinforce the views of the NGO participants.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: First, a general comment; there were times this afternoon when I thought that in preparing the statements perhaps some people had forgotten to refer to the ICN Plan of Action that was adopted last December. Since it has rather clear guidelines for us, for you and for everybody else in the United Nations system and the non-governmental community - in other words everybody and anybody who is concerned about this matter - it specifies what you should be doing, what we should be doing and what they should be doing in the nature of follow-up coordination, collaboration and cooperation.

A specific point in this regard that was mentioned was the ACC/SCN. This was mentioned a couple of times. You will note that the ACC/SCN is mentioned in para. 47.1 of the approved Plan of Action. It says that the ACC/SCN "should facilitate coordination of these efforts and in close collaboration with its participating agency prepare periodic reports".

One should be reminded that the SCN is not a body that operates at the country level.

In one of the remarks expressed the point was made that action is at the national level. The SCN itself is not going to be doing anything at the national level. If we are going to implement the Plan of Action, it will have to be done by the member agencies of the SCN. The SCN is a body to talk about problems, like so many other things we have, such as IFPRI and others. It is not empowered to do anything about the problems. We do have that task. We have the task of working with our member countries in very close collaboration with WHO in this particular matter and also with UNICEF as it tries to implement its summit goals and objectives which were adopted and incorporated into the Plan of Action.

May I remind again on the word "coordination"? This is an important matter to our member countries. We do respect national sovereignty and coordination at the national level is a national responsibility. We do not try to coordinate governments. We exist to provide services to the best of our ability in response to requests from governments. Governments on this particular matter do have a difficult task of bringing people together because health ministries, agricultural ministries and other ministries have to work together to bring about and accomplish the nutritional objectives of their country.

A specific point on capacity-building was mentioned. I fail to understand that because I have always thought our guidelines, when using the terms "strengthening institutions", "strengthening training" and so forth, meant that they were essential parts of capacity-building. Perhaps there is a different definition of capacity-building that was referred to. Certainly fundamental to our Charter is our task of helping our member countries strengthen their capacity to implement programmes and to perform functions and in this particular case implement nutritional enhancement and food security programmes.

In reference to cooperation, I wish to inform you that I have written to the World Bank to encourage them to provide financial support to our Member Nations who are preparing and attempting to implement their national Plans of Action that have been prepared in collaboration with and with the assistance of FAO, WHO or UNICEF.

As far as the Special Actions Programmes are concerned, I suspect that there may be a little bit of a misunderstanding as to what these are all about. I have worked for the better part of a year now with the Assistant Director-Generals, to come up with 12 Special Action Programmes. These are not comprehensive; they do not include by any means all of the work of the Organization or even all of the fieldwork of the Organization. What they are designed to be is a mechanism to coordinate our activities, our regular programmes, our field programmes, in the high priority areas coming out of UNCED and the ICN. If somebody reads into the Special Action Programmes on policy that it is some mechanism for the ES Department, then we have to go back to the drawing board because these are mechanisms to bring everybody into it. I assume my Fishery colleagues would be very disturbed to find that there is something in the public arena that makes it sound as if they are not involved in this kind of Special Action Programme. The SAPs are organization-wide. In the write-ups and in the background documents we have spent a great deal of time and effort trying to identify the other organizations and agencies in the United Nations system, regional organizations, regional financing organizations, etc. As you know, we work with regional financing mechanisms not only with global ones. All are important to the implementation of the Special Action Programmes.

As I said in the introductory remarks, what we are hoping for is to attract extra-budgetary resources. We are in a situation where our member governments are not going to give us any money over and above what we have for the Regular Programme - a zero real growth, maximum absorption of costs increases philosophy seems to be implanted very deeply. Then we and you have to implement the Plan of Action for nutrition, and the UNCED follow-up. The UNCED follow-up will cost US\$120 billion. What is our budget? There is no way that the Regular Programme that you are going to approve can provide any significant share of this amount.

The United States today did not mention a figure, but I believe that the Plan of Action that they are working on is judged to cost something of the order of US\$54 billion. We are talking about that many millions, which would make us happy !

There is the need to package things, hopefully that are in line with the priorities of the Organization that you have specified, and that these are packaged in a way and are attractive enough to you that you will come forward with extra budgetary resources to help the Member Nations implement these high priority activities. That includes the follow-up to UNCED.

As far as the specific members are concerned, there were questions about specific numbers. I had some in my introductory remarks. There were questions about the number of countries that have requested assistance, and so on, but I would appreciate my colleagues being given the opportunity to respond to those specific points.

I would say that I agree entirely with what the distinguished delegate from Norway said with respect to liberalization or privatization. Certainly in the short-term, as we have been hearing in the last two days, and especially as far as Eastern Europe is concerned, the initial short-term impact is rather devastating as far as nutritional status is concerned. When you tear apart social safety nets and let people fall through those nets and do for themselves, there has to be a reduction in nutritional status.

The paragraph which was referred to on this tried to make the distinction between the long-term and the short-term. We have to have hope, if we are to survive, that in the long-term things will improve.

The final point that I will make concerns integrating nutritional considerations into the national planning process. That phraseology is common to us, usually used in connection with the environment. In certain respects it is somewhat different in the case of the nutritional status. National governments have objectives with respect to nutritional status. They also, in the context that we are talking about, have a high desire and an increased desire to use their natural resources in a sustainable manner.

What the whole process is about in essence is using policies to induce mainly private agents - in our case there are very few farmers who are not private agents - to use their natural resources in a sustainable manner to accomplish the nutritional objectives of tomorrow, or the next day and the year following. Yes, integrating nutritional concerns is important, but one almost comes to the point where it is much more important than that. Your nutritional objectives specify a very large share of the demand that will come upon your agriculture sector. What you are hoping to do is use policy to see to it that your resources, natural but also human, are used in a way

to accomplish, in the most efficient and effective way you can, your nutritional objectives.

I have gone on longer than I thought I was going to. I think Mr Lupien has to answer some specific questions.

J.R. LUPIEN (Director, Food Policy and Nutrition Division): First, I would like to thank delegates for the many comments and suggestions they have made, and for the general support to the ICN follow-up that we have received. Preparing for and holding the ICN was a rather difficult but very rewarding process, and our discussion today shows that the follow-up will be equally difficult but even more rewarding if we can, in fact, reach the goals that are set in the ICN Declaration and Plan of Action.

The report before you is one of a series of progress reports we have made this year first to COAG, then to Council and then to Conference. I think that the suggestions that we have had today about a much more detailed report and what should go into it for the report in 1995 will be taken, and I can assure you that we will do our best to have a thorough report at that time.

A few specific questions were asked that have not been covered by Mr Hjort. The United Kingdom asked about the reallocation of resources. Certainly in the proposed Programme of Work and Budget, to the extent that it was humanly possible with a zero-growth budget, there was a reallocation of Regular Programme Resources towards the nutrition ICN follow-up. I am pleased about that.

The delegate also mentioned that guidelines were not enough and that dialogue and partnership were needed. That is the exact purpose of these guidelines, to promote dialogue and partnership at the country level. We have sent these guidelines out to all member countries and have asked our FAO representatives to ferment a most widespread dialogue and partnership, both between government agencies and between United Nations agencies and the NGOs at the country level. Therefore, we hope there will be very wide dialogue and partnership preparing national Plans of Action for nutrition. They are guidelines because, in fact, they are not meant to be top-down; they are meant to be considered at the country level with each country selecting what they feel are their major priorities and then preparing activities that will meet those priorities, whether in the form of government programmes or programmes that have project assistance, hopefully from all the various organizations that work at the country level either bilaterally or through the United Nations agencies.

With regard to the FAO and the WHO, our collaboration and cooperation continues in a very strong way. We have regular meetings with our colleagues in WHO. Some of the comments about priorities and themes that are selected by FAO show those that we feel we must cover and concentrate the most, whereas the WHO colleagues will be taking some of the other activities into account.

Therefore, I think by working together at the global, regional, and country levels we will do our very best to meet those points.

The delegate of Norway mentioned breastfeeding. This is, we think, one of the major aspects that we must concentrate on, particularly in our nutrition education activities, as we move forward. This has to be done

jointly with WHO, UNICEF and many other organizations that give this a very high priority. FAO is strongly in favour of breastfeeding for infants and it is certainly the best way of assuring good nutrition for infants.

Questions were asked about how many countries have requested assistance. More than 40 at the present time have asked for assistance. We have already had missions to about 20 of the countries that have asked for assistance in the form of visits by either staff members or consultants to try and identify more what needs to be done. We are already beginning to look for extra-budgetary resources to strengthen that activity with regard to developing national plans of action as a framework for real action in the future, meaning more project assistance. There, of course, we are going to be coming back to you again asking for assistance to implement those projects. It is only the beginning of what we hope will be a fruitful process for us all.

The delegation from the Netherlands mentioned possible overlapping between the Special Action Programmes. That will not be a problem. As a matter of fact, the people who are involved in the two different Special Action Programmes mentioned in this document are sitting on each other's Management Committees, so any particular duplication of effort that begins will be nipped in the bud. That is not a real problem. We certainly will do our best to make sure that does not happen.

Information was also requested on regional networks. We have had some preliminary meetings which Mr Hjort has mentioned. We hope to have more. During 1994 we will plan on some other sub-regional meetings to try to get the countries of various regions to decide how they can best approach a planning process for improving nutrition.

The meeting that we had in Central America was very useful in that regard. We heard from the Minister of El Salvador about some of the activities that are going on, as a result of that meeting and as other parts of the ICN follow-up. That will continue. Again, these might need some extra budgetary support. We will be making proposals about that too, although some can be financed out of our own resources. The one in Honduras was a joint FAO-Pan American Health Organization activity.

There was a question as to how do we sensitize FAO. I think they are sensitized. The Special Action Programmes will make that sensitization even more acute if necessary.

CHAIRMAN (Original language German): That brings us to the end of this afternoon's sitting. I would like to thank you for your constructive cooperation. We will start our deliberations tomorrow morning as scheduled at 9.30 a.m.

The meeting rose at 19.15 hours.

La séance est levée à 19 h 15.

Se levanta la sesión a las 19.15 horas.

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 93/I/PV/5

Twenty-seventh Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt-septième session
COMMISSION I

27º período de sesiones
COMISION I

FIFTH MEETING
CINQUIEME SEANCE
QUINTA SESION

(12 November 1993)

The Fifth meeting was opened at 9.50 hours
Mr Hermann Redl, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La cinquième séance est ouverte à 9 h 50
sous la présidence de M. Hermann Redl, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la quinta sesión a las 9.50 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hermann Redl, Presidente de la Comisión I

CHAIRMAN (Original language German): May I first of all welcome you all. Before we begin our work on Item 6.2 of the Agenda, allow me to make a brief comment. As delegates will know, Conference and the Governing Body have decided that resolutions should be kept to a minimum and only substantive issues should be dealt with. As regards procedure, I will ask the Secretary to inform you how to table resolutions, and what the procedure is.

W.A. LAMADÉ (Secretary, Commission I): It might be useful at this stage to refer delegates to the document on the arrangements for the Twenty-seventh Session of Conference, C 93/12, which has on page 6 two paragraphs on resolutions and the Resolutions Committee.

In paragraph 35 the appeal just made is again emphasized, that is: "The Council reiterates the view repeatedly expressed on previous occasions that resolutions should be kept to a minimum...". Attached to document C93/12 is Appendix D which sets out criteria for Conference resolutions if these resolutions are deemed to be really necessary. One of the points made under paragraph 3 (b) in this Appendix says that "Draft resolutions shall be transmitted to the Resolutions Committee before they are submitted to a Commission...". So any resolution which is being formulated goes the following route. For those members of the Commission who are not familiar with FAO procedures, I thought I should inform them of this.

As was done yesterday, delegations who want to present a resolution should inform the meeting of this. This is the correct procedure. Thereafter resolutions should be handed in to the Secretariat of Commission I. These draft resolutions have to be prepared in a certain form. I will come back to that in a second. They will be transmitted to the Secretary of the Resolution Committee and presented by him to the Resolution Committee. The text of the resolution which the Resolutions Committee agrees upon will then be presented to your Commission here for review, discussion and approval.

One more word on the format of the resolution being proposed. I refer delegates to document C 93/28 on Plant Genetic Resources, an item we are going to discuss next week. There are in this document two resolutions which have been formulated and transmitted to us here by the Council, and they are in the format in which resolutions should be prepared and handed in to the Secretariat.

PART I - MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)

PREMIERE PARTIE - PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)

PARTE I - PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)

6. World Food and Agriculture Situation and Outlook (continued)
6. Situation et perspectives mondiales de l'alimentation et del'agriculture (suite)
6. Situación y perspectivas de la agricultura y la alimentación en el mundo (continuación)

- 6.2 World Food Security and Nutritional Status (continued)
- 6.2 Sécurité alimentaire et situation nutritionnelle dans le monde (suite)
- 6.2 Seguridad alimentaria mundial y estado nutricional (continuación)

Alejandro TRUEBA CARRANZA (México): Expresamos nuestro reconocimiento a la Secretaría por el documento que preparó para el examen de este tema.

En particular, la Delegación de México desea exponer aspectos tanto nacionales como internacionales en relación con el documento correspondiente. Mi país realiza esfuerzos nacionales para alcanzar la soberanía y suficiencia alimentaria en el marco del Programa Nacional de Alimentación 1989-1994, y sobre la base de distintos programas sectoriales, en particular lo relativo a la modernización del campo. En México el Estado realiza esfuerzos para garantizar la seguridad alimentaria mediante una política de apoyo a la producción agropecuaria de los alimentos básicos. En este sentido México recuperó su autosuficiencia en maíz y frijol, y la ha mantenido desde 1990. Además esta política se encuentra apuntalada por un mecanismo de importación de grano en apoyo a la producción pecuaria.

En lo que se refiere a la pesca, se han procurado incentivar los niveles de consumo en las especies de escama y marisco.

En cuanto a los niveles nutricionales, en mi país operan desde hace algunos años diversos programas de ayuda alimentaria orientados particularmente a los grupos menos favorecidos, destacando por su magnitud y cobertura los Programas de Leche y Tortillas. A fin de cumplir con los compromisos de la conferencia Internacional de Nutrición, nuestro país actualmente formula el programa de Acción para la Nutrición.

México reconoce que el bien último de la política alimentaria debe ser mejorar el nivel nutricional de sus habitantes. En consecuencia, las acciones que realiza, y que se propone continuar profundizando, se orientan al cumplimiento de los siguientes objetivos

-respaldar el acceso efectivo a una dieta recomendable para que los grupos más vulnerables, particularmente las madres y los menores de cinco años, dispongan de alternativas diferenciales y selectivas para alcanzar los niveles mínimos de bienestar alimentario y nutricional;

-apoyar la disponibilidad de alimentos para cubrir los requerimientos básicos de la población, prioritariamente la de menores ingresos, preescolar, mujeres gestantes y en período de lactancia y ancianos, así

como los que habitan en las regiones donde se registran mayores carencias nutricionales; y

- apoyar la suficiencia alimentaria mediante el impulso sostenido de la Producción y productividad de los alimentos de origen agropecuario y pesquero, con énfasis en los considerados como estratégicos por su importancia en la conformación de una dieta recomendable en términos de acceso, valor nutricional y arraigo en la cultura alimentaria.

De esta manera, el Gobierno mexicano ratifica la necesidad de avanzar firmemente en la erradicación del hambre y la malnutrición, atacando las causas que los generan para hacer autosustentable, en el mediano plazo, el bienestar alimentario y nutricional, y para atender y mejorar, en el corto plazo, la situación de los grupos vulnerables y en extrema pobreza, atenuando los factores coyunturales que la agravan.

Las acciones que se derivarán del citado Programa Nacional de Acción para la Nutrición, contribuirán al cumplimiento de los siete compromisos prioritarios emanados de la Cumbre Mundial en Favor de la Infancia, por lo que existe una estrecha coordinación entre ambos programas.

En consonancia con los compromisos asumidos por nuestro país en la Estrategia Internacional de Desarrollo de las Naciones Unidas para el Decenio de los Noventa y en la Cumbre Mundial en Favor de la Infancia, se han definido como principales metas de nutrición las siguientes:

- reducir en el 50 por ciento para el año 2000 los niveles de desnutrición grave y moderada de los niños menores de 5 años;
- reducir a menos del 10 por ciento la tasa de bajo peso al nacer
- reducir en una tercera parte los niveles de anemia por carencia de hierro entre las mujeres
- eliminar las enfermedades por carencia de vitamina A;
- lograr que el mayor número posible de las madres amamenten a sus hijos durante cuatro o seis meses por lo menos, y continúen la lactancia con la adición de otros alimentos hasta el inicio del segundo año; y
- otorgar especial atención a la salud y la nutrición de las niñas y las mujeres embarazadas y en periodo de lactancia.

Para avanzar y cumplir con los objetivos y las metas fijadas por el Plan de Acción sobre Nutrición, a iniciativa de México, se llevó a cabo del 11 al 15 de octubre último en Honduras, un Taller Subregional de Seguimiento de la CIN - México y Centroamérica -, para evaluar y analizar las acciones que se realizan en los países de la región a fin de mejorar el bienestar alimentario y nutricional de las respectivas poblaciones.

Finalmente, señor Presidente, cabe mencionar que actualmente se formula otro proyecto regional, promovido conjuntamente por la FAO-ALADI, para la identificación y caracterización de grupos en riesgo de sufrir inseguridad alimentaria, cuyos resultados preliminares se tendrán al finalizar el presente año.

Jan GORECKI (Poland): As our discussion yesterday on document C 93/22 on World Food Security and Nutritional Status was quite extensive and inspiring, I do not have much to add, but I should like to refer to the summary made by the Deputy Director-General yesterday evening and in particular to his comments relating to the process of transformation in Central and Eastern European countries. The Deputy Director-General correctly stressed that these processes and their consequences should be considered in the short and long term. After three years of experience in my country, we are more aware that the process is a long-term challenge and we still have no maps to follow. Our voyage, as somebody said, is more like that of Columbus. However, I should like to stress that my government intends to give much more attention to the nutritional status of the population and the new problems arising in this area.

As far as Poland's obligations arising from the International Conference on Nutrition are concerned, our government has planned some special social programmes aimed at fighting deterioration of the nutritional state of families suffering from unemployment, children and retired people. In 1994 Poland will organize the International Congress on Food, Nutrition and Health as a follow-up to the International Conference on Nutrition. The Congress will be aimed at carrying out a survey of what has been achieved so far by the domestic, scientific and research centres dealing with food and nutrition, as well as setting the course of federal activities aimed at the improvement of public health in Poland, in accordance with the recommendation of FAO/WHO at the International Conference held in Rome in December 1992.

Abdelkader EL MAZHOR (Maroc): Monsieur le Président, je voudrais remercier le Secrétariat pour la qualité de ce document et je félicite M. Hjort pour son exposé riche et clair.

Si vous le permettez, je commencerai mon intervention par une précision au niveau du paragraphe 21 du document.

Je voudrais savoir si les prévisions de production alimentaire en Afrique du Nord se rapportent à la campagne 1992-93 ou 1993-94. Il me semble qu'une erreur s'est glissée au milieu de ce paragraphe en ce qui concerne la campagne considérée. D'après le paragraphe 4 de ce rapport, l'objectif final de la sécurité alimentaire doit être d'assurer l'accès matériel et économique aux aliments de base.

Si l'accès matériel peut être assuré moyennant le développement de la production alimentaire d'un pays, ou la disponibilité de moyens financiers pour importer ces denrées, il n'en reste pas moins que l'accès économique demeure le facteur limitant de toute sécurité alimentaire. En effet, selon les prévisions à court terme, la situation des revenus dans les pays en développement ne fera qu'empirer, aggravant ainsi la situation matérielle des couches les plus pauvres et donc leur état nutritionnel.

Il n'est pas évident que les pays en développement puissent surmonter leurs difficultés de croissance économique et réaliser dans l'avenir des améliorations de revenus, notamment pour les couches les plus défavorisées, à un moment où les pays développés eux-mêmes connaissent des difficultés au niveau de la croissance et de l'emploi, favorisant ainsi un écart sans cesse croissant entre les différentes couches de leur société.

Il est certain que l'amélioration des revenus dans les pays en développement ne peut avoir lieu que par la relance de l'économie mondiale, le développement des échanges agricoles et le renforcement de l'aide au développement agricole et rural.

La sécurité alimentaire ne doit pas être pensée comme étant la réalisation de l'autosuffisance alimentaire, sans tenir compte des capacités du secteur agricole, ni des conditions aléatoires de sa production dans beaucoup de régions du monde, et sans rechercher toutes les opportunités d'acquérir une part des besoins alimentaires à partir du marché extérieur.

D'où la nécessité de raisonner niveau de sécurité alimentaire, au lieu d'autosuffisance, c'est-à-dire des stratégies d'approvisionnements à partir de la production nationale dans des conditions d'efficacité économique.

L'octroi de subventions aux ménages souffrant d'insécurité alimentaire ne peut, à notre avis, aboutir aux objectifs visés, étant donné la difficulté de contrôler la destination de ces subventions. Aussi, cette proposition mérite à notre sens d'être bien réfléchie, compte tenu des expériences vécues dans beaucoup de pays. Quant au suivi de la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition, nous soutenons tous les efforts déployés ou à déployer, pour la mise en application de son plan d'action.

Enfin, en ce qui concerne le Programme d'action spécial, présenté à la fin de ce document, nous l'appuyons dans sa globalité.

Kiyoshi SAWADA (Japan): My country highly appreciates the successful outcome of ICN, focusing on food security at the household level, which can be said to be the ultimate objective of FAO. Since our position on food security at the world level was stated on the previous agenda item, my delegation will comment briefly now on food security at the country level and the household level.

With regard to the country level, my delegation recognizes that the variety of foods for the people and diet patterns should be established on the basis of the most appropriate agriculture and fisheries for each country. These diet patterns can lead the foundation of the most stable and sustainable food security of each country and also has been formulating characteristic food culture of each country. In this regard international development cooperation and food aid should take account of indigenous crops and food.

With regard to food security at the household level, we must consider the promotion of agriculture, income opportunities, distribution system, education and so forth, as identified by ICN. Before embarking upon this multi-disciplinary approach, attention must be paid as a priority to the statistics relating to the nutritional condition of the people in order to raise awareness of nutrition in each country. For these national activities, support from FAO and other international and bilateral organizations is essential. My country firmly supports the direction indicated by ICN and looks to FAO for follow-up efforts to it.

Mrs Amalia GARCIA-THÄRN (Sweden): We would like to make some brief comments on the document presented at this session, C 93/22.

We are pleased to see that the topic "Access to Food - Current Situation and Outlook", is included in the analysis of food security and nutrition. However, we believe that the analysis of entitlement to food is rather thin and has to be further developed.

FAO's excellent work in the assessment of the food production situation and outlook should be complemented by a better analysis of the issue "Access to Food". I should like to endorse what the delegate of the United States said on the need to have the capacity to assess food insecurity, and also what the delegate of Canada said on the need to develop access to food indicators.

We believe that FAO has the capacity to do it and we expect this work to be done in the future.

We would like to ask the Secretariat about FAO's work in the development of methodological tools and diagnostic techniques to be used in measuring food insecurity and access to food.

Finally, we fully endorse the given priority to assist member countries in developing national plans of action for nutrition and FAO's Special Action Programme on Food Security and SARD.

There is a final comment I would like to make on gender. Document C 93/22 does not reflect the gender awareness we would like to see. The Report on Food Security and Nutrition, with not a single mention of women, is rather surprising. We expect gender to be integrated in every analysis and presentation FAO does, and not only in the document presented on Women in Development.

Abdul-Razzak AL-HASSAN (Syria) (Original language Arabic): The document presented this morning is an excellent one. That goes without saying; in fact, the Secretariat should certainly be congratulated on the drafting of this document which is rich in content. Nevertheless, we would like to make some comments.

The problem of food security is a matter of international concern. Many meetings and regional and international conferences have been held to discuss this problem. In spite of such endeavours, food deficit still persists and the situation is even worsening. The statistics concerning the poorest sectors of populations show that the situation is extremely serious and alarming. As far as 1992-93 is concerned, production dropped by 70 percent in food deficit countries compared to 1991-92.

What are the reasons behind this worsening situation? The International Conference on Nutrition declared that poverty and social imbalance and educational needs were the main reasons for food deficit and malnutrition.

I should like to say in this connection that it would be interesting to get a clear idea about the reasons behind this situation in order to be able to cure it. The reasons which lead to poverty are not always subjective in developing countries. They are often due to external factors which have played a major role in the impoverishment of these developing countries. This is why we would like to call for remedies and solutions based on those external factors and thus we can eradicate them. Of course, we should not overlook the necessary support for social and economic efforts that aim at achieving a sustainable development in these countries.

FAO and the international community should help to improve conditions in the developing countries through economic and technological assistance. Thus, these countries could eradicate the poverty which they endure daily.

As to the follow-up of the International Conference on Nutrition, we would like to support the World Declaration made by this Conference and its conclusions. We call for further coordination of efforts so that we could help those who are most in need to develop their own production capacities.

I believe that the International Plan of Action for Nutrition has played an important role in national planning; that is to say, the support for strategies aimed at improving nutritional levels, concentrating particularly on the most affected countries. We very much hope that the Organization will be able to increase support and assistance in this area. The Organization's Plan of Action concerning food security and food itself which is to help member countries set up planning and policies based on sustainable agricultural and rural development, contains some very positive points and we hope this programme will be expanded so that the Organization might be able to follow up the implementation of these programmes with their member countries.

We also hope that the Organization will be able to develop its own information sector for the benefit of member countries.

Before concluding, it is my pleasure to indicate that Syria has taken major initiatives in order to ensure the food security dimension in the programmes of soil planning, irrigation and independent production; also the possibility of achieving self-sufficiency and the revitalization of exports. Besides, policies which help to achieve these objectives should always be followed. Syria has already benefited from such policies.

Mrs Ioanna EFSTATHIOU (Greece): Firstly, I should like to thank the Secretariat for their preparation of this comprehensive document concerning world food security, as well as the efforts made by FAO to assist countries to implement the Plan of Action adopted by the International Conference on Nutrition.

Hunger and malnutrition is a paradox with dramatic socio-economic consequences for which there will be no case to be eliminated, unless its stimulating causes be eliminated first. It has been recognized that poverty is the main cause of this paradox, resulting in low rates of development and a complete lack of social care. Moreover, the continuing rise in the rate of population growth in developing countries aggravates their nutritional situation.

In this regard, macro-economic policies that have been implemented in the past and are continuing to be implemented, discriminate against the food and agriculture sector, which is the main source for income and employment in developing countries.

Furthermore, we would like to underline that agriculture is influenced by external factors such as the fluctuation in exchange rate, the burden of external debt, etc., which have an adverse effect on food security in developing countries.

In this framework, we believe that agricultural policies can play a vital role in the alleviation of hunger and malnutrition, incorporating

objectives such as: first, the diversification of production in favour of food crops. This can be realized by giving incentives to small farmers, adopting appropriate technologies and promoting non-agricultural activities.

Second: educational information concerning nutrition. Third: safe and healthy food, with better access to food by creating the appropriate infrastructure for the transport, distribution and marketing of food products.

In this regard, we would like to make a comment on paragraph 14 of the document in front of us. We believe that the problem of consumers is not the promotion of privatization. The whole system of distribution and marketing should be re-examined as it is this system which leads to the continuing increase in the gap between producer prices and retail prices.

Changes in the world economic environment call for policy reforms. In this respect we believe that reforms should be promoted for integrated policy measures aiming at progressive adjustment. In this respect we fully agree with paragraph 16 referring to the danger arising from a rapid process of liberalization because in the long term it will be the poor who suffer most from such policy measures.

In this context we fully support the work of the FAO that arises from the Plan of Action of the International Conference on Nutrition. Action at both the country and international level is indispensable but for the goals to be achieved there is a need for concerted action by governments in international organizations, NGOs, local communities and the private sector. Development assistance, moreover, should be the motive power to attaining the nutrition objectives.

Hayim BAR-SHAI (Israel) : As I am speaking for the first time, I would like to congratulate the Chairman of the Committee. I am sure your vast experience and activities in the past will help us to understand better between ourselves an approach toward a better fed world.

I would like also to thank the Secretariat and the group of economists who prepared the excellent reviews for the debate in the last three days and for the report. Although it is rather short, I think it presents a very clear view of the urgent and important issues which are worrying us at present.

I would like very shortly to comment on document C 93/22.

The general tendency today in the world is towards a more liberal and open economy. In Israel on the whole we feel our policy has always been to balance as much as possible what is grown in Israel and what has to be imported. For the last eight to ten years the balance has been in the vicinity of US\$ 1 billion on each side. While the import of foodstuffs has been growing recently because of an increase in population, exports have been steady or declining, mainly because of climatic reasons. We hope it will shortly grow. On the whole we have been reducing support and subsidization of food in Israel. I think that today, except for one or two non-food items, nothing is subsidized at the growing, marketing or final product stages.

We have performed privatization of the imports of sugar cereals, edible oils and oilseeds. We are now in the middle of the process of privatizing meat. All these processes have been undertaken and have gone through on the whole without any unnecessary shocks or changes and in a way that will enable local industry to compete with imported products fairly and not against imports.

On liberalization, we have customs and import liberalization in most basic food products and commodities. On the whole they are free from duty and in licensing. I am speaking of tea, coffee, sugar, cocoa, rice and so on.

We expect the new Peace Agreement which we have been discussing with our neighbouring countries will materialize in the not too distant future and that this will open many possibilities for cooperation and learning from one another. It will contribute to enlarging and improving crop production to the benefit of all the nations in the area.

I would like to make two more comments. We need, on the whole, more liberalization. I think the whole world needs this. I was a little sorry to see this subject is still very much at the top of the agenda of most reports of FAO. We need more liberalization regarding our trade in food products and exports. We have recently concluded an agreement with the EFTA countries, a free-trade area agreement. I would say again our agricultural products are not well covered. I hope the GATT discussions will contribute towards this but it is a big problem because it prevents a just and economically efficient exchange of goods.

In the last few years, Israel has absorbed half a million new people from other parts of the world. These are not usually wealthy people. We have to feed them and give them work. They form 10 percent of our population. It is a difficult task. It demonstrates again that we are still in the developing stages of the country and cannot be seen as developed as are the countries of Europe.

I would like to note today that the problem of hunger and lack of food is not just one of undeveloped countries but in certain populations even in developed countries. In a world of free initiatives and with some trends which remind me a little of the liberalism of the 19th century, I think we have to remind ourselves all the time that we must ensure in food security. This is still a thing that has to be provided for. I think FAO should speak out about it.

Supote DECHATES (Thailand) : The Thai Government welcomes the ICN call for concerted action to direct resources to those most in need in order to raise their productive capacities and social opportunities and put emphasis on the need to protect the nutritional well-being of vulnerable groups when needed. Thailand refers to C 93/2, which states that in the past decade the prevalence of protein energy malnutrition among pre-school children has reduced dramatically from 50.8 to 17.1 percent.

It is further documented that the success is attributed to Thailand's 5-year social, health, food and nutrition plan and to its Poverty Alleviation Plan. It is a rural investment programme aimed at improving the living standards from the subsistence level and providing minimum basic services in rural areas, except in the central region.

Four key programmes were employed with political support incorporating community participation and low cost technology: rural employment creation, village projects, provision of basic services and farm production programmes.

Implementation of the Thai nutrition plan has short-term major objectives for 1993 of eliminating the malnutrition conditions of the target groups as follows.

1. To reduce the pre-schoolchildren's nutrient deficiency of both second and third degrees to not more than 1 percent and of the first degree to 12 percent.
2. To reduce, in the infected area, the symptomatic iodine deficiency in the elementary schoolchildren, 6-18 years old, to not more than 13 percent.
- 3 To eliminate the iron-deficiency anaemia in both pregnant women and schoolchildren to not more than 15 percent.

Assessment of the 1993 performances has yet to be conducted.. However, the 1992 national performance has already indicated nutrient deficiencies of 0.74 and 0.004 percent for the second and third degree in pre-school children and 14.02 percent for the first degree. Iodine deficiency disease in elementary schoolchildren was 12.24 percent at the end of 1992. In addition, the 1992 survey reported 18.30 percent of schoolchildren had iron-deficient anaemia.

The Thai delegation fully endorses the FAO's Action Programmes concerning food security and nutrition and the special Action Programme on country policy and programming assistance for food security and sustainable agriculture in the rural environment.

Moses MBUGUA (Kenya): I congratulate and thank the Secretariat on the very good document which is a good long-term forecast which we wish to endorse. We also congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on your election to guide and share this session.

Kenya has suffered continuous drought over the last one-and-a-half to two years which has resulted in the importation of food. This has proved a very expensive exercise. It has also affected the change in eating habits of the people in some parts of the country because foods are imported which are not normally grown in the country. The taboos have been changed and various nutritional factors have been affected.

We recognize in Kenya that the cheapest food is that which is available at country level. We would like FAO to continue to encourage food production at the household level. We are very keen to witness food security being promoted both at country level and at household level. We would, therefore, like to request FAO to continue designing appropriate storage facilities to be used at household level because unless communities store food at their own level, it becomes difficult for them to have food security and food available at all times in their own villages. We would, therefore, like to see FAO continuing work in this area; it is not a new area. It has been done before but we would like to see the continued designing of appropriate storage facilities and the promotion of the use of these stores, otherwise there could be stores that remain empty with no food available.

We know that food comes fast and we do not think of anybody who does not eat. Everybody eats. However, there are many people in the world who never think about where the food they eat comes from.

I would like to request that we continue using World Food Day to continue sensitizing and involving every individual in the world to think about food production, food utilization and food storage so that they can also help in the promotion of increased food production in this world so that the campaign that could be continued during the World Food Day will reach more people than it has done in the past because that day is now known worldwide.

We would like FAO to continue using NGOs because these are a very important arm that reaches grass-root groups and we would like further encouragement from FAO to make sure that NGOs are utilized so that they will encourage as many people as possible to increase food production.

Gender, as has previously been mentioned, is also very important. In my country, we know that women are able to grow over 80 percent of the food in the rural areas, but we also know that our rural men give very little help to the women. We know again that where appropriate technologies have been designed - wheelbarrows and donkey carts and simple appropriate technologies - the men will use these technologies and therefore help the women to work on the farms.

We would like therefore to request FAO to continue designing various appropriate technologies, appropriate in certain countries, so that this technology can help and will off-load the burden from the women and involve the men in food production. We appeal for appropriate designs of these simple technologies so that we will be able to increase food security and food production in this country.

Zachee YEM YEM (Cameroun): Merci, Monsieur le Président. Au nom de la délégation du Cameroun, je voudrais me joindre aux précédents orateurs pour vous féliciter (ainsi que le Bureau) pour votre élection, et le Bureau pour les documents et surtout leur qualité.

La délégation du Cameroun est préoccupée par le fait que, lorsque l'on parle de sécurité alimentaire, on évoque presque toujours les céréales, ce qui est important, c'est vrai. Dans nos pays, il y a certes les céréales, mais il y a aussi les tubercules dont on fait peu de cas.

Il nous paraît opportun d'insister aussi sur les tubercules.

En plus, d'une manière générale, s'agissant de la sécurité alimentaire, on fait rarement cas des produits carnés: viande et poisson. Or il est clair que, surtout dans nos pays tropicaux, il est plus facile d'avoir des produits d'origine végétale et de manquer de produits d'origine animale. Nous souhaiterions que l'accent soit mis sur ce problème des produits d'origine animale.

De même, nous avons pu bénéficier, avec l'aide de la FAO, de l'organisation d'un atelier dans notre pays, avec les pays voisins, sur la promotion des aliments traditionnels et non conventionnels qui peuvent à juste titre venir augmenter les disponibilités alimentaires et accroître la sécurité alimentaire dans notre pays et les pays voisins.

Nous souhaitons que, comme par le passé, la FAO nous aide à constituer des stocks importants de réserve de viande grâce à la construction, par exemple, de chambres froides. Nous insistons aussi pour que l'accent soit mis sur la production des tubercules.

Abdelkader CHERIF (Tunisie): La majorité des pays en développement souffre, à l'heure actuelle, d'une insuffisance en protéines, et plus particulièrement en protéines d'origine animale. Or on peut produire plus facilement les protéines végétales, ce qui devrait permettre de satisfaire davantage les besoins en protéines. En effet, pour produire les protéines animales, qui sont sous forme de viande, de fromage, etc., on doit fournir à l'animal des protéines végétales qui seront reconverties par la suite en protéines animales. Or le coefficient de reconversion est faible, allant de 10 à 40 pour cent: si l'on fournit, par exemple, un kilo de protéines végétales à un animal, celui-ci donnera 10 pour cent ou, dans le meilleur des cas, 40 pour cent de protéines animales. Avec les protéines végétales, nous aurions donc davantage de protéines et nous arriverions à satisfaire les besoins en protéines de la population.

A l'heure actuelle, en utilisant les technologies appropriées, on peut fabriquer - cela se fait dans les pays développés - des steaks à base de protéines végétales; ce sont des steaks hachés, que l'on vend congelés et qui sont consommés essentiellement à des fins nutritionnelles. Dans les pays développés, à cause des problèmes cardiovasculaires et du cholestérol, on a tendance à utiliser des protéines végétales et, à l'heure actuelle, on trouve dans les supermarchés des steaks hachés composés, de 30 à 60 pour cent, de protéines végétales. Je demande donc à la FAO d'encourager l'utilisation des technologies appropriées dans les pays en développement pour que les protéines animales soient de plus en plus remplacées par les protéines végétales.

Alhaji HAI M. JIR (Nigeria): Mr Chairman, let me on behalf of our delegation join the other delegations in congratulating you on your election, and I would like also to congratulate the Vice-chairmen and commend the Secretariat for the papers.

My comment is very brief. The issue of food security and well-nourished people is very important as it is the life and health of any nation, but we have to appreciate that in many countries food may be available but the income and the purchasing power of the nation's currency may deprive people of getting this nutritious food because many of the developing countries have embarked upon adjustment programmes, one component of which is devaluation of the currency. The food may be there but income levels and inflation may not allow people to reach the nutritious food they want.

Therefore, the global economic situation will have to be looked at. It is not food alone. The cost of production has increased. For example, in my country a tractor was costing about 50 000 Naira in my local currency. Today, the same tractor is costing about one million Naira. The farmer who is producing will have to see that he recovers that cost, so we have this problem of currency devaluation.

There has been an incident recorded about Nigeria where the Government had to distribute subsidized grain. I had the privilege of serving as Secretary. In March 1992 the Government announced the devaluation of the Naira, the Nigerian currency, and suddenly grain merchants and traders

speculated and food prices shot up, so the Government had to come in to cushion this.

The issue of devaluation is very important and I hope that developing countries will have favourable trade terms. Inevitably tied to that is the issue of debt burden and debt servicing. In an earlier document on the agricultural situation it was stated that Africa south of the Sahara is down to the tune of US\$183 billion, with US\$14 billion in arrears, which is stated to be more than 6 percent of the total GDP. To enable these governments to assist in providing infrastructural facilities and policy environment for people to produce with this kind of burden is very difficult.

My second comment is that in the document FAO states that it will assist member countries in a lot of areas to improve the nutritional status and food security. I hope that there will be sufficient resources and easy access by members to this kind of assistance.

Parviz KARBASI (Iran, Islamic Republic of) : In the name of God. Yesterday when Mr de Haen was making his response to members of the Commission, we asked that the resolution which has been prepared and tabled by Nigeria be read. We agree with the resolution in such a way that the Near East and West African countries also be covered, but we did not hear the resolution. I understand that today at twelve o'clock the Resolution Committee will meet, and I want to be sure, because the delegate of Pakistan has also asked the same question.

CHAIRMAN (Original language German): The Secretary reminded us of the procedure for tabling resolutions at the beginning of the meeting, but I will summarize briefly on that point. If a country wishes to table a resolution in the course of a statement he wishes to make, then the initial draft resolution must be passed by the Secretariat to the Resolutions Committee. The Resolutions Committee then deliberates on the draft, and a document is then distributed to all delegations. The document can then be dealt with in the Commission session. So far, we have not received any documents from the Resolutions Committee and therefore we have no texts to discuss. I hope I have made that as clear as possible.

Kiala KIA MATEVA (Angola): Monsieur le Président, comme les délégués qui m'ont précédé, je voudrais vous féliciter à l'occasion de votre élection à la tête de cette Commission. Je suis convaincu que vos qualités et votre sagesse sauront nous mener à bon port. Je saisis également cette occasion pour féliciter les autres membres du Bureau et le Secrétariat, qui a préparé le document soumis à notre examen (C 93/22), le Rapport sur la sécurité alimentaire et la situation nutritionnelle.

Par économie de temps, nous remettrons notre déclaration au Secrétariat afin qu'elle soit reprise in extenso dans le procès-verbal.

R.J. PERKINS (Director, Commodities and Trade Division): There are three questions of a specific nature which call for some clarification, and with your permission I will take them in the order in which they were made.

The first question was from the delegate of Morocco concerning paragraph 21. I should like to point out that paragraph gives the food production situation in the sub-region of North Africa. The paragraph is based on information as of July this year, and it has therefore become a little bit outdated. However, the wheat production forecast at that time has remained unchanged as an estimate of production at 9.1 million tonnes in 1993. The production of coarse grains in forecast has now become an estimate of 8.8 million tonnes, a downward revision and in fact, with the exception of Egypt there have been reductions in coarse grain production in all of the other North African countries. I hope that that clarifies essentially the revisions occurring because of the passing of time. Those estimates are by now four to five months out of date.

The second question to which I must reply is also a specific one from the delegate of Sweden concerning food security indicators, a matter which has been under discussion in the Committee on World Food Security in the past two years. I would just confirm we are continuing to develop methodologies on food security indicators at both national and household levels within the framework of the Committee on World Food Security. At the same time, delegates present at the last Committee Session will note that there is now the Andre Meyer Fellowship, starting this summer and finishing next summer, in which an attempt is being made to develop further food security indicators as well as to assess linkages, indicators, at the household, national and regional levels.

I would add that some of the national and regional work within the Food Security Assistance Scheme deals with the development and strengthening of food information and early warning systems, which to some extent also address these problems.

Finally in the same area, I refer to the vulnerability mapping being done by the Global Information and Early Warning System in collaboration with the Save the Children Fund, with financing from the European Economic Community. I would just like to report that two weeks ago we held a workshop of experts from FAO, the World Food Programme with whom we are collaborating in this area, the Save the Children Fund and other agencies, covering both methodological aspects of information needs and availability suitable for vulnerability mapping.

Again from the delegate of Sweden there was a reference to progress with the methodology for food security diagnostics and assessment. I would like to highlight again the point made by the Deputy Director-General in his opening remarks on this Agenda item about the attempt to develop an overall FAO methodology for preparing comprehensive plans of action for food security and nutrition, currently under development. This will be the subject of an expert consultation to be held at the beginning of December involving all concerned in-house and with participation from well-known outside experts. So I think in that way we will have very shortly a methodology drawing on both the ICN follow-up and the comprehensive food security programming activities for implementation under the PFS/SARD Special Action Programme.

Incidentally, while on that subject I would like to point out that - I am harking back to a point which the delegate of Norway made yesterday concerning bottom-up rather than top-down, in the description of the Special Action Programmes in document C 93/22 there may be a false impression that it is top-down because we have given, as it were, the nuts and bolts of the programmes and that services to be provided and perhaps

have not concentrated sufficiently on the process whereby those services are provided. I assure both the delegates of Norway and Sweden that in the implementation of the comprehensive food security programmes hitherto - as one example the implementation aspects - the process of delivery has been highly participatory with the use of national capacities to the maximum extent possible.

I hope that with those remarks I have covered the points raised, although my colleague Mr Lupien may wish to provide complementary information.

John R. LUPIEN (Director, Food Policy and Nutrition Division) : Thank you very much indeed. I think there was also an implication of access to food indicators and I would like to add some supplementary information about our Nutrition Division activities with regard to food consumption studies, the work of our Statistics Division on food balance sheets and the early warning system to look at food supplies. These have to be taken into account when trying to determine access to food at country level. New work is under way on household expenditure studies. The Government of Greece raised this with us recently, and FAO is about to publish a book about the use of body mass which is a way of monitoring access to food, particularly in food deficit situations. All of this has to be viewed in the concept of training, and a series of seminars has been held at regional and subregional level to help countries to be able to assess the utilization of the range of data necessary to come up with an idea of what needs to be done at country level, and how to monitor progress in this regard.

A final point is that the costs of monitoring have to be balanced against the costs of action. You can spend all your money on monitoring and then never have any action, so I think that has to be kept carefully in mind as we move ahead.

6.3 World Agriculture Towards 2010

6.3 L'agriculture mondiale à l'horizon 2010

6.3 La agricultura mundial; Hacia el año 2010

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Chairman, members of the Commission, I am pleased to have the opportunity to introduce document C 93/24, which is the revised and updated version of the 1987 study "Agriculture: Toward 2000", now with the time horizon extended to the the year 2010. I apologise in advance for having to take a bit longer than I normally would on an introduction, but in part that is because the document which is before you is somewhat longer than the normal ones that you receive. Please do not allow that comment to leave you with the impression that I shall give you an adequate summary or introduction to this rather large document.

The document is, of course, in response to the suggestion at the 1987 Conference, when the earlier version to 2000 was reviewed, that we should revise and re-issue our perspective into the future about every five years.

The issues relating to the current state of world food and agriculture, food security and nutrition have been the subject of the preceding two agenda items. In this Study we are looking at these issues in a wider and longer-term perspective. The Study and the work leading up to it have been influenced by the priority areas brought upon and repeated in our Programme of Work and Budget this year, the follow-up to UNCED and the follow-up to

the ICN. Both of those conferences provided important signposts for the preparation of the present Study, as did the Den Bosch Conference on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development, which was held in 1991. The findings of the Study provide useful insights into the evolving balance between demographic growth and food, agriculture, natural resources and the environment for next year's International Conference on Population and Development.

The Study addresses how the future may unfold rather than how it ought to develop if all the problems of food security, nutrition and sustainable agricultural development were to be solved by the year 2010. As such, the findings should be taken to represent what is deemed to be the most likely outcome, not a strategy to solve all the problems by the year 2010. Indeed, it could not be otherwise since we foresee, for example, that significant undernutrition will continue to prevail. Many countries and whole regions -for example, sub-Saharan Africa - may make only slight and totally inadequate progress. Pressures on agricultural resources and the environment will continue to build. Demand for the products and services of forests will continue to grow, but their supply potential will tend to be reduced following further pressures for the transfer of forest land to agriculture. The world's fisheries resources will come under increasing pressures and the sector's output is unlikely to grow by as much as required to prevent per caput supplies of fish from falling. The prospects for expansion of the main agricultural exports of the developing countries are at best not very optimistic.

At the same time, these very findings permit us to be cautiously optimistic that a measure of progress will continue to be made. For example, world agricultural growth should continue to outpace world population growth, and this applies also to the developing countries as a whole. Parenthetically I might add that this general conclusion does not however preclude the possibility of times when supplies are inadequate to satisfy effective demand at prevailing local market prices. Second, the majority of the population of the developing countries should continue to improve their per capita food availabilities and nutritional situation. Third, the world is now more aware of the need, and at least some parts of it are better equipped from the standpoint of policy options and technologies to take action to put agricultural development on to a more sustainable path. Finally, the thrust of policy reforms under way or contemplated points in the direction of a more liberal and less trade-distorting policy environment, although admittedly progress here has been proceeding by fits and starts - mainly fits.

In this brief introduction I cannot begin to summarize all the Study findings. The first chapter of the document before you provides such a summary and the Director-General's Foreword sets the tone for reading it. The above examples are intended to highlight the fact that the future, just like the past, is likely to be characterized by a mix of successes and failures along the path towards a better-fed world and more sustainable livelihoods and agriculture. As long as many countries continue to remain poor and vulnerable on the food security front, there will be no respite from the need for continuous vigilance and preparedness to intervene to cope with the consequences of recurring food security crises. It can only be hoped that the occurrence of crises caused by war and civil unrest will tend to subside with the advancement of political solutions. If this were to happen, more of the resources now devoted to emergencies could be diverted to development assistance proper, the kind of assistance that will

attack the problem of food insecurity at its more profound roots of failure in overall development and particularly agriculture.

Indeed, the Study concludes that emphasis on improving agricultural performance in the many developing countries with high dependence on the sector will continue to be the quintessence of strategies for reducing poverty, for overall development and for food security, because, if agricultural development fails in these countries, so will the chances of reducing poverty. It is for this reason and not out of dogmatic preference for food self-sufficiency that the Study emphasizes the need for priority to be given to agriculture and local production.

Both national and international action will be needed to respond to the challenge of reducing poverty, improving food security and making progress towards sustainable agriculture and rural development. At the international level the emphasis must be on increasing external assistance to agriculture and on its more efficient utilization, as well as fair and more remunerative agricultural trade. And, of course, the Study's projections of growing food import needs of the low-income food-deficit countries underline the role that food aid must continue to play in meeting them. In this context, it is encouraging to note that this need is explicitly recognized in the multilateral trade negotiations of the Uruguay Round. But the main responsibility for better policies remains firmly grounded in national policy action. The Study devotes several chapters to the issues which policy makers will continue to face. They range from the urgent need to recognize the importance for agricultural development of maintaining a sound overall macro-economic environment to that of combining measures for increasing production with those for spreading its benefits more equitably to that of investing in the development of human resources and upgrading the role of women.

Finally, the last three chapters of the Study are devoted to the policy challenges represented by the pressures on agricultural resources and the environment which exist now and which will accompany the process of increasing agricultural production in the future.

The policy options offered by technology are reviewed, but emphasis is placed on the economic, social and institutional changes needed for putting agriculture and rural development on to a more sustainable path.

We look forward to your discussions and suggestions for further improving the way we analyse the future prospects and the possible policy responses to existing and newly emerging problems.

A. VESTEN PEDERSEN (Denmark): We wish to congratulate the Secretariat on the detailed and comprehensive document. We also thank the Secretariat for the introduction. The Report provides an important analysis on past and present world agricultural policies and it also provides an important contribution on policies and procedures needed for the future.

We find it deplorable and unacceptable that the number of undernourished people should remain at the high level of 650 million people at the end of the period. We find it equally impressive that world agriculture has been able to achieve growth rates which mean that the world population generally is better fed today than 20 years ago. To assure future food needs, major attention must be given to the situation of the farmer, farm families and, not least, women on the farm.

It is equally important that the policies of governments and international organizations adopt this approach - that is, attention to the situation on the farms - when formulating agricultural policies for the future.

It is also time for a review and settlement of a large part of the agricultural policies implemented in the period following the Second World War. It is of equal importance to establish new sustainable policies at farm level and at national and international level which match the challenge facing the world community with regard to assuring food supplies for all people in the world on a sustainable basis. We find it impressive that global per caput food supplies today are about 20 percent above the level of 30 years ago. World farmers and their families should be congratulated on this major achievement. The majority of developing countries has participated in this achievement, but many countries still continue to have low per caput food supplies.

The world population over the next 20 years may increase by 1.8 billion to 7.2 billion, which means that no less effort, supported by appropriate agricultural policies, is required if the present trend in per caput production is to continue. Per caput food supplies in developing countries as a whole may grow from 2 500 calories to 2 700 calories by the year 2010. In spite of this, chronic undernutrition will remain a reality for no less than 650 million people in the year 2010. This figure is not acceptable and the problem will remain on our agenda until the solution is found.

We note that cereal imports required in developing countries from developed countries may grow from 90 million tons to about 160 million tons by the year 2010. The developed countries will have a production capacity to provide this amount and even more commercially or under special conditions.

In this context, we would like to refer to the role of the World Food Programme as a supplier of food for poor and hungry people. Due to unhappy circumstances, a major part of the resources of the Programme is now used as emergency aid and aid to displaced people. We sincerely hope that the WFP may soon return to the role of an agency mainly concerned with projects for development, not least the type of projects that lead to an increase in local food production and the alleviation of local poverty.

The Report provides interesting reflections on the development of agricultural policy in the years following the Second World War, and equally some important observations in current thinking on this issue. We agree that agriculture in developing as well as developed countries should be considered an important component of the overall economy, and neglect of agriculture will impede overall development.

We also feel sure that farmers respond to incentives and that the food problem will not be solved without such proper incentives - for instance with regard to prices and tax policy. Also, in this context, incentives in the form of education, extension work and research are of crucial importance.

With regard to international trade policies, we wish to express the hope that the Uruguay Round will be concluded on a fair and balanced basis. We understand the concern of low-income, food-importing, developing countries that the Uruguay Round could lead to a fall in global stocks. We take note of the provisions in the Draft Final Act to deal with this situation, in particular the assurance that food aid will continue on appropriate concessional terms in line with Article IV of the Food Aid Convention. We

believe that in the longer term and looking beyond the Uruguay Round, there could be a case for GATT to consider a stock-holding policy which could also deal with the problem of assuring food supplies to low-income countries.

The same chapter briefly discusses questions relating to environment, sustainability and a more liberalized trading system. We believe that a profound analysis of these issues is needed, and we invite FAO commodity groups and the CCP to analyse and discuss these questions. More than a billion people in developing countries are poor and the majority of them are living in rural areas. Development of agriculture is the very key for combatting poverty and undernourishment. Therefore, we agree to many of the observations in Chapter 9 concerning access to land, tenancy reforms, credit institutions and, not least, the establishment of cooperatives and farm organizations.

Chapter 11 deals with pressures from agriculture on the environment. We believe it is of major importance to develop sustainable agricultural policies. Such policies should be ecologically sustainable, adapted to the prevailing natural conditions with regard to intensity, pollution and methods of production. They should be economically sustainable, assuring the farmer and his family of a return comparable to that of other similar activities. They should also be socially sustainable, assuring social conditions for the farmer and his family at a level comparable to the rest of society.

Ulrich D, KNUEPPEL (EEC): On behalf of the European Community and its Member States, I would like to thank Mr Hjort for his very useful introduction. I would like to express our high appreciation to the Secretariat for its excellent study on the conditions and prospects for World Agriculture: Towards 2010. By drawing together a considerable amount of information on the many factors which, over the next two decades, will influence the developments in agriculture, forestry and fisheries in the major regions of the world and globally, the study represents a solid basis for policy analysis and policy development in the years to come. It gives substance to the orientations provided by the Rio Conference on Environment and Development, by the FAO/WHO Conference on Nutrition and by the Den Bosch Conference on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development.

Enhanced food security and nutrition, and improved sustainability of agricultural and rural development, are indeed among the most vital issues to be addressed nationally and internationally in order to ensure the peaceful evolution of our societies in a progressively integrated world. The projected increase of the world population by almost a third by the year 2010 is a tremendous challenge for the world society as a whole. Immediate and farsighted efforts are, therefore, needed in order to preserve decent living conditions for present and future generations and to avoid a major part of mankind remaining behind.

The Study's projection of 650 million people still suffering by the year 2010 from chronic undernutrition, despite the major advancements which are foreseen in many areas such as education, research and agricultural production techniques, is a clear indication of the immensity of the task before us.

After careful examination of the substantive information in the study, we have no reason to question FAO's projection of the overall supply and

demand balance for the year 2010. We share in particular the view that the potential for considerable increase in world food production exists and projected annual net-imports by developing countries of 162 million tonnes of cereals would in itself not necessarily constitute a problem. Questions however arise when we examine the projections for individual regions and in particular for sub-Saharan Africa and the Near East/North Africa region.

It must be feared that the projected population increase in sub-Saharan Africa, with an unchanged annual growth rate of more than 3 percent, combined with the lowest GDP growth rate among the five regions of the developing world, will make it extremely difficult significantly to reduce the major handicaps of agriculture in this region, which are highlighted throughout the study. The projected increase of cereals and rice production in the region by 100 percent, from 54 million tonnes in 1988-90 to 109 million tonnes in 2010, seems to us, therefore, rather optimistic, even if the crop area could be considerably expanded. Furthermore, the projected annual net-imports of 19 million tonnes of cereals, which represents a 138 percent increase over 1988-90 import levels, is certainly a matter of concern.

As regards the Near East/North Africa region the projected increase in cereals and rice production by 63 percent seems plausible. The projected increase in cereals net-imports by 87 percent from 38 million tonnes in 1988-90 to 71 million tonnes in 2010 raises, however, the question of how the countries in the region will be able to afford such an important burden on a continuous basis.

Against this background, and keeping in mind the study's projection of 650 million people still suffering by the year 2010 from chronic undernutrition, we hope that the Secretariat will be in a position to provide us in the near future with a complement to the present study, which would evaluate the need for food assistance over the next two decades. While food assistance should not be a permanent instrument of development policy, and long-term oriented food security should rather be the guiding principle, we all know that the need exists. Policy-makers should, therefore, get a clear idea about the potential dimension of this problem so that appropriate responses can be developed at an early stage.

The main challenge remains, however, the design and implementation of national and international policies which will enable the developing countries to break the vicious circle between poverty, population growth and resource degradation.

The study clearly shows that this can be achieved by adjustments in overall policies and by promoting agricultural, forestry and fishery policies, which provide the necessary conditions and incentives for rural people and fishermen to adopt production techniques which not only increase supply for domestic and export markets, but also help to preserve the natural resources for present and future generations.

We therefore thank the Secretariat once more for its excellent work.

Jouko NIEMINEN (Finland): The general intention of Agriculture; Towards 2010 is to assess the prospects for food and agriculture for the next 20 years. The length of the period makes the task challenging. Over the time horizon of the study, the world population may grow from five billion in 1990 up to seven billion. Probably many political and economic

changes will take place during this time. The world will be faced with historical events. Agriculture is affected not only by the climatic alteration of the world and increasing pollution, but also because of decreasing arable land resources.

In spite of the threats, many conclusions in the Report are encouraging. The most important findings of the Report indicate that progress towards increasing production of food supplies per person will continue. On the other hand, such progress will be very slow for many countries and populations. Due to this, chronic undernutrition will continue to exist.

According to the Report, the failure to diminish poverty is the main reason why undernutrition persists. This fact sets the focus on means to obliterate poverty and to increase food supplies. However, these two aspects cannot be separated in the quest for policy responses to the undernutrition problem. In the majority of developing countries, increasing food production is one of the principal means of combating poverty.

This is due to the fact that the majority of the poor depend on agriculture for employment and income. As long as this dependence continues, the growth of food production and agricultural productivity in the countries with high rural poverty will continue to be among the main means of fighting against poverty and improving nutrition.

National agricultural policy needs new concepts in order to meet nutritional demands. The developing countries should be connected more closely to the world trade system. It is necessary to create better possibilities for these countries to export both their basic and manufactured products. To ease poverty and improve nutrition in the world, the wide global approach on international trade is essential.

The general intention of the GATT Contracting Parties is to finalize the Uruguay Round. The main content of the agreement will be based on the Draft Final Act Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations if there are not any new concrete negotiating results to be expected. In the agricultural area the key elements of this so-called Dunkel's proposal are a substantial reduction of support and protection to agriculture.

The growth of agricultural production will create pressures on the environment. Many of these problems arise from the intensification of land use. The salinization of soil occurs in hot dry zones. The use of fertilizers and pesticides contaminates the surface and groundwater resources. The discharges of organic effluent from intensive livestock units and fish-farms also cause problems. Many problems can be avoided by increasing education; using in short, human capital in agriculture.

Tae-Jin KWON (Korea, Republic of): My delegation would like to express thanks to the Secretariat for the excellent work done in preparing the report [Agriculture: Towards 2010](#). The report states well the important underlying themes in food security and agricultural resources for improved sustainability of agricultural and rural development, technological and other policies to minimize trade-offs between agricultural development and the environment.

I am glad to hear that food production and per caput food supplies will increase continuously in the future, but I am worried that such progress

will be very slow for many countries and population groups. Nowadays many developing countries suffer from unstable food production and under-nutrition. Their explosive population growth will cause deterioration of environmental resources which serve as the foundation of their food production and global environmental functions for our future generations. Most developing countries largely depend for their employment and income on agricultural resources, though some countries have made the transition to reduced dependence on agricultural resources.

The primary interest for agriculture policy is not only how to break the vicious circle between increasing poverty and resource degradation but also how to manage the process of development. In this context, we must not lose sight of the pressing need to continue our century-long efforts to improve agriculture productivity and to achieve environmental protection.

Finally, this report will provide guidelines to plan long-term agricultural policies in member countries. My delegation also hopes that the findings will be used to plan FAO programmes and to decide priorities. In conclusion, my delegation would like to encourage FAO's expertise in all of the relevant disciplines to progress this report.

Rolf AKESSON (Sweden): When it first appeared in the form of a project proposal some 15 years ago, Agriculture: Toward 2000 aroused a considerable amount of interest and high expectations. Those were the days of intensive long-term forecasting and speculation in all social sciences and it was felt the FAO should make a contribution in the area of agriculture, hopefully dispelling at least some of the confusion prevailing at the time due to the widely different results of other studies in this area.

By and large, the high expectations were fulfilled. AT 2000 soon became a vade-mecum which was consulted in all those instances when global long-term agricultural development was involved. Especially in countries where the necessary, rather costly, facilities to undertake comprehensive exercises like this are hard to justify, and thus it is eminently rational to rely on an international organization, it was clearly of great use. This was particularly so since those smaller and medium-sized countries are the ones that are most dependent on trade and the rest of world, and thus generally tend to put more emphasis on external factors in the process of shaping national agricultural policies.

The main reason for the success, the rather durable success, of AT 2000, was perhaps due to the basic methodology used. Rather than relying entirely or mainly on elaborate econometric models which tend to generate results that are sensitive to basic (sometimes a bit arbitrary) assumptions, especially when the time horizon is extended, the reliance of AT 2000 was on knowledge, expertise and informed judgements about the specific factors shaping agriculture - such as land, other inputs, population, trade, etc. in various parts of the world, a very labour-intensive method and clearly one that could - and indeed should - only be possible to undertake here at FAO. While the little "validation" exercise in an annex to the document in front of us is not necessarily telling the full story, it gives support to the idea that the results of this approach are more robust.

A more detailed and systematic analysis of the predictions of AT 2000 compared to reality would have been interesting and, hopefully, have increased the presentation.

It was felt at a very early stage that the usefulness of AT 2000 would soon decline unless it was updated at regular intervals. The appearance now of Agriculture: Towards 2010 at this Conference implies an interval of some 10 years. That is unfortunate since this kind of forward-looking, global overview has to be a fundamental and indispensable activity of an organization which merits the designation "global centre of excellence". Admittedly, some parts have been updated earlier but basically we members have been without a decently up-to-date and consolidated study for at least five years. In view of the total amount of resources put into this organization, that is simply not good enough and we expect the new Director-General to propose a strengthening of the relevant department in this respect in order to prevent such delays in the future. We will, for example, very soon have, hopefully, a conclusion of the Uruguay Round which may warrant a more detailed look at future global developments.

The initial success of AT 2000 did not mean that it was free from objections. Some of them have been taken into account in the revised version in front of us. We appreciate, for example, that the slightly technocratic view of the production process has been replaced by a more elaborate and sophisticated one that better takes into consideration the natural biological cycle's negative effects on the environment and a better appreciation of alternative methods of production. We would, however, have welcomed a slightly deeper and more thorough analysis of the issues relating to trade and the environment.

Similarly, we appreciate the efforts to look into the social circumstances in areas of future production growth. Clearly, the possible increases in production in various areas depend not only on hard facts such as land areas, water availability, numbers of farmer and consumers etc., but also on the widely differing and changing social conditions. In other words, we appreciate that the farmer is not considered only as just another factor of production, homogeneous and comparable to other inputs.

We are less impressed, however, with the reaction to the earlier criticism for regionally unbalanced coverage. In one respect we recognize an improvement and that concerns by far the largest country, China, which is no longer left out more or less entirely, although there is still ample room for additional efforts to cover more aspects, such as the grains sector. We find little improvement concerning the earlier lack of comparability between developed and developing countries. If this is to be regarded as a truly global exercise, which we certainly would like to do for all outputs from UN and other agencies for whom the principle of universality is clearly and generally recognized, then it is hard to avoid the conclusion that one group of member countries has been the subject of almost systematic discrimination. I am not only referring to OECD countries. At least equally serious is the lack of comprehensive attention to countries in Eastern Europe.

That might have been avoided with a procedure of work involving member countries. In most organizations a project like this is discussed at various levels by representatives or experts from member countries and perhaps also from other institutions. To our knowledge that has not been done in here, at least not in a systematic way. We would like to suggest that this is done in the future.

Finally, as to the future of this study, we would like to endorse the idea that it is published as soon as possible. In spite of some shortcomings, it contains exceedingly interesting and policy relevant information which

clearly merits its being brought to the attention of interested parties outside the building, as well as to the public at large. The most efficient way of doing this appears to us to be to make a fairly short edition - say 50 pages or so - with major analyses and results, maximum use of graphic presentations and special emphasis on the outlook for future developments in line with UNCED results.

The present version is not easily accessible and clearly too detailed for most purposes. Rather than having an outside company publish this version, which was done with some delays for the predecessor, a shorter streamlined version would be preferable and could be done quickly in the building.

David CLAYTON (United Kingdom): Mr Chairman, the United Kingdom wishes to congratulate the FAO Secretariat on a timely update of their earlier global study "Agriculture: Towards 2000". The update usefully takes into account events at UNCED follow-up/Agenda 21 implications. I would like to refer to some of the main points.

The paper recognizes that economic growth in the developed world could have an important impact on living standards in developing countries, and hence their ability to obtain adequate food supplies. It is well known that forecasting economic growth is notoriously difficult and the paper, as can be expected, has had to make certain assumptions about future levels. It may in future be helpful if some sensitivity analysis were included in order to aid consideration of, for example, the implications and potential effects of lower growth.

In paragraphs 8.44 to 8.47, a controversial economic issue is given somewhat brief treatment. This is the extent to which it is valid for countries to resort to trade restrictions in support of environmental objectives. For example, if a country is producing a product at a high cost to the environment, another country may decide to impose a tariff on this product to take account of the environmental externality. A number of issues emerge from this. Firstly, countries may use the environmental argument as a spurious justification for protection. Secondly, is it legitimate for one country to impose its own environmental standards on others? Clearly, where there is an environmental overspill (for example, acid rain) then a country does have a legitimate interest in another's environmental policies. However, some would argue that even when the environmental damage is completely confined within national boundaries other countries can have a legitimate interest. It is argued that countries which damage their own environment to gain a competitive advantage are engaged in some form of "unfair" competition. However, the counter-argument is that it is quite legitimate for countries to choose differing environmental standards. These choices reflect the current tastes and priorities of these nations (although this could be questionable in undemocratic countries). This issue could be given greater consideration in these paragraphs.

On fisheries, the United Kingdom aims to ensure stocks are conserved and managed as a sustainable resource, and that fishing effort is balanced with available resources. We fully support the initiative in the UN Conference to prepare a Code of Conduct on Responsible Fishing to help ensure high sustainable yields for both coastal and high seas fisheries.

Research is an important topic and it is important to recognize the important role of the public sector in research and development. In the

United Kingdom, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food targets its efforts towards the public good and environmental research spending around £130m each year. Research which is likely to bring direct commercial benefits is funded by the private sector.

The United Kingdom Government recognizes the importance of good marketing to the commercial success of its farming and food industries. We believe that the key issue is better communication and more collaboration between all parts of the agriculture and food industry - producers, processors, retailers and catering outlets - so that the whole industry can become more aware of customers' needs and how to meet them. The United Kingdom encourages contacts throughout the industry and makes available grant support towards the development of marketing structures which are better able to respond to the commercial realities of today's market.

There is of course a wider context. As the United Kingdom delegation said during the discussion of paper 93/2, the global economy and food and farming in particular will clearly gain from a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round. The United Kingdom is strongly committed to doing all that we can to help achieve that conclusion.

The United Kingdom delegation has taken note of the Chapter on Forestry which restates the present situation of the world's forests, forest production and trade and forestry and the environment. The paper concludes with a section on future perspectives.

We believe the focus must be on practical implementation of the UNCED Forestry Principles, and it is encouraging to note that initiatives such as the Helsinki Ministerial Conference on Forest Protection in Europe and the Montreal Seminar on Sustainable Development of Boreal and Temperate Forests, as well as the activities of the International Tropical Timber Organization, are taking this forward.

It is widely accepted that farmers have a dual role as food producers and stewards of the countryside. However, agriculture's impact on the environment has not always been positive. Technological developments and the influence of agricultural support policies have, over the past 30-40 years, resulted in agricultural practices that have led to the loss of valued landscape features and wildlife as well as water and air pollution problems.

In recognition of this, the United Kingdom has been at the forefront of efforts to integrate environmental objectives into agriculture policy. For example, we pioneered the Environmentally Sensitive Areas concept under which we aim to conserve those areas of high landscape, wildlife or historic value which are vulnerable to change in farming practices.

Also, the May 1992 Common Agricultural Policy reform agreement included, at the United Kingdom's insistence, a declaration affirming the Agriculture Council's commitment to environmental protection as an integral part of the CAP.

We believe that environmental conditions should be attached to payments to farmers to prevent damage to the environment. However, where environmentally positive management is required going beyond normal good agricultural practice, we believe farmers should receive compensation.

Looking to the future, it is vitally important that the process begun at Rio is carried forward. The United Kingdom for its part will produce, by the end of this year, a sustainable development strategy as well as national plans on biodiversity, climate change and forests. These will set out how we intend to respond nationally and internationally to the Rio agreements. Agriculture, fisheries and forestry policies will all be covered as appropriate.

FAO are to be congratulated for their work on sustainability issues to date. Obviously, it is important to ensure that, in progressing this, due account is taken of work undertaken in other fora (for example, UNECE and OECD) to ensure best use of resources.

Finally, we have a long text before us already but we might reflect on whether it would be beneficial if the Secretariat had included in the document suggested outline action programmes in critical areas. The United Kingdom delegation believes there would be merit in highlighting both the problems which must be resolved and the action which needs to be taken, recognizing this can only be done in outline with the detail followed up elsewhere.

Bernardo PALESTINI (Italy): The forecast for the period 1990-2010, as given in document C 93/24, shows a further increase in the world's population of 1.3 billion so that the total of the world's population in 2010 will be 7.2 billion. Nevertheless, this increase, even if high, is lower in percentage terms than the one we had in the past. Unfortunately, it is not evenly shared and will cause many problems because the poorest countries show the highest increase in population growth.

In contrast, the increase in GNP in agriculture is in percentage terms lower than that for the previous ten years, as shown in Table 3.2 of the document under consideration.

Therefore, we can foresee that the food situation will always be serious. Nevertheless, if we examine food habits, we will note that, first of all, in the developing countries studied in this document, there is an improvement in their diet. In fact, animal products are used more now than cereal products.

Interesting data come from a survey of future trends for non-food agricultural products. A typical example is tobacco. Its use is decreasing in developed countries but is increasing in the developing countries. The latter will probably reach and even overtake the former in the near future.

The decrease in arable lands - caused by the spreading of cities and by protective measures of the environment, for example parks and natural reserves, hydrogeological constraints, etc., - together with the decrease in agricultural working populations take place both in the developed and, although to a lesser extent, in the developing countries.

As we can see in the document, in the developing countries theoretically there is the possibility of increasing the arable surface and exploiting in a better manner the existing one. On the contrary, in industrialized countries this possibility does not exist or, if it does, it would be uneconomic. Nevertheless, there are also positive aspects. The transition from a mainly agricultural activity, often with the aim of mere survival, towards tertiary and agro-industrial activities generally causes an

increase in per capita income and, therefore, in the end a general improvement in conditions of life.

Moreover, "part-time" farming is a growing aspect of our time. It has to be considered in relation not only to the absolute values of productivity of professional agriculture, but also in relation to the protection of the environment in which this activity develops. This is particularly felt in highly-populated countries. Here we have witnessed, especially in recent years, a return to the countryside, caused more by health and ecological reasons than by economic ones.

In the general view of Agriculture in 2010, particular attention is rightly given to the difficult problem of forests. Forests are a renewable resource, although the renewal process takes a long time. Their products are of vital importance both for the economy and daily life. They bring about beneficial effects of wide-ranging significance which need consideration also for their important consequences.

Forests are all too often requested to provide goods and services. The growing demand placed upon them causes more and more antagonism concerning both the benefits of forests and the possible utilization of the land for different purposes such as agriculture, animal breeding and human settlements.

The major challenge lying ahead of us is to settle such conflicts over the different destinations of forests so as to be sure that they will be managed in a proper way and to guarantee that their basic functions will not be endangered.

Governments and competent authorities must take the necessary measures at national, international and local levels to provide a sustainable management of forests and to favour, as far as possible, those ways of utilizing natural resources capable of assuring their renewal and regeneration.

The initiative contemplated in the Tropical Forest Action Programme, engaging jointly the FAO, the World Bank, UNDP and the World Resource Institute, must be supported and given the utmost participation in order to help the countries involved finalize their policies according to the principle of the sustainable management of forests. We do not certainly mean to underestimate the many other worldwide FAO initiatives in the forest and environmental sectors. We would wish to stress Italy's special interest in the Mediterranean Forest Action Programme which offers a further opportunity to meet and cooperate at international level in an area of great historical, humanistic and political significance.

Mrs Hedwig WÖGERBAUER (Austria) (Original language German): Although this is a very comprehensive document I will be brief in my comments on it. I simply want to point out those issues which seem most important to us.

Like Agriculture: Toward 2000, this comprehensive piece of work --Agriculture: Towards 2010 -- is not only of particular interest, but also in a very impressive way shows us future prospects. Although there are certain limits contained in all forecasts we have to thank very warmly the authors of this work. They have done a great deal of hard work and have shown a sense of responsibility and expertise in putting together this forecast which goes beyond the turn of the century. Naturally enough, the

emphasis of this forecast is on agriculture and nutrition, showing possible trends in developing countries. In this connection, we should mention the individual chapters.

The authors point to already existing or suggested measures which might be useful for the future. They refer to measures in agriculture, forestry and fisheries while taking into account the environmental aspects. Even in the introduction they point to a reduction in the number of under-nourished people from 800 million to 650 million in the developing countries which is a pleasing result, but which shows we still have many important tasks before us.

Quite apart from the very impressive overview contained in Chapter 11, from our point of view we would refer particularly to Chapters 3, 10, 11 and 13. The stepping-up of specialized schooling and advice, especially for women, focused on in Chapter 10, is in line with our own opinion that this is one of the most purposeful and useful investments in the interest of producers and consumers in forestry and agriculture.

Chapters 11 to 13 list measures and proposals for environmental protection in connection with production of and trade in agricultural products, which in our country are becoming more and more important from the point of view of both the consumer and the producer. Therefore, we feel the points in paragraphs 13.29, 13.30 and 13.36 to be of particular interest.

All in all, this exemplary report is a useful basis for agricultural policy considerations with a view to better nutrition as well as a better standard of living for those active in the spheres of agriculture and forestry.

Eberhard SCHKAUZ (Germany) (Original language German): By updating and extending this study to the year 2010, the FAO Secretariat has once again provided us with a remarkable work. We congratulate them on this and thank them for the work they have done. This exceptional study we have before us follows on from the study which appeared in 1987, which was a similar FAO study, known as *Toward 2000*. This continuation is a very successful document looking at the probable developments of nutrition and agriculture (including forestry and fisheries) over the course of the next twenty years.

The Chapters have been well divided into 13 themes. They give us a good overview of the important questions relating to world agriculture as well as to the interlinkage of the main and substantive issues such as the fight against poverty - for example in rural areas: the fight against hunger - for example in the Sahel region; the preservation of the natural bases of life - for example in deserts, steppes and mountain areas, as well as the inclusion of all sectors of the population in rural development.

In the conclusions in Chapter 1, paragraphs 1.98 through to 1.100, the study emphasizes a whole range of important statements and perspectives which are of great importance for the debate on agricultural policy as well as for the future work of FAO. The study includes a wealth of information which will be of great interest to the international community. Detailed assessments especially with a view to the forecast development of important agricultural markets are also being undertaken in the Federal Republic of Germany.

In this respect, we support what the delegate of Sweden said - that is to say, we should have a summary of the document. At first sight, the assumptions in the document seem to be quite plausible. On the other hand, it is very difficult to assess to what extent these assumptions will prove to be realistic, all the more so since the forecasts for the developing countries are based partly on unreliable data and the developments in the reformed countries of Central and Eastern Europe, and the area of the former Soviet Union are very difficult to foresee.

A decisive question is whether and to what extent by the year 2010 we are going to have an increase in energy costs and what impact this may have for further economic growth and demand for agricultural products, for example, in the technical industrial area. According to an assessment of the company PROGONOS AG, Basel, in its report of Germany produced in 1993, the price for a barrel of crude oil could rise from the present level of US\$18.5 by the year 2010 to US\$70 to US\$75. This would mean a price increase in real terms of about 85 percent.

The study makes clear that problems of food security, poverty, hunger and chronic under-nutrition may well prevail, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, but may also continue in other developing countries. Reference has already been made to this in a statement made by the European Commission.

It is going to be even more important to be more precise in regional terms about the obvious need for actions concerning resource conserving, sustainable and food-securing agriculture resources, which have been made clear in the study should be supplemented through proposals and concrete measures.

This comprehensive compendium which concentrates above all on portraying the results of analysis of important specialized areas should provide a good basis for FAO's work in the next 10 to 15 years. It includes the area of production technology, questions relating to rural development in connection with natural resources in agriculture, forestry and fisheries as well as demographic forecasts in connection with poverty and hunger.

To achieve this goal, it is essential to bring into line the areas of action outlined in the study with the priorities in the Medium-Term Plan 1994-95, document C 93/23, and to adjust them in the course of development. In this respect I am thinking, for example, of the application of research results with regard to the use of the means of production. Training and extension are other areas which can decisively help to improve the situation in the problem areas. On top of that, we need measures in the spheres of fisheries and forestry.

The trends shown in this study offer the bodies, the various working groups and committees of FAO very good guidelines for their future work.

The meeting rose at 12.30 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30 horas.

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 93/I/PV/6

Twenty-seventh Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt-septième session
COMMISSION I

27° período de sesiones
COMISION I

SIXTH MEETING
SIXIEME SEANCE
SEXTA SESION

(12 November 1993)

The Sixth Meeting was opened at 14.50 hours

Mr Hermann Redl, Chairman of Commission I' presiding

La sixième séance est ouverte à 14 h 50

sous la présidence de M. Hermann Redl, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la sexta sesión a las 14.50 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hermann Redl, Presidente de la Comisión I

PART I - MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
PREMIERE PARTIE - PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE
D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
PARTE I - PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA
ALIMENTACION (continuación)

- 6. World Food and Agriculture Situation and Outlook (continued)
- 6. Situation et perspectives mondiales de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)
- 6. Situación y perspectivas de la agricultura y la alimentación en el mundo (continuación)

- 6.2 World Food Security and Nutritional Status (continued)
- 6.2 Sécurité alimentaire et situation nutritionnelle dans le monde (suite)
- 6.2. Seguridad alimentaria mundial y estado nutricional (continuación)

- 6.3. World Agriculture Towards 2010 (continued)
- 6.3 L'agriculture mondiale à l'horizon 2010 (suite)
- 6.3 La agricultura mundial: Hacia el año 2010 (continuación)

Parviz KARBASI (Iran, Islamic Republic of) : In the name of God, my delegation would like to thank FAO for preparing document C 93/24. We welcome all of FAO's initiatives in agricultural development with all other UN agencies and NGOs.

I would also like to thank Mr Hjort for his clear introduction to Agriculture: Towards 2010. In his introductory statement, Mr Hjort mentioned that changes in institutions and human resources are one of the keys for success.

We all believe that lack of technology, lack of knowledge, lack of skilled human resources in developing countries, lack of institutional structure and lack of capital are the main reasons for poverty and hunger in the world.

We are close to the end of the century and at the next Conference we shall celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of FAO. We believe that the main responsibility for agricultural development rests on the shoulders of each country, and international fora are just to initiate, and give some support for, this responsibility.

My delegation believes that FAO can make its contribution to Agriculture: Towards 2010 through world distribution of agricultural information for which millions of dollars have been spent in preparing data. We know that many developing countries have difficulty in getting electronic mail, CD information on computer, even to have microfiche or microfilm. In this respect, I hope Commission members agree with me in asking FAO to prepare and to publish 50 years of success and failure of FAO activities in time for the next Conference. This publication would primarily be used in all agricultural colleges and universities, by policy-makers at national and international level and might help in the development of agriculture until the year 2010. FAO could sell this valuable publication and make some money. Also, this publication would indicate to Member Nations of the Organization which units of FAO have made the most contribution to the

development of agriculture, show us the abilities of each department, and give a chance to the new Director-General to find out where he stands and how he could restructure this Organization for the year 2010. I think this would be the best evaluation of the work of FAO professionals. It is necessary that it should be done and would be a useful publication for all of us.

Abdelkader EL MAZHOR (Maroc): Pour ma part, je souhaite féliciter le Secrétariat de l'excellent travail qu'il nous a présenté et surtout de l'effort fourni pour élaborer ce document. Ce travail constitue, à notre sens, une référence très utile et très riche en données et en analyses des politiques qui sont indispensables pour les projets de développement à l'avenir.

Avec votre permission, j'ai quelques remarques à formuler au sujet des chapitres 3 et 7.

En ce qui concerne le chapitre 3, relatif à l'alimentation et l'agriculture mondiale dans les vingt prochaines années, il est dit, au paragraphe 3.6, page 66 du document, que selon les perspectives de la FAO la croissance économique dans les pays en développement s'améliorera dans les années 90 par rapport à la dernière décennie. Cependant, le revenu par habitant resterait faible compte tenu du taux élevé de la croissance démographique. Or, les résultats obtenus au début des années 90 ne sont pas encourageants quant à la croissance économique. On peut se demander si cette projection ne peut pas être revue compte tenu de la récession que connaît actuellement l'économie mondiale.

Ma deuxième remarque concerne le paragraphe 3.9. A l'échelle mondiale, il est prévu que la croissance de la production globale continuera de baisser pour atteindre 1,8 pour cent par an au cours des vingt prochaines années. Ce ralentissement intervient lorsque la demande non satisfaite par la production locale ne peut s'exprimer sous forme de demande effective d'importations et induit ainsi une augmentation de la production dans une autre partie du monde.

Cela sous-entend que les pays en développement ayant déjà entrepris les réformes de libéralisation n'ont pas obtenu les résultats escomptés pour améliorer leur production alimentaire et en même temps dégager les moyens financiers pour importer selon leurs besoins.

Selon le paragraphe 3.99, le solde net des échanges agricoles des pays en développement en termes réels a baissé en 1988-90 par rapport à son niveau de trente ans plus tôt. En effet, les projections relatives aux besoins d'importations et aux disponibilités exportables des principaux produits agricoles indiquent que les pays en développement pourraient très prochainement se transformer d'exportateurs en importateurs nets de produits agricoles. Par ailleurs, les tendances des prix n'indiquent pas que les cours moyens des produits dont les pays en développement sont exportateurs nets augmenteraient plus vite ou baisseraient moins que ceux des produits dont ces pays sont et resteraient importateurs nets. La seule certitude, c'est que les prix réels des céréales et des produits laitiers, principaux produits importés par les pays en développement, ont peu de chance de baisser ou pourraient même augmenter.

La première conclusion, c'est que les pays en développement vont exporter moins que par le passé par rapport à leurs importations. La deuxième

conclusion, c'est que les experts n'ont pas pu cerner avec précision le sens de l'évolution des prix d'exportation par rapport aux prix d'importation. La conséquence pour les pays en développement, compte tenu de ces deux conclusions, c'est que le solde de leur balance commerciale agricole reste incertain bien que l'étude anticipe une baisse de ce solde.

Pour ce qui est du chapitre 7 :

Paragraphe 7.37: D'après ce paragraphe, la protection indirecte (taux de change, taux d'intérêt, niveau de salaire...) a été plus forte que la protection directe (prix intérieurs des produits, ...) durant les années 80.

En effet, une protection directe positive peut se traduire par une taxation si on tient compte de la protection indirecte.

Ce constat montre que la politique sectorielle de protection (produits agricoles) ne peut atteindre son objectif que si elle tient compte des politiques macro-économiques du pays.

Paragraphe 7.41: Les réformes des politiques des prix comportaient une augmentation des incitations grâce à une réduction de l'écart entre les prix frontière et ceux qui étaient payés aux producteurs.

Cette conclusion mérite d'être explicitée.

En effet, dans le cas des produits importés, la réduction de l'écart entre les prix est une baisse des incitations.

Paragraphe 7.49: Bien que les réformes des prix soient nécessaires à la croissance agricole, le pessimisme quant à la réactivité de la production de l'ensemble du secteur aux seules incitations par le prix à court ou moyen terme appelle des mesures autres que les prix, en particulier l'amélioration de la recherche, des infrastructures, etc.

Dans le cadre des programmes d'ajustement structurel et, en particulier dans le cas du Maroc, les biens collectifs ne constituent pas en général une composante de ces programmes.

Il y a lieu d'insister sur la nécessité de prendre en considération l'amélioration des infrastructures dans le programme d'ajustement structurel.

Paragraphe 7.64: L'instabilité des prix d'importation et d'exportation peut aboutir à des crises occasionnelles de la sécurité alimentaire.

Dans ces conditions, la recherche d'un plus grand degré d'autosuffisance alimentaire peut être justifiée dans la mesure où il est difficile de mettre en oeuvre d'autres politiques (tarifs douaniers variables, réserve en devises, etc.).

Dans le cas des pays en développement en général et du Maroc en particulier où le budget de l'Etat ne permet pas de donner des incitations à la production pour améliorer le niveau d'autosuffisance, la protection à la frontière, notamment par le système des prix de référence, constitue, à notre avis, la seule alternative pour corriger les distorsions du marché mondial et éviter ainsi l'instabilité excessive des prix intérieurs.

Avant de terminer, je voudrais signaler que nous soutenons la proposition faite par le représentant de l'Iran, relative à la publication des réalisations de la FAO durant les cinquante dernières années pour la prochaine Conférence.

Chrysanthos LOIZIDES (Cyprus) : The report of the study on the prospects for world food and agriculture until the year 2010, as presented in document C 93/24, will become, in our view, a very useful reference book during the forthcoming years. We share the view that the findings of this study can contribute substantially to alerting people, governments and organizations to consider in time the measures and activities necessary in order to reverse the predicted negative trends and to prevent the aggravation of the problems of food security and the environment. For this reason we wish to commend the Secretariat and the authors of this report for the good work they have done.

We also thank Mr Hjort for introducing this item.

Referring to the overall content of the report, we appreciate the fact that the various issues elaborated throughout the thirteen chapters of the report - well documented by tables, figures, soil maps and appendices - are concerned, basically, with two major issues. These are: the prospects for enhanced food security and nutrition and for improved sustainability of agricultural and rural development. The same two themes coincide with the declaration of the ICN and UNCED Conferences respectively and, as stated by the FAO Director-General in his introduction, "are at the very heart of the FAO's activities".

The key element of the study under review is that the growth rate of world agricultural production will be lower in the next 20 years and it is estimated to be 1.8 percent compared to 2.3 percent for the last 20 years. On the other hand, world population is expected to reach 7.2 billion compared to 5.3 billion in 1990. The bulk of the population increase will be in the developing countries where the aggregate increase of food supplies is likely to be less than required to raise the average per capita supplies to levels compatible with food security for all, as stated in paragraph 1.11 of Chapter I. Consequently, the crucial problem of chronic under-nutrition, which is presently affecting around 800 million, will continue to be not only an incubus but a great challenge for the whole of humanity.

The failure to alleviate poverty is widely recognized as the main reason why under-nutrition persists and this is repeatedly mentioned in the report study. In the light of the fact that in many of the developing countries the vast majority of the population depends on the agricultural sector for their employment and income, the increase of food and/or agricultural production is rightly considered among the principal means for combatting poverty.

However, the issue of poverty alleviation is certainly a multi-disciplinary and complex issue that goes far beyond the coverage of this study. For this reason we shall limit our brief comments on specific topics concerned with the need for management and/or development of natural and human resources within the process of agricultural production increase vis-à-vis the need for enhanced food security and the need for sustainable agricultural development.

The perspective developments presented in the study are surely not very promising as regards security and the environment, but they provide a good basis for corrective policies and activities aiming to raise food production in a sustainable manner.

In this context we believe that more priority should be given to agricultural and rural development strategies to enable the wide sector of agriculture to play its significant role in food production and poverty alleviation. Within this strategy, the sustainable use of productive resources, namely land and water, as well as human resources development, should be treated as one fundamental issue.

The relevant documentation in the study report reveals that there is scope for improvement in the areas of land use, soil nutrition, pest management, the application of proper cultural practices and the integration of crops and livestock production. Likewise, in the area of water resources much more could be achieved through the necessary infrastructure works and proper water management arrangements leading to water savings, increased efficiency of irrigation and the expansion of irrigated areas, thus raising land productivity.

On the other hand, the development of human resources, namely the human resources engaged, directly or indirectly, in the agricultural sector, will positively affect both the production levels of the sector and the promotion of sustainable agricultural development.

The information presented in Chapter 10 is very eloquent with respect to the education level and the agricultural extension services in the developing countries. Figure 10.1 on page 264 indicates that the illiteracy rate goes up to 70 percent for males and to over 96 percent for females. In paragraph 10.19, page 266, it is stated that in the developing countries, one extension agent covers 2 500 economically active persons in agriculture, while in developed countries the same ratio is 1:400.

Briefly speaking, there is a great need for human resources development in the developing countries.

One of the sound messages of the study-report is, in our view, the need to harmonize the use of agricultural resources with the food production increase, which is urgently required for the elimination of chronic undernutrition. Surely this is not an easy task. It is sufficient to mention here that many of the developing countries and the countries of excentrally planned economies are still in the process of stabilization and structural reforms aimed at correcting the relevant policies and measures. Most of these countries are in great financial difficulties and that makes it more difficult for them to mobilize financial resources for development.

We have reasons to believe that the international community cannot be indifferent to this situation. We do hope and wish that the spirit of solidarity and cooperation between the privileged and the less privileged people, sooner or later will prevail for the benefit of all.

As we mentioned earlier, the wider sector of agriculture is expected to play a significant role in the process of overall development, especially where a large part of the population depends on this sector for employment and income. Consequently, this Organization, being the lead agent for food and agriculture, will have to strengthen its activities even more for providing advisory services and other assistance to needy countries on

aspects of policy advice, development projects design, agricultural training and extension services and for promoting regional and international cooperation among its Member-States.

In concluding, we wish to make the following observation. Cyprus was not included among the countries covered by the study under review. However, in the land map for the Near East, which is inserted between the pages 125-127, the whole island of Cyprus is presented as a completely non-productive land. This is not true. For reasons of accuracy we wish to place on record that the agricultural land of Cyprus amounts to 50 percent of the total land, of which around 16 percent is irrigated, the forest land is 19 percent and grazing land is only 11 percent. The remaining 20 percent of the total land includes non-cultivated land, riverbeds and sites of towns and villages.

ZHANG XIGUI (China) (Original language Chinese): Mr Chairman, first of all please allow me on behalf of the Chinese delegation to thank the FAO Secretariat for having prepared a very informative and complete document, C93/24, and thank Mr Hjort for his lucid and concise presentation which provides a sound basis for our deliberations today.

We have noted that after giving an overall analysis of the factors affecting future agricultural development, the document made scientific projections about future world food security and nutrition status as well as the sustainability of rural development. This is of great significance for the preparation of scientific and rational strategies and policies by the international community and by national governments for agricultural and rural development.

As projected by document C 93/24, with the increasing world population and deteriorating and diminishing environment and resources, world food and agriculture is faced with evermore daunting tasks and challenges which call for greater efforts and more resolute political will from the international community and national governments to eradicate poverty, hunger and malnutrition so as to ensure steady and sustainable development of food and agricultural production.

In this connection, we wish to appeal once again to the international community and the developed countries in particular to make further efforts to lessen the debt burdens of developing countries, to speed up technical transfer and increase resource flows and assistance to these countries; to strive to remove protectionism in trade and agricultural commodities; to improve trade terms for developing countries so as fundamentally to remedy the irrational and unbalanced pattern of world food and agricultural production and distribution; to create an external environment for agriculture and rural development which is favourable to common development and which will benefit all countries and establish a new just order of global food and agricultural production and trade.

At the same time, we hope that developing countries themselves will exert their own efforts and in the light of their specific conditions promulgate economic development strategies and policies conducive to food and agricultural enhancement with a view to strengthening their self-reliance capabilities. We believe that the eradication of hunger and poverty is still an issue of primary importance and urgency facing the current and future world food and agriculture production.

Development and conservation and environmental protection are two sides of an issue of equal importance and should be well coordinated in future world food and agricultural development. The latest science and technology, conducive to the conservation and utilization of the environment and resources, should be fully utilized. In addition, the adoption of farm production and management measures benefiting environment and resource conservation is of vital importance. It is our hope that FAO will launch more activities in this field, strengthening its technical assistance, policy advice and training of personnel for developing countries as well as enhancing the cooperation and exchange among developing countries. China is ready to share its experience and exchange its technical skills and carry out full and all-round cooperation in this regard with other countries so as to make its due contribution to the sustainable development of world agriculture.

Arnaldo BADILLO ROJAS (Venezuela): Queremos sumarnos al reconocimiento que las otras delegaciones han expresado a la Secretaría por el esfuerzo realizado en la elaboración de este importante documento sobre Agricultura: Hacia el año 2010. Queremos hacer referencia a la tipología de países que se desprende de la lectura de los puntos 1.16 y 1.17 en la introducción de este documento, ya que hay un conjunto de países que no corresponde exactamente a la categoría de países desarrollados o en desarrollo, donde la seguridad alimentaria ha dejado de ser un problema grave, ni corresponde tampoco al grupo de países en desarrollo, con una muy alta proporción de población rural, que dependen fundamentalmente de los recursos agrícolas para su seguridad alimentaria. Es el caso de aquellos países como algunos países latinoamericanos donde los procesos de inmigración rural urbana y la urbanización han avanzado significativamente desde hace varias décadas y presentan, dentro de su especificidad, un cuadro general de pobreza urbana además de pobreza rural que, por supuesto, está demandando un esfuerzo importante para mejorar el uso de sus recursos agrícolas con fines alimentarios a medida que avanzan en la aplicación de sus políticas de apertura económica y se integran progresivamente en la economía mundial.

Quizás una cierta deficiencia de estudios de situación en América Latina y El Caribe haya contribuido a que esta modalidad de sociedades en desarrollo no aparezca bien reflejada en esta sección del estudio de la agricultura del año 2010.

De allí, señor Presidente, nuestra insistencia en que se inicien cuanto antes en América Latina y El Caribe los estudios de situación que la FAO recomienda en el documento sobre Productos Básicos, analizado en el 105º período de sesiones del Consejo de esta Organización, a fin de sustentar en sus conclusiones la exploración de estrategias y políticas que permitirían a estos países enfrentar con mayor claridad sus problemas de seguridad alimentaria y producción agrícola en el futuro inmediato.

Jan GORECKI (Poland): My delegation wishes to congratulate the Secretariat of the FAO on the preparation of this document, which we found very comprehensive and of high analytical value. In comparison with the previous document - Agriculture: Toward 2000 - the progress is obvious. I would like to particularly stress the following points.

The analysis made for the strategic concept as far as agricultural policy is concerned covers a time period starting from early 1950s. Progress in the sphere of production in the developing countries is underlined. The

phenomenon was characterized by an increase in yields of crops, higher farming intensity, implementation of new technologies and an improvement in the relationship between food production and the number of population in many developing countries.

Then there is the close link which exists between the long-term development of agricultural and the natural environment as well as the ecological balance; this is strongly stressed. The document advocates balanced development which is very important.

While underlining the strong points of the document it is worthwhile paying close attention also to the weak points. In this respect, I would like to discuss the following questions.

First of all, the document does not present an entire FAO strategy towards new challenges such as new production marketing as well as the political situation throughout the world. The paper takes into account analyses and assumptions as well as instruments of national policies, and in that regard an outstanding job has been done. However, we cannot forget today that the strategy of a particular country depends on the global situation.

Secondly, in the very comprehensive studies concerning the state of agriculture and food supply, the main interest was focused on the production and supply aspect. However, nowadays the world demands new approaches towards the structure of market-places and international trade as well as a solution of the demand problems in the domestic market. The question of the market and other priorities in foreign trade cannot be limited to the Uruguay Round since its lack of success indicates that an entire liberalization of international trade may not be adopted by many countries. It is very possible that if the philosophy of the Uruguay Round eventually became a fact, developing countries will face a barrier to their development for some years. The world has to find a way to reach a new consensus in the field of international trade. It is unlikely, however, that such a consensus can be accomplished within the framework of the Uruguay Round.

Thirdly, the document mainly tackles the problem of the developing countries. That fact is well understood. However, we must not neglect the fact that there is one world and very strong interreactions between the domestic and international markets. Thus, developing countries will not be able to work out their own development strategies unless they take into account all aspects, including the needs of their own neighbours.

It is known that the Central and Eastern European countries are not in a position to work out their own development strategies without considering developing countries' markets. Contrary to the title, the document does not pay enough attention to forecasts for the year 2010 and further years. Reading the document one might have the impression that the authors have concentrated mainly on the past, and the picture of the future comes from simple extrapolation of previous trends. This is a difficult thing to do for all time, because some new factors will occur which may dramatically change the development trends.

Looking at the document, one cannot learn the programming method used by the authors, although there is no reason to question it. However, the analysis in Table 3.2 on page 64 in respect of the Central and Eastern European countries arouses some doubts. For example, it is unlikely that a long-term growth rate of agricultural production can decrease from 1.2

percent over the period 1970 to 1990 to an annual average of 0.4 percent in 1989, 1990 and the year 2010. According to our analysis, in Poland that indicator will amount to 1.6 percent to 1.8 percent.

Ms Katalin BAKK (Hungary): My delegation has read with great interest the document on Agriculture: Towards 2010. I deliberately refrained from using the verb "studied" because approximately three weeks at our disposal was not enough to go deeply into the merit of such an extensive and comprehensive document. Beyond congratulating the Secretariat for having tabled this highly valuable document, I would therefore like to offer some general comments only. The Hungarian agro-economists will be glad to comment more in depth should FAO require such expert opinion.

Some distinguished delegates who have taken an active part in FAO Governing Bodies' discussions longer than I have might remember the successful row of FAO long-term studies and plans on world agriculture. Roughly 25 years ago the Indicative World Plan, later on the even more sophisticated and scientifically balanced versions of the study "AT 2000" were milestones in the Organization's activity, trying to assess the future and draw some useful conclusions for FAO's medium-term and biennial plans. As a member of a delegation of a European country, I should also draw attention to the wish of previous conferences, whereby the study of the previous exercise of FAO on long-range planning, i.e. "AT 2000" was extended to cover developed countries in general and Europe in particular. The document before us on a twenty-year span up to 2010 may also lend itself to a similar extension in coverage.

My delegation has no reason to put the usefulness of an FAO long-range planning document to any reasonable doubt. In a rather sketchy way two major lines of previous trade papers referred to above have been made use of. The first was the guidance these plans provided for FAO and other international and national bodies in charge of agropolicies to draw up their respective medium-term plans and action plans, FAO work programmes included.

You may, Mr Chairman, consider the second field of perusal a bit trivial but I trust many of us do have the same experience. Hundreds of agro-economists, ranging from undergraduates to full professors, have drawn on these papers to get inspiration for their theses, their PhD work, lectures, and so on.

Continuing with somewhat more professional remarks, my delegation has been pleased indeed with the basic approach on the "AT 2010" study. Scholars may long debate the issue of abandoning the use of various scenarios in assessing expected production, trade and other levels in more than 16 years to come. But the general policy thrust very ably elaborated on in paragraph 1.84 is correct. It suits the organic train of thought on long-term agricultural development; i.e. agriculture in its broadest sense cannot and should not be considered as a sole entity only embedded in its full economic environment. Land, climate and other natural endowments are not the only factors of agricultural production, let alone marketing. Agricultural performance is affected both by micro- and macro-economic policies and measures - fiscal, monetary, industrial, budgetary, commercial etc. though they may be. Even human resources are pointed out in this context. We feel these have been slightly neglected in this study.

The keynote of the study on "AT 2010" is not too optimistic, but I am afraid realistic. The study actually does not foresee the closure of the nutritional gap for 2010 and the vicious circle of poverty and misuse of resources is not thought to be broken. The trade-offs between environment and production are not foreseen to yield satisfactory results.

Diagnosis always preceding therapy, my delegation thinks very highly of this study which might be of immense use and benefit to both international organizations and individual countries and policy-makers.

I have already mentioned that the study before us certainly needed time to prepare, but it also needs time to properly comment on. May I be permitted at this stage to make two closing remarks only. One refers to my country. I am not totally convinced that the terms used to define European countries presently in transition, such as Hungary - "ex-centrally planned" in one paragraph and "post-reform-market-oriented" in the following paragraph -should apply in the year 2010. The Hungarian Government is confident that by the end of the next decade these terms will have lost their meaning and Hungary will be an integral part of the group of countries of the Region without need of tags. This remark is not a technical one but serves only to reiterate my government's objectives.

Lastly, reading all the documents on the agenda of this Conference, the difference in the time-span of FAO long-term planning activity is noted. The study "AT 2010" is working with a 20-year period, whereas in the document on medium-term plans a possible vision of the year 2025 has been mentioned. I am sure the Secretariat will enlighten us on this matter.

In conclusion, I would convey our sincere appreciation to the FAO Secretariat for this study, which I trust will be the basic material for years to come of other papers which will cover more extensively various topics and regions.

Idi MAMAN (Niger): Monsieur le Président, je voudrais tout d'abord remercier le Secrétariat pour le travail accompli dans l'élaboration d'un document aussi complet et pour sa présentation claire et concise.

Monsieur le Président, pour Horizon 2010, il est espéré une augmentation des disponibilités alimentaires par habitant et une réduction de l'incidence de la malnutrition dans la plupart des régions en développement. Malheureusement, ce ne sera pas le cas dans une grande partie de l'Afrique subsaharienne et probablement au Niger où, selon les projections des tendances observées pour l'année 2008, le pourcentage de la couverture des besoins céréaliers sera de:

93 pour cent en année normale, 72 pour cent en mauvaise année, 103 pour cent en bonne année, 90 pour cent en année moyenne.

Monsieur le Président, pour améliorer ces projections des tendances observées, le Niger est en train d'élaborer un plan de développement économique qui accorde une place privilégiée au développement du secteur agricole dans le souci d'améliorer la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle et d'augmenter également la contribution de l'agriculture au produit intérieur brut.

Monsieur le Président, dans cette oeuvre d'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle, le Niger compte beaucoup sur la coopération avec les autres pays et l'appui de la FAO.

Abdelkader CHERIF (Tunisie): Monsieur le Président, ma délégation tient tout d'abord à remercier le Secrétariat pour la clarté du document C 93/24 et pour les précieux renseignements et les analyses pertinentes contenus dans ce document.

J'aimerais intervenir sur deux points que je considère importants. Le premier concerne l'évaluation, la gestion et la préservation du stock halieutique. Je crois que la FAO a un rôle primordial à jouer pour aider les pays en développement dans ce sens. La Tunisie est très sensible à ce problème et accorde beaucoup d'intérêt à leur solution. L'aide de la FAO à cet égard est primordial aussi bien pour mon pays que pour les pays similaires.

Le deuxième point concerne la recherche scientifique et technique. La Tunisie croit fermement au développement de la recherche scientifique et technique, qui est à la base du développement du pays en apportant des solutions aux problèmes qui présentent un intérêt particulier. Ainsi, la valorisation des déchets et des sous-produits agricoles grâce au développement des techniques de biotechnologie, en particulier, doit être une priorité. Ainsi, la valorisation des sous-produits de l'huilerie d'olive, à savoir les grignons et les margines, qui constituent à l'heure actuelle une masse polluante importante aussi bien pour la Tunisie que pour tous les pays méditerranéens, s'avère primordiale et la FAO peut contribuer efficacement à la résolution de ces problèmes en encourageant les programmes de recherche sous forme de PCT ou de réseaux de recherche.

Avant de terminer, je tiens à souligner que ma délégation est tout à fait d'accord avec les dernières recommandations formulées par le délégué de la Chine.

Ms Carol KRAMER (United States of America): The United States delegation considers "Agriculture: Towards 2010" to be an ambitious and generally-excellent review of world agriculture and food prospects. This work will make a valuable contribution to ongoing discussions of agricultural, food and environmental policies. What recommends the report most is its thorough and even-handed discussion of a broad array of issues affecting agriculture in different countries. The long-term outlook presented appears to be broadly consistent with related, but less comprehensive, analyses carried out at the US Department of Agriculture. That outlook is for a global balancing of supply and effective demand for the projected period, apparently without significantly higher real prices, even in the absence of major technological breakthroughs. Some significant reduction in the incidence of undernourished around the world seems likely. However, it is important to recognize that hunger will remain a serious problem and result in a continuing need for substantial emphasis on development strategies, assistance and food aid. Particularly at risk are areas of sub-Saharan Africa and portions of Asia.

We recognize that food security at national, regional and household levels depends on political and social and economic institutions which function well in addition to technology and resource availability.

The study makes good use of more recent findings in the field of environment and technology as they relate to agriculture and food prospects. The systematic use of agro-climatic data in Chapter 4 to assess potential production prospects in a large number of developing countries represents a promising advance in the analysis of world agriculture. Incidentally, does the Secretariat plan to publish more on this subject based on the information gathered, perhaps providing more detail and documentation of data for individual countries?

The absence of similar agro-climatic data for China is recognized by the report as a major limitation to the analysis. The generation of such data is a worthy future objective, as it is also for the countries listed in Appendix 2, including Namibia, and some of the tropical countries not included in the report's list.

The report's coupling of these agro-climatic data with surveys of the gap between average and top crop yields within countries shows both the potential for increasing output and represents the need for both private and governmental action to achieve that potential.

We would raise some additional points. In Chapter 2.8, and throughout, the term "long-term sustainability" is used but not defined. Sometimes it seems to mean reaching a steady-state population; sometimes it seems to imply decreased reliance on fossil fuels in agricultural production. Without excessive elaboration, this concept could be clarified. We found relatively little emphasis on agricultural demands for energy, for example, despite discussion of sustainability. In Chapter 11 the importance of "sustainable" alternatives to shifting cultivation as a means of reducing tropical deforestation is posited, but the meaning of "sustainability" is not clarified.

The entire issue of valuation of non-traded environmental amenities or natural resources deserves serious and immediate attention. Development of environmental accounts, particularly those associated with agriculture, fisheries, forestry and water supplies, is extremely important and should be coordinated with other international and national institutions now embarked on the path of trying to develop these constructs.

It is noted in Chapter 1, Chapter 13 and elsewhere that developed countries face a number of environmental problems associated with agricultural production and that they have taken measures to alleviate environmental problems associated with agriculture by developing "environmentally friendly" technologies.

Two qualifications here include, first, that the agricultural production/environment trade-off is not a "solved" problem in developed countries, and, secondly, many times trade-offs exist among environmental problems. There is often a trade-off between environmental problems of extensification, including deforestation or erosion, for example, and intensification, such as water or air pollution from increased chemical use.

Solving production/pollution trade-offs in developed countries can generate large spill-over benefits to developing countries through greater overall production potential. Future reports might bring empirical evidence to bear on the questions of (a) whether the developed country "environmentally friendly" technologies have in fact been successful, (b) under what

conditions they do succeed and (c) to what extent these successes might be transferable to developing countries.

Constraints related to water - both quantity and quality - are increasingly recognized as limiting to the development process. We would place even greater stress than does the report upon the importance of the availability of freshwater supplies in limiting production potential (and also favourable nutrition and health outcomes). The projections appear to assume rather immediate corrective measures to prevent further losses of irrigated land through salinization. How reasonable this assumption is depends upon the accessibility of many poor countries in Africa and South Asia to adequate financial resources needed to adopt adequate corrective measures.

Another water issue relates to the importance of managing freshwater supplies which may be inherently international since water bodies (rivers, lakes) form natural borders and countries share watersheds. Is FAO doing any work on the management of international water disputes or the diverse interests in water of different nations? In general there seem to be relatively fewer data on water allocation relative to other inputs and relative to water's increasing importance. The achievement of the levels of output projected would seem to imply an expansion of both public and private investment in agriculture in the developing countries. One might expect that the decline in such investment resulting from the financial stress in the 1980s might be creating the potential for reduced productivity in the 1990s unless investment recovers. Has this issue been addressed in any explicit way in the analysis?

The potential and limitations of new technologies are discussed in various chapters of the report in relation to yield enhancement under various circumstances. Chapter 12 notes that the international research system now recognizes the importance of environmental tradeoffs at the intensive and extensive margins after earlier missteps. It also notes that the research system has been relatively slow to respond. The report does not analyse or speculate as to why this was so. There is similarly very little in the document about the supply of technological innovations for agriculture and how they might be encouraged through the organization or funding of research. Finally, one specific neglected area of research is that of minimizing post-harvest losses of food in the marketing and distribution chain. Obviously, less food need be produced with concomitantly fewer resources required if losses can be reduced.

In the related FAO document entitled *The Third Progress Report on the Implementation of the Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Development*, the need for gender-specific data collection and analysis with respect to agriculture, environment, natural resource management, and food security is noted. However, that sensitivity to gender-related aspects of agricultural sustainability, resource management, technology development and adoption, as well as the institutional context, for agroecological sustainability and food security, could have been more fully considered throughout this analysis. One welcome exception in this volume is the section on training needs. We encourage full exploration of the relationships among gender, access to resources, property rights, sustainable agriculture and household food security.

Now I would like to make some comments related to sources of uncertainty attached to any projections as ambitious as those made in this volume AT 2010.

We would have liked to have seen a bit more extensive treatment of the assumptions about agricultural prices used in the analysis. A more explicit treatment of the implications of the balance between supply and demand projected for the various commodities and resulting prices would also have been welcomed. Similarly, we would like to know more about how an analysis of prices entered into the report's assessment of the potential impact of an agreement in the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations.

The future course of agricultural reform in the former Soviet Union, China, Eastern Europe, and the European Community are major sources of uncertainty about the future evolution of world agriculture. The outcomes projected for these areas are quite plausible, but we wonder if more extensive treatment of alternative, perhaps equally plausible, scenarios may be warranted.

Another source of uncertainty hinted at earlier is the future availability and prices of energy supplies upon which agricultural production depends heavily. This element needs more attention because the maintenance of current prices or sources of supply cannot be automatically assumed over the next two decades.

Finally, with regard to Chapter 8's treatment of international trade issues and policy, we would like to suggest that the treatment of the impacts of a successful Uruguay Round on world economy is somewhat incomplete. The World Bank/OECD has calculated that developing countries would gain US\$70 billion in export earnings from a successful conclusion of this Round. Such earnings would likely provide a stimulus to world agricultural trade as increased developing country earnings would lead to additional food imports, including higher value food imports.

With regard to grain reserves, in the post-Uruguay Round it is imperative that more nations create national food reserves. No single nation or group of nations can be expected to bear the entire burden of maintaining global food reserves.

To sum up, all in all the Secretariat through AT 2010 has made a major contribution to our knowledge and understanding of the issues facing world agriculture in the coming decades. We look forward to further discussion of the many ramifications for future policies, programmes, and projects.

Mme Yvette LANGRAND (France): Monsieur le Président, j'ai évoqué le document Agriculture-horizon 2010 dans mon intervention sur le point 6.1.

Je ne voudrais pas que l'examen du point 6.3 se termine sans répéter notre appréciation très positive des informations qui nous ont été données, et aussi des commentaires faits par M. Hjort sur ce document, notamment sur la nécessité d'établir de bonnes politiques nationales. Je vous remercie.

Alfredo APEY (Chile): En primer lugar, señor Presidente, un saludo a su mesa y las felicitaciones por parte de mi delegación por el amplio y documentado texto preparado por la Secretaría así como por su sintética presentación. En segundo lugar, no puedo dejar de mencionar la coincidencia de opinión con lo expresado por el distinguido Delegado de la República de Venezuela, ya que mis palabras se orientan en gran medida por su misma preocupación

Para mi delegación es particularmente grato el llamado de alerta que subyace en este excelente documento acerca de las proyecciones y preocupaciones que deben concentrar nuestra atención durante los próximos años.

Con el objeto de ser breve, quiero referirme en forma muy especial al tema del Capítulo 9: "Agricultura, pobreza de los campesinos y desarrollo rural", destacando el subcapítulo 3, referente al crecimiento agrícola y pobreza rural.

En éste se destacan los efectos diferenciales que el crecimiento agrícola ha promovido en distintos países utilizando claros ejemplos en donde experiencias exitosas se relativizan frente a regiones que, en lo social, no sólo se estancan, sino que en casos se empobrecen.

Utilizaré el caso de mi país Chile, en el cual una exitosa tendencia de crecimiento macroeconómico, derivado del fuerte estímulo a las exportaciones agro-forestales, ha debido enfrentar algunos efectos de readecuación social bastante contrastantes.

En forma paralela al éxito exportador, que nadie discute, como lo señalan las estadísticas de los últimos 15 años, diversas regiones han visto surgir profundas transformaciones geográficas, derivadas del cambio de cultivos de consumo interno hacia cultivos exportables, llevadas a cabo por un floreciente sector de empresarios rurales.

Sin embargo, un activo mercado de tierras, con sus consecuentes procesos migratorios del campo a la ciudad, han dado origen a un fuerte contingente de campesinos sin tierras que con grandes sacrificios intentan adaptarse a una demanda de empleo caracterizada por una alta estacionalidad.

Por otro lado, un amplio sector de pequeños campesinos que por problemas de escala productiva no son atractivos para establecer contratos con empresas exportadoras, o simplemente por su marginalidad geográfica, falta de acceso a créditos y apoyos a la comercialización, entre otros factores, intentan subsistir contra los bajos precios de los mercados internos, o contra importaciones foráneas más competitivas. Mientras el país crece, muchos sectores de campesinos se mantienen en la pobreza. Nuestros esfuerzos por lo tanto se orientan a que estos últimos no sean también desplazados de sus tradiciones y cultura, aun cuando vemos con satisfacción como se expanden los bosques artificiales y se desarrolla una agricultura eficiente y competitiva en la cual se sustenta en gran medida nuestro crecimiento económico.

Señor Presidente, nuestra adscripción como país a la mayor apertura mundial nos ha dejado como experiencia que la readecuación social y productiva derivada de esta apertura es para algunos sectores difícil y dolorosa.

La especialización productiva de amplias áreas hacia la exportación encarece en el lugar el alimento diario; la justa y deseada incorporación de la mujer al trabajo, si no va ayudada de medidas en su apoyo, puede implicar problemas con el cuidado de sus hijos; las necesidades por un mayor crecimiento ponen en riesgo el deterioro del medio.

No es mi intención ser pesimista respecto al futuro. Sin embargo creemos que debemos estar atentos a los diversos efectos que el crecimiento agrícola va provocando cuando se busca sólo la eficiencia. Por esto, prestemos atención no sólo a los indicadores globales sino a sus

desagregaciones regionales e inclusive locales. Prestemos atención también a experiencias ya vividas en países que han incursionado en la apertura a mercados externos para así estar preparados para los cambios que podrán afectar a los países que progresivamente se adscriben a esta estrategia, y mostrar mejores niveles de vida global para el próximo siglo.

Finalmente, estimo interesante la propuesta del delegado de Irán acerca de una posible publicación sintética por parte de la FAO, lo cual podría ser parte de la celebración de sus 50 años.

Julio LUCINI CASALES (España): Es frecuente, como norma de cortesía, agradecer a la FAO el esfuerzo que realiza para preparar los documentos que manejan en sus reuniones las distintas delegaciones asistentes. En este caso hay que reconocer que la extensión, la diversidad de los temas tratados y la calidad en el contenido que presenta el titulado "Agricultura: Hacia el año 2010", hacen que sea nuestro agradecimiento mucho más que una fórmula de cortesía.

Queremos también indicar en este comienzo que la gran abundancia de comentarios y conclusiones que ofrece el documento hace totalmente imposible referirse a todos ellos, ni siquiera a una parte mínima de los mismos, para evitar hacer uso de la palabra por un espacio de tiempo que impediría cumplir mínimamente el que se ha asignado en total a este punto del programa.

En consecuencia, me referiré exclusivamente a una serie de temas en relación con el documento, que consideramos del máximo interés y que no siguen estrictamente el orden en que son abordados en el mismo ni tampoco un orden jerárquico ni de máxima importancia para mi delegación

Empezaré indicando que, según se desprende de los comentarios y de las tablas estadísticas que contiene el documento, pobreza y agricultura de subsistencia van normalmente unidas. Claramente se puede entonces concluir que el reforzamiento de la mejor utilización de los recursos en los países en desarrollo, y dentro de ellos en las zonas más pobres, puede ser un elemento clave en el combate de la pobreza rural.

En relación con lo anterior, anotamos igualmente la conclusión del estudio que se ha distribuido relativa a que la mayor presión sobre los recursos proviene tanto desde la pobreza como desde el desarrollo. Es evidente que las fórmulas para aliviar esta presión son distintas para una situación que para otra, pero así como desde el desarrollo es lógicamente más fácil establecer principios para su autocombate, desde la pobreza se requiere una actuación externa que es la que se puede acordar y poner en ejecución desde organizaciones como la FAO

Es evidente que todas las conclusiones del estudio dependen sobremanera de los resultados de acontecimientos o situaciones que se encuentran actualmente en evolución: ajuste de la nueva política agraria común que se está iniciando, resultado final de las negociaciones del GATT y mayor apertura comercial en los mercados mundiales, duración de la crisis económica que la mayor parte de los países están atravesando, etc. De todas formas, las previsiones a gran escala y a medio plazo que contempla el documento parece que pueden aceptarse como base de reflexión, pues la situación final podrá variar de forma notable a nivel nacional pero no tanto a nivel mundial.

En conclusión, la posible disminución de los excedentes totales mundiales, sobre todo en cereales, la necesidad de reconversión de ciertas producciones de productos básicos como el café y el cacao por estancamiento de la demanda de los países desarrollados, etc., hace imprescindible el establecer desde este momento medidas que contrarresten los efectos negativos de tales circunstancias. Estas soluciones se apuntan de manera poco explícita en el párrafo 1.36 al hacer alusión a que determinados países habrán de pasar de ser exportadores netos a ser importadores netos de productos agrícolas. Creemos que la profundización en los sistemas de equilibrio mediante la industrialización total o parcial en origen, la mejora de los procesos comerciales, etc, en estos casos, podría ser una vía de estudio futuro del máximo interés.

La mejora de los rendimientos unitarios en las producciones están condicionadas por numerosos factores que se estudian en el documento en varios apartados y en distintos capítulos. De entre estos factores vamos a hacer referencia a dos muy diferentes, los regadíos y la investigación.

La mejora de la productividad a base de aumentar las zonas en riego en los distintos países no descarta otra opción que pudiera ofrecer una rentabilidad inmediata y con costes relativamente reducidos. Se trata de la recuperación de numerosos regadíos establecidos hace tiempo que por dificultades iniciales en el diseño, por drenajes inadecuados, por inadecuada conservación, etc., se encuentran casi inutilizados en la actualidad. Programas que están llevándose a efecto por organismos como el IPTRID hacen pensar que esta posibilidad es digna de análisis y ejecución.

Otro problema también clave en la mejora de los regadíos existentes y en aquellos que se pueden instalar en un próximo futuro es el aprovechamiento máximo del agua de riego. El agua, como muy bien se llama la atención en varias partes del informe, está empezando a ser un bien escaso que hay que aprovechar al máximo. Estamos seguros de que los esfuerzos que se hagan en mejorar los índices de eficiencia en la utilización del agua de riego en los regadíos de los distintos países repercutirán grandemente en una mejora de la productividad general y en el ahorro de un bien escaso, el agua.

En cuanto a la investigación, coincidimos en la necesidad, mencionada en el párrafo 12.6 del documento, de alterar la inercia que muchos centros mantienen de estudiar e investigar en relación con unas prioridades nacionales e internacionales que la propia realidad ha cambiado hace ya tiempo. La labor en este sentido dirigida hacia los gobiernos y hacia los propios centros de investigación y ensayo haría mucho más rentables los esfuerzos que tales insatituciones vienen haciendo.

En línea con lo indicado en el párrafo anterior, y en la búsqueda de un desarrollo agrícola sostenido y por tanto de un futuro sostenible, habrá que dedicar los máximos esfuerzos en programas sobre sistemas integrados de nutrición de plantas y manejo integrado de plantas.

Acogemos con el máximo interés las indicaciones que en diversas partes del documento se hacen sobre los problemas de la desertificación así como sobre las dudas que en la actualidad se plantean sobre principios que hasta el presente se tenían como inamovibles en relación con este fenómeno. Nuestro país tiene un enorme interés en el mismo y en repetidas ocasiones ha mostrado su disposición a colaborar en cuanto desde la propia FAO, como desde otras instancias, se haga para determinar la forma más adecuada para combatirlo, sea en zonas reconocidas como inmersas en un problema grave,

sea en zonas en las que se esté iniciando esta circunstancia, como ocurre en varias de nuestro país.

España, país particularmente afectado por este fenómeno, considera necesario insistir en que no se puede tratar el tema como una mera cuestión de apoyo a los países subsaharianos más dañados por sus consecuencias sociales, económicas y ecológicas, sino como problema mundial que afecta a todos los continentes y que se encuentra interconectado con otros fenómenos ambientales y globales, aunque se pueda y se deba prestar particular atención a ciertas áreas.

Los problemas acuciantes de deforestación en zonas tropicales que el documento trata en varios de sus apartados pueden ocultar los problemas igualmente graves, y que posiblemente se esté aún a punto de atajar, de degradación en los bosques de zonas templadas. Por una parte, este problema tiene una cierta conexión con el anteriormente apuntado de la desertización y, por otra, creemos que el abandonarlo puede llevar a ciertas zonas y países a un punto de difícil recuperación.

Me referiré, a continuación, a un aspecto concreto dentro de los muchos conectados con la lucha futura contra el hambre y la desnutrición. El punto 2.24 del documento examina la trayectoria de algunos países que obtuvieron buenos resultados durante los últimos años en cuanto a la elevación del suministro de alimentos per cápita. Aunque el análisis de las causas que han llevado al éxito no permite afirmar que el crecimiento de la producción agrícola sea siempre un elemento unido a estos buenos resultados, sí queremos afirmar que estamos convencidos que el crecimiento ordenado de la producción local de alimentos tradicionales es una forma segura y eficaz del control del hambre y la desnutrición. Por lo tanto, y para el medio plazo que establece el documento hasta el año 2010, es totalmente conveniente incidir en los proyectos que supongan mejora y aumento de producción de alimentos en los propios países afectados.

Para terminar, me voy a referir a temas generales pesqueros, actividad en la que mi país tiene un extremo interés y en la que viene colaborando permanentemente con las iniciativas de la FAO.

El documento dedica todo un capítulo a los estudios de los últimos acontecimientos y al futuro de esta actividad económica, pero también en el punto 1.98 le dedica un comentario que creemos es punto de partida inexcusable en todo lo relativo a la misma. Se precisa allí que este sector constituye, tal vez, el principal ejemplo de una limitación general a los recursos naturales que al parecer no puede superarse mediante la sustitución con recursos artificiales y tecnología, al menos no en la medida que puede preverse desde el actual nivel de conocimientos.

En línea con esta introducción al tema, es imprescindible destacar la gran labor llevada a cabo, especialmente en los últimos años, por la FAO con objeto de que los problemas de la actividad pesquera se enfoquen de forma global. Esto está llevando, sin duda, a crear una nueva mentalidad internacional en relación con la pesca en cuanto a sostenibilidad. El futuro de la pesca sólo será posible desde una responsabilidad asumida a nivel individual, nacional e internacional.

Dentro de este contexto y como nuestro Jefe de Delegación ya indicó en su intervención, debe subrayarse el importante trabajo que la FAO en la iniciativa que representa la elaboración de un Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable, como instrumento de cooperación internacional obligado y

concordante en el imperativo de encontrar soluciones globales a los problemas actuales. Más aún, no resulta posible pretender asegurar la conservación de los recursos vivos marinos y garantizar la sostenibilidad de esta actividad, sin que exista un claro compromiso por parte de todos los países que pescan, de ejercer la actividad pesquera, tanto a nivel nacional como internacional de forma responsable.

Esta visión permite que las perspectivas de la actividad pesquera ante el futuro año 2010 tengan posibilidades positivas y no una baja esperanza para la misma.

Ms Gurí GRONOLEN (Norway): The Norwegian delegation has with great interest studied the document put forward by the Secretariat on this agenda item: World Agriculture: Towards 2010. We found the 1979 and 1987 editions comprehensive and very useful and we have strongly supported FAO's further work in this field. Thus, we have also studied "AT 2010" carefully. We are convinced that the study deserves the world-wide attention it is bound to get.

Before commenting on the findings of the study, I would like to say a few words about the methodology used in this study.

"AT 2010" is, more or less, built on past trends. We are looking at the history to address the future. However, the future will never copy history. Extrapolation of past trends will, therefore, have to be justified by critical analysis of a complex non

Therefore, it is very important that the study clearly reflects what are statistical trends and what is further analysis. Compared to the 1987 edition, considerable improvement has been made in this respect in the study "AT 2010".

My delegation's attitude is that "AT 2010" may bring realistic conclusions about the future agricultural and nutritional situation.

The two major issues in world food and agriculture are to enhance food security and nutrition and to improve sustainability of agricultural development. My delegation's comments will, therefore, primarily focus on the prospective developments presented in the study with respect to these issues. We would also like to present some specific comments on the chapters on forestry and fisheries.

The study concludes that "there appear to be no unsurmountable resource and technology constraints at the global level that would stand in the way of increasing world food supplies by as much as required by the growth of effective demand". Effective demand is defined as demand from people who have the money to buy the food they would like. This is, of course, an interesting and important piece of information.

However, the Norwegian delegation thinks that it is even more important to address the possibilities of increasing total food supplies as much as required by the physiological needs in the world. We are appointed to note that the report does not provide us with any conclusion as to this possibility.

The study shows that the food supplies for human consumption in the developing countries as a whole will continue to grow. There will, however,

be immense regional imbalances in food security. The progress that was made in the period from 1970 to 1990 with respect to decreasing the number of chronically undernourished people will continue for the next 20 years.

The right to food and freedom from hunger are fundamental human rights and it is totally unacceptable that chronic undernutrition will affect as many as 650 million people in 2010.

The study underlines that poverty is the root cause to malnutrition and low food security. Poverty alleviation is therefore a key element in any effort to improve the nutritional status.

Norway has for over a decade allocated more than 1 percent of her GNP to development assistance. We appeal to all donor countries to increase their development assistance, at least to reach the international established goal of 0.7 percent of GNP.

The report of the Brundtland Commission identifies poverty as one of the major obstacles to attaining a sustainable development. Alleviating poverty is therefore a prerequisite to shifting agriculture on to a more sustainable path.

This leads me on to the second of the main issues concerning food and agriculture towards 2010, that is the development of a more sustainable agricultural sector.

The Norwegian delegation thinks that the findings of the study with respect to pressures on the environment from agriculture are very interesting to note. We would particularly point to the fact that competition for freshwater is projected to be stronger than the competition for land, due to the fact that many countries are closer to their water supply limits than their land resource limits. We also find it very interesting to note that earlier projects with respect to the area affected by desertification have been greatly overestimated.

We think that the findings of the study should be given due attention in policy formulation both at the national and international levels. However, it should be stressed that there is considerable uncertainty connected to the possible environmental consequences and the strength of the associated risks. This calls for policies and action based on a precautionary approach.

As pointed out in the study, developed countries have taken measures to overcome or continue to alleviate the more serious agricultural threats to the environment. These are measures connected to, for example, taking marginal land out of production and reducing the use of mineral fertilizers.

However, agricultural production in particularly the developed countries is characterized by high energy requirements and a considerable need for input of non-renewable resources. This fact raises a number of questions that relate both to the environment and to distributional aspects within and between generations.

The Norwegian delegation thinks that these questions should have been addressed in the study.

The study gives a very good presentation of the global forest and fisheries situation today and the prospects for the coming years.

One of the main findings in the 1990 Forest Resource Assessment was that there is a continuing expansion of the forest resources in the developed countries, in spite of an increasing harvesting rate. This may not be stated in the study sufficiently clearly. It must be added, however, that the assessment does not specify quality or economic availability of the resources.

In our opinion, the most important issues in this study with respect to forestry are excellently described in points 5.73, 5.74, 5.75 and 5.80. The core problems for forestry in the developing countries are of a social and economic nature and require extensive political commitments, both locally and globally

With reference to paragraph 6.54; there seems to be some confusion in the Secretariat as regards correct and precise reference to biological taxonomy. Marine mammals, turtles and sea birds are not endangered species. These are taxonomic groups of animals. Some species within each of these groups are endangered. Most, however, are abundant.

David SHERWOOD (Canada): No subject is more crucial to the prospect of life on this planet than the long-term outlook towards 2010 for food and agriculture. We would, therefore, like to express our appreciation to the FAO Secretariat on a very wide-ranging and comprehensive look at the future of agriculture over the next 17 years. The analysis corresponds in a general direction with much of the analysis of our own experts on the subjects covered. We support and commend the work of the Secretariat on the study. Given the complexity and mix of the trends analysed, and the uncertainty that attends such long-term projections, we have jointly to continue our efforts to clarify and identify the major priorities or threats to our future well-being. All countries should ensure that the political leadership is accurately informed of these trends. We support the Swedish delegate's comments that 2010 should be a cooperation exercise, and consider consultation with member countries as important.

Two of the principal forces impacting on the world agricultural outlook are population growth and the ability to assure sustainability of the environment. These concerns have to be examined in the context of the different development situations facing rich and poor, north and south, and the different dynamics of stability or instability faced by agriculture in the years to come. We would support the comments of the United Kingdom delegate on the need for sensitivity analysis.

Over the last one hundred years, the agricultural sector has largely been exploited for resources to fuel and to support other sectors in the economy. Many countries, therefore, have used agriculture as a source of employment, production, sustenance for growing cities, markets for manufactured goods, and food security. A successful agricultural base has shown itself to be the foundation for many successful and diversified economies. Appropriate environmental and resource management policies are essential for continued agricultural development. A country with a balance between the prospects and obligations of the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors are better placed to guarantee success. Despite the millions who still do not have enough food, we all need to be reminded of the relative success of balanced development policies. In this respect, we

would urge continuing work by the FAO on climate data geographic systems which impact on land use and crops, and more comprehensive coverage of environmental issues such as water policy and energy use.

Now the prospects for agriculture are less bright than before as global demand slows down, at least for unprocessed commodities, with the hope of creating population growth and the likelihood of reduced subsidies worldwide. Despite opposite trends in many developed countries, it is likely that the population directly dependent on agriculture will continue to grow. Unrestrained urbanization will bring inhuman living conditions and will create its own set of problems. These factors require continual monitoring, and the FAO study contained much valuable material.

Prime risks for the food-insecure accrue to those areas where population pressure on limited resources causes increased environmental strain and may result in a downward spiral to even more shortages and deprivations.

The regional differences are worrying.

In reviewing the many ingredients for growth, market forces will be a prime influence for the future. This growth will locate production in the place of its greatest comparative advantage. Liberalized agricultural trade holds out many long-term possibilities, and we must make sure that pressures on the environment are alleviated. Reduced support levels will remove the present incentives for high usage of agricultural chemicals, for example fertilizers and pesticides which can have adverse effects on the environment.

We would like to mention Canada's Green Plan addressing all significant sectors of the environment and encouraging coverage of similar national efforts in any updates of 2010.

Food insecurity and poverty are twin faces of misery. We look to organizations such as FAO to help countries develop approaches to combat these scourges that affect far too many people. Many countries which have invested in agricultural development have also laid the basis for relieving poverty. We believe that the role of women in agriculture in the Study requires more comprehensive treatment, particularly in respect of sustainable practices, innovation through new methods and as catalysts for channelling at community level. We support the comments of the delegate of the United States of America in this regard.

While we recognize the accomplishments of the Study, some of the assumptions require increasing scrutiny. Taken together, these assumptions could present too optimistic a scenario. Excluding China from the statistics limits the analysis, as this country represents roughly one-quarter of the world's population. Assumptions on bringing arable land into productive use depend on other factors of production such as moving persons, building roads and infrastructure and developing distribution facilities. These factors require further review.

Similarly, reliance on irrigation assumes plentiful supplies of water. While some of the disadvantages of irrigation may be overcome, the Study might still overestimate the potential of irrigation. We have already commented on the need for more coverage of national water policies. Land tenure arrangements would merit closer analysis, especially in questions of land titling for small farmers, small-farmer finance, the role of the government in market support, the availability of technology - especially

biotechnology - the efficacy of anti-poverty interventions, evidence of soil degradation and other factors.

More attention could have been given to the fundamental role of research, the CGIAR and international agricultural research centres as a complement to the private sector and its research capacity. We firmly believe there is urgent need for accelerated investment in agricultural research and technology aimed at yield enhancement and stabilization. Let us not forget there is in general a 20-year lag between research initiatives and significant production increases. In total, these potential constraints to agricultural development may play a more decisive role than is posited in the Study, and it would be worthwhile to have other, less optimistic, scenarios highlighted as well.

The Chapter on Environment and Development is crucial and attempts a series of balanced compromises between, for example, industrial countries with greater environmental sensitivity and developing countries, many with vital food security problems. Further balanced compromises are drawn between enhanced production from favourable areas versus fragile marginal areas where environmental concerns are paramount. Unfortunately, vision has not been used to relate national levels of food production and development to environmental hazards in that country generally and in specific terms - for example, coverage of soil erosion, water pollution and so on.

As presented to us and without such relationships attempted, excessive idealism is evident, particularly within the two-decade time span. The reality today, and probably in the near future, in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia is that food-deficit developing countries will have to give greater priority to food production and economic growth than to the various conservation methods advocated. Therefore, on this Chapter, we feel more realism is merited.

We are generally pleased with the Chapter on forestry and the summary of the global forestry problems. However, the information on such important issues as deforestation in the tropics, forest assets valuation, forestry and environment and production and trade in non-wood forest products is either weak, incomplete or absent. The reflection on future forest perspectives does not provide the in-depth qualitative strategic analysis that is expected and needed of the world's lead forest organization on global issues to guide actions at national and international levels.

The Study is an impressive and ambitious document. It has received the extensive review it merits. The number of comments we have received from Canadian Government Departments indicates the high degree of interest in this subject. We would like to meet the FAO Secretariat and pass over a summary of the technical comments we have received in a booklet form.

Gheorghe APOSTOIU (Roumanie): Monsieur le Président, puisque je prends la parole pour la première fois à la Commission, qu'il me soit permis de vous adresser les félicitations de la délégation roumaine.

Le document qui nous est présenté témoigne de la capacité de la FAO d'offrir à ses Membres des possibilités et des options pour un avenir, ô! combien inquiétant dans certaines régions.

Nous procédons à l'examen d'un document qui est une véritable doctrine de l'Organisation au niveau mondial, qui évalue les perspectives de

l'alimentation et de l'agriculture dans les vingt prochaines années; tâche d'autant plus difficile que chaque pays espère s'y voir réfléchi et, si possible, y entrevoir un avenir optimiste. Je me permettrai de considérer cette remarque comme plus que souhaitable: naturelle.

L'examen auquel nous nous attaquons est l'occasion de réaffirmer notre espoir dans l'Organisation. Pour ma part, j'estime que le document C 93/24, "Agriculture : horizon 2010", montre que ma modeste appréciation est justifiée.

La délégation de la Roumanie partage, dans l'ensemble, les concepts avancés par la FAO dans ce document-doctrine. Il souligne le maintien de l'universalité de l'Organisation, dans un climat de neutralité et au moyen d'une synergie nous permettant de viser haut. Le message de cette doctrine nous paraît clair et c'est probablement ici la partie la plus importante de notre optimisme.

J'aimerais en particulier féliciter le Directeur général de la FAO tant pour les consultations dont il s'est servi pour la préparation de ce document que pour le discernement dont il a fait preuve pour sa rédaction.

Toutefois, qu'il me soit permis de rappeler que les pays ex-socialistes, aujourd'hui dans une douloureuse période de transition, peuvent trouver peu de motifs à leurs espoirs. La présence de la FAO, d'après nous, est encore insuffisante dans cette région alors que nos besoins sont criants. Nos pays montrent clairement que le problème alimentaire ne se résume pas à la bonne ou à la mauvaise distribution de nos ressources. Le problème réside dans la pénurie de revenus. Nous sommes conscients du fait qu'il ne revient pas à la FAO de réclamer l'argent nécessaire à la restructuration de l'agriculture d'un pays. Mais en partant de la préoccupation générale, la FAO pourrait probablement trouver des solutions plus appropriées pour les pays en transition. C'est en tout cas l'un de nos désirs.

Nous attachons en ce sens beaucoup d'importance aux programmes de terrain et à l'assistance scientifique et technique de l'Organisation. Nous considérons, en outre, que le renforcement des bureaux régionaux de la FAO, voire la création de tels bureaux pour les pays en transition, est indispensable à une politique neutre et pragmatique de l'Organisation.

Je me suis permis de faire ces quelques remarques préliminaires et je vous remercie de votre attention.

Alejandro TRUEBA CARRANZA (México): La Delegación de México reconoce el valor técnico del documento presentado por la Secretaría para este tema, el cual contiene un pronóstico global para los próximos 15 años, fundamentalmente las áreas de especial importancia a nivel mundial, como son la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición, la sostenibilidad de la agricultura, el desarrollo rural y el medio ambiente.

En el caso de mi país se examina en paralelo la expectativa del desarrollo rural de México con el resto del mundo, a efecto de poder incorporar los elementos de política necesarios para asegurar el mejor resultado en estos temas; más aún porque por primera vez se comienzan a diseñar políticas y a adecuar la legislación nacional, así como a contraer compromisos a largo plazo precisamente para el año 2010. Las políticas agropecuarias de México están planteadas para el mediano y largo plazo a través de un proceso de

conversión en la agricultura, en algunos cultivos y en algunas actividades, y el fortalecimiento de otras por su valor económico y estratégico.

Se prevé una disminución de la población dedicada a la producción agrícola en el mediano plazo, lo que conlleva la necesidad de incrementar su productividad.

En la política agropecuaria mexicana se ha incorporado de manera definitiva el concepto de "desarrollo sustentable"; es decir, México realiza su mejor esfuerzo productivo sin comprometer los recursos naturales como el suelo y el agua, al que tienen derecho las generaciones futuras.

Esta estrategia se apoya en una política poblacional, que ya ha dado importantes resultados en el pasado inmediato. En el transcurso de los últimos diez años, la tasa de crecimiento poblacional bajó de un 3,6 por ciento anual a un dos por ciento anual.

Los planteamientos presentados en el documento C 93/24, tanto normativos como tecnológicos, son de validez si a estos planteamientos sumamos la voluntad política y una cooperación internacional eficiente; estaremos sentando las bases para un desarrollo equilibrado entre los recursos naturales de la tierra y sus habitantes.

Allm FAWZI (Indonesia): May I start my intervention by expressing our appreciation to the Secretariat for the excellent work they have done in preparing document C 93/24.

In my country, the priority development towards the year 2010, which will be under the Second Long-term Development Plan - that is, 1994 to 2019 is still economic development alongside human resource development. Our economic policy will continue to follow the three objectives of our development, namely, equity, growth and stability.

With regard to poverty alleviation in the First Long Term Development Plan, we have successfully decreased the number of people below the poverty line from 54 million to 27 million in 1991, or about 15 percent of our total population. Population growth in the same period decreased from 2.3 percent to 1.9 percent. In the Second Long Term Development Plan which will start next year my government has formulated a special programme on underdeveloped villages which will provide a special fund for poor rural areas to strengthen our former efforts in poverty alleviation.

We know that challenges and changes in the development of food in the coming 25 years differ compared to the situation and conditions in our First Long Term Development Plan. As income per caput increases, the direction of food consumption of the people will change. They are going to demand a multidiversity and better quality of food. This condition will support a policy reorientation from an emphasis on a rice economy to a diversified food economy. It will also change the orientation from quantity to quality and extend the distribution aspects from a logistic approach to a more efficient market mechanism.

In facing the uncertainty of the future, it is wise for us to learn from the past. In this connection I would like to support the proposal from the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the preparation and publication "50 Years of FAO Activities, Failures and Successes" for the 50th Anniversary of FAO.

J.J. NEETESON (Netherlands): The Netherlands delegation very much appreciates the document Agriculture: Toward 2010. Its presentation now is indeed timely, since the document Agriculture: Toward 2000 was presented for the first time in 1985.

My statement will be brief. I do not want to repeat the facts and figures presented in this well-documented study.

When making longer-term projections, one has to agree on a set of pre-conditions. The outcome of the study directly depends on that. Therefore, we do not attach an absolute value to the figures resulting from the study. For us, the value of the study lies primarily on indicating the directions which the developments may take, particularly developments in population growth, growth in agriculture and food production and the number of people who suffer from hunger and malnutrition.

Developments in industrialized countries and the links with agriculture in developing countries are not fully taken into account in the study. Developments in the economies of industrialized countries do have a bearing on developing countries. I wonder whether the outcome would have been different if developments in industrialized countries had been taken more into account.

Fortunately, the study gives rise to some optimism, but also to real concern, especially for the long-term food security situation in food-deficit countries. It is our task to translate this concern into specific actions by FAO and by the countries concerned, developing and industrialized countries alike.

The challenge for us is to increase food production, especially in developing countries, for an ever-increasing world population, without damaging the environment. The concept of sustainable agriculture and rural development, initiated at the Den Bosch Conference, and subsequently developed by FAO and confirmed at UNCED, is a good basis for this. Local conditions, capacities, traditional skills and knowledge must be the starting point for any action in this respect.

The study highlights the important trade-offs between the various subsectors such as agriculture, forestry, livestock and the environment. The need for an integrated approach is, therefore, rightly stressed, such as in paragraphs 3.36 to 3.40, concerning the trade-offs between cereal production for feed for livestock and for direct human consumption.

The study does not present a scenario for future action. It presents policy options which need to be selected according to specific conditions prevailing in the various countries. One such specific condition is the serious risk for development and the environment due to continuing uncontrolled deforestation, which we sometimes seem to ignore.

Biotechnology could contribute significantly to development, specifically when it is connected to local conditions and local varieties. My question is whether development, or even a possible breakthrough in the field of biotechnology, have been sufficiently taken into account in the study. Could it lead to higher production increase than presently projected?

We attach great value to these types of studies. I take it that this is the second one in a series of Agriculture: Towards the Future. Updates or

complementary studies for the relevant parts only are necessary when conditions give rise for so doing. One such reason could be - and I am asking FAO whether it is prepared to consider it - the outcome of the Uruguay Round. Obviously, cooperation with other international organizations is necessary when doing so.

CHAIRMAN (Original language German): We have come to the end of today's speakers' list. In the course of the day several delegations have expressed wishes concerning the way in which our work for next week should be arranged, the point being that one or two experts will arrive later whereas certain experts have to leave earlier. I think perhaps you would agree that we should attempt to get by without any evening or night meetings. Perhaps I could make a suggestion of my own which I hope will meet the wishes of the individual delegations. On Monday morning we would go on with 6.3 on the agenda. Our first speaker on Monday morning would be the distinguished representative of Portugal. Once we have completed 6.3, might I suggest that we go on to item 8, Plan of Action. For Tuesday 16 November might I suggest that we go to item 7 and item 7.1, which includes the text of a resolution. I suggest that on Wednesday 17 November we continue with the discussion of item 7.2. There is also a resolution there, as you are aware. We could then have a discussion on the text of the three resolutions already announced, from Algeria, Netherlands and Iraq. Thursday and Friday would then be available for the adoption of the report.

That is my proposal. I hope it meets with your approval. Are there any objections to this? I see no objections and we may therefore take it that this proposal is accepted.

The meeting rose at 17.15 hours.

La séance est levée à 17 h 15.

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.15 horas.

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 93/I/PV/7

Twenty-seventh Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt-septième session
COMMISSION I

27° período de sesiones
COMISION I

SEVENTH MEETING
SEPTIEME SEANCE
SEPTIMA SESION

(15 November 1993)

The Seventh meeting was opened at 9.45 hours

Mr Hermann Redl, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La septième séance est ouverte à 9 h 45

sous la présidence de M. Hermann Redl, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la séptima sesión a las 9.45 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hermann Redl, Presidente de la Comisión I

PART I - MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
PREMIERE PARTIE - PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE
D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
PARTE I - PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA
ALIMENTACION (continuación)

- 6. World Food and Agriculture Situation and Outlook (continued)
- 6. Situation et perspectives mondiales de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)
- 6. Situación y perspectivas de la agricultura y la alimentación en el mundo (continuación)

- 6.3 World Agriculture Toward 2010 (continued)
- 6.3 L'agriculture mondiale à l'horizon 2010 (suite)
- 6.3 La agricultura mundial hacia el año 2010 (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: The delegate of Lesotho has asked that his statement be included in the verbatim report. He is unable to be present at our discussions because he has commitments elsewhere. Therefore Lesotho's statement will be included in the verbatim report.

Manuel José DÍAS SOARES COSTA (Portugal)i In the name of the Portuguese delegation I take this opportunity to congratulate the FAO Secretariat on the preparation of document C 93/24. Besides being a document which looks ahead to the evolution of agriculture and food for the next 20 years, the document also addresses the most relevant issues which food and agriculture will have to face in the course of the next two decades. When we compare this document with the 1987 issue of Agriculture: Toward 2000, we must say that we rather prefer the present document. Instead of playing with scenarios for the course of events, the present document uses a more pragmatic approach. Prospective developments are based on trends and background analyses of the pertinent social and economic factors. The report then goes on to provide substantial material for thinking and rethinking by policy-makers of Member States on many different areas and issues affecting agriculture. Governments will find in this report important guidelines to design appropriate strategies for sustainable agriculture and rural development and options to enhance the status of food and nutrition of the populations in need.

The whole report is rightly oriented towards two main objectives: firstly, achieving food security for all and making progress in elimination of hunger and chronic sub-nutrition, which still affects as much as 20 percent of the population in the developing world; secondly, ensuring sustainable use of agricultural resources and safeguarding productive potential for further generations, while promoting agricultural development and improving the welfare of populations in rural areas.

We particularly welcome: the overview and the discussion material provided in Chapter 7 of the Economic Framework and the context in which agricultural development might evolve; the way in which Chapter 9 addresses the issue of rural poverty and agricultural growth and policies aimed at the alleviation of poverty in rural areas; the analysis of the fundamental quest of human resources development in rural areas through education, extension, training and technical and professional education in agriculture

as outlined in Chapter 10; the analysis of pressures from agriculture on the environment, such as pressures on land and water and the ever-present problems of desertification, soil degradation through erosion and nutrient-mining, increasing salinity, water contamination, deforestation and losses of biodiversity; and, most of all, the views on the technological foundations of sustainable agriculture for the future, the very nature of forthcoming challenges particularly in the developing world, and the irreplaceable role of research, addressed in Chapter 12.

We should like to point out what we consider the main features of this report, which is a straightforward clarification of a number of misconceptions and misleading views which still prevail in the public opinion. The number of undernourished people in the developing countries still remains at 800 million, while on the other hand it is known and accepted that world agricultural output is sufficient to provide food for everyone. The report indicates that the potential increase in food production is sufficient to cope with the requirements of a world population growing from the 5.3 billion of 1990 up to the expected 7.2 billion of 2010. This seems to be a dramatic paradox difficult to understand and morally unacceptable. However, the positive and negative developments should be analysed in more detail and from a different angle if one wishes to address the persisting problems and offer new policies and strategies.

In spite of the fact that the world population has grown from 3.7 billion to 5.3 billion in the last 20 years, per caput food supplies are today 18 percent above the level of 30 years ago. This fact shows that agricultural output has been able to respond sharply to the increasing demands and the prospects and that it should be able to continue to do so for the coming decades. The progress shift is very impressive and is a good reason for hope. In fact, a considerable number of developing countries have participated in this progress of improved nutrition. The problem is that many other countries and population groups in specific areas of the world only have very low per caput food supplies and have made hardly any progress. In particular, the nutritional status of sub-Saharan Africa is today worse than it was 20 years ago. It is also a fact that the percentage of those suffering from hunger and sub-nutrition has shown a sharp decline in the last two or three decades yet the absolute number of undernourished people, because of demographic expansion, has fallen only modestly and remains high, although it is now more concentrated in some areas of the planet, particularly in Africa, in South Asia and in some pockets of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The prospects for 2010 are for a continuing decline in percentage terms, but the absolute numbers of undernourished people will remain high until 2010. Some countries and geographic areas seem to be unable to overcome their food security problems. Therefore the requirements for food aid and the need for emergency food supplies might even increase in the years to come because food deficits in certain areas are expected to grow.

It has become clear that the problem of the quest for food and nutrition is not a matter of increasing world food output or even of increasing per caput food availability. The problem is one of equitable distribution and access to food supplies. Some regions produce food surpluses, while others are unable to cope with their needs as population grows. There is clear evidence that world agriculture is able to increase food production by as much as is required to meet the growth of effective demand. The problem is

that in most cases the requirements for food supplies do not exactly mean an effective demand.

It is well recognized that failure to alleviate poverty is the main reason why undernutrition persists in vast areas of the world. Agriculture and its resources are existing assets on which a large part of the population in the developing world depends for obtaining employment and a secure income.

In countries where more than 50 percent, sometimes up to 80 percent, of the population still live in rural areas and depend on agriculture to make a living, if they remain poor, if agriculture does not develop in a sustainable way and if rural areas do not progress in an integrated fashion, people cannot ensure their livelihood.

In most developing countries, 80 percent of the poor are still living in rural areas. Therefore, the vicious circle of population growth/increased food requirements, persisting poverty and the absolute need to protect the environment and natural resources, must be broken at once. However, for some time large numbers of people have had to rely on agriculture. Agricultural development and poverty alleviation are, in fact, two faces of the same coin in many countries. The objectives can only be achieved through sustainable, integrated rural development. I mean sustainable agricultural development because in most developing countries it would mean increasing food output, through increased production and productivity which will require the use of new techniques compatible with environmental protection - that is minimizing trade-offs between agri-development and alleviation of pressures on natural resources.

I also mean integrated rural development because it may require simultaneous efforts on several fronts: improving human resources through health care, education, extension and professional agricultural training, as well as through developing new activities in rural areas creating new jobs and income sources through diversification, manufacturing activities, further processing of agri-foods, providing new services and social amenities, etc. All these, of course, would create jobs and generate income.

Many developing countries have resolved or attenuated their food/nutrition problem through agricultural inputs, using other sources of foreign currency. Some countries, however, are mostly dependent on agricultural exports, mainly of cash crops. Those are virtually vulnerable to the current situation of very depressed world market prices of agricultural commodities.

Even more worrying is the situation of the so-called least-income, food-deficit countries. Those are the countries where deep poverty and insufficient food supply prevails, and the prospects are darker. Those are also the countries where the option, probably the only credible alternative, for the next decades would be a strategy and policies to increase local food production. Appropriate field programmes to stimulate smallholdings to improve food security and supply local markets are a must in such countries.

In concluding, I should like to make three or four remarks on some important issues: firstly, the problem of irrigation and the use of water. There is sufficient evidence that pressures on some resources will increase in the near future. Whilst in some regions there is still enough land available to allow for further increases in agricultural land occupation,

in other areas land is already scarce, which means that we shall in the future have some intensification of agricultural food production. However, water is definitely more scarce than land. In fact, in many regions of the world it is the main constraint to the development of agriculture. This is why FAO needs to dedicate priority attention to the new irrigation projects and the improvement of old irrigated areas in order to obtain increased output. However, because water is becoming more and more scarce, more attention should be paid to new techniques of improving efficiency of water utilization.

Secondly, I think more attention needs to be paid to the recycling of many agricultural byproducts and waste. This applies to agricultural byproducts as well as to animal wastes, and is particularly important in the forestry section. I call on FAO to note that this matter should be envisaged in an integrated way. Recycling and valorization of wastes and byproducts should, in many cases, be a combined process.

My third comment is on the issue of agricultural research: we are all aware of the difficulties that research institutions are generally going through worldwide. They have funding problems, a surplus of research people in some countries and lack of research people in other countries, particularly in developing countries. It is known that many researchers trained in developed countries do not return to their home countries in the developing world. There are many, many other problems in research. One could even speak of a crisis in the worldwide research system.

With regard to agricultural research, the current state of affairs cannot continue in its present form. The matter needs to be addressed by FAO in an appropriate forum. Agricultural research is a must, if we wish properly to address the challenges facing agriculture worldwide and particularly in developing countries in the next decade. If we really want to take full advantage of the course of new biotechnologies, cooperation should be enhanced and research networks should be reinforced.

Finally, I would have hoped that the report addressed the problem of commodity prices more in depth and put more emphasis on other areas of concern. I am sure that agricultural development should be more oriented by market signals. Trade and marketing would find the way to relieve the current problem of depressed market prices for agricultural commodities. It is also important to ensure that farmers get a fair share of international prices and most of all that agriculture input prices also reflect the results of free market policies, otherwise the problems of agriculture in many areas of the world will persist.

Zahir Shah MOHMAND (Pakistan): The Pakistan delegation appreciates and recognizes the FAO Secretariat's tremendous efforts in assessing the prospects for agriculture in the year 2010. It is a definite improvement on the study last issued in the year 1987. It is further gratifying to note that the thrust of FAO's activities in the next two decades will remain focused on the important themes of food security, human nutrition, human resources development and improved sustainability of agriculture and rural development.

The study under review aims at increasing awareness in order to guide policies at national and international levels. It has also been admitted that the study describes the future as it is likely to be, and not as it ought to be.

The mere normative description of the future, although an invaluable assistance in itself and in its own right, yet amounts to half the truth. The need of the hour is to throw away the shackles of traditional euphemism and compromise and face the reality and to state it in stark nakedness. The dire need is to call the international community in time for action to avert future catastrophe before it is too late.

The document admits, for instance, that in sub-Saharan Africa undernutrition will probably remain disturbing and still in effect in the year 2010, when nearly one-third of the population will be almost 3 00 million people. It is high time to convey a strong note to the affluent world to come forward and save humanity from undernutrition and loss of face and respect.

The mere shipment of a few thousand tons of commodities at a time of famine is not a solution. The solution should be in time and lasting. Sub-Saharan Africa, and, for that matter, any part of the world, requires the resources to eke out their livelihood themselves with honour. The equality of wealth has been an elusive siren over the ages, but the equality of opportunities and egalitarian dispensation is a definite possibility, provided there is a will on the part of those who control these opportunities.

Secondly, although the study is alive to the fact that maintaining a wide spectrum of genetic diversity of animals and biodiversity of plants is useful, it is however failing to describe how much of this diversity will be lost by the year 2010. It is an admitted fact that the mindless search for cross-breeding of plants and animals has resulted in the extermination of some valuable thorough-breeds and nondescript species of plants and animals. These species are essential not only for future research, but also to maintain the diversity of colours and flavours on earth.

In the document under review sufficient space has been dedicated to international trade in agricultural commodities, describing the economic and social fallouts of the stabilization and adjustment programmes lately started by various countries. However, this study stops short of touching either the most vital issues or, where it does, it lacks the requisite frankness and vehemence.

The world is once again hoping against hope that the Uruguay Round of the GATT negotiations will successfully liberalize the international trade and the rich countries will dismantle the tariff barriers, do away with quotas on imports and cut the much-talked-about agricultural and farm subsidies. It is only the Third World countries which are found to be more compliant with the GATT decisions. According to GATT statistics, the rich countries subsidize their farm outputs up to 200 percent, to 400 percent. In the last three years one farmer in an affluent country has pocketed US\$3 0 million in subsidies. Such facts should have been brought to light for open discussion.

Finally, we would like to say a few words about forestry. Deforestation is rapidly causing the depletion of forests. This is mainly due to commercial logging and over-exploitation by an ever-growing population of fuel, fodder and livestock grazing. The adverse effects of deforestation are obvious. This process is particularly threatening some of the rare forests of the world. In the Baluchistan province of Pakistan, we have the second largest juniper forest in the world. Such a forest requires centuries to grow. These rare species are the assets not only of one country, but are the

assets of the human community. The assistance of FAO and other UN agencies is required to save these valuable assets.

Tawfiq-e-Elahi CHOUDHURY (Bangladesh): I have a few short comments to make on this interesting paper. The study 2010, C 93/24, is very informative.

As you know, it is hazardous to make long-term forecasts when we know it is difficult even to predict the outcome for the next year in terms of production, distribution and consumption. Then again, in the near term production will be sensitive to prices but consumption and distribution are sensitive to prices even in the near term. In the long term they are very sensitive to prices also.

The question I want to raise is this. Although we need to have a vision for the future, some notion of what is going to happen in the future, how are we to go about it? The basis of forecasts is very important to give us some confidence as to the terms of direction and the magnitude of changes that will need to happen in the future. It is in this context I have difficulty understanding the document. The methodology and database are not clearly stated in the document.

I suggest the following. One, there should be a technical appendix to the document which clarifies the basic methodology and database for the study. Two, since we do not know the future, it is good to take an alternative view of it. In that context, I think it is reasonable to have alternative scenarios which would give us a broad sweep of the likely outcome in the future. Three, from the explanatory note on page 5, it looks as if there is an extrapolation of past trends for the future. I find this perplexing.

Most countries are going through structural changes just to break away from the past. If the future is going to be an extension of the past, is it not a bit disheartening? On the contrary, as some delegates have already mentioned, since we are trying to break away from the past, predictions or forecast for the future must, in some way, incorporate the benefits of the changes that are being undertaken in many of the countries.

Four, with the liberalization of the domestic and international market, prices are going to be very critical. There must be some mechanism for incorporating prices which are going to allocate resources, both in production, distribution and consumption.

Lastly, I have a little problem with the statistical tables. In the case of Bangladesh in Table A.1 the population for 1990 is given as 115.6 million. We had a census in 1990 when the population was estimated to be 110 million.

With regard to growth rates also mentioned in the statistical table, there need to be some changes. I hope these errors only apply to Bangladesh.

Peter Makokha AMUKOA (Kenya) : I take the floor only to emphasize a few areas.

Many delegates have spoken on this subject already and have touched on the same areas. There are many other topics on which I will not touch.

On the whole, we support the analysis in the Secretariat's document, on which much work was done. My first area of emphasis is that of crop production for the next several years in horticultural crop development. This area has great potential to earn some developing economies foreign exchange and generate employment, while improving incomes, welfare and the nutritional status of rural communities.

We would like to see in the years ahead the efforts made to support this sector intensified, especially in areas of the production of horticultural seed for the domestic market and in marketing.

Another area is the need to intensify efforts to introduce oil-processing technology at the rural level. We believe that oil processes at that level are more affordable by the rural people and will enhance their nutritional status.

You will note that for many among the rural poor it is not that they do not know what is nutritionally desirable; they simply cannot afford to buy these goods.

We have not yet succeeded in managing farm household systems for improved production and productivity. This is because we have either not yet understood socio-economic dynamics at that level and in those communities or we have understood but prescribed the wrong messages to management. Let us in the years ahead increase our understanding of what is going on at that level and formulate more realistic strategies and approaches to solve the problems.

Lastly, I emphasize in this area of crops the focus on soil degradation, its management, integrated pest management and the consensus on health and ecosystem conservation. Much has been said on this by other delegates. I need say no more.

On forestry, we agree that there is a habitat for biodiversity. In the next two decades attention should be focused, among other areas, on research into the more efficient use of forestry resources to meet the energy needs of the rural poor with forestry programmes to prevent soil erosion and protect water catchment areas. We should also focus on the promotion of forestry habitats of various animal species which have current and future potential in the life-supporting systems.

Through biodiversity, FAO should, by the year 2010, have made an impact on the preservation and use of edible traditional plants by local communities and the preservation of plant species and biodiversity both in in situ and ex situ.

With regard to fisheries, we would like to see that industrialization and expansion in human settlements and the pollution of fishing waters no longer threaten the fishing industry within the next 20 years. Also, those of us whose nationals over-exploit certain species to the extent that these are threatened with extinction should try to stop the practice. Indeed, there is a need for guidelines and codes of conduct for responsible fishing to achieve a sustainable fishing industry and to preserve species diversity.

With regard to investment in agriculture, those who depend on this sector as the engine of economic development should try to ensure that, in their

allocation of national resources for development, agricultural development takes its rightful share. Let us ensure in the years ahead this is done.

In this connection, it is imperative that we manage the resources so allocated efficiently in order that in the years ahead we try more seriously to implement measures to manage our own resources more efficiently.

At this point let me note also that there has been a decline in the inflow of both official and private resources to developing countries, for reasons that have been neither economic nor humanitarian. We urge that this trend be reversed in the future.

We find the subject of external debt a sore point. External debt repayments have gone beyond 100 percent of the average foreign exchange earnings to over 50 percent of GDP for many of the developing countries. There are reasons, of course, why these debts were incurred. However, the fact is that the situation in which these countries find themselves is one that will not enable them to develop in the years ahead if nothing is done about the debt crisis. We must urgently address this issue so that 20 years from now the situation will be quite different.

Lastly, there is also a need seriously to look at international trade arrangements which seem to influence the outflow of resources from south to north. It is indeed interesting to observe that while one of the prescriptions for structural adjustment reforms is the liberalization of trade internally and externally, it remains a fact that the developed economies remain more or less closed to products from developing countries except for raw materials which, nevertheless, are priced below their opportunity cost. In the years ahead let the international community look at the whole area of trade and adopt trading practices which are favourable to all nations.

Kiyoshi SAWADA (Japan): Firstly, my Government appreciates FAO's efforts and its elaboration of long-term prospects in Agriculture: Towards 2010, notwithstanding many uncertain factors. This prospect surely provides all Member States, including Japan, with a good standard of examination into future projections.

My delegation was not able to prepare enough comments on this comprehensive document as we had insufficient time to study it. If you will allow us to express our impressions, this document before us seems to be a mixture of optimism and pessimism.

Regarding food and agriculture, no matter how the global food balance is described optimistically, there is chronic under-nourishment in sub-Saharan Africa which is estimated to increase; there will be no improvement.

We feel the following points should be explained more clearly.

One, according to Table 4.1 in paragraph 4.4, arable land is estimated to increase from 757 million hectares in 1988-90 to 850 million hectares in 2010. This means an increase of 12.3 percent in the next 20 years. This figure seems to be an over-estimate compared with the 5.5 percent increase rate in the last 20 years. Moreover, the increase in consciousness of environmental conservation in the world should be considered as a negative factor.

Two, as to yields, the expansion of high-yielding varieties with the usage of fertilizers has contributed to a dramatic increase in the past 20 years. It is observed that potential areas for the introduction of such current varieties are almost saturated. To realize the yield increase, in over the next 20 years, more information on the technical background for it are needed.

Three, for this target yield, concentrated support from every country should be focused on research activities, mainly by international agricultural research centres, to develop promising varieties and technologies which are adapted to the conditions of developing countries, as well as an extension of those activities.

Four, the expansion of low input agriculture, particularly in developed countries, would negatively affect the quality of food production in these countries and thus the food supply to food-deficit countries. How is this issue considered in this document?

Five, China is expected to achieve high economic performance. How does this document consider the Chinese food situation prospects which will affect the global food situation?

Six, considering abnormal climatic conditions and environmental changes in the mid-and longer-term, it is necessary to recognize in this document that the increasing reliance for food by many food-deficit countries on a few exporting countries will lead to uncertain food security.

With regard to forests and forestry, world forests - particularly the forests in developing countries - are exposed to deforestation caused by the demand for fuel, construction, agriculture, and so forth. As to the measures to be taken in regard to this situation, the urgent areas for action mentioned in paragraph 5.82 are essential. It is important to develop sustainable forest management responding to the various demands for forest use. My Government expects a positive role of FAO in this field.

Turning to fisheries, although there are many pessimistic descriptions in this document, my Government sincerely commends FAO's positive initiative in this field and its further contribution to fisheries development. However, the following paragraphs cause us anxiety and we request that they be reconsidered.

One, paragraphs 6.26 and 6.3 6 describe some type of fishing as environmentally negative, without giving any scientific information.

Two, the second sentence from the bottom of paragraph 6.38, concerning krill production, is based on a misunderstanding because the current production of krill is only 80,000 tons compared with 1.5 million tons, which is the precautionary catch limit set up by the CCAMLR, and a limited production is caused by economic factors alone.

These are the comments which my delegation can make on this Agenda Item for the moment.

MAUNG MAR (Myanmar) : I have a few comments concerning C 93/24, Agriculture: Towards 2010.

First of all, the Myanmar delegation would wish to congratulate the Secretariat on the quality of this report. Moreover, our delegation fully supports the assumption contained therein. This covers a wide array of issues with regards to geographic, commodity, resources, technology and other dimensions, and related policies of varying degrees. Two major issues are included, such as the elimination of under-nutrition and food insecurity, and the safeguarding of the productive potential and environment with sustainable approaches.

Our delegation agrees that increasing food production is among the principal means of combatting poverty as the majority of the poor depend on agriculture for employment and income. Increasing food production will consequently alleviate nutritional problems with more per caput food supplies.

It is salutary to note that chronic under-nutrition in developing countries as a whole will persist for about 650 million people in the year 2010. However, we are optimistic that this figure could be lessened through better technology and management. To increase agricultural production, more land must be brought under cultivation. There must be a reduction in fallowing. Cropping must be intensified. Better technology must be introduced and better irrigation and drainage facilities provided.

Moreover, those practices which are sustainable with less resource degradation - such as deforestation, over-grazing, salination and nutrient mining - must be used so that the vicious circle between increasing poverty and resource degradation can be broken. However, further research is a necessity to prepare for the longer term. Biotechnology, hybrid rices -based on apomixis-asexual reproduction - are good tools.

We have two comments concerning the report. These concern the land classes on page 121 and the legends on the maps which do not agree. For example, land class "AT 6" is productive lowland on page 121 but in the legend on the map it is marginally productive land. With this classification on the map, the fertile, productive rice bowl of Myanmar falls under "marginally productive land". Similarly the same thing happens for land class "AT 7". Another concerns paragraph 1.90 on page 25 where it would be more appropriate to use the term "Access to productive land" rather than "Access to land" in the first line.

Concerning the plan for Agriculture: Towards 2010, in Myanmar we are basing our agricultural development on three objectives. The first is the promotion of cereal production leading to a surplus in paddy; secondly, self-sufficiency in edible oil; lastly, the production of industrial crops for domestic agro-based industries and for exports. These objectives are planned to be achieved by following the following five principles: first, development of new agricultural land; second, provision of adequate irrigation water; third, provision and support for increased agricultural mechanization; fourth, acceleration of technology transfer; and fifth,

development and utilization of high-yielding quality seeds. We have achieved this with a GDP growth of 10.2 in 1992-93.

We are also very careful with sustainability and we are practising sustainable methods of cultivation, timbering and fishing.

Myanmar is following the objectives of FAO guidelines and fulfilling FAO's aims and objects. The recent expansion of rice land could be affordable to

feed 50 million people which would be by the year 2000. However, more agricultural production in Myanmar, such as rice, pulses and other crops, is not only for our own consumption but also for food security. Our country is usually free from disasters. Therefore, more production can be attainable with advanced technology for the betterment of world food security. Myanmar has recently been engaged in this kind of development with limited resources and limited assistance. With more assistance and collaboration with FAO in the TCP Programme, financing other related projects will be helpful in increasing food production in Myanmar.

Before I conclude my comments, I would wish to support the idea of the distinguished delegates of Iran and Indonesia to publish a fiftieth anniversary book on the successes and failures of the FAO.

Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago) The Trinidad and Tobago delegation wishes to congratulate FAO on this seminal document, this prospective, on the prospects and potential for dealing with under-nourishment, poverty, hunger alleviation, and linking those themes to the sustainable development of the resources which are available for dealing with them fully and frontally.

Mr Chairman, like my fellow delegates before me, we wish to record our view that the document before us represents a significant improvement on the previous edition, and the Secretariat must be congratulated. The message is clear and our delegation subscribes to that message and the main theme in this document.

There can be no room for complacency. We have a context for action, a responsibility which devolves on the international community and nation states alike.

There is one seminal sentence in the document to which I wish to draw attention, and it is in Chapter 10 where it says that there is increasing evidence and recognition that what matters for development more than natural resources and man-made physical capital is the capability of people to be effective and productive economic agents, in short human capital. A propos that, I wish to emphasize on behalf of my delegation the fact that neither government nor international organizations can develop people. We can only stretch them or diminish them as we seek to develop them. What we need to do is to create the framework, the context, the necessary and sufficient conditions, that allow them to develop. It is in this context that we subscribe fully to the views outlined in that chapter on human resources development in agriculture, because it is a critical issue, perhaps the critical issue, in terms of development. It is an issue to which we fully subscribe.

May I just make two observations of a general nature on this document which I believe might assist in improving future editions thereof. One of the factors that one must recognize in the development process is that there is no homogeneity amongst developing countries. I dare say there is no homogeneity within the regions that constitute the developing world, whether it be Latin America, Africa or Asia. In the particular and specific context of small island states of the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean and South East Asia, I believe that a document of this nature would have been improved substantially if the issues that are common to these regions, which form the small island states, had been treated in a context that would have been unique and different. In fact, that is being recognized at

the Global Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island States in Barbados in April 1994. It will be a useful improvement to this document, if in future the conditions and circumstances of small island states as a group are better described and analysed.

My second comment relates to the very last sentence in the document. I do not want to get into a dialectical argument about an anthropocentric approach or an ecocentric approach to development, but merely introduce a caveat that, if we are thinking that a more anthropocentric approach to development is more desirable, given the nature of the circumstances about which we speak and debate, I would only hope and pray in taking that approach that we accept and understand that man ought not for behave in a way to suggest that he is apart from nature but that he is a part of nature; this suggests a stewardship responsibility to oversee, to ensure that nature and the natural resource base is managed in a way that he can enjoy it, not in a very selfish manner, but that his children and future children can also enjoy it. So if the anthropocentric approach will have this understanding about it, I support it; if it does not, I suggest we would perhaps like to rethink that last sentence.

Mile Adelaide Manuela RIBEIRO (Cap-Vert): Merci Monsieur le Président. Tout d'abord, nous remercions le Secrétariat pour la qualité du document qui nous a été soumis. Ce document nous donne une vision des perspectives à l'horizon 2010 dans le domaine de l'alimentation, de l'agriculture, des pêches et des forêts, et nous invite à une réflexion sur le futur de l'agriculture et de la sécurité alimentaire de notre planète.

C'est avec une grande préoccupation que nous constatons que l'Afrique, malgré une certaine amélioration dans la production agricole, est encore loin d'atteindre la sécurité alimentaire. La dégradation de la qualité de l'environnement et de la baisse des ressources naturelles suscite aussi une inquiétude de notre part.

D'autre part, l'on ne s'attend pas à l'avenir à des changements majeurs dans les perspectives des grandes pêcheries mondiales. La surcapacité des flottes mondiales de pêche engendre une dégradation des ressources halieutiques. Dans beaucoup de zones de haute mer, le mauvais aménagement et la surexploitation sont des gros problèmes et mettent en danger la durabilité des ressources halieutiques. La menace pèse aussi sur le secteur forestier où ces soucis se font sentir surtout sur les problèmes de santé des forêts, d'incendies, de diversité des écosystèmes et le déboisement. Malgré tout cela, Action 21 et les principes forestiers adoptés par la CNUED reconnaissent l'importance du rôle des forêts. Ce nouvel engagement international aura une influence positive sur les perspectives de la foresterie dans les années à venir. Au Cap-Vert, la tendance veut que la superficie agricole diminue progressivement à cause de diverses raisons: l'occupation croissante de terrains à vocation agricole pour des constructions urbaines, à cause de la croissance démographique; l'érosion qui provoque l'usure des sols avec des effets négatifs dans la productivité; la tendance pluviométrique: le niveau de précipitations baisse graduellement chaque année; des surfaces autrefois terrains agricoles deviennent aujourd'hui terrains marginalisés ou voués au pâturage; la pratique d'une agriculture traditionnelle qui ne prend pas en compte l'environnement et le développement durable. Le gouvernement devra donc prendre les mesures qui s'imposent en vue de créer des mécanismes appropriés pour faire face à cette situation et rendre viables l'agriculture et la sécurité alimentaire dans l'avenir.

Pour ce faire, l'aide de la communauté internationale et de la FAO en particulier sera d'une importance capitale.

Ms Faith INNERARITY (Jamaica): Document C 93/24 is clear and comprehensive, covering most of the issues related to the development of agriculture. However, I would like to focus some attention on Chapter 9 dealing with the alleviation of rural poverty, which is in fact the long-term goal of the various strategies that have been outlined.

In paragraph 4.5 there is a section on rural development in the non-farm sector. I believe this section could have been expanded. In dealing with the agricultural sector we expect technological advances which would lead to greater efficiency - hence the sector would absorb fewer people in the labour force. There is already in the rural sector a problem of under-employment. For example, I believe agro-industrial development is an important area which we need to focus on for linkages, also rural industry and the expansion of services in the rural areas. This document could have been strengthened by focusing much more on non-agricultural developments.

As is known in the developed world, the more efficient the sector becomes the fewer persons are needed - hence greater employment opportunities must come from agro-industrial linkages or from industry. I suggest in future there be more focus on this very important and critical area which is also necessary for the expansion of markets and rural income.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: First of all, as I did in connection with the first item on your agenda, I must express deep appreciation for the many compliments and positive comments which have been made in connection with the work underlying the document for this item.

We have heard a number of specific comments which raised in some cases questions of fact and in other cases questions of interpretation. Those, of course, will be taken into account; note has been made of them, and we will seek to correct any misinterpretations that arise such as the one mentioned by the delegate of Norway in connection with endangered species, where I think that the deletion of a certain phrase can take care of the valid concern expressed in that case.

We have also heard offers for further technical comments arising from reviews from different units at home. We welcome those also as they will be useful, along with the comments made here, as we move forward with what I would take to be a relatively minor revision to prepare this document for publication.

Many have suggested that the document be brought into the public arena in a published form, and sooner rather than later. I am pleased to inform you that Mr Alexandratos has been in close contact and communication with our Information and Publication Units within the Organization. They have been addressing this issue very clearly. We will publish the document. It does appear at the present time, all things considered, that it will be best to go to an outside publisher, as was the case with the 1987 edition.

I want to dwell a moment on the issue of methodology. First of all, I would refer to the footnote at the bottom of page 57 which identifies where you can find a description of the methodology that underlay the 1987 edition.

But I also wish to assure you that certainly in the published version there will be a statement of methodology.

I must say I was pained, and I am sure my colleagues were hurt, to hear several people suggest that this was a trend analysis and a projection of trends. If it is anything such, it would be a great disappointment. This is the product of serious work. The past has relevance for the future. Changes are taking place, as has been mentioned. What my colleagues have tried to do is to discern out of the current situation and the past what is most likely in the future.

Again I stress it is by no means a trend analysis. We do see trend projections appear, and I know many of you go to discuss them with other sources. This has much, much deeper quality behind it than the others. In one way or another, I have been associated with projections work for more years than many of you have existed, and I can assure you that, in my view, this is the most detailed probing that is done anywhere, or has been done anywhere. As has been mentioned, it is true that the probing is in more depth with respect to the so-called developing countries than the so-called Eastern and Central European countries in transition, or the so-called developed countries themselves. We will seek as we have been guided, to bring about an even better balance in future editions. I have taken careful note of the importance of including the small island states, which we will seek to do to the best of our ability.

In connection with methodology, I also comment in response to a comment made about a projected population figure or the current estimate. We are not experts in population projections. There is a body which you find in the United Nations which provides those projections. We simply rely upon and use them. We do not pretend to be experts on population matters.

We also take from the World Bank, the IMF and other sources estimates and projections of income growth, and so forth. In this way we try to rely on those who have the deepest capability for these various aspects of the matter.

On the other hand, as far as agriculture is concerned - that is, crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries, food security and so forth - we believe we do have the deepest capability. We do find that other bodies tend to rely upon us for the information on the agricultural side.

Turning to the approach, I wish to remind you of what was stated in the document and in my introduction about the approach.

The results are what are judged to be most likely, not what we would like to see. Therefore, with regard to comments such as those from Norway about overcoming hunger instead of foreseeing a situation where 650 million may still be under-nourished, we hope the figure will not be that high. We hope that the world could find the political will to overcome hunger and eradicate under-nutrition. It has already had the ability to do so for some time. The world can certainly produce enough so that no person need go to bed hungry. We have the technical knowledge to produce the food. We have long experience as an international community in the distribution of food to overcome emergencies, prevent famines, and so forth. We know how to do those things. The fact is that we do not have the political will to eradicate the beast, and the judgement is that at 2010 there will be a disturbingly large number of people under-nourished. We hope not.

I shall ask my colleagues to respond to any questions that they have taken note of, but, in connection with comments made about water, I would inform the Commission that there is a special chapter in this year's SOFA edition which could be taken as a complement to the section in this document on water, and I believe that some of the considerations and concerns that have been raised over the water situation and water policy will be responded to, or at least addressed, in that special chapter of SOFA, which will be coming out in the near future.

I think the statement was made that our estimate of the impact of the GATT Round may be outdated and that there is a fresh study from the World Bank. I would simply remind you that the latest is not necessarily the best. There were suggestions that the probing be updated after GATT. I think the main point here, which you will find in the document, is that the so-called liberalization or privatization process, or in any event the move towards greater reliance upon market forces and private agents, is widespread and well under way. In other words, member countries are moving in the same direction as they would be encouraged to move under the GATT process. We have heard in the last few days from several delegates of the steps that have been taken along these lines and the results, sometimes disappointing, sometimes very positive. The point I am making is that, maybe because the GATT process has been discussed and more broadly understood, even though it has not come to a successful conclusion, it has influenced policies and events and the world as a whole is moving in the same direction as GATT would move it. I am not saying that it is not necessary to look again depending on the outcome of GATT, but I know that our people who have been looking at this carefully say that, given what is taking place, maybe the events will not be all that different.

Reference has been made earlier, and here, to FAO's involvement in preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development. There may be further reference to this in our next agenda item and I know that it has been covered in the item on events in other organizations in another session, another Commission. All I would say at this time is that we are participating. At present there are some round tables on technical issues, including one that IFPRI, the International Food Policy Research Institute, is organizing in collaboration with UNFPA and where we have been invited to participate. In this case they would be drawing very much upon the AT 2010 findings and scenario and addressing the implications of that scenario for population and vice versa. There are in addition other areas, such as health, environment, education, and so forth, where we are involved.

As a footnote on a comment made about the loss of diversity, here I would only remind you that we have in process a scenario to prepare the first state of the world's plant genetic resources and plan of action for overcoming problems therein, and that topic will be covered in your Agenda Item 7.

There were some comments about subsidies and barriers to trade and the concern thereon and a comment that perhaps we had not covered that sufficiently in this document. I would just note that this is a matter which is covered in almost all of our current documents. The concern of the Organization and its member countries over deep subsidies and barriers to trade is, I think, quite clear in these other documents and will be addressed once again by this Conference.

Turning to investment in agriculture, I wish only to note again that FAO plays a very important role in the identification and preparation of agricultural investment projects. I am hopeful that we can play an even more important role in this area in the future. Over the last year or so we have been looking at our work in this regard and have concluded that we can do some fine tuning to make our services of even greater value to member countries. One way is to make certain that our technical departments - agriculture, forestry, fisheries, economic and social policy - are more deeply involved in the process of helping to identify not only technical assistance but also investment projects. Second, we have become somewhat concerned to note that we could find ourselves having a mission going to the same country for the same purpose for three or even four clients. As I said, we have several financial institutions which are clients, which raises the question whether it might not be more efficient and cost-effective if we were to work directly with member countries to help them identify investment projects and even help them identify which financing institution or source may be the most appropriate one.

Finally, I wish to note the point made about what was characterized as insufficient stress on non-agricultural development in rural areas and to say that I could not agree more. I believe there is more in the heart of the document, but maybe it is too implicit rather than explicit. Certainly the point is made that one cannot expect the agriculture sector itself to provide the means to lift all out of poverty who must be so lifted and that economic opportunities and jobs in rural areas from, for example, processing raw agricultural products, thereby stimulating the rural economy, is something that is absolutely essential in a good number of cases around the world.

I think there were probably a large number of specific comments which my colleagues would like to address.

N. ALEXANDRATOS (FAO Staff): I will elaborate a little on two or three points of more general interest raised during the discussion. A number of delegates wondered why we did not have more than one possible outcome, more than one scenario. The answer is that it is extremely difficult to construct alternative scenarios because the way we go about looking to the future is not by a simple mechanical exploration of what may happen using a huge mechanical model, as it were. If we want to change some of the exogenous assumptions concerning overall economic growth or population growth, then every single number - and there are millions of them - would have to be re-evaluated. If demand were to be higher in sub-Saharan Africa, it would not be sufficient just to assume that the additional demand would be met by imports, but every single commodity and every single country number would have to be re-examined all over again as to whether production could respond.

The evaluations of land yield combinations would have to be done all over again. This would require a lot of additional work, which would not be justified by the additional insights we would be getting.

Another general point which was raised is, why are we apparently so pessimistic about the prospects for the former Soviet Union and Central and Eastern Europe? The answer there is that our projection period already includes the first few years of the recession both in the overall economy and in agriculture itself. Therefore, even just absorbing that recession would mean that the average growth rate would have to be very low, because

one starts in 1993 from a very low point, well below the point where the projection period starts.

With regard to the extent to which biotechnology potentials have been explored concerning their possible impact on production, the answer is yes, but essentially only in terms, of what might be the biotechnology applications which have a significant impact on the overall magnitudes presented in this Study. The more exotic aspects are not immediately apparent in this Study.

More than one delegate asked essentially what might happen if energy prices were to increase considerably. We did not really look into this issue specifically. We did assume that the exogenous assumptions on the overall economic outlook, the overall development and the economic growth rates, already embodied certain assumptions on the energy sector. If I remember correctly, there were no significant changes in the prices over the medium term.

The other reason why we may have some problems in estimating the impact on agriculture of an eventual increase in the price of energy is that such an increase would have a significant effect not only on agriculture but on the overall economy. By itself, agriculture may be affected less than the overall economy, so if a great upheaval were to come about because of a significant increase in the real price of energy, the whole overall economic situation would change, not just the prospects for agriculture.

Therefore, it is extremely difficult to estimate the impacts of energy price rises on agriculture without first estimating such impacts on the overall economy.

I think the distinguished delegate from the United States asked why it is that environment-friendly technologies have not been given sufficient priority by the agricultural research system. The answer probably is that traditionally they have been commodity-oriented rather than holistically environment-oriented. There is now more re-orientation in that direction and one can only hope that, in the future, we shall see more home-oriented research.

On the same topic and from the same delegation, I think the question was asked about environmentally-friendly technologies in the developed countries - how much we know about them and how much of an impact they may have on developing countries in the future. I must say that this topic will be addressed at the next Conference for Europe. The paper is being prepared. I will not say more on that for the moment

Finally, a small point was raised by the distinguished delegate of Morocco. In paragraph 7.41 there is a statement that a reduction in the gap between border and domestic prices is an incentive to production. It is not immediately clear from the draft that this statement was referring to export commodities. The situation would be the opposite in the case of imported commodities.

R. J. PERKINS (Director, Commodities and Trade Division): I should like to add a postscript on trade in 2010. Reference was made to the very recent OECD/World Bank assessments of the impact of the Uruguay Round in the monograph Trade Liberalization: Global Economic Implications. There has been a number of assessments of the possible impact of the Uruguay Round on

possible trade. We have mentioned some of the figures in the document and indeed elsewhere. All of the studies make different assumptions about commodity coverage and indeed about the definition of individual commodities; about country coverages and the way in which they are lumped together - and quite a lot of lumping together goes into this most recent study of the Bank and the OECD.

It is sometimes very difficult to disentangle what is actually causing the results of these rather aggregated general equilibrium models of the sort being used. The gains were mentioned from trade liberalization as ensuing from the OECD study at least, namely that 120 billion would accrue to the OECD countries and 70 billion to what are called the developing regions, but I guess it means the rest of the world. These are very large numbers compared with other assessments which have been made, although I would point out that in the World Bank/OECD study these numbers refer to the welfare gains as reflected in the presumed increases in national income, and are not trade gains as such.

Of course, we shall be taking our own studies in the CCP and in the Inter-governmental Groups at a detailed level when we know what are precisely the provisions of any successful Uruguay Round. Other studies, such as the World Bank/OECD Study, for example, assume that there will be an across-the-board 30 percent reduction in tariff equivalents. If that is going to be the case, let us see what is going to be the case so far as the actual conclusions to the negotiations, the safeguards and a very important area indeed, namely minimum access provisions, are concerned. Will they be as they are in the Draft Final Act, at what level of commodities will the minimum access be defined for aggregates of commodities or at the four digit level as proposed in the Draft Final Act? There are many unknowns at this stage. Hopefully, the unknowns will disappear before 14 December.

There are some other surprises in the World Bank/OECD results, as well as the overall assessed welfare gains. For example, the assessment is that prices of some commodities would decrease. I note that the study concludes that prices on international markets of rice, coffee and cocoa would decrease compared with no liberalization. I think this may reflect what Mr Hjort was saying a moment ago, namely that a lot of water has already passed under the bridge since the base period or starting position for projections of the World Bank/OECD type.

There is one result that is not so surprising and it does indeed correspond with our own fears and the fears expressed in other studies: namely, the very difficult position that the Uruguay Round would have in developing countries in Africa, mainly resulting from loss of preferential access as well as, in this particular scenario of OECD and World Bank, the reductions in prices envisaged for important export commodities such as coffee and cocoa.

With that I will conclude.

Ulrich D. KNUEPPEL (European Economic Community): We are certainly grateful for the explanations which we have received from Mr Hjort and his colleagues from the Secretariat, but one specific point raised by the Community and its Member States has not been addressed in those replies: that was our request for receiving supplementary information at an early stage regarding the needs for food assistance. Obviously, even if we were to consider the approach of it here as an approach where there is often

demand on a general equilibrium, still we think the question of food assistance is a very important aspect and should be explored at the same time as the rest of the study. Therefore, we would be very grateful if we could have some additional information on that.

N. ALEXANDRATOS (FAO Staff): In the past we used to extend the analysis of the projections of food import requirements of developing countries, single out those which are likely to be in a difficult position to meet those requirements through commercial trade, and indeed provide a rough estimate of how the future requirements of food aid or concessionary food transfers would develop. Indeed, the distinguished delegates may remember that in the FAO Guidelines for international agricultural adjustment there is a food aid target. It actually refers to the estimates of future food assistance needs computed on the occasion of the preparation of earlier editions of this document. I think a rough and ready idea of this could be obtained fairly quickly from further analysis of food import requirements of low-income countries. I do not think it would be appropriate for me to commit myself as to exactly when, but we can give it high priority by disaggregating food import requirements into those which could possibly be financed without great strain by developing countries themselves and those which would need some form of supplementary assistance if they are to be met. I can probably follow this up later on with particular dates and the form of the estimates that we can provide.

CHAIRMAN: The delegate from Dominica has made a request that her statement be inserted in the verbatim records, and to this I willingly agree.

Teleko RAMOTSOARI (Lesotho): We would like to express our appreciation of a job-well-done in the production of the document - Agriculture Towards 2010, and therefore we commend FAO and staff.

Lesotho delegation however, would like to make the following contribution:

-following the Rio conference we are convinced that the future of good agriculture depends on the sound and sustained environmental development. We believe that without proper protection of the land base, the productivity of forests, fisheries, crops, livestock, wildlife and indeed the productivity of human beings will remain the everynight dream of the world technocrat. It is the land where every object of the planet earth derives its survival.

-Mr Chairman, we would like to recommend that in future, countries of which data were used should be representative of regions and sub-regions; and the criteria of choosing certain country or countries to represent the region or sub-region should be very clear. It seems again important that member countries should collaborate more with FAO in collection of data to produce the document which we are discussing today. Many quotations in the document are from World Bank publications or other institutions as opposed to FAO publications, or publications produced in those countries which are to be representative.

Mr Chairman, since this organization is doing a good job in projecting the world agriculture, we would recommend that, such service be provided to member countries and specifically to the developing countries in order to develop the capability of such countries. This means that if member

countries have capacities the future job of FAO will be facilitated and the document of this nature will be more informative world-wide.

We would like to conclude by reiterating the conclusions and recommendations of the International Conference on Nutrition. Since the last ICN in December 1992, technical aspects of agriculture have formally married nutritional aspects. We from Lesotho recommend further formal marriage between agriculture technology and population growth.¹

Mrs Hannelore A.H. BENJAMIN (Dominica) : The document before us is a very comprehensive one. Mr Chairman, food security becomes each year more and more problematic, partly:

- a) because the developing countries do not have the right access to a free trade market;
- b) data and the assessments change too rapidly - leaving governments of developing countries no time for a reasonable adjustment, and that is a critical point and must not be overlooked by FAO.

Mr Chairman, again the "Small Island Development" has not been well addressed. My delegation therefore wishes to support what was said by the delegate of Trinidad and Tobago who expressed his concerns fully.

Mr Chairman, in Table A1 we see only data of five Caribbean countries which are economically active in agriculture - but what happens to all the other islands? - no data was given - and in Table A5 "data on land with rainfed crop production" outlines the potential of only "one island" in the Caribbean. I could go on, but Mr Chairman, already the two above-named data show clearly that the document has been inefficiently addressed, and that should be avoided in the future.

My delegation would also point out that it would be advisable if FAO continued in its efforts to set up a large-scale programme for "Small Islands" and (1) be of help for a diversification programme in agriculture, (2) be of assistance in helping our sustainable development in our fisheries sector, and (3) help the Caribbean region in its efforts for sustainable utilization of forestry resources and the preservation of the watershed areas, which are of utmost importance; as to help us in maintaining our very fragile ecosystem which is very critical. Therefore the development of TFAP must be FAO's high priority and needs to be addressed very explicitly and not implicitly.²

¹ Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request.

² Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request.

8. Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Agricultural and Rural Development: Progress Report
8. Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement agricole et rural; Rapport intérimaire
8. Plan de Acción para la integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo Agrícola y Rural; informe parcial

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: The document for discussion on Agenda Item 8, 'The Third Progress Report for the Implementation of the Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Development', is identified as C 93/14. Although we are at the end of just the second biennium of implementing the Plan, substantial progress has been made. Mr Chairman, in introducing this item, I would like to emphasize several points.

First, FAO continues to place a high priority on women-in-development (WID) issues. This is indicated in the fact that WID is one of five cross-sectoral priorities in the Organization's Medium-Term Plan for 1994-1995, and one of nine global priorities in the current and forthcoming Programmes of Work and Budget.

Second, I would like to stress that, while FAO is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Plan of Action, the ultimate achievement of its objectives is highly dependent upon the collaboration and cooperation of the Member Governments that unanimously adopted the Plan in 1989. Although this point is not emphasized in the Progress Reports, many Governments have collaborated in such actions as integrating gender concerns into mainstream programmes and projects, and establishing WID coordinating units in Ministries of Agriculture, and Planning. In this regard, I would remind the delegates that FAO remains ready, within the limits of our resources, to respond to any government request for assistance in the area of WID, especially over the next biennium as FAO and our Governments prepare for the Fourth World Conference on Women, which will be held in Beijing in 1995. In this context, I wish to inform the Commission that the regular programme provision for preparatory activities related to this Conference is insufficient. We have been seeking extra-budgetary resources, so far to no avail. I urge the donors to reconsider our appeal for extra-budgetary resources for this purpose.

Third, in addition to Member Governments, FAO has been increasing its collaboration with other international organizations on implementing the Plan of Action. This was evident, for example, in the FAO/WHO 1992 International Conference on Nutrition, where much emphasis was placed on gender issues and where women were very active participants in all preparatory activities and in the Conference itself. Such collaboration has also been evident in the development of the FAO-initiated Socio-Economic and Gender Analysis (SEGA) Training-of-Trainers Programme, which began in 1992. SEGA is a collaborative effort with UNDP and World Bank, and is noteworthy because it provides the first gender analysis framework that explicitly addresses poverty, environment, people's participation and empowerment. This kind of inter-agency collaboration will continue and be enhanced in the future. Here again, there is the need for a modest extra-budgetary contribution.

Fourth, FAO is continuing its efforts to strengthen and systematize the administration and implementation of the Plan of Action within the Organization. The last section of the Report identifies major administrative constraints encountered over the biennium, and recommends

actions to overcome them, including: to review and update the Plan of Action to assure its relevance beyond 1995; to further develop monitoring and appraisal capabilities; and to establish Divisional Core Groups to improve coordination and liaison between the Technical Divisions and ESH. Your comments on these recommendations will be appreciated.

Fifth, I wish to mention FAO's attempts to increase the number of women in professional staff positions. As acknowledged at the joint meeting of the Programme of Finance Committees in its last session, the Organization has taken positive steps and made progress towards increasing the percentage of women staff members. While the Committees urged continued efforts in this regard, they underlined that progress in this area had to be assessed against the relatively scarce availability of qualified women candidates in FAO's technical fields. The Committees agreed that this task was more difficult for FAO, as compared to the other large specialized agencies of the UN System.

We recognize that, notwithstanding the numerous activities of the Organization described in the Third Progress Report, much work lies ahead in the achievement of full and equitable participation of rural women in agricultural and rural development. FAO will continue to collaborate with the Member Governments and other international organizations in order to secure the full participation of rural women in the processes and benefits of development. This, in our view, is a social and economic necessity. We look forward to the comments on the Progress Report, and to the guidance of the Conference on future work in this important field.

Ms Gertraud PICHLER (Austria) (Original language German) : On behalf of the Austrian delegation, I would like to thank the Secretariat, in particular, our Deputy Director-General, Mr Hjort, for the excellent introduction to the document which has been submitted to us, the Third Progress Report on the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development. We are also very pleased that FAO has given this matter high priority. The document is very well constructed. It gives us an excellent picture of the implementation of the Plan of Action for Women in Development. It provides information on measures and projects which are done on the spot or at international, regional and local level.

These projects are carried out in the following priority areas: training and extension of women in development, particularly in the area of agriculture and home economics; political measures for the governments of member countries; project development and project monitoring; updating and reformulating of the curriculum for the training in agriculture and home economics; development of WID guidelines and collection of data; research and communication; education of populations and women in development and sustainable development of resources in the environment.

The priorities which are set out in this Plan of Action will also directly affect and impinge on the sensitive work programme of Women in Development. This report shows very clearly which programmes within this Plan of Action have been successful and what shortcomings or problems there have been with the attainment of certain of the targets.

In this Conference a lot of agriculture ministers and many delegates have stressed the importance of women and development and women and the rural environment. Indeed, the important role of women has been mentioned regarding the production of food in connection with food security and

sustainable development as well as the very responsible attitude that women take when it comes to managing resources. However, women are still subject to lack of access to the resources that they need; for example, land and soil, water technology, credits, training and extension services. Women do not have the access they need to important institutions such as health services, family planning, social security, pensions and many more. Women need greater access to political decision-making and to be involved in the legislative process.

The FAO has, therefore, recognized the importance of the role of women through various measures set out in the WID Programme. FAO has attempted to make good these shortcomings. Here we would particularly mention in a positive manner the effort to extend vocational training and extension training as well as technical education so that women, both as farmers and business women, will be able to acquire the skills they need.

Austria believes that 20 to 30 percent of women are running farms alone because over 65 percent of the farms in Austria are part-time farms.

Document C 93/14 indicates that in this area there is still a great deal of training required by women. There is a great deal of catching up to do, particularly in farm management, technical training, nutrition, marketing, and many other areas. What we would say is very good are FAO's efforts to reformulate training programmes for home economics and agricultural training, and to tailor them to actual needs. This means that these would be tailored to the needs of the countries, and in certain areas they would be specific parts of nutrition and the family's food needs.

This means that we have to have well-qualified teachers and well-qualified extension agents. Home economics is not something that should be aimed only at women. Also, at schools all young boys have to be brought into this as well, and indeed it has to be compulsory as part of general schooling because only if that is done can we create a real partnership, can people learn about partnerships, and can we have proper divisions of labour within the home, within the farm and within one's vocation.

FAO's efforts in this area are certainly laudable because they are attempting to increase equality between men and women by having research and training programmes on gender analysis. The gender analysis programme ought to be extended, though, particularly to socio-economic and environmental contexts.

To put into effect the programme of action in all five continents and in all regions, particularly in rural areas, the following has to be done. Human resources - by which I mean managers, experts, staff - have to be given a proper degree of training and they have to be in place. This has to happen nationally, locally and internationally.

It is also vital that the financial resources be increased so that these programmes can be implemented. What I mean by this is that the financial resources which the FAO can provide, but also those resources coming from other sources, and through donor countries, can actually arrive at those countries where these programmes are being carried out.

Within the FAO Conference priorities have been discussed a great deal and I believe that human resources, particularly women, who are properly trained and well-educated, are a very important factor in the attainment of these

FAO targets. This means that women again have to be present at all managerial levels - nationally, internationally and locally.

If we look at paragraph 142 we can see that women are under represented in certain areas. To achieve this, the plan of action has to be taken very seriously, and I also believe that close and intensive cooperation and coordination must be maintained with all NGOs at all levels. These NGOs, with their well-placed and strong organizations, can help FAO in the implementation of its programme. They can do a great deal of good.

I would therefore ask what has been planned by FAO so that in the future the number of women in these various posts can be increased? I work as the Chair of the FAO/ECA Working Party on Women and Agricultural Families in Rural Development, and in that capacity may I just add that this Working Party within Europe has drawn up a work programme which properly tallies with the FAO Plan of Action. Our Work Programme is aimed at improving the socio-economic status of women and rural families in rural areas. What we need here is good basic training and further training. That is the prerequisite.

In our medium-term plan, we have training programmes in the foreground -the development of rural tourism, the setting-up of small business, the development of an entrepreneurial culture, project management, village development and village rejuvenation as well as the use of new and efficient advice and extension methods.

There are many other topics as well. The FAO Working Party for Women and Rural Families has made an effort that in those countries in transition in Central and Eastern Europe training and extension services will be put up and supported.

At the moment, we are now running a project which is looking at the socio-economic status of women in Central and Eastern Europe. These countries need our support and they need our help.

In connection with the International Year of the Family in 1994, I would also like to add that the 7th Session of the FAO/ECA Working Party, Women and Rural Families in Rural Development, will take place in October 1994 in Athens, Greece. It will have the following subject under discussion: the family as a socio-economic unit in rural development future focus.

Many of the activities which have been looked at by our Working Party, and many of the things considered, require bilateral support. Here Austria can refer to a number of activities which have been under way, and we will also be giving a great deal of help to Eastern European countries in the future.

May I ask a question? What is FAO planning for the future regarding extension and advice in Eastern Europe regarding agricultural reform, policy structures and the support of institutions regarding gender analysis, basic training, further training, farm management and entrepreneurial management? We believe this is very important when we are planning the future of our Working Party and the subjects that our Working Party will be tackling.

May I now come to an end by saying that the Austrian delegation gives its full support to the Working Programme for Women in Development and we would like to thank you for the excellent introduction to this Programme.

Ms Thakane ADORO (Lesotho): We wish to congratulate the Secretariat on the elaborate paper before us. We reiterate our support for the Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Development. We therefore support the initiatives undertaken by FAO in this regard.

We are generally happy with the review which attempts to underline constraints as well as positive trends in development programmes. At this juncture we would urge FAO to move quickly in implementing those projects which have been found to be successful in other regions.

We wish to refer to paragraphs 25-32. We hope Lesotho will be included in such programmes in the future. We also appeal to FAO to continue to organize sub-regional workshops like the one mentioned in paragraph 98.

We support fully FAO's administrative priorities mentioned in paragraph 104, although not necessarily in the order shown. We concur with the view that more training of FAO representatives be embarked upon and that FAO should increase female technical advisors in all its field programmes.

We are concerned to learn that Africa and Asia are the two regions which have registered a downwards trend in 1991 regarding women's participation in FAO field projects which have a training component. We therefore agree with FAO that the reasons behind this negative trend be urgently explored.

Regarding the question of structural adjustment programmes and their repercussions on the rural poor, we would submit that in order to alleviate their negative consequences beneficiary governments be allowed to participate in the formulation of such programmes in the future.

Let me conclude by thanking FAO for the assistance extended to Lesotho in the form of a project designed to eliminate marketing problems and increase the incomes of vegetable producers who are primarily women.

Ms Faith INNERARITY (Jamaica): I would like to say that sensitization on gender issues in development is on-going at both national and international levels, but many persons are still unsure as to how this can be incorporated in planning in a practical way. It must be emphasized that conceptually gender analysis does not mean an exclusive focus on women, but a comparative analysis of women and men, and the differential access to and/or impact of programmes on them.

More studies are still required on these differences, in spite of the efforts of FAO and other organizations to promote gender disaggregation of statistics.

Gender analysis training currently being undertaken by FAO is commendable but a formal manual is needed in this area to guide planners. We have been speaking much about the environment and sustainable development. Now, when we are planning projects we have definite guidelines by which we can incorporate environmental issues. However, in the area of gender analysis there are still very few formalized guidelines which can be followed, and from personal and other experience I realize there are a number of persons who would like to include gender in planning but do not know how this can be done. In fact, normally it has been interpreted as a woman in development component and a piece of a project for women, but in essence this is not really what gender analysis is all about. It is how projects

impact on men and on women, what are the various needs that exist, what are the differences in both groups in terms of famine and other areas of development? I think we need to emphasize this, and whether FAO or some other organization can take the initiative to formalize gender analysis in the way we have formalized systems for doing financial and economic analysis and, as I mentioned before, environmental impact analysis.

P.R. JANUS (Netherlands): First of all, I would like to thank Deputy Director-General Hjort for his clear introduction of the report on the implementation of the Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Development, the Third Progress Report as it is and a report which my delegation has read with a great deal of interest.

We recall that this Report, which was requested by the Twenty-sixth FAO Conference, was supposed to focus specifically on the most important innovating efforts of FAO regarding: "(1) The systematic integration of gender issues into mainstream FAO policy, programmes and projects. (2) The identification of major constraints to the full participation of women in activities carried out by FAO and Member Governments, as well as the means pursued to overcome these constraints." My delegation has noted that innovating activities are not the main focus of the Report. These activities have been included in the description of the three most important programme actions that FAO uses to realize the objectives in the eight priority areas, namely:

(1) project development and monitoring; (2) socio-economic and gender analysis training, and (3) gender-responsive policy advice to member countries.

Regarding the first group of actions, my Government appreciates that innovative activities have been initiated aimed at increasing access of women to financial resources, extension activities and technical training. In the development of a methodology for training and extension my Government deems it important that attention be paid to increasing the percentage of women among trained technical specialists, managers, researchers and policy-makers. According to the report these percentages are still very low compared to the percentage of trained women at the "grass-roots" level.

With regard to the second area of programme actions, the Netherlands has a particular interest as it contributes financially to the development of the Socio-economic and Gender Analysis Training Programme in which innovative and flexible training tools and methods are being developed, both for FAO staff as well as for trainers in developing countries. The cooperation between FAO, UNDP and the World Bank is regarded as very positive because it implies that resources and expertise are being pooled and duplication is avoided. My Government also greatly appreciates that the FAO Working Group on Women and Development involves other divisions of FAO in the implementation of this programme.

I now come to the issue of gender-responsive policy advice to member countries. It is noted that the number of requests for this type of advice has increased. However, in our experience, this may not fully reflect the real demand for such advice. My Government attaches great importance to the further development of this sort of policy advice.

In conclusion, I would say the following. The Report provides detailed information on programme and administrative actions undertaken to implement the Plan of Action, which is very much appreciated. The important question, however, is whether we can be satisfied with the progress made until now. My Government is of the view that this is not the case. Unfortunately it has to be noted that especially within FAO's technical divisions still not enough attention is given to the question of women in development. We also see that in our Trust Fund Programme. My Government, therefore, recommends that FAO develop a strategy to better incorporate the Plan of Action into the work of the various technical divisions within FAO. It also recommends that even more attention be given to motivating and training FAO staff in the area of Women in Development.

Elías REYES BRAVO (México): La Delegación mexicana, señor Presidente, desea manifestar su interés por este tercer informe parcial sobre la aplicación del Plan de Acción para la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo, aprobado en la 25/ª Conferencia General de la FAO de noviembre de 1989.

La información contenida en el documento objeto de estudio, muestra las actividades que la Organización ha realizado hasta la fecha para alcanzar los objetivos del Plan de Acción.

El documento presenta también las limitantes a la integración de la mujer por lo que respecta, entre otros temas, a la falta de acceso a crédito; a la representación política y al reconocimiento de la importancia de su participación en las labores del campo. Asimismo, se plantea que la participación femenina en las labores rurales trae consigo amplios beneficios, tales como una mejor nutrición y una mejor alimentación, un desarrollo sostenible y una mayor participación en la fuerza laboral del campo.

Sobre este tema la Delegación mexicana quiere comentar las siguientes acciones emprendidas por mi país en esta materia:

En lo que respecta al crédito y servicios bancarios, las limitantes que se señalan en el documento son las mismas que prevalecen en mi país; sin embargo, de manera reciente se instrumentó el Programa de Crédito a la Palabra, enmarcado en el Programa Nacional de Solidaridad, el cual es un apoyo para productoras y productores, en general, de escasos recursos.

Con relación a la extensión y la capacitación técnica, en la instrumentación del Sistema Nacional de Extensión Agrícola de México, se definió un perfil profesional sin distinción de sexo para el extensionista.

En México también se establecieron reformas económica, de estabilización y de ajuste estructural, pero en forma paralela se instrumentó el Programa de Solidaridad para apoyar a los grupos de población más desfavorecidos, incluida la mujer.

México cuenta con algunas experiencias recientes en programas de desarrollo para áreas rurales de pobreza extrema, diseñados específicamente para mujeres, como el caso de las Empresas de Solidaridad y del Programa Nacional de Mujeres en Solidaridad. Estos programas impulsan proyectos productivos que combinan recursos que se recuperan o invierten en un fondo comunitario.

La experiencia que hay en México se ha obtenido a partir de proyectos de mejoramiento de vivienda, talleres de costura y granjas apícolas, avícolas y hortícolas. Los programas que se realizan no sólo conllevan el otorgamiento de recursos, sino que también implican la participación de mujeres en talleres de autodiagnóstico.

Por otra parte, el documento que nos ocupa ahora, muestra interés por la administración de los recursos forestales, aunque desgraciadamente éstos se encuentran excluidos del programa de mujeres debido a su falta de participación en este sector. Por esta razón, la Delegación mexicana propone la integración de un grupo de especialistas técnicos y normativos que ataque el problema de deforestación a nivel mundial, incluyendo la participación de la mujer.

Finalmente, señor Presidente, mi Delegación quiere destacar que - respecto a este tema, y ante un entorno internacional que requiere mejoras, y ante políticas nacionales de ajuste que exigen alternativas sociales, ante este horizonte - es necesario que la acción de la FAO fortalezca la vertiente social de sus programas y que a ello concurran las demás agencias del sistema de Naciones Unidas.

José Manuel MENDONÇA LIMA (Portugal): Je voudrais d'abord, au nom de la délégation portugaise, remercier le Secrétariat pour le texte qu'il nous a soumis sur l'intégration de la femme dans le développement. On connaît l'importance que la Communauté européenne accorde au rôle de la femme. Pour ma part, je voudrais souligner que si la femme a une importance vitale pour les pays en développement, elle continue à jouer en Europe un rôle non négligeable dans l'agriculture, et il faut en tenir compte lorsqu'on définit les politiques dans ce secteur.

La femme agricultrice est plus sensible au problème du développement durable par son intégration au cycle global: production dans l'exploitation, alimentation du ménage, nourriture et éducation des enfants.

Au Portugal, l'agriculture est le secteur où le niveau de participation de la femme est le plus élevé.

Si le nombre des femmes dans l'agriculture est élevé depuis longtemps, la reconnaissance de son statut comme femme agricultrice est relativement récente au Portugal. La clarification de la figure de l'exploitant agricole, nécessaire à la définition de la responsabilité de celui-ci dans les devoirs et dans les droits prévus dans la PAC, a permis à de nombreuses femmes d'être reconnues comme femmes agricultrices, et non plus en temps que femmes d'agriculteurs.

Avant cette clarification, l'homme gardait son statut d'exploitant agricole, même s'il travaillait tout le temps à l'extérieur et si on le consultait à peine dans la gestion de l'exploitation.

De son côté, la femme traditionnellement gardait son rôle invisible dans la responsabilité de l'exploitation agricole.

Au Portugal, la femme agricultrice jouit, du point de vue légal, d'une égalité totale par rapport à l'homme. Mais il faut encore faire des changements importants au niveau des mentalités pour que la situation juridique deviennent une réalité.

C'est dans ce domaine que l'on devrait accentuer les efforts pour que la femme agricultrice joue un rôle de partenaire active en renforçant les liens de coopération et d'échanges d'expériences au niveau des pays et des organisations internationales.

Carlos BASCO (Argentina): La Delegación argentina quiere agradecer a la Secretaría por la presentación del documento y felicitar a la FAO por los progresos que se observan en el campo de la integración de la mujer rural al desarrollo.

La Delegación argentina expresa también su acuerdo con el documento y quisiera agregar que visto el rol clave de la mujer en la producción rural, se apoya la asignación de recursos para formulación y seguimiento de proyectos tendientes a mejorar el acceso a los recursos productivos, así como la capacitación y asesoramiento normativo a los países.

La Delegación argentina manifiesta también su acuerdo con los sectores elegidos como críticos e insta a la Organización a continuar concentrando su acción antes que desperdigar esfuerzos en otros objetivos. Los sectores son: Recursos Financieros, Capacitación, Ordenación de Recursos Naturales y Nutrición.

Por último, en relación con el párrafo 96 se señala la conveniencia de incluir al bloque económico MERCOSUR en Proyectos de Red de América Latina y El Caribe, habida cuenta de la importancia de la subregión, por su alta densidad poblacional y los términos de rápida integración que en ella se verifican.

Mme María de Lourdes MARTINS DUARTE (Cap-Vert): Permettez-nous de féliciter Mr Hjort pour la présentation de ce point de notre ordre du jour.

L'intégration des femmes se pose comme un impératif pour le développement durable. En effet, ce n'est que grâce à des efforts pour améliorer son accès aux ressources et aux services mis à la disposition de tous les partenaires à la vie économique d'un pays sur un pied d'égalité avec l'homme, que de grands progrès pourront être accomplis.

De par sa responsabilité au foyer, en tant que mère et éducatrice, et gestionnaire des ressources du ménage, son rôle devient celui d'un agent producteur de biens alimentaires et de produits connexes, tenant compte de sa participation à l'agriculture, à l'élevage, aux forêts et à la pêche, et en tant que responsable au premier chef des systèmes agro-écologiques durables dans le monde.

En examinant les mesures prises dans la mise en oeuvre du plan et les recommandations de la Conférence, nous aimerions faire quelques remarques:

Tout d'abord, nous avons beaucoup apprécié la façon dont le Secrétariat a présenté son rapport en intégrant les questions liées aux spécificités de chaque sexe dans les activités de la FAO, en identifiant les principaux obstacles qui s'opposent à la participation effective des femmes ainsi que les moyens pour y faire face. Les cas présentés ont été bien sélectionnés et représentent des activités de projets réussies devant servir d'exemple.

Nous nous référons à l'énorme difficulté à laquelle se heurtent les femmes pour faire valoir leurs droits d'accès aux crédits et aux services bancaires. A cet égard, nous félicitons les parties concernées qui ont su conduire de façon remarquable la Coopérative et Banque de développement

rural de Tanzanie, qui gère des crédits pour des artisans pêcheurs et un programme de fonds renouvelables en nature, épargne de groupe, exécuté en Sierra Leone dans le but d'améliorer la sécurité alimentaire des ménages et les revenus des agricultrices.

Un autre aspect important est celui de la vulgarisation de la formation technique. Ces services ont une connaissance superficielle du rôle des femmes dans la production agricole, ne se basent pas sur leurs contraintes et besoins spécifiques et n'ont aucune interaction avec les instituts de recherche qui négligent les produits cultivés par les femmes et n'essaient pas d'adapter les techniques à leurs capacités physiques ou à leur tâche employant des instruments primitifs.

En ce qui concerne la nutrition et la sécurité alimentaire, nous nous félicitons du rôle accru des denrées alimentaires traditionnelles dans l'amélioration de l'état de la nutrition, et de la situation économique des ménages pauvres.

S'agissant des mesures administratives, nous estimons aussi que les crédits du Programme ordinaire affectés au service de la formation des femmes ne sont pas suffisants pour permettre à l'unité de coordination de répondre aux demandes croissantes d'assistance qui lui sont adressées.

De même, pour l'accroissement des effectifs féminins au sein de l'Organisation tant au Siège que dans les bureaux régionaux et les Représentations de la FAO, sans aucun doute cela faciliterait la mise en oeuvre du plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement.

La femme cap-verdienne participe activement au développement du pays. Comme l'a indiqué le chef de la délégation du Cap-Vert, dans sa déclaration en séance plénière: en dépit de la nature difficile de ses activités, la contraignant à d'énormes sacrifices et fatigues, le statut de la femme dans la société n'est pas encore à la hauteur des responsabilités sociales qu'elle assume, étant souvent sujet à la discrimination dans l'exercice de certains droits fondamentaux.

Iain C. MacGILLIVRAY (Canada) : We take this opportunity to acknowledge FAO's continuing efforts to increase women's participation in its programming through the implementation of the Plan of Action currently before us and we thank Mr Hjort for his introductory comments on specific points of the report. Canada, more specifically the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), has long been a proponent of these actions, having dealt with them directly within our own domestic organization. Many of the observations we will make are based on our own experiences. We fully relate to the challenge of adequately addressing the gender issues of development.

As a general note on the Third Progress Report, the thrust of our comments centres on the second part of the report where it is requested that key obstacles and constraints be identified for the full participation of women, in addition to means pursued to overcome these constraints. Here, we believe, the limitations required more rigorous analysis and more concrete solutions.

We will focus our remarks on three issues only which are critical to enhancing - might I say institutionalizing - the integration of women's concerns into the mainstream programmes and activities of FAO. These refer

to: FAO WID linkages or outreach; staff training and follow-up; and gender staffing.

Overall, the Canadian delegation is fully supportive of the multi-dimensional efforts which are being carried out. From an operational standpoint, we see an immense challenge being balanced, in relative terms, with ever tight resources. Hence we identify with the concerted efforts by FAO's WID coordination unit to prioritize its intervention while ensuring that its coordination mechanisms are effective.

FAO linkages: We note with interest the considerable resources that FAO dedicates to women's issues, which, within the Sub-Programme of Women in Agriculture and Rural Development alone, represent approximately US\$4 million in the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium. This valuable response represents a major source of support to others working on women's concerns if there are strong working relationships with other organizations. However, this document does not fully or clearly outline how FAO activities in this area closely interlink with WID expertise in other organizations nor how FAO disseminates information and materials generated. Many of the guidelines and training papers indicated in the document would certainly be valuable to other organizations.

The Progress Report discusses efforts to liaise more closely with various other multilateral organizations, community groups, networks and NGOs. We would have liked to see greater attention given, for example, to the World Food Programme. WFP targets considerable resources towards women in areas of household food security, nutrition and natural resource management, all areas of primary concern to FAO. As the largest contributor to its development programme, Canada is particularly interested in improving WFP's developmental effectiveness. WFP lacks the technical in-house capacity to develop necessary policies and operational guidelines. It seems to us that FAO and WFP should be working very closely together on gender issues.

Staff training and follow-up: As indicated at the 26th Session of the Conference, Canada would suggest that more can, and must, be done at organizational, administrative and operational levels within FAO to address gender concerns. A particular area is FAO staff training. It is impressive that some 80 percent of professional headquarters staff have received gender analysis awareness training. But the figure for field representatives, who are, after all, the front-line staff with governments, is a meagre 10 percent. Since FAO services are demand-driven, and requests for gender-related assistance have been low, it stands to reason that field representation should in fact be among the most aware and should strongly advocate gender-sensitive policies and programmes.

In this regard, we note with concern that only two country requests were made during this biennium for action-oriented gender-related policy assistance under TSS-1. We agree fully with the comment in the Report that FAO Country Representatives need to show greater leadership for action and become more motivated for a women-in-development advocacy role in their exchange with UNDP Representatives. We recognize, nevertheless, the numerous efforts at the country level to strengthen WID machineries and to influence policy decisions.

The Progress Report is also unclear with regard to follow-up to awareness-level training. Experience within CIDA and other organizations indicates that increasing awareness is seldom sufficient to bring about significant institutional or programme change. This is further complicated by staff turnover. Other follow-up mechanisms must be implemented within the Organization such as a good monitoring system or professional advancement

based on evidence of compliance. It is not apparent if such a mechanism is in place.

On the positive side, the participation of FAO's divisions in the formulation and implementation of the SEGA programme and the plans to test training material and documentation at Headquarters and with regional staff should further strengthen in-house capacity in Women in Development.

Gender staffing: For FAO to be fully committed to excellence it must ensure that it is effectively tapping the pool of women professionals, a recruitment priority in the medium-term plan; and, once women come, FAO must make sure it is providing a work environment which is supportive of women's fullest productivity and career attainment. In spite of the Organization's stated commitment to hire and promote more women professionals, its track record remains poor, especially in the field. Women are most seriously under-represented in management throughout the Organization. Though some efforts have been undertaken to recruit women, the Progress Report does not indicate what is being done to intensify the search, especially for technical expertise.

Here, we believe, FAO could benefit from information generated by the CGIAR gender programme and from one of its centres, the International Service for National Agricultural Research (ISNAR). Though dealing more specifically with agricultural research, their analyses are relevant to organizations seeking women with technical expertise. Both show clear trends in an increase in supply of qualified graduate-level trained women agriculturalists, in both developed and developing countries, and they have analysed institutional constraints to their full employment, in national and international organizations.

Thus recruitment must continue to receive high priority. We need to take a hard look at the issues of advancement. We need to ask ourselves if the distribution is strictly a reflection of supply or if it reflects problems of the "glass ceiling" and subtle constraints to women's career attainment in FAO. We believe that it is also important to look at how to make the workplace more hospitable and supportive to women. Experience from other organizations shows that issues of the relationship between men and women in the workplace will only become more important as women move up from the more junior professional ranks into positions of increased authority, programming and management responsibility.

This is a challenging set of issues. To tackle any of them effectively there must be a demand and a commitment from both managers and women in FAO. The absolute importance of this topic - the full integration of women into development planning and programmes - cannot be too strongly emphasized. Institutional change, both in FAO and in governments, does not occur overnight, but actions such as those proposed will influence attitudes, which will themselves influence future activities if we all persevere. Changing attitudes to gender is a long-term task. We appreciate the opportunity to discuss this important topic.

The meeting rose at 12.30 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30 horas.

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 93/I/PV/8

Twenty-seventh Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt-septième session
COMMISSION I

27° período de sesiones
COMISION I

EIGHTH MEETING
HUITIEME SEANCE
OCTAVA SESION

(15 November 1993)

The Eighth Meeting was opened at 14.50 hours

Mr Hermann Redl, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La huitième séance est ouverte à 14 h 50

sous la présidence de M. Hermann Redl, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la octava sesión a las 14.50 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hermann Redl, Presidente de la Comisión I

PART I - MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)

PREMIERE PARTIE - PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE

D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)

PARTE I - PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLÍTICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y

LA ALIMENTACIÓN (continuación)

8. Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Agricultural and Rural Development: Progress Report (continued)
8. Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement agricole et rural: Rapport intérimaire (suite)
- 8 Plan de Acción para la integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo Agrícola y Rural: informe parcial (continuación)

Mme Silvana PANEGROSSI (Italie): Parmi les nouvelles activités entreprises par la FAO pendant les dernières années, la délégation italienne considère d'intérêt primordial celles liées au Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement. Le document C 93/14 décrit le très bon travail accompli par l'Organisation pendant les deux dernières années pour améliorer l'accès de la femme à la terre en reconnaissant que les femmes sont le fondement historique de nombre de systèmes agro-écologiques durables dans le monde. L'intégration de la femme dans les activités agricoles et, par la suite, dans les entreprises agricoles, est un phénomène que tous les soi-disant pays industrialisés ont connu et connaissent encore.

Permettez-moi, Monsieur le Président, de vous donner quelques exemples de progrès réalisés dans mon pays:

Pendant le développement industriel italien, c'est surtout la main-d'oeuvre masculine qui a été touchée par l'exode agricole, provoquant ainsi un processus substitutif de la femme à l'homme, processus qui a été dénommé "féminisation" de l'agriculture. A cause de cela, les femmes qui, en 1951, constituaient 24 pour cent de la main-d'oeuvre agricole, en constituaient 36 pour cent environ en 1981; et depuis lors, cela n'a pas changé.

Ces dernières années, la féminisation a donc subi un arrêt pour ce qui concerne l'emploi dans son ensemble. Au contraire, la présence des femmes au sommet des entreprises agricoles en qualité d'entrepreneurs s'est accrue. Cela démontre que cette présence est toujours plus qualifiée et que la femme devient un élément non plus substitutif mais compétitif par rapport à l'homme.

En 1970, le recensement agricole relevait que 680 104 entreprises avaient comme exploitant une femme, soit 18,9 pour cent du total des entreprises. En 1982, elles étaient 711 956, soit 21,8 pour cent, pour atteindre 790 128, soit 25,9 pour cent en 1990.

Malgré la diminution générale des entreprises agricoles italiennes, celles gérées par des femmes ont augmenté de 15 pour cent. Ce qui est encore plus significatif, c'est le fait que les augmentations arrivent à leur maximum pour les entreprises ayant entre 10 et 30 hectares de superficie agricole utilisée et atteignent plus de 60 pour cent. Ce sont donc les entreprises les plus grandes qui sont touchées par ce phénomène selon lequel la femme est responsable au premier chef de son entreprise. L'augmentation de la capacité de gestion des femmes est donc indiscutée, même si l'on doit la

placer dans un cadre complexe de stratégies familiales et de division du travail entre les conjoints.

A propos de ces rapports de travail entre les conjoints, il est intéressant d'observer que, tandis que la femme participe moins qu'auparavant aux activités de travail dans l'entreprise de son mari, le mari prend toujours davantage part au travail dans l'entreprise de sa femme. Entre 1975 et 1990, les journées de travail des femmes dans l'entreprise de leur mari ont diminué, passant de 122,5 millions à 54,2 millions (cette estimation est limitée aux entreprises ayant plus d'un hectare de superficie agricole utilisée). Pendant la même période, les journées de travail des hommes dans l'entreprise de leur femme ont augmenté, passant de 6,2 millions à 8,6 millions. Donc, les maris qui acceptent de faire le subordonné de leur femme sont de plus en plus nombreux. Une petite révolution est en cours.

Julio LUCINI CASALES (España): Nuestra Delegación, Señor Presidente, agradece profundamente el esfuerzo que viene realizando la FAO en un tema de tanta trascendencia como es el de la integración de la mujer en el desarrollo. Igualmente, agradece la aportación a esta Conferencia del tercer informe sobre la aplicación del Plan de Acción que se viene poniendo en práctica sobre este asunto.

Permítanos, Señor Presidente, hacer unas breves reflexiones sobre estas cuestiones en general y sobre algunos de los extremos reflejados en el informe presentado.

Dentro de las prioridades programáticas establecidas por el Plan, se llama la atención sobre la número 6, referente a acopio de datos, estudios de investigación, comunicación e información pública.

Nuestro país ha dedicado un importante esfuerzo en esta dirección durante los años 1988 a 1990, a nivel nacional, y contamos con estudios muy completos en relación con la situación socioprofesional de la mujer en la agricultura, totalmente en línea con los planteamientos que el documento distribuido hace en sus párrafos 80 y 81. Estos trabajos se consideran de gran utilidad para analizar unas posibles modificaciones metodológicas en relación con la confección del censo agropecuario mundial, así como para el diseño de operaciones estadísticas sobre la valoración de la fuerza de trabajo de la mujer en la agricultura. Además de dar cuenta en este Foro del esfuerzo realizado, la colaboración con distintos Organismos Internacionales, algunos de ellos citados en el documento que estamos analizando, de la institución española que lo ha llevado a efecto, el Instituto de la Mujer, garantiza su difusión y posible uso en futuros trabajos sobre el tema.

En este mismo sentido señalamos que, aunque el documento hace referencia a actividades desarrolladas por alguna oficina regional de la FAO, no recoge las llevadas a efecto por la Oficina Regional para Europa en relación con el trabajo de la mujer y la familia agrícola en el desarrollo rural. Creemos que los trabajos realizados últimamente, algunos de ellos precisamente en nuestro país durante 1993, pueden tener un alto grado de interés y servir de modelo metodológico para nuevos estudios a realizar en otros continentes, aunque haya que tener en cuenta el distinto entorno en que se van a ejecutar.

En el análisis del tercer informe que venimos comentando se echam de menos, al menos en número suficiente, referencias explícitas al importante papel

que la mujer agricultora puede desempeñar en la ejecución de la política de desarrollo rural, relacionada con los usos no agrarios del espacio rural: agroturismo, promoción de productos agroalimentarios locales, etc. No dudamos que la presencia de la mujer rural en proyectos y actividades de este tipo es un sistema rápido y eficaz de avanzar en su incorporación al desarrollo.

Por otra parte, la entrada de la mujer en los procesos económicos y contables de la explotación, según tenemos contrastado en experiencias propias, mejora con mucha frecuencia la gestión total de la propia explotación y, a su vez, la propia gestión general del hogar. Como el informe resalta numerosas veces, y en línea con esta última reflexión, los programas de mejora de alimentación tienen una referencia inevitable en la mujer agricultora, tanto en su faceta de productora de alimentos como en la de responsable de la preparación de los mismos a nivel familiar.

Aunque los comentarios tanto del informe presentado, como de nuestras propias reflexiones, se dirigen frecuentemente a la mujer agricultora y a su incorporación al desarrollo dentro del mundo agrario, creemos necesario resaltar que todos los programas y proyectos en este sentido no deben olvidar otros muchos esfuerzos e iniciativas que vienen desde otros sectores. La incorporación de la mujer al desarrollo tiene que alcanzarse poniendo en conexión los planes específicos para la mujer agricultora dentro de su medio con cuantas iniciativas surjan en otras áreas y sea posible aprovechar.

Como apuntó en su intervención la honorable representante de Austria esta mañana, creemos que son abundantes las iniciativas procedentes de numerosas Organizaciones No Gubernamentales que tienen establecidos programas totalmente equiparables a los que tienen por finalidad principal la integración de la mujer en el desarrollo. Sería por tanto conveniente unir al máximo los esfuerzos de la FAO y de tales organizaciones para alcanzar conjuntamente metas más ambiciosas. Concretamente sería un apoyo mutuo muy valioso realizar en común el estudio de programas de crédito supervisado dirigido a la mujer del medio rural y a realizar por las instituciones correspondientes.

Consideramos de gran interés las apreciaciones que reiteradamente se repiten en el documento sobre el papel de la mujer en el desarrollo sostenible, la ordenación de los recursos naturales y el medio ambiente. No parece ni lógico ni fácil establecer programas y proyectos específicos dirigidos a la mujer con esta finalidad y sí, por el contrario, hacer el máximo esfuerzo para que todos los programas y actividades que se inicien contemplen desde su elaboración y lleven incorporados criterios en esta dirección. Como muy bien resalta el documento, las mujeres están, frecuentemente, en el centro del problema, siendo las mejor y las peor dotadas para manejar el medio ambiente.

Por último, Señor Presidente, nos referiremos a ciertos aspectos que el documento recoge en sus puntos 33 a 49 sobre extensión y capacitación técnica.

No se puede discutir la conveniencia de que en los equipos polivalentes de extensión agraria, se encuentren mujeres con objeto de atender aspectos relacionados con la mujer campesina. Sin embargo, creemos que es aún más conveniente que los programas redactados y a ejecutar por tales equipos contemplen de forma conjunta los problemas generales de la explotación, la familia y la comunidad a la que pertenecen, no perdiendo en ningún momento

de vista el papel que la mujer agricultora juega y puede jugar en los tres planos: la explotación, la familia y la comunidad. La realización del programa la llevará a efecto el equipo de extensión en su conjunto, con una distribución de funciones lógica entre los hombre y las mujeres del mismo.

Por otra parte, creemos que la referencia a la privatización de los servicios de extensión y capacitación a los que se alude en el punto 35, debe ser matizada.

Se debería distinguir claramente entre los servicios que se realizan desde el entorno de las actividades lucrativas y aquéllos que proporcionan instituciones sin ánimo de lucro, tales como organizaciones agrícolas, ONGs, etc. Parece que se deben considerar servicios privatizados los que corresponden al primer grupo.

Desde esta aclaración, que pedimos figure en el documento si ello es posible, compartimos que tal privatización puede repercutir en una disminución en cuanto a la presencia de la mujer en los mismos, con el inconveniente que esto llevaría para el equilibrio en la confección y ejecución de los programas teniendo en cuenta la necesidad de incorporación de la mujer al desarrollo. Igualmente, esta privatización puede repercutir en hacer menos fuerza en aspectos educativos que requieren mucho tiempo, dada la lentitud de asimilación de los mismos, y que los servicios privados tienden a atender con menor intensidad que los públicos. Estas circunstancias deben figurar en cuantas ayudas preste la FAO a los distintos países en relación con programas de extensión y divulgación, así como en los de organización de los propios servicios de extensión agraria.

Eberhard SCHMAUZ (Germany) (Original language German): My delegation welcomes this comprehensive working document where reference is made to the implementation of the Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Development for the Period 1992-93.

We would like to thank Mr Hjort for his very comprehensive and detailed introduction. Given the breadth of the programme, the high priority it is given and the priority it will have in the future with the FAO, it would be a good idea if we could get regular information on the degree of implementation and how much work has been done, and what the priorities of the work are. We thank the Secretariat for the reporting work that has been done thus far.

My delegation wishes to refer to some of the matters we consider to be of importance in this Report, document C 93/14. The text makes it clear that where political and economic decisions are made the specific interests of women are not properly taken into account. This goes particularly for bodies of Member States, and also for FAO management itself, in spite of the educational efforts made by FAO with its own staff, about which we have heard on a number of occasions. Therefore, we suggest that we consider how decision-makers can be acquainted more closely with this problem so that in the future they can work more effectively and in a more targeted fashion so we can come up with solutions regarding matters specifically pertinent to women.

From our point of view it would be desirable if we could get some depiction of the position of women in development in a fourth progress report, and not only with regard to developing countries. We would like to see this fourth Report covering Eastern and other European countries. A certain

amount of experience has been gleaned in the FAO/EEC Working Party on Women and Rural Families in Rural Areas.

The number of women in FAO training projects as a whole has gone down compared with past years, although from the point of view of FAO, FAO regards rural women as an important target group. Therefore, we would suggest that the reasons for that development be examined so that we can then motivate women in a targeted way to take part in these training programmes. The observation that women do not take up or only take up training and extension services to a limited extent leads to the question whether measures are far too over-ambitious or unsuitable. I think we have to make sure that the access of women and other matters which are relevant to the acceptance and efficiency of these projects should be built in to the project design phase; they are for the project implementation phase. This is an approach which could also be used with regard to the access to, and take-up of, extension services by women.

In this connection, the cut in the budget of Position 01 for the training of women in the Sub-Programme 2.1.5.4 of US\$391 000 for the biennium 1994-95 is something that we decry. This is particularly due to the fact that women in developing countries are under-represented amongst extension agents.

Mr Hjort in his introduction referred to this budget approach, and we have noted what he said. We very much welcome the fact that the priority of this programme of action will be one of the contributions by FAO to the World Women's Conference in Beijing in 1995. Here I should like to refer to the work that has been done as the follow-up to UNCED and the International Conference on Nutrition.

Koen ADAM (Belgique): Monsieur le Président, m'exprimant au nom de la Communauté européenne et de ses Etats Membres, je voudrais vous soumettre quelques commentaires sur le thème "Intégration des femmes dans le développement". Il existe un large accord pour reconnaître que ce thème est en passe de devenir prioritaire, en raison de ses implications pour la viabilité économique et le développement durable.

L'importance attribuée par la Communauté à ce thème se reflète dans les textes de la Convention de Lomé IV et du Règlement du Conseil CEE 443/92, consacrés à la coopération avec l'Asie et l'Amérique latine. Ils soulignent le rôle décisif des femmes et indiquent que les hommes et les femmes doivent pouvoir participer aux opérations de développement et en bénéficier sur un pied d'égalité. L'objectif premier de la politique communautaire est d'assurer la pleine intégration des femmes comme acteurs et comme bénéficiaires dans l'ensemble des actions de développement, dans toutes leurs phases de préparation, conception, mise en oeuvre, suivi et évaluation.

Dans ce contexte, il est rassurant de retrouver bon nombre d'objectifs et de préoccupations de la Communauté dans le Troisième Rapport sur la mise en oeuvre du Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement. Nous observons, en particulier, des similitudes dans la traduction de ces objectifs en politiques concrètes et dans les obstacles rencontrés ou perçus.

Sans prétendre examiner ici de manière exhaustive le Plan d'action, certaines de ces priorités peuvent être comparées aux expériences

communautaires. Ainsi, le Plan d'action élaboré par la Communauté européenne met l'accent sur un nombre limité d'actions stratégiques:

- la sensibilisation et la formation du personnel;
- la mise à disposition de lignes directrices et de manuels sur l'intégration des femmes au développement;
- la sensibilisation des décideurs ACP à cette problématique;
- et enfin, les missions d'appui technique.

La Communauté et ses Etats Membres considèrent que la formation du personnel est un facteur clé pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement. Des instruments pour assister le personnel à mettre en oeuvre ces politiques ont été élaborés.

Il s'agit entre autres de manuels qui fournissent les orientations sectorielles appropriées pour l'intégration des femmes dans toutes les phases du cycle des projets. Ils couvrent aujourd'hui les secteurs de l'agriculture, de l'élevage, de la sylviculture, de l'eau potable et de l'assainissement. Un autre chapitre est en préparation sur le secteur de la pêche.

En outre, des ateliers de formation, mettant à profit ces manuels, ont été organisés. Cet exercice a été couronné de succès. La mise à jour régulière du matériel de formation est prévue pour assurer l'évolution dynamique de la stratégie en question.

La formation de décideurs est aussi capitale. Un séminaire régional a été organisé au Botswana en 1992 comme suite à une évaluation réalisée en 1989-90 sur l'intégration des femmes dans les programmes de développement rural du Fonds européen de développement dans huit pays africains. Cette expérience pilote sera étendue dans la mesure des moyens budgétaires au rythme de deux séminaires par an. Enfin, l'axe principal de la stratégie d'intégration des femmes au développement et une condition de son succès est la mise à disposition d'expertise technique appropriée des projets de terrain. Celle-ci fait trop souvent défaut. Pour cette raison, la Communauté fournit à ses délégations cette expertise de haut niveau, indispensable à l'examen approfondi des projets et programmes du FED. A ce jour, les programmes du Fonds européen de développement de quelque 25 pays d'Afrique, Caraïbes, Pacifique ont été analysés. Des adaptations de ces projets et stratégies sont planifiées en conséquence, avec la collaboration de toutes les parties concernées.

En vue de mesurer l'impact de l'ensemble du Programme d'action du Fonds européen de développement, une étude statistique a été réalisée pour définir comment les femmes avaient été prises en compte en tant que groupe cible dans les programmes de développement ruraux du FED. Le résultat de l'enquête établit que seulement 24 pour cent des projets avaient identifié les femmes comme groupe cible. Nous espérons accroître considérablement cette proportion dans l'avenir. Les données préliminaires du septième Fonds européen de développement semblent indiquer un net progrès à cet égard.

Monsieur le Président, nous apprécions que la Communauté européenne et la FAO aient une approche en harmonie. Néanmoins, notre expérience nous fait penser que même les meilleurs plans d'action peuvent perdre en dynamisme et en efficacité du fait d'une certaine dilution du message dans la structure

qui le reçoit. Ainsi, pour mesurer ce phénomène, la Communauté entreprend actuellement une évaluation appliquée aux administrations de la Communauté européenne et de ses Etats Membres. Il devrait en découler une base solide pour les orientations politiques futures. Je conclurai, en rappelant qu'afin d'accomplir des progrès substantiels pour l'intégration de la femme dans le développement, des engagements sans réserves sur certains principes sont les préalables indispensables. Mais ils ne sont pas par eux-mêmes suffisants: sans mécanisme opérationnel de suivi et de contrôle, le thème femmes et développement relèvera seulement de la rhétorique.

Mrs S.L. BASSETT (United Kingdom): I should like to begin by offering my thanks for the introduction to this progress report and to the Secretariat for its preparation. These issues are considered extremely important by the UK Government. The report was therefore received with interest.

The report provides a detailed analysis of project development and monitoring, including listing constraints identified under four critical areas of financial resources; technical training and extension services; environment, natural resources management and sustainable development; and nutrition and food security.

We were interested to hear how, once constraints have been identified in the critical areas, mechanisms are put into place to ensure that the experiences gained from project-specific activity can be fed back into the system at policy level - put more simply, how what is learned from experience is translated into what we do in the future. This is vital for progression, and from the report FAO clearly appreciates this.

My delegation is pleased to endorse the growing highlighting of gender issues by FAO, but we would underline the importance of bringing to prominence the increase in rural women's workload through income-generation schemes and the need to bear this in mind when setting up such schemes. This point is not sufficiently brought out in the report.

Paragraph 81 highlights the need for, and lack of, robust information relating to the quality of data - which includes definition of the procedures for data collection - relevant to women in development. The United Kingdom recommends that specific action is taken to strengthen the establishment of databases for use in effective monitoring both at the project-specific and macro-policy level.

Looking at the report in general terms, our impression is that the importance of, and need for, an integrated approach to social and gender issues is not made sufficiently explicit. The rationale behind such an approach is not spelled out clearly enough, and although the report does in places make reference to these points it would strengthen the strategy if these messages were reinforced throughout the report.

We welcome the measures described to target women within training programmes and we hope these measures will continue to be reinforced.

Regarding paragraphs 78 and 82, we fully endorse the FAO pro-active stance in bringing the interdependence between gender issues and key development issues to the attention of member governments and to inform and motivate FAO representatives to dialogue with the UNDP resident representatives in order to include gender issues in the preparation of all TSS-1 proposals.

Turning to the provision of expertise and knowledge, section 4 of the report, the UK position is that expertise on women in development, gender, and social issues cannot be separated, and we should not attempt to do so. In the Overseas Development Administration women in development and gender issues are considered by our Social Development Advisers, with the specific departmental objective of promoting women's social, economic, legal and political status of women throughout the ODA's programmes. It is not clear from this report quite how FAO is dealing with the integration of all these issues.

We would appreciate some clarification as to whether the ESHW, which serves as the coordinating unit for issues relating to women in development and gender, has a wider brief to deal with social issues. We would also be interested to hear more about FAO's policy position on the relationship between social, women-in-development and gender issues.

The United Kingdom endorses both the concept of a specialist unit dealing with these issues and the building of expertise within technical units. Our position is that social development specialists should be drawn from backgrounds such as social anthropology which involve training and experience in in-depth field work, since this has been found to ensure good quality advice. Before committing ourselves further on the ESHW, we would need more information: for example, what form the expertise takes either in the specialist unit or within technical units; the numbers of staff involved, together with information on their qualifications and background; and details of their terms of reference and whether these include a brief to deal with social issues or with the full range of women-in-development and gender issues.

We are pleased to see a reference to the development of practical tools, such as manuals, and are particularly keen to endorse the need to give priority to the early completion of the technical supplements, in conjunction with the SEGA programme.

Finally, the United Kingdom welcomes the FAO proposal concerning the formation of a working group composed of senior-level staff from the divisions with a significant number of women-in-development and gender issues in their programmes. We consider this vital in the interests of permitting interaction between the key concerned individuals. We, as well as FAO, would hope to see the outcome as a further enhanced commitment to the integration of these important and significant issues into the decision-making process.

Mrs Maria GALVOLGYI (Hungary): At the start of my intervention, I wish to thank Mr Hjort for his introductory remarks.

The Hungarian delegation has studied carefully the third Progress Report and is satisfied to learn that FAO continues to give high priority to women's issues. We share the opinion that FAO has made significant progress in this important field, both from substantive and administrative points of view.

As far as the substantive programme actions are concerned, the development is remarkable, but their full success is highly dependent on the member countries themselves, as was also emphasized by Mr Hjort.

In this regard, FAO initiated programmatic priority on women in sustainable development. Natural resource management and the environment is being supported vigorously in the context of the implementation and follow-up of Agenda 21.

As to the five administrative points, the progress made so far is acknowledged. In our view the development to appraise and monitor regular and field programme activities is very important. The establishment of an inter-departmental working group and divisional core groups seems to be a good path in the future implementation of the Plan of Action.

My delegation strongly supports the idea of increasing the number of women on the professional staff of the Organization. However, we feel that more efforts should be made, more steps should be taken, in recruiting highly-dedicated professional women on to the staff in order to secure their full and equitable participation in the decision-making processes.

I now wish to turn to the activities of the FAO/EEC Working Party on Families and Women in Rural Development. This Working Party started its activities in 1966 and has dealt with a lot of important socio-economic problems of the European region. At the very beginning of the 1990s, it took up the issues of rural development through entrepreneurship and village development, people's participation and community building, partnership and networking in rural development, rural agri-tourism and, most recently, the analysis of the socio-economic status of women and families in rural areas in central and eastern European countries.

As has already been mentioned by the distinguished delegate from Austria, the activity of the FAO/EEC Working Party is completely in line with the Plan of Action for the integration of women in development. Hungary has always planned an important role in this Working Party and we did our best to contribute to its successful operation.

In this regard, my delegation would like to take the opportunity to express our appreciation to the Working Party and to FAO for organizing an agri-tourism workshop in Hungary and for providing high technical assistance to my country in order to revitalize this kind of rural activity. We hope that the Working Party, under the aegis of the Regional Office for Europe, will further provide technical assistance to the European countries in transition, in the fields of training, village development, farm management, rural entrepreneurship, rural agri-tourism and so on.

In conclusion, my delegation commends the Secretariat for the excellent paper; at the same time, we look forward to cooperating usefully with the aforementioned Working Party whose future role and activity will have to be reflected in the Regular Programme of the Organization.

ZHANG XIGUI (China) (Original language Chinese): At the outset I wish to thank Mr Hjort for his very comprehensive presentation and I wish to commend the Secretariat on their preparation of document C 93/14.

This document lays down the priorities of the Action Plan concerning the integration of women in development, and reviews the main measures adopted for the implementation of the Plan and the recommendations of the Conference. This document is exhaustive and full of information.

I now wish to make a few comments on this Agenda item on behalf of my delegation. We have noted that for the implementation of the Conference Resolution on the Action Plan for the Integration of Women in Development, FAO has already made a great many efforts in the two different areas, namely the systematic integration of the two problems concerning the role of women and the general ethic of the Organization, thanks to policies, programmes and projects; secondly, the identification of the main obstacles to the participation of women in the Organization's activities and the activities of governments and states, and it lays down a number of measures for overcoming such obstacles.

As far as our Organization is concerned, we have noted that as far as the training of those who are to implement the Action Plan through policy advice given to governments is concerned, and in targeting women and women farmers as beneficiaries of farming activities and extension work, FAO has achieved a great deal of success. This should contribute to the participation of women in rural development and to the improvement of their socio-economic status. We hope that FAO will continue its efforts and activities in this area.

We also believe that the improvement of the status of women, as well as their integration in development, is indeed a very complex task. The problems of the integration of women are linked to economic, historic and religious problems. To resolve these problems, I believe it is necessary to adopt sectoral and professional measures. It is even more important to place all this in a broader socio-economic context.

I am certain, Mr Chairman, that you have already acknowledged that the Chinese Government has taken remarkable steps to improve the status of women to allow them to play their full role in the economic and social fields. In particular, in the agricultural area, special measures have been adopted in favour of women and children. The Government attaches very special importance to the integration of women in all the various activities. Women represent a given proportion of all the population involved in all the different activities; in particular in agriculture and in rural enterprises, women hold a very important place. However, owing to the influence of the feudal mentality in many areas, in rural and backward areas, there is a prevailing idea that men hold superiority over women. A lot has to be done to place men and women on an equal footing. The authorities in China, jointly with FAO, are designing a project to promote the participation of women in development and a framework proposal for policies which will lead to the establishment of a special unit dealing with gender issues in the agricultural sector and in the Agriculture Ministry. The Chinese Government wishes to cooperate more and more with FAO in designing better policies for the implementation of the Action Plan in China.

Ricardo LEON-VALDES (Chile): En primer término, señor Presidente, mi delegación quisiera expresar su reconocimiento a la Secretaría por la elaboración de tan completo documento, que refleja la preocupación y seguimiento que ha dado la FAO a un tema tan importante como lo es la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo Agrícola, valorando el aporte de la mujer rural en la economía familiar por la generación de ingresos y la generación de ahorro y seguridad alimentaria a través de la producción para el autoconsumo.

Esta materia constituye para Chile, así como lo han expresado otros oradores de países en vías de desarrollo, un asunto de particular importancia en consideración al alto número de mujeres campesinas que año a año deben incorporarse a la actividad productiva, con su consecuente impacto económico-social, por las variables que compromete.

Ya sabemos de la existencia de barreras culturales, que dificultan en gran medida la incorporación efectiva y eficaz de la mujer al mundo del trabajo, haciéndolo un asunto complejo, que disminuye su aporte marginal a la economía de su unidad familiar.

En este sentido hay que reconocer los esfuerzos realizados por la FAO y otras agencias de las Naciones Unidas, por incrementar las funciones de la mujer y mejorar su acceso a los recursos productivos, frente a las limitaciones estructurales que afectan a los países en vías de desarrollo.

Mi delegación comparte el interés manifestado por la capacitación y la extensión que resultan ser, en efecto, pese a las limitaciones enunciadas, el mejor vehículo para que las mujeres participen de las actividades del desarrollo y se beneficien de ellas. Al respecto, quisiera mencionar la valiosa experiencia que en conjunto con los organismos no gubernamentales en mi país que se han elaborado para enfrentar a este sector que representa la extrema pobreza con una alta tasa de analfabetismo y todas sus consecuencias en la organización de estos grupos en cooperativas campesinas, figura que junto con mejorar su condición jurídica, social y de productividad de los grupos de trabajo de mujeres, ha tenido un impacto también en el mejoramiento de su calidad de vida.

Finalmente, señor Presidente, quisiera referirme a un aspecto no señalado en las actividades de extensión y capacitación presentadas en el documento y que dice relación con la mantención de las funciones del hogar mientras la mujer trabaja, circunstancia que debería ser considerada en el análisis global.

En este sentido pareciera ser importante considerar la participación de otras agencias de las Naciones Unidas y también como lo han venido entregando hasta ahora de organismos no gubernamentales, de manera tal que se consideren el máximo de variables para la ejecución del Plan de Acción.

Ms Rosanne Mary KAVA (Australia): Australia commends FAO on its ongoing efforts to lift the participation of women in all its programmes and activities, using as a vehicle the Action Plan before us.

Australia has a strong commitment to Women in Development. In fact, WID concerns have been an integral part of Australia's development assistance policy since the mid-seventies.

In 1992 Australia's WID policy was reviewed and updated. The objectives of the current policy are threefold: to ensure that women have a say in decision-making; to increase women's direct participation in all development cooperation activities; and to enhance women's status through initiatives which address the causes of systemic disadvantage.

Australia's policy is based primarily on the principle of integration; that is, bringing women into mainstream programmes and projects. The WID policy is supported by a strategy for implementation which includes:

- five-year WID strategy development for each component of Australia's development assistance programme; and
- increased integration of WID in country programmes through institutional strengthening.

Australia also supports WID-specific projects under schemes such as the WID Fund Small Grants Scheme in recognition of the disadvantaged status of women in many developing countries.

Australia is also supporting a number of activities associated with the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women.

Turning now to the document before us, C 93/14, we are pleased to commend the progress made by FAO in developing, updating and implementing the Plan of Action for Women in Development into FAO's administrative and substantive programmes.

Australia recognizes the many and varied constraints to progress and emphasizes the importance of finding innovative ways to overcome such barriers. Australia welcomes the new interventions that FAO has used in attempting to increase women's access to resources, such as women's access to credit and training. It will be important, however, to monitor closely these programmes. We look forward to future reports on the implementation of these initiatives.

Australia stresses the importance of disseminating project/programme ideas and lessons learned. Without this communication it is possible that other organizations will expend their limited funds duplicating the experiences of FAO. It is recognized that FAO has strong links with other organizations, but a concrete form of exchange and coordination with a wide variety of institutions would be advantageous. Australia strongly encourages the production and dissemination of guidelines as mentioned in paragraph 6.

We take this opportunity to emphasize also the need for collecting gender-disaggregated baseline data. In our view, this information is a valuable input for informed policy-making, monitoring and for identification and recognition of areas where urgent action is needed.

Australia commends the Collaborative Socio-Economic and Gender Analysis (SEGA) Training Programme. From its own experience, Australia recognizes a common problem of gender analysis training, leaving participants "ready, willing but unable", as so aptly put in paragraph 67(b).

In our own case, Australia provides introductory gender analysis training to all staff, and is currently developing an advanced course designed to "enable" its staff with regard to WID. Gender analysis training strategies are being developed to provide customized gender analysis training for programme areas, contractors and selected overseas posts.

Australia welcomes the in-house initiatives that FAO is undertaking to monitor the mainstreaming of WID, for example the "WID Flag" (paragraph 113), in the regular programme and field programme areas. Australia uses WID markers to assess the extent of integration of WID concerns into all phases of our own International Development Assistance Agency's activities.

Where practical, we would encourage FAO to take the initiative in providing advice to member countries and not merely to requests for assistance. While the requests that FAO is receiving are increasing, it is noted that the numbers are still not in line with the "actual need for gender related policy formulation assistance" (paragraph 82).

The low level of participation of FAO representatives in the implementation of the Plan of Action also needs to be redressed. It is suggested that strategies for motivating Member Governments through FAO representatives be revised and improved.

Australia would also like to associate itself with the comments of the distinguished delegates of Hungary and Canada on the enhanced recruitment of women professionals in FAO. We also fully support the comments of the UK and others on the importance of establishing an effective working group to ensure the integration of women in development into all FAO programmes.

In conclusion, Australia generally supports the actions undertaken by FAO to promote the participation of women in development and we agree with the priority areas identified. We emphasize, however, the need to maintain and strengthen the current levels of effort to ensure that the changes being introduced are sustained.

Marian BRZOSKA (Poland): The Polish delegation would like to congratulate you on the report and on the valuable discussion on the integration of women in development.

My intention is only to underline a few issues from the longer text which we will deposit.

First, in Poland over 7 million women live in the rural areas, half of working age. The number of professionally active women is higher in the urban areas.

Second, up to 1990 the number of women not active professionally in agriculture has been increased because of growing employment opportunities outside agriculture. In the last years, in the period of transformation, this process was stopped. Unemployment is a big problem. It is a problem even for the 20 percent of women active in agriculture who are managing farms. They run very small farms.

Third, in the period of transformation of the economy and production of food, there has only been one effective way to improve the work and life of village women and that is the development of an infrastructure with water installation, gas installation, a telephone system, etc. We are dealing with that.

Poland has established, together with the World Bank, an infrastructure project 1994-97 of about US\$500 million in value which will improve agricultural development, tourism and family life.

Fourth, the division of difficulties related to life in the rural area: Polish women show great social awareness in self-governing groups, institutions, educational and rural organizations. "Businesswomen" is a new term in the Polish village.

Parviz KARBASI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): In the name of God. My delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for document C 93/14 and Mr Hjort for his clear introduction. We have studied the report which is a good start.

Many distinguished delegates made useful interventions, so I will be brief.

The integration of women in agricultural activities is very important. We note that women's development requires an integrated and coordinated plan of action between the different UN agencies.

In the Islamic Republic of Iran women have equal rights with men in all developmental activities such as education at all levels, the use of credit and banking services, ownership and equal opportunities on the political, social and economic platforms.

Women in agriculture have a very important responsibility. Without their participation, our agricultural system would not be able to grow as fast as it is doing right now.

On page 1 of document C 93/14, paragraph 5 indicates the priorities of the Plan of Action on eight topics. As we know, illiteracy, lack of nutrition and the population increase are causes of poverty and slow development. This is one of the areas that should be the first priority of the Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development.

We believe the basic unit of society is the family. The key to the family is the woman. In this regard my delegation believes that the first priority should be a plan of action for the integration of women in development through a pilot project coordinated by FAO, WHO, Unesco and UNEP.

These kinds of pilot projects would look at training and its extension and at home economics, illiteracy and education in the population and environment together.

These kinds of measures would definitely have a greater impact on the integration of woman in development.

My delegation would like also to see the participation of women from developing countries in the Organization on an equal basis as that of women in developed countries.

Regarding the activities of FAO on the integration of women in development, it is essential that FAO pay great attention to the qualified, successful woman in development in different countries through close collaboration with the national authorities, and use their experience in their work.

Jagan NATH THAPLIYA (Nepal) : Mr Chairman, my delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for preparing this very valuable and important document C 93/14. Our thanks also go to the Deputy Director-General who introduced the document in such a very lucid manner.

My country has accorded top priority to integrating women farmers in agricultural development activities in our recent plan, that is the Eighth Five-Year Plan, 1992-97. A separate Women Farmer Development Division has recently been established in the Ministry of Agriculture to look after this issue. What we presently need is to strengthen technical capabilities to

enable the concerned institutions to mainstream the gender issues in planning, programme implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

My delegation would like to take this opportunity to thank FÀO and the Government of Norway for running a project entitled, "Project Enhancing the Agricultural Production Capacity of Rural Women". We have very much benefited from the project. However, the coverage of the gender issue needs to be extended, expanded and strengthened in Nepal.

Mr Chairman, will you please excuse me now from this meeting as I have also to attend the Plenary session.

Mrs Melinda L. KIMBLE (United States of America) : The United States delegation wishes to acknowledge FAO's continuing efforts to enhance its gender-orientated programming and to acknowledge the useful introduction by Deputy Director-General Hjort. We also applaud the excellent work the Secretariat has done on document C 93/14, and the many useful insights made by other Member States in discussing this document.

The priorities outlined in the Action Plan for the Integration of Women in Development makes sense, but beyond the excellent diagnosis of the problem we have the impression that insufficient attention has been paid to making "Women in Development" principles an integral part of every major FAO programme activity. For example, as significant as the efforts represented by FAO's production of the "State of Food and Agriculture", "World Food Security and Nutritional Status", and "Agriculture: Towards 2010" are, these reports devote almost no attention to the analysis of women's use of agricultural or natural resources, the income of rural women or their food security and nutritional well-being.

This is not just an FAO problem. Every development agency is grappling with the need to make their programmes and projects more women-relevant. Research and extensive field observations have now proven conclusively that "Women make the difference" in the long-term success or failure of sustainable development activities. Development of consistent guidelines for incorporating WID activities into all programme fields should help improve programming effectiveness.

The United Nations system is now in a cycle of major international meetings that will underscore the need for women-focused development investments. The first of these sessions - a Unesco-sponsored summit for the 9 countries with the highest illiteracy and highest rates of population growth - is a first attempt to highlight the linkages between education of women and the empowerment of developing societies to manage their human and natural resources.

Early in the next year we will all be actively engaged in preparations for the World Conference on Population and Development in Cairo. In quick succession the UN will hold the Social Summit in Copenhagen and the Women's Conference in Beijing. The FAO experience in WID and its strategy for the future should factor in our thinking for these fora. Every UN agency, including FAO, should incorporate the principles set forth in Agenda 21, Chapter 24, in strengthening its programme. We must not let opportunities pass without a concerted effort to redirect our development engagement in ways that will enhance the involvement and leadership of women throughout society, and most particularly in agriculture - an activity which already engages the vast majority of women in developing economies.

Women farmers need the same access to information as men farmers. In many rural areas, out-migration of men in search of better-paying urban jobs has created new, women-dominated rural sectors. These women need support. Every society, developed and developing, has too few women in agricultural science and related activities. Trained in agriculture, women bring the added dimension of their gender experience to solving community development programmes. Women need access to credit, land tenure rights, and a voice in making critical decisions about agricultural inputs and marketing if they are to be fully successful farmers and strategies devised to address these related problems. Another basic remaining problem is how to get more women into agricultural colleges. We would like to see more statistical information and strategies devised to address these related problems.

More and more evaluative studies illustrate that project designs that look at community, village and family structures as a part of the planning process have more chance of success than projects that do not take these factors into account. Women's roles in society vary widely. Moreover, as societies change women are challenged to adapt. Successful development strategies that strengthen women's adaptive capacities will have multiple benefits. In this regard we believe there is also much more scope for FAO collaboration with non-governmental organizations in implementing FAO's Plan of Action at the field level.

In conclusion, FAO's laudable efforts to implement the Women Development Plan of Action are at a critical stage where increased demands far outweigh the resources and high-level attention being devoted to them. To make significant, visible progress, FAO needs to examine carefully how existing staff resources can be deployed to increase the capacities of the Women in Agricultural Production and Rural Development services. To bring itself in line with this commitment, FAO must also place far greater emphasis on recruiting women country representatives and on enhancing the role and representation of women at all managerial levels of its Headquarters and field staff.

We support the request made by Germany, the United Kingdom and other delegates for mechanisms such as a high-level working group and regular progress reports on such efforts.

Sra Grafila SOTO CARRERO (Cuba) : Agradecemos a la Secretaría de la FAO por la elaboración del documento C 93/14 y en especial al Señor Hjort por su presentación a esta Comisión.

El recuerdo de la acción de la FAO en favor de la integración de la mujer al desarrollo es de mucha utilidad para nuestro trabajo.

Mi delegación considera que la FAO debe continuar prestando atención a los instrumentos y actividades de capacitación que hacen falta para intensificar la integración de la mujer en los programas y actividades centrales de la FAO. En sus actividades de campo la FAO deberá continuar centrándose en la adopción de todas las medidas tendientes a garantizar a las mujeres del medio rural un acceso equitativo a los recursos productivos y servicio agrícola y a su participación en la adopción de decisiones dentro de las organizaciones rurales, especialmente mediante la creación de ámbitos normativos y jurídicos que garanticen su plena igualdad con el hombre, haciendo en ese sentido las indicaciones pertinentes a los países aunque respetando plenamente la decisión de los mismos.

Mi delegación piensa que la FAO y otras organizaciones del sistema de las Naciones Unidas pudieran tener en cuenta dentro de sus actividades, en lo que se refiere a la incorporación de la mujer al desarrollo, la parte que les compete del Plan de Acción de Nairobi sobre la mujer.

Consideramos además que deben tenerse muy en cuenta los aspectos referentes a la integración de la mujer al desarrollo agrícola y rural que están contenidos en el Programa de Acción de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural que, si bien se celebró hace bastante tiempo, se encuentran aún vigentes puesto que muchos de esos aspectos no han sido cumplimentados, en especial la participación de la mujer en la eliminación de la pobreza rural. En tal sentido, mi delegación considera muy adecuado que se haga este recuento, a fin de actualizar de manera correcta el Plan de Acción para la integración de la mujer en el desarrollo agrícola y rural, muy especialmente si tenemos en cuenta que en 1995 se celebrará en la República Popular China la Conferencia Mundial sobre la Mujer.

A mi delegación le parece que es muy importante y necesario el incremento del personal femenino en la Secretaría de la FAO, en sus distintas divisiones y departamentos. En tal sentido apoyamos lo que al respecto han expresado otras delegaciones que nos han precedido. Sin embargo, consideramos que la FAO ha hecho un avance importante en este aspecto y tal vez fuese necesario que nuestros países presentaran más candidatas mujeres con la calidad profesional requerida a fin de que tengan la posibilidad de ser seleccionadas para formar parte del personal de la Organización tanto en la sede como en el campo.

En la Región de América Latina y el Caribe se han celebrado talleres subregionales para la implementación del Plan de Acción para la integración de la mujer en el desarrollo. En 1991 se celebró un taller en El Salvador en el cual se creó la Red Regional de Instituciones y Organizaciones en apoyo a la mujer rural. En 1992 se celebró en Santiago de Chile una reunión de coordinadores de los integrantes de dicha Red y próximamente se celebrará en Tegucigalpa (Honduras) una reunión para dar continuidad a estos trabajos y poner en marcha las actividades de la Red Regional sobre la integración de la mujer al desarrollo, en América Latina y el Caribe.

Ms Irma-Llisa PERTTUNEN (Finland): I shall be speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and my own country Finland.

First of all, the Nordic countries would once again like to reiterate their endorsement of the objectives of the Plan of Action. FAO should do its utmost to see that women have equal rights and opportunities and that their valuable contribution is acknowledged and utilized.

The Nordic countries welcome the initiative to update the Plan of Action by setting priorities and incorporating monitoring indicators. The timing of the exercise takes place in parallel with the global review of the integration of women in development strategies prior to the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in 1995. We note with satisfaction the statement in the Progress Report to the effect that FAO has already started the preparation for the Conference and that the whole Organization will be involved in the preparatory activities. Keeping in mind FAO's critical importance in the UN system in alleviating poverty through involvement in food production, food security and nutrition, FAO is expected to make a significant contribution to the Conference. A systematic

involvement of the technical divisions as well as the field representatives is needed.

One of the principles in the original Plan agreed upon in 1989 was a strong training component. The Nordic countries emphasized the training of the FAO staff as a priority. We are pleased to note that 80 percent of the entire staff has been trained. However, in the proposed budget for the next biennium, the training component will be heavily reduced. Our understanding is that new staff, new ideas and additional information should require a continuous training component. The planned ambitious joint exercise with UNDP and World Bank called Socio-Economic and Gender Analysis (SEGA) calls also for expanded staff training. Another component of in-house training to be added is the training of senior management. There is no information in the document as to whether the decision-making level has had any gender-specific training.

The other important part of the gender-specific training is the one directed to member countries, and especially to the policy makers. When the training activities are linked to an active policy discussion with respective Governments, the demand for gender-specific programmes and projects will grow. The fact that only 10 percent of the FAO field representatives have been able to attend training is hampering the intensity of the gender issues in the policy dialogue. The Nordic countries want specifically to endorse building regional and national training capacity as stated in paragraph 7(C) in the document. If there is no demand and knowledge in member countries the whole issue becomes "donor driven" and has only limited possibilities for success on a sustainable basis. The Nordic countries are looking forward to the results of the SEGA exercise which is supposed to enhance training in the recipient organizations, too.

The way of presenting the results and participation in training in Table 1 is in our view an example on how the data on development activities should be presented. By dividing the participants by gender, the Table becomes a real instrument for monitoring. It shows that women make up only 22 percent of the target group and that only in grassroots training have women had a slight majority. On the other hand grassroots training is only about 3 percent of the whole training programme. It is a well-known fact that it is not possible to enhance the status of women without involving them in the decision-making process. Therefore, training of less than one fourth of female managers, policy-makers and specialists is not sufficient to create a critical mass in member countries to argue for a change in policies.

The UN has set a target for its specialized agencies, that by 1995 at least 35 percent of the staff should be female. That will not be the case in FAO where the figure lies now at 20 percent at Headquarters and only 4.6 percent in the field. The report highlights the so-called significant improvement on the number of women in senior positions. Nevertheless, the situation still calls for the continuation of an active policy for recruitment at all levels. We need to ask what happens to female careers, when P4 level has 17 percent, P5 has 7.3 percent and at director level women account for only 1.5 percent of the whole group. Among the nine candidates for the post for Director-General there were no women; neither was gender an issue during the campaign.

One critical and maybe not-so-pleasant issue to many member countries is the question of legal matters. In many countries still women are denied equal credit. These legal barriers prevent overall growth in the developing world, since women are largely responsible for agricultural production and

especially food production. The Nordic countries would like to learn how FAO tackles this issue in the policy dialogue with the member countries.

The Nordic countries once again would like to stress the importance of integrating gender questions in the planning and implementation of all FAO programmes and projects. Unfortunately, this does not always seem to be done. We are disappointed to note that both the document on livestock prepared for COAG and the report on food security and nutrition status put forward at this Conference fail to address gender questions in a proper manner. Efficient implementation of WID policies presupposes certain institutional requirements. A clear and visible policy needs the support of the highest level of the Organization and a true commitment from the operational units. In this respect, the position of a coordinating unit for WID is important. The Nordic countries would recommend FAO to conclude its on-going review of the inter-departmental arrangements to enhance agency-wide coordination in gender questions. In our view the WID focal point should also be given a more prominent place in the Organization. Such a move would give gender aspects a higher status in the Organization's work.

The Nordic countries understand that growing demand for services related to WID issues as a result of the achievements gained in the implementation of the Plan of Action creates increased demand for resources. FAO has to ensure that this demand will be adequately met. Careful thought, however, should be given to how the resources should most rationally be allocated to fulfil both policy and operational functions.

The integration of women in development has to be addressed in a conscious and systematic manner. In this context we welcome the initiative to include a gender assessment as part of the project cycle, together with economic and technical analyses as an integral element in the new sustainability appraisal system. We are also pleased to note that FAO considers that closing the gender gap remains one of its challenges.

Hitoshi ASAKI (Japan): My delegation appreciates this concise document. My country recognizes it as significant that the awareness of women's role in rural development has been raised through the activities of United Nations' agencies including FAO.

On this occasion, my delegation would like to report on the progress of WID in my country. Compared to our long history of life improvement activities in Japanese rural areas, focusing on the important role of women in families as well as in villages, with foreign cooperation WID has been fully operated since the late 1980s. Guidelines for WID have been established based on our experiences and on information received from other agencies, including FAO.

My government fully understands that project-focusing in supporting women's role in rural development is very effective not only for agricultural production and management, but also for life improvements such as sanitation, nutrition, education, and so forth. Particularly essential is the concept of people's participation.

Finally, my delegation appreciates the outstanding activities of the RAPA office regarding outlining women's role in the village in order to identify their important role.

Dimitrios MOUTSATSOS (Greece): I would like first to thank the Secretariat for the useful information contained in document C 93/14 concerning the important issue of Women's Integration in Development. The Plan of Action for Women's Integration in Development and the Plan of Action of the National Conference on Nutrition provided us with a valuable guidance in strategy and policy formulation in this field. However, despite the progress made in recent years, women's social and economic status still remains behind compared with that of the male population. In particular, rural women's contribution to society has not been fully recognized. In many countries, rural women are called upon to face serious constraints regarding access to food natural resources, financing, training - particularly in the sphere of management and extension services. In addition, there is also a lack of social care services in rural areas which does not enable them to be active according to their full potential.

Therefore, if we want to provide them with equal opportunities to work and access to health care services and education and to enable them to participate fully in the decision-making process, more attention should be paid to the above-mentioned issues and constraints.

Greece is fully aware of the problems that women face and we fully support the work and actions of FAO. Central to our policy is the aim to improve the status of rural women and to promote their integration in rural development. In this regard, several programmes for women are under implementation, with the helpful support of the European Community.

In conclusion, allow me to remind you that in October 1994 Greece will host the 7th Session of the FAO/ECA Working Group on Women and families in rural development. We are convinced that the outcome of this session will be valuable for European rural women as well as for rural women in other regions.

Idi MAMAN (Niger): La délégation du Niger tient tout d'abord à remercier la FAO de tous les efforts consentis tendant à sensibiliser l'opinion internationale quant à l'importance du rôle des femmes dans le développement agricole et rural. En effet, le rapport présenté perçoit avec lucidité les principaux problèmes à résoudre, les obstacles rencontrés et les défis à relever pour une meilleure intégration des femmes dans le processus de développement agricole et rural.

Au Niger, nous demeurons convaincus qu'aucun développement ne peut se concevoir sans la participation des femmes, qui constituent plus de 50 pour cent de la population. Dans le cadre de leurs activités, les femmes nigériennes font face à la plupart des obstacles relevés par le rapport, notamment les difficultés d'accès à la terre et au crédit. La politique nigérienne d'intégration de la femme dans le développement agricole et rural rentre dans la politique globale de la promotion de la femme et repose sur certaines stratégies dont notamment le développement des structures de promotion de la femme et une plus grande présence des femmes dans les structures de décision. En effet, pour garantir une meilleure intégration de la femme, il faut que celle-ci soit présente dans les instances de décision afin de faire prévaloir ses intérêts. Dans ce cadre, l'intégration des femmes envisagée par le biais des activités du Programme ordinaire et du Programme de terrain est une mesure très salubre, et elle doit être encouragée.

La délégation du Niger soutient également les autres mesures proposées dans le rapport sur l'intégration des femmes dans le développement.

CHAIRMAN (Original language German): The delegations of Croatia, Estonia and Dominica have asked that their statements should be put into the verbatim report. I would ask those delegations to make their statements available to the Secretariat as quickly as possible.

Amina BOUDJELTI (Algérie): Monsieur le Président, sans suivre tout à fait l'exemple qui vient de nous être fourni, je vais essayer d'être le plus brève possible. En effet, qu'ajouter au débat dense et riche d'enseignements et en expériences nationales qui vient de se dérouler dans cette salle, si ce n'est pour dire des choses qui ont déjà été dites?

Permettez-moi tout de même de remercier et de féliciter sincèrement le Secrétariat pour ce troisième rapport d'activité sur la mise en oeuvre du Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement. Je vous l'ai dit, Monsieur le Président, je ne reprendrai pas ici tous les développements présentés sur l'importance du rôle crucial de la femme dans le développement de l'agriculture. Je me limiterai à dire que, de façon générale, nous nous rallions aux analyses qui ont été faites par différents intervenants, dont les délégués du Cap-Vert, du Canada, de l'Australie et des Etats-Unis, qu'il s'agisse des mesures fondamentales qui ont été prises ou des mesures administratives adoptées.

Aussi citerai-je donc rapidement, en ce qui concerne la mesure fondamentale, l'action du crédit foncier et toutes les mesures qui permettraient la mise en oeuvre d'une réglementation générale que la plupart des pays, dont le mien, ont adoptées sans qu'hélas elles soient devenues réalités.

En ce qui concerne les mesures administratives, nous citerons plus particulièrement les mécanismes de coordination tels que décrits au paragraphe 27. Nous approuvons donc la création d'un groupe de travail composé des principaux fonctionnaires des divisions dont un grand nombre d'activités concernent les femmes.

De même, nous partageons le souci exprimé par de nombreux autres délégués de voir renforcer les services de la promotion des femmes, de la production agricole et du développement rural, que l'on appelle ESHW, désignés pourtant comme unités de coordination externes et internes. Selon nous, cette division n'a pas été suffisamment renforcée pour compenser l'augmentation de sa charge de travail. Nous demandons donc instamment que le nombre des agents de ce cadre organique soit augmenté.

Cela étant, permettez-moi d'exprimer devant notre assemblée deux petites interrogations. La première concerne les femmes et le développement durable tels que décrits au paragraphe 50 et suivants. Tout en reconnaissant l'exactitude des remarques concernant la place de choix de la femme dans la préservation de l'environnement, je crains, à titre personnel, qu'il y ait le danger de la cantonner dans ce rôle qui a des relents de femme gardienne du foyer. La deuxième a trait aux mesures administratives, et plus particulièrement au recrutement des femmes par la FAO. Ma délégation, à l'instar de la plupart des intervenants précédents, estime que le personnel de la FAO est en trop grand nombre masculin.

En outre, s'agissant de l'intégration des femmes dans le développement, ma délégation craint que les chiffres donnés aux paragraphes 142 et 143 ne soient encore en deçà de la réalité en ce qui concerne les femmes originaires des pays en développement. Nous aimerions, dans toute la mesure possible, obtenir ces chiffres et ces données du Secrétariat. Qu'il soit bien clair qu'il ne s'agit pas ici de critiquer le Secrétariat ou même les gouvernements - nous avons tous notre part de responsabilités - mais je crois que ces chiffres pourraient nous aider à changer les choses dans l'avenir.

CHAIRMAN (Original language German): Thank you very much, distinguished delegate of Algeria. I certainly have sympathy for your questions, but I have to tell you that in my country we have a saying: behind every successful man there is an efficient woman.

C. KIEMTORE (Burkina Faso): Nous avons examiné avec intérêt le rapport d'activité sur la mise en oeuvre du Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement.

La délégation du Burkina Faso saisit cette opportunité pour remercier la FAO d'avoir bien voulu attribuer le prix Boerma 1993 à une femme du Burkina. C'est là une preuve de l'intérêt que le Burkina Faso, d'une part, et la FAO, d'autre part, accordent à l'intégration de la femme dans le développement.

Ma délégation souhaite apporter son ferme soutien aux objectifs poursuivis à travers la mise en oeuvre du Plan d'action. Nous appuyons la plupart des idées qui ont été énoncées par les délégations qui nous ont précédés.

En ce qui concerne l'élaboration et le suivi des projets, je voudrais souligner l'importance d'une connaissance plus approfondie et plus systématique du fonctionnement des exploitations agricoles. L'élaboration de projets en milieu rural devrait être chaque fois précédée d'une étude multidisciplinaire orientée vers le rôle et la place dans l'unité de production et dans l'espace économique des projets. Il s'agit de développer davantage le volet socio-économique des études de faisabilité.

En ce qui concerne l'accès des femmes au crédit et aux services bancaires, on a trop souvent axé les efforts sur la formation en matière de gestion d'unités économiques collectives ou individuelles sans aborder le problème majeur de l'inexistence de structures ou de systèmes nationaux d'octroi de crédits aux femmes. A cet effet, nous appuyons l'idée d'aider à la création du groupement d'épargne et du crédit rural principalement orientés vers les femmes.

De même, nous pensons que, dans certaines conditions, la création de banques spécialisées pour le développement des femmes est pleinement justifiée. Le rôle que peut avoir la FAO consistera à assister et à conseiller les gouvernements, par exemple en affectant une part plus importante du programme de coopération du PNUD aux études stratégiques de politique en faveur de la femme.

S'agissant des mesures administratives, nous appuyons les différentes propositions visant à augmenter les effectifs féminins employés à l'Organisation. Mais la sous-représentation des femmes dans le personnel ne

concerne pas uniquement la FAO. La situation est encore plus préoccupante au niveau des gouvernements.

Pour ce qui est plus spécialement de la vulgarisation et de la formation technique des femmes, la FAO devrait encourager les gouvernements afin qu'ils intensifient le recrutement et la formation d'animatrices pour encadrer les femmes agricultrices.

Pour terminer, nous en appelons à une meilleure prise en compte de la spécificité de la situation des femmes, aussi bien celles qui vivent dans les campagnes que celles qui vivent dans les villes, lors de la mise en oeuvre de programmes d'ajustement structurel, notamment lorsqu'il s'agira de privatiser les services de vulgarisation ou encore de libéraliser les prix des intrants ou de certains produits alimentaires stratégiques, ou enfin lorsqu'il s'agira de réduire le rôle de l'Etat dans le système et les circuits de commercialisation. Les femmes seront les plus touchées par ces différentes mesures.

Abdul-Razzak AL-HASSAN (Syria) (Original language Arabic) : I should like to preface my remarks by thanking the Secretariat for this Report. It is a very good Report and certainly does justice to the importance of the matter with which it deals.

I do not think we have to list the role played by women, how important women are in food production and preparation, and also what women do regarding protection of the environment. I think this is all well-rehearsed and well known by the international community. However, I would like to say that it is necessary to promote the role of women in rural areas. We also have to look at access to inputs and the means of production. When we say that women have to take decisions regarding their farms and natural resources, this access also has to be in place.

The 26th Session of our Conference approved Priority 8 of the Plan of Action regarding the integration of women in sustainable development, taking account of the management of natural resources and the environment. The Syrian delegation feels that more projects would accelerate this integration process. We believe it would create and open up greater opportunities; for the success of these projects, it is vital to identify obstacles which may well be impeding work in this area.

Reference has been made to the training of women. It is important that training be made available so that women can play their role more effectively.

My delegation is very pleased to give you a realistic picture of women in rural areas in my country. Through legislation in my country, women can become co-owners or owners and they also rights to inherit. They can be members of a rural or agricultural cooperative and have rights to be on the boards of management. Women also have access to loans from agricultural banks; they can obtain credit facilities. These are guaranteed by the cooperatives of which they are members. They can actually market these goods in their own names and, further, keep the profit. The law guarantees these rights to women.

Women are able to play an important role in the development of agriculture and in rural development, but women need to have access to extension services and to education. Women need to have access to technological

know-how so they can really build on their potential and become an important part in production. Syria would like to have assistance from international organizations in this area.

Finally, my delegation would like to thank FAO for its activities, in attempting to improve the role of women, and to enhance that role in rural areas, as part of its push for sustainable development, to include women in managing natural resources and to strengthen its socio-economic role. We would like this work to be built upon so that further headway can be made in this area in the future.

Arrow Solomon OBURU (Kenya) : I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate and to compliment the Secretariat for their good report on the role of women as presented in document C 93/14. It is a good exposition of the role women can have in sustainable management in development.

Integration of women in development is a prerequisite to sustainable role development. The position and the importance of women in development in Kenya was recognized by policy formulators as decision-makers many years ago. Women are equal partners in development activities. Access to job opportunities is not gender-filtered. Women continue to beat men in interviews for jobs. In the public service sector, women constitute 43.7 percent of the workforce. In agriculture, women are the heart of food and agricultural production.

However, there are needs for development and application of appropriate technology which will ease the physical burden of many hours of work on farms by women. For example, the use of oxen or donkey-driven carts in order to fetch water has in Kenya facilitated an easy switch of water-fetching responsibility from women to the male members of the family. Similarly, the application of the ox plough in cultivation has lead to men undertaking cultivation on farms. Such easing of the load of women in development integrates the women into the comfort of utilizing products of development.

On the role of women in sustainable development, natural resource management and environment, it is important to note that access to, or affordability of, alternative energy sources of wood is fundamental to the contribution by women to the implementation of the conclusion of Agenda 21 of UNCED. In most parts of Africa, wood and wood products constitute over 80 percent of cooking fuel. Therefore, it is noted with appreciation under paragraph 53 of the document under discussion that the technical book which FAO proposes to publish on sustainable forest management will address gender issues. It is our hope that it will not only emphasize what women can do, but it will address alternative energies for use in cooking to that women do not have to spend hours fetching firewood; also they can enjoy the comfort of domesticated energy sources.

Ms Rosmalawati CHALID (Indonesia): We wish to express the Indonesian delegation's appreciation to the Secretariat for the information given on the Third Progress Report on the Implementation of the Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development and to Mr Hjort for his clear introduction. We welcome the Report since it reflects the commitment to enhance the role of women in development.

As regards the eight programmatic priorities of the action plans, we share the view that project development, training and policy advice are the three priorities which are the major means of effort towards reaching the goal of increasing women's participation in agricultural and rural development in member countries. The other five activities as mentioned in the document are, in fact, the ones which should be incorporated into the three priorities to enhance their implementation.

As experiences accumulate on the participation of women in development, we would like to suggest that, in the future, reporting of the implementation of the Plan of Action should be prepared in a more comprehensive and systematic way so as to include more detailed country experiences, to enable member countries to share each other's experiences.

As regards Indonesian efforts in increasing participation of women in development, we would like to reiterate our delegation's statement in the Plenary Session, that not only does our delegation support the Organizations's Plan of Action, but it has, in fact, already taken a number of actions to facilitate the implementation of the integration of women in rural and agricultural development.

Alnaji HAI M. JIR (Nigeria): We wish to commend the Secretariat and the Deputy Director-General for the document and the introduction.

I wish to acknowledge the efforts of FAO in the Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development. We wish to comment on two areas. With regard to page 1 of document C 93/14, priorities for implementation, I wish to comment on the training of women in development and re-orientation of home economics and agricultural curricula.

We would like the training programme to emphasize the improvement of existing methods and the development of medium-term technology to avoid costly approaches which may discourage participation.

The real intention of home economics and agricultural curricula should have an emphasis on sustainability and nutrition.

In assisting countries, a uniform formula may not apply. For example, in a country like my own which has distinct cultural and ecological zones. We, therefore, are in support of the statement by the Islamic Republic of Iran for a pilot project to be conducted in different ecological and cultural zones to avoid a uniform application which may not be applicable to everyone.

We in Nigeria consider women as an important element, although our recent census indicated that there are more men than women in Nigeria. However, to demonstrate our resolve on Women in Development, we have in Nigeria given support and encouragement to this programme. We are, for example, a fully pledged division of Women in Development in all our 31 states of the Federation. We have a national committee. We have a project called Better Life for Rural Dwellers which actually won the Hunger Project Prize in 1991.

We have a project funded by UNDP and the World Bank on Women in Development. We have women at all levels of Government, including Cabinet ministerial posts at both Federal and State level. In the bureaucracy we

have women heading ministries as directors-general or permanent secretaries and in all aspects of the public sector.

We have established banks like the People's Bank and the Community Bank which assist rural dwellers and low-income groups, especially women.

We have established cooperative groups for women all over the Federation, especially in processing, marketing, fish processing and production.

CHAIRMAN (Original language German) : The delegates of Angola and the Congo have asked that their statements be inserted into the verbatim report. We will, of course, respond to their requests.

Ms NAima AL-SHAYJI (Kuwait): I shall be brief. The reason I asked for the floor is that I want to raise one or two questions. May I first commend the Secretariat on its excellent efforts in the document. I really do not have any comments on it but I want to raise a few points or questions for all of us to think about.

I want to comment on the Chairman's remarks. You have in a way provoked me. You said that there is a saying that there is a woman behind every great man. For how long does the woman have to remain behind the great man? Are there not enough professionally qualified women all over the world, either in the UN system or in government, without still having men in the forefront?

My second point is that in two years' time there will be a UN Conference about the achievements and the involvement of women at all levels, including policy, peace, development and equality. It will be 20 years since this issue was first seriously considered by the UN system and the specialist agencies in the UN system as well as the bilateral institutions, whether at national or regional level. In 1995 will we still need to have FAO and other specialist agencies dealing with this matter? If we want to confine ourselves mainly to the agricultural sector, do we still have to convince the policy-makers everywhere, whether in the developing world or in the developed world, that there is an important role for women in agriculture? Do we still need to have a division, especially where there are few professional women who will have to fight for budgets and money to get some adequate staffing and support to be able to do the work?

This is my last question. Has FAO thought of any preparations for this Conference, such as an assessment of whether the declarations that are being announced by the various individuals and officials of governments of developed or developing countries are really just slogans being used to say that they have achieved and have women here and are recognizing that this is an issue of importance or has there been real achievement, especially in the agricultural sector?

Freddy ABASTOFLOR CORDOVA (Bolivia): Podemos reconocer que el común denominador de la pobreza rural se expresa a través de constantes como: la magra atención a la salud, la cual provoca altas tasas de mortalidad y morbilidad; el deficiente sistema educativo, que reduce enormemente las posibilidades de los pobres a competir dentro del mercado laboral moderno; la falta de vías de comunicación, que impide la comercialización de los

productos; la casi total ausencia de tecnología moderna dentro de la actividad agrícola, que da como resultado una baja productividad.

Por consiguiente, no hay duda que la pobreza más extrema está concentrada en áreas rurales. No en vano es más probable que una persona sea pobre si: vive en área rural; si posee escaso terreno y si es mujer.

La perspectiva analítica fundamental nos permite discernir que no se trata de marginar o segregar a la mujer rural dándole un tratamiento especial que en lugar de integrarla en iguales condiciones que los demás termine siendo el justificativo de todas las opresiones que sufre la mujer rural en nuestra sociedad.

La mujer rural pobre es el recurso más subutilizado en los países en vías de desarrollo y si las mismas se limitan a cuidar a los hijos, a atender el ganado y recibir canastas de alimentos provenientes de programas de ayuda internacional, nunca llegaremos a tocar las raíces de la pobreza rural.

Más si por el contrario, tratamos de encontrar los medios idóneos que le permitan integrarse plenamente a la actividad nacional de nuestros países y puedan constuirse en un sujeto de producción, habremos logrado mucho.

En este sentido, el cambio estructural de las instituciones públicas que realizó el Gobierno de Bolivia, nos permitirá establecer mecanismos de coordinación interinstitucional para orientar acciones integrales que reviertan las condiciones de pobreza de la mujer, potenciando su capacidad de contribución al desarrollo, incorporándola como agente de producción.

Es así que el Gobierno boliviano tiene como objetivos generales:

- Asegurar el acceso de la mujer a los servicios sociales básicos, para lograr su crecimiento y desarrollo, como una forma de garantizar sus derechos
- Elevar el nivel nutricional de la mujer.
- Promover que las acciones del Estado, organizaciones no gubernamentales, agencias internacionales de cooperación y de la sociedad civil prioricen en sus labores en relación a la mujer rural.

Y como objetivos específicos tenemos:

- Mejorar la posición de la mujer respecto a los varones, potenciando su capacidad de decisión, su autoestima y creando las condiciones jurídico-legales para el ejercicio de su ciudadanía
- Democratizar los roles en la familia y la sociedad.
- Prevenir y combatir la violencia particularmente doméstica.
- Promover cambios legislativos.
- Valorizar y fomentar el rol productivo de la mujer
- Ampliar la cobertura y la calidad de los servicios de educación y salud.
- Promover la capacitación de recursos humanos en la perspectiva de género, a nivel del aparato estatal y de las organizaciones sociales.

- Sensibilizar a la familia, a la sociedad y al Estado sobre los derechos de la mujer
- Disminuir la mortalidad materna.

Los objetivos antes enunciados se fundan en lo derechos a la vida, al desarrollo, a la seguridad y a la participación.

Kiala KIA MATEVA (Angola): Monsieur le Président, je félicite d'abord Mr Hjort pour la présentation du document C 93/14.

Comme il a été demandé en 1989 par la Conférence, à sa vingt-cinquième session, la FAO, à travers son Secrétariat, a préparé le troisième rapport d'activités sur la mise en oeuvre du Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement.

Ma délégation tient à féliciter très vivement le travail réalisé par le Secrétariat.

Monsieur le Président, comme les délégations qui m'ont précédé, ma délégation reconnaît le rôle de premier plan joué par la femme dans le développement rural en particulier et d'un pays en général.

Ayant compris son importance, la FAO a mis à nu la situation de la femme, à tous les niveaux et dans tous les domaines.

Quels seraient les résultats dans le monde en développement et au sein de la FAO si nos beaux discours devenaient une réalité? Je crois qu'on sortirait de la salle les têtes hautes.

En Angola les autorités gouvernementales ont compris l'importance des femmes dans le développement. C'est pourquoi l'actuel Gouvernement de la République possède en son sein quatre femmes ministres dont les secteurs jouent un rôle très important dans la vie socio-économique du pays: l'exploitation du pétrole et les pêches. Nous savons que le nombre est très réduit mais c'est déjà le début de la mise en application. Notre gouvernement est conscient de ce que des actions concrètes doivent être faites: en ce qui concerne les propositions contenues dans le document C 93/14, nous appuyons les mesures administratives adoptées pour appliquer le plan et les recommandations de la Conférence.

Ma Vera TADIC (Croatia): The Croatian delegation would like to congratulate the Secretariat for preparing the document C 93/14 "Third Progress Report on the Implementation of the Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Development".

Becoming a new member of FAO, Croatia is very interested in and supportive of the aforementioned Report.

Being the Central European country in transition, Croatia toys to transform her agriculture from the "socialistic" to the market oriented. Although it is a long-lasting task, Croatia has the advantage of having 79.4 percent of arable land owned by private farmers and 21.6 percent owned by state. In

¹ Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.

1989 Croatia had 569 000 farms which had an average area of 2.9 hectares. On most private farms women assume the main responsible work in agriculture production and processing while their husbands and sons work in industry. In fact, women are very often the only available working force. However, they lack appropriate education and training especially in entrepreneurial activities.

Croatia is very interested in being involved in FAO's future activities for the integration for women in development. There are two other reasons why the Croatian delegation supports the Plan of Action very strongly. The first one is currently very specific to Croatia. Croatia takes care, with the help of the international community of more than 500 000 war refugees and displaced persons, a figure equal to 12 percent of the Croatian population. These are mostly women and children, mostly from destroyed Croatian and Bosnian villages. They should be reintegrated to their agricultural livelihoods as soon as the war is ended. The task of reintegrating such a great number of persons to normal living conditions is a priority for Croatian Government and, especially, for the Ministry of Agriculture. That brings us to the second point: the post-war reconstruction in more than 500 Croatian villages destroyed by the war. It goes without saying that the work of rural women will be indispensable in implementing this priority task.

In conclusion, the Croatian delegation would appreciate more involvement of FAO in addressing the problems of women in countries in transition in assisting Croatia in the post-war reconstruction of agriculture with the full evolving of women's creative capabilities.¹

Mrs Hannelore A.H. BENJAMIN (Dominica): Mr Chairman, my delegation wishes to restate its position on women in rural development. My delegation already gave a very precise statement on the same issue during the COAG meeting.

Our developed partners and FAO therefore many help to provide us with their support either directly or within regional and multilateral arrangements which will enable women in rural developing states to achieve the capital inflows and resources requirements necessary to make agriculture and agriculture diversification productive and competitive for them. It will require a demonstration of interest in the well-being to us as partners in an ever-changing world where the difficulties of one nation or of one region inevitably affect the opportunities of others, in this case the women in rural development.

Up to now women in rural development had and have to shoulder all the sacrifices in agriculture. But the key of agriculture production should really lie in strengthening their resilience. To achieve that:

- the women in rural development need to know that important farming can only be achieved through better training, so that they need to struggle less on their small piece of land for existence in an almost degrading way;

¹ Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request

- they need to learn that the most important farming systems are: external existence in crops, fisheries and livestock, and how to deal with those;
- they need to learn how to deal with health problems like: malnutrition, malnourishment, vitamin deficiency, sanitary and hygiene problems, and be made aware about nutrition and environment and proper child care;
- they must be able to purchase land and how learn how to do their own banking, because often there are marital instabilities, male immigration or political instability:

The women in rural development often become household heads and their labour is divided between household work and income generating, and this puts a more heavy burden on them. Therefore the women need to understand the aspects of national and community development, and in their training in small animal husbandry needs to be included, and how to treat animal diseases if they occur.

If all this can be taken into account, then through training and educating the women in rural development one would receive full sustained returns from their development activities, and that again can be of benefit to the country.

Lastly Mr Chairman, I would like to support what was said by the delegate from Jamaica; the time is overdue and we must make every effort to be of help to those who need our help and understanding, namely the women in rural development.¹

Bashir S. MUNTASSER (United Nations Fund for Population Activities): It is a pleasure for me to attend the discussion on this issue which is very important to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities.

The experience of the past 30 years underscores that with respect to population concerns and socio-economic development there is a highly correlated improvement in the role and status of women. The economic expansion and improvement of the quality of life has been fastest in countries where women have a higher status and where a lower growth of population is prevailing. Population growth influences conditions of agricultural production and rural development overall.

This implies a great need to coordinate population, agriculture and rural development policies and programmes. The roles of women, including their role in production, in the community, as farmers and as managers of their environment, interact with population concerns and women's reproductive rights.

Against this background the United Nations Population Fund and FAO have collaborated since the Fund's establishment. FAO has been more visionary and receptive than many others in that it has been concerned with the inter-relationship between food needs, food supplies, agricultural production, rural development and population factors. FAO's work in the process of integrating population components into its own programme and into the work of its divisions and branches in their organization is

¹ Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request.

encouraging for UNFPA, and this should be further expanded in the years to come.

The United Nations Population Fund's commitment to the enhancement of the role and status of women is reflected in its policies and all its programmes and projects. The Fund will continue to assist activities specifically directed to women, as well as ensuring that women are mainstreamed in all its programmes and activities.

Collaboration between the UNFPA and FAO is reflected in many areas - in training, data collection and dissemination of results related to the inter-relationship between population and agriculture and rural development, population information, education and communication activities, migration and promoting the participation of women in development.

The FAO Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Development is one of the areas which UNFPA is giving special attention to. In this respect, UNFPA supports FAO in examining the rural woman's needs and attitudes towards larger families and their relationship to environmental degradation, health and nutrition.

The forthcoming International Conference on Population and Development, which will take place in Cairo in September 1994, will provide an opportunity for FAO to contribute to the preparation of the Conference and to the Conference itself. One of the expert groups which has already been held was especially on women and it was held last year in Botswana. The International Conference on Population and Development will cover a wide range of relevant topics on women, including women's participation in decision-making, particularly at the grassroots level, and the promotion of women's economic security and their right to inherit and own land and to have access to credit, combat violence against women and girls - including sexual violence - and to achieve full gender equality so as fully to integrate women into the development and development programmes, but as a beneficiary and as an active participant and decision-maker.

Ms Francesca RONCHI PROJA (International Federation for Home Economics): I speak on behalf of the international non-governmental organizations participating in the meeting held on 9 November, the report of which is now available to all delegates.

The Plan of Action of FAO on Women in Development and the progress report were one of the three subjects discussed at the meeting, where the participation of the Chief of the Service of Women in Development, Dr Kirjaivainen, was much appreciated. Many of the INGOs are interested in, and are directly involved in, activities in favour of women in development. We had 26 international NGOs participating in the meeting with 40 participants. Briefly, the NGO participants considered the progress report a useful document. Many of the points and issues raised today by the delegates here were also discussed at the INGO meeting. I will briefly mention the role of women in food security as key food producers, especially of staple foods such as roots, tubers and pulses; the need to involve women fully at all stages of food production, processing and marketing; to include them in training programmes; in monitoring the use of natural resources; and to increase their independence within the family context by paying special attention to income-producing activities.

INGO participants indicated their willingness to cooperate more closely with FAO on Women in Development at the international level and, through their affiliates, at the national level. An analysis was suggested of the available information at FAO on women's role in cooperatives. The gender approach was appreciated since the concept emphasizes the necessity of both men and women sharing in family/household responsibilities and in other activities. More guidance is felt to be needed on how to apply that approach in the field, as other delegations here have emphasized. INGOs welcomed the participation of FAO in the preparations for the Beijing Conference in 1995, and hoped that the Organization would also be involved in the celebrations and activities for the International Year of the Family in 1994. The latter is very important because of the difficulties faced by families nowadays, and the need to support them in their various forms since the family is still the basic unit of society.

The international NGOs look forward to maintaining continuous contact with FAO to discuss further the possibilities of cooperation in the various aspects of the Plan of Action.

Finally, on behalf of the Organization which I represent at FAO, the International Federation for Home Economics, I would like fully to support the needs expressed by some delegations for extending the training of home economics, including all aspects of family life, to boys as well as girls so that they can better share the many responsibilities of the family which are often left only to women.

Mme Lydie ROSSINI VAN HISSENHOVEN (Conseil international des femmes):

Monsieur le Président, c'est au nom du Conseil international des femmes, une des plus anciennes ONG internationales, fondée en 1888 à Washington D.C., que je voudrais féliciter Monsieur Hjort pour l'excellente présentation et remercier le Secrétariat pour le document C 93/14.

Depuis ses origines, le CIF a eu à coeur la défense du statut des femmes, l'élimination de toutes formes de discrimination et suit avec intérêt tous les aspects économiques et sociaux du développement.

Pour ce faire, nos 15 commissions permanentes internationales travaillent activement dans le domaine de la nutrition, éducation, santé, environnement et habitat, législation et condition féminine, pour n'en citer que quelques-unes, aux niveaux national et international et sont prêtes à collaborer étroitement avec la FAO, et ce par des ateliers, des séminaires, sur le terrain, etc. Nous appuyons fortement les paragraphes 10, 14, 50. Nous apprécions le paragraphe 94 concernant le renforcement des groupes de femmes et des ONG, mais sommes assez déçus de la teneur du paragraphe 135 concernant les ressources financières.

Nous insistons sur le suivi de la Conférence de Rio Action 21 et de la CIN. En ce qui concerne l'Année internationale de la famille, nous voudrions insister sur trois aspects non négligeables: la violence dans la famille; et je vois que plusieurs délégations en ont parlé.

Il faudrait agir dans ce sens et encourager la législation pour dénoncer les abus et s'assurer que les délinquants soient punis.

Il faudrait soutenir les victimes de violence dans la famille par des groupes d'aide et de refuge pour les victimes.

Il faudrait réhabiliter les victimes et le membre de la famille maltraité et encourager l'éducation et les consultations sexuelles.

En vue de l'amélioration de la situation des femmes dans la société, il faudrait agir pour réunir les femmes à bas revenu pour des projets générateurs de revenus tels que la production et la commercialisation d'objets d'artisanat; réhabiliter les prostituées, les femmes intoxiquées par la drogue, aider celles qui sont handicapées mentales; améliorer la situation des femmes seules, spécialement les mères célibataires, les femmes âgées et handicapées; s'assurer ensuite que les femmes à bas revenus aient accès à un logement décent.

Voici trois aspects non négligeables sur lesquels nous voudrions insister: la violence dans la famille, la femme et la pauvreté, et ensuite la revitalisation du rôle du père pour une paternité plus responsable, reconnue et vécue.

Ceux-ci sont trois thèmes largement soutenus par nos conseils nationaux.

En ce qui concerne la Conférence mondiale sur la population qui se tiendra au Caire en 1994, nous voudrions insister pour obtenir des représentants d'ONG dans les délégations à la PreCom III.

Nous suivons avec intérêt les préparatifs de la quatrième Conférence mondiale des femmes de Beijing et aimerions être associés aux travaux de la FAO et obtenir des informations sur sa participation.

Nous avons également participé activement aux phases préparatoires de la Conférence sur la population et le développement.

Nous insistons sur les droits humains et donc l'égalité des sexes, l'éducation et les prises de responsabilité des femmes nécessairement liées à la population et au développement, la santé et l'éducation à la planification familiale à la fois pour les filles et les garçons.

Pour terminer, je désirerais remercier les délégations qui m'ont précédée et la FAO pour son action constante en faveur des femmes qui, comme l'avait déclaré le Directeur général lors de la Conférence mondiale sur la pêche en 1984, devraient au moins tirer leur juste part de profit et en avaient plaidé la cause.

H. MELICZEK (Officer in Charge, Human Resources, Institutions and Agrarian Reform Division): It is a great pleasure for me to address the members of Commission I and to reply to some of the questions raised with regard to the Third Progress Report on the Implementation of the Plan of Action on the Integration of Women in Development.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the overall support you have given to the Progress Report. Your deliberations are, indeed, a great encouragement for us in the Human Resources Division, particularly for the Women in Development Service. Your support will provide fresh impetus to the implementation of the plan to which we as well as you Member Governments attach great importance.

With your permission, Mr Chairman, I will reply to a few general questions and then ask Ms Kirjavainen, Chief of the Women in Development Service, to answer some more specific questions.

I wish Mr Hjort was here with us to answer one of the most ticklish questions asked this afternoon - why are women not better represented in FAO? Unfortunately, Mr Hjort has been called to the Resolutions Committee and he has asked me to reply. We in FAO are not satisfied with the situation, but there is little we can do because the pool of female candidates is not very deep. Mr Hjort has asked me to ask you Member Governments to identify qualified women candidates for vacant positions in FAO. He has also suggested that delegates look at the list of participants of this Conference and just review how many of them are male and how many are female. This gives a reflection of the kind of candidates available for FAO positions.

As pointed out in paragraph 145 of the document we have been discussing, FAO has developed a strategy and implemented a number of measures to increase the access of women to professional positions. In particular, the monitoring of measures taken to increase the number of female staff will be intensified, and FAO is devising a system in which Divisions will be constantly informed of the percentage of women employed, and requested to fill vacant positions with qualified women. As regards the efforts of FAO to identify women with technical expertise, the Organization has enlarged the distribution list of vacancy announcements to ensure the widest possible dissemination to known sources of female candidates.

Now I would like to turn to the more technical aspects of the Report. While the majority of delegates have commended FAO on the progress achieved in implementing the Plan of Action, a few delegates observed that progress at country level has not been sufficiently smooth. In this context, may I recall the statement made by the delegate of Canada who said that changes do not occur overnight. I would like also to quote the delegate of Portugal who mentioned that issues of women in development require a change in mentality and attitudes.

On the other hand, we are very pleased to learn from the delegate of Italy that a small revolution is under way. This is a very positive example showing that women have gained recognition in agriculture and rural development.

The delegate of Austria asked what were we doing for women in Central and Eastern Europe. FAO, in particular the Human Resources Division, has conducted a series of sixteen country case studies addressing the problems of countries in transition, such as institutional development, rural employment, transformation of cooperative farms, and reorganization of delivery systems. The outlines for the country reports all contained a specific chapter on the role of women. The country case studies have been discussed at sub-regional meetings held in Hungary and Bulgaria. These meetings identified areas of technical assistance, and asked for follow-up information at national levels. FAO is ready to accommodate requests for such assistance.

In this context, I would like to refer to the work of the FAO Working Party on Women and the Farm Family, mentioned by the delegates of Austria, Hungary and Greece.

The delegate of Jamaica asked how WID issues could be integrated into the planning process. She suggested that manuals and guidelines for this purpose were missing. I would draw her attention to the document we have discussed today, which states in paragraph 70 (b) that FAO has prepared a

field manual on these issues, and in paragraph 70 (c) that FAO has prepared guidelines for women in development.

I would comment on the suggestion of the delegate of Canada to intensify linkages with WFP in the sphere of WID. FAO is ready to intensify its collaboration with WFP and to prepare more guidelines and manuals, as well as the SEGA document, and provide them to WFP.

We have taken note of the proposal of the delegate of Spain to work more closely with NGOs. We enjoy close cooperation with the International Cooperative Alliance, the International Federation of Agricultural Producers and the International Federation of Home Economists as well as with representatives of other NGOs such as the three Observers who have spoken during the afternoon session. They mentioned that on 9th November the Rome-based group of NGOs had a meeting in FAO regarding WID issues. Such discussions will continue in the future.

We have taken note of the proposal of the delegate of Germany to include in the next progress report any WID experiences in Central and Eastern Europe and in European countries in general.

I feel these are the more general remarks I wanted to make and I will hand over the floor to Ms Kirjavainen.

Ms Leena KIRJAVAINEN (FAO Staff) : It is a great pleasure for me to address delegates of Commission I, and I will tackle a few specific questions in regard to training, the SEGA programme, social issues and the preparatory activities for the World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in 1995.

Several countries - the Netherlands, Canada, Belgium, the United Kingdom, Hungary and others - raised the question of staff training, and particularly the increasing of their skills on how to integrate women in development concerns and gender issues in their technical work, and I would like to stress a few points.

First and foremost, it should be noted that the two-day workshop on gender sensitization is still continuing for new staff members and those among the twenty percent who have not yet been able to participate in the training session. In other words, the training programme has not stopped, but is continuing. Perhaps this was not very clearly expressed in the Report, but I would like to reassure those delegates concerned about this issue.

In terms of the follow-up activities of staff training, I refer to paragraphs 66 and 73 describing in detail the Social Economic and Gender Analysis Programme, and its purpose as a follow-up activity to the gender sensitization workshop.

Regarding the Netherlands recommendations to FAO to better integrate women in development into the work of the other technical units, there are three points I would briefly stress. First of all, over the last biennium the number of projects for which our Service is the lead technical unit has decreased about twenty percent, while on the other hand those in which our Service participates in the project task forces led by other technical units has increased by forty percent, which is a clear indication we are increasing our collaboration with other units and divisions in the Organization.

Secondly, within the SEGA programme development, we have the objective of increasing the technical capacities of the professionals in the technical units by the joint development of sector and sub-sector specific supplements and guidelines, as is briefly described in paragraph 72.

Thirdly, after having analysed and reviewed the experiences from the Inter-Departmental Working Group/Women in Development activities for the past ten years, we are now developing stronger mechanisms for cooperation with other units to mainstream women in development and gender issues. As indicated in paragraphs 123 and 124, we are now recommending the establishment of divisional core groups based on the model of the groups of women in fisheries. These would be the smallest coordination units within-house and would coordinate together with the leadership of the senior level working group on women in development and gender. This is how we are trying to strengthen in-house participation of technical units in women in development and our gender work.

The second area for expansion strongly raised by the delegate of the United Kingdom was the question of how FAO should tackle a wider mandate on the social issues and build up expertise in the area of social development, with a request for information about our staff capacities in this area and how we are handling the topics of social development. I am pleased to assure him that our Service has at present ten professional staff members from various disciplines - social, anthropology, research, home economics, resource management, rural development, extension, agronomy, and so on.

In addition, we have five women-in-development or rural development officers in our five regional offices who are supporting the programme development in their regions.

Regarding our social development capacity, we are considering gender as a subset of broader sociological issues in categories of ethnicity, age, sex, religion, political affiliation, etc. and not as a separate variable. We therefore have a concern for much broader issues than only gender and women, and this is how we want to approach this in the Plan of Action in its four spheres of economics, social development, decision-making and civil status.

There was a keen interest in the issue of how we are approaching and preparing for the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing. This question was raised by the Kuwaiti delegate and many others. The Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 will be a unique opportunity to appraise the achievements of Member Governments and to renew our commitment to the advancement of women. Since Nairobi in 1985 we have gained very valuable experience and learned important lessons on how better to integrate women in agricultural and rural development. Efforts from all parties concerned are still needed, and welcome, to carry out the tasks indicated and to strengthen our capacity to alleviate poverty, particularly among rural women.

The so-called Platform of Action, which will be discussed and ratified by the World Conference on Women in Beijing, will be the new charter for governments as well as for UN agencies to bring women's issues to the forefront of political, social and economic agendas of development.

Regarding our preparatory activities for Beijing, FAO is taking very serious action in this regard. We are preparing a plan for the preparatory activities for the World Conference which will intensify, in particular,

the implementation of the Plan of Action and the selected eight substantive priority areas which were mentioned at the beginning of our progress report. The following are some examples of activities: a plan to provide assistance to selected countries for the preparation of national reports for submission to the Conference; support for the improvement of data collection on rural women to be included with these national reports; based on information campaigns, assisting gender analysis training for various partners, rural women, NGOs, women-in-development units in various ministries, particularly in ministries of agriculture, planning and rural development. We also plan to strengthen the women-in-development unit structure and their technical capacity to carry out these tasks. Throughout the implementation of the programme we shall support the participatory approach methodology.

I think these were the major areas that we agreed that I would address at this moment. If there is anything further, I should be pleased to respond to you.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: May I again express appreciation for the many positive comments that were made and suggestions that were advanced. We shall be taking those into account. I believe the record shows that the Organization is making progress and I hope we can continue to do so. I do not believe that anyone should conclude from the fact that we are making progress that we are satisfied with it. We feel there is continuing need to try to move forward and make even greater progress and even faster progress.

I think there was one question which was perhaps not raised by the delegate from Finland on behalf of the Nordic countries concerning legal matters or legal aspects. We are well aware of the existence of legal constraints to the full participation of women in development, notably with respect to access by women to natural resources, agricultural services and institutions. Early steps towards a better understanding of the issues at stake have resulted in the collection of country-specific reference material on women's rights to natural resources and agricultural services. Indirectly, women's legal status *vis-à-vis* natural resources and related services has been investigated in the context of FAO's technical assistance activities in the field of natural resources legislation wherever relevant. FAO plans to attend to these issues in a systematic fashion. Resources permitting, a publication can be prepared based on country studies highlighting legal constraints and facilitators to an enhanced role of women in agricultural development. Also, should requests be received from Member States of FAO for technical assistance in the improvement of women's legal access to agricultural and natural resources and related services, FAO will be pleased to respond through the provision of specialized legal expertise, through specific projects or as a dimension of other projects.

The meeting rose at 17.50 hours.

La séance est levée à 17 h 50.

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.50 horas.

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 93/I/PV/9

Twenty-seventh Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt-septième session
COMMISSION I

27º período de sesiones
COMISION I

NINTH MEETING
NEUVIEME SEANCE
NOVENA SESION

(16 November 1993)

The Ninth Meeting was opened at 9.50 hours
Mr Hermann Redl, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La neuvième séance est ouverte à 9 h 50
sous la présidence de M. Hermann Redl, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la novena sesión a las 9.50 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hermann Redl, Presidente de la Comisión I

PART I - MAJOR AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued) PREMIERE PARTIE - PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)

PARTE I - PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)

7. Activities Related to Environment and Sustainable Development
7. Activités ayant trait à l'environnement et au développement durable
7. Actividades relativas al medio ambiente y el desarrollo sostenible

P.J. MAHLER (Sous-Directeur général pour l'environnement et le développement durable/Conseiller spécial du Directeur général): Monsieur le Président, Mesdames, Messieurs les délégués et observateurs, le document C 93/10 intitulé "Activités relatives au développement durable et à l'environnement" n'est pas simplement un compte rendu d'activités du Secrétariat. S'il est présenté à la Commission I de la Conférence, c'est dans le but de susciter un débat de politique générale entre les pays membres sur le suivi de la CNUED dans les domaines de l'alimentation, de l'agriculture, des forêts et des pêches, à la fois aux niveaux national, régional et international, permettant ainsi aux délégations d'échanger leurs points de vue et leurs expériences. Ce débat de politique générale devrait permettre aussi de donner des orientations sur le rôle que doit jouer l'Organisation non seulement vis-à-vis de ses pays membres, mais aussi dans sa coopération avec d'autres organisations internationales.

D'autres documents de la Conférence rendent compte en détail de nos activités passées et de nos plans et programmes futurs dans les domaines du développement durable et de l'environnement. Vous n'avez pas été sans remarquer la place qui est faite à ces sujets dans l'étude Agriculture: Horizon 2010, le Plan à moyen terme et le Programme de travail et budget pour 1994-95.

A sa dernière session, la Conférence avait demandé au Secrétariat, dans la Résolution 2/91, "d'introduire des critères de durabilité dans tous ses programmes et activités" et de rendre compte au Conseil du suivi de la CNUED. En novembre 1992, à sa cent deuxième session, le Conseil a reçu un rapport et s'est montré satisfait des mesures prises par le Directeur général. Le Conseil a confirmé la priorité à donner à ces domaines et demandé le renforcement d'un certain nombre d'activités. Nos activités en 1993 et les propositions du Programme de travail et budget pour 1994-95 ont cherché à répondre à ces requêtes. Le Conseil avait demandé, en outre, de renforcer la coopération interinstitutions dans ces domaines et nous avons rendu compte à ce sujet à la session suivante du Conseil, la cent troisième, au mois de juin. Le Conseil - et là, je cite son rapport - "a souligné que, dans un certain nombre de domaines liés au suivi de la CNUED, la FAO avait naturellement un rôle de chef de file dans la collaboration avec d'autres institutions et avec des ONG et était capable de mobiliser les efforts multilatéraux axés sur les problèmes agro-environnementaux liés notamment à la lutte intégrée contre les ravageurs et aux ressources zoogénétiques".

Est-ce à dire que tout va pour le mieux dans le meilleur des mondes? Loin de là. Aussi le document qui vous est présenté a trois parties. Les deux premières parties sont essentiellement pour l'information de la Conférence: la première, sur le cadre général du suivi de la CNUED, et la deuxième plus spécifiquement sur le suivi assuré par la FAO. C'est dans la troisième

partie que sont soulevés un certain nombre de grands problèmes qui transcendent largement les secteurs d'activités de l'Organisation, mais qui les concernent aussi singulièrement; c'est cette dernière partie qui devrait permettre d'amorcer un débat de Politique générale entre nos pays membres

Je voudrais toutefois mettre à jour les informations présentées dans la première partie sur trois points. Ce document a été préparé, comme vous le remarquerez, au mois d'août 1993.

Premièrement, la Commission I aura pris note du programme de travail pluriannuel de ce nouvel organe qui a été créé par la CNUED et qui s'appelle Commission du développement durable des Nations Unies. Cela est mentionné aux paragraphes 11 et 12 du document. Cette Commission a formulé un certain nombre de demandes de rapports de façon à examiner par tranches, un peu comme le fait ici notre Comité du programme, le suivi de la CNUED et la mise en oeuvre, en particulier, d'Action 21. Ces rapports sont demandés à la fois aux gouvernements individuels, aux institutions des Nations Unies et aux ONG.

En ce qui concerne les secteurs de l'agriculture et des forêts, ceux-ci viendront à l'examen de la Commission du développement durable principalement en 1995 - la session a normalement lieu aux mois de mai-juin de chaque année - et celui des pêches en 1996. Mais, depuis quelques mois déjà, les gouvernements et les institutions du système des Nations Unies reçoivent de multiples demandes de contribution à d'autres rapports sur d'autres aspects d'Action 21. En 1994, en particulier, la Commission examinera le sujet de l'eau douce, des produits toxiques et bien d'autres. Beaucoup de gouvernements et certainement la FAO ne sont pas en mesure actuellement de répondre à ces multiples demandes de rapports ou du moins d'y répondre d'une manière adéquate. Il s'agit d'activités supplémentaires demandées par les Nations Unies, pour lesquelles des ressources additionnelles n'ont pas été prévues à la mesure de ces requêtes. Je pense qu'il ne faudrait pas perdre de vue que, quelle que soit l'importance de ces rapports, nos ressources doivent aller en priorité à des actions sur le terrain.

Il en est de même pour le rôle de maître d'oeuvre confié par les Nations Unies à diverses agences du système pour certains chapitres d'Action 21; et c'est le deuxième point sur lequel je voudrais apporter de nouvelles informations. Le Comité interagences pour le développement durable s'est réuni en septembre dernier pour préciser les modalités de fonctionnement de ce dispositif de coordination décentralisée qui est indiqué au paragraphe 21 du document.

Le rôle de maître d'oeuvre devrait inclure pour l'agence ainsi désignée la collecte d'informations sur les activités du système des Nations Unies, la formulation d'un cadre commun de stratégies, la promotion d'activités de coopération entre plusieurs institutions et la réduction des chevauchements et des lacunes entre les programmes existants. La FAO s'est vue confier le rôle de maître d'oeuvre pour les chapitres 10, 11, 13 et 14 d'Action 21 indiqués à l'Annexe I - vous voudrez peut-être vous reporter à l'Annexe I du document qui donne tous les numéros et le contenu général de chacun des chapitres - c'est-à-dire la planification des terres, les forêts, la montagne et, évidemment, l'agriculture et le développement durable. De la même manière, le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement devra jouer ce rôle de maître d'oeuvre pour les chapitres 12 (desertification) et 15(biodiversité) entre autres; le PNUD, pour le développement des

capacités nationales, etc. J'insiste sur le fait que ce rôle de maître d'oeuvre n'est pas un rôle d'action exclusive par l'institution qui en reçoit la charge. Il s'agit d'orchestrer la coopération dans l'ensemble du système des Nations Unies à propos de ces domaines.

Pour les océans, y compris les pêches, il n'y a pas eu de désignation de maître d'oeuvre. Un sous-comité interagences a été établi, en octobre dernier, avec un secrétariat confié à la Commission océanographique internationale, à Paris. Et pour l'eau douce, il existe déjà un mécanisme; c'est également un sujet qui relève de nombreux mandats des agences des Nations Unies. Il s'est déjà réuni à Saint-Domingue et, pour le moment, c'est la FAO qui assure la présidence de ce groupe.

Je pourrais également signaler que nous sommes sollicités pour participer à l'organisation d'une conférence sur les petits Etats insulaires; et je sais que, la semaine dernière, un certain nombre de délégations de ces pays se sont réunies pour examiner comment les différents secteurs concernés pourraient participer d'une manière plus active à cette conférence qui aura lieu à la fin du mois d'avril prochain.

Un dernier complément d'information à la première partie à propos du programme Capacité 21 du PNUD qui est décrit dans l'encadré numéro 3: le PNUD a réuni une consultation de coordination interagences au Siège de la FAO au mois de septembre. La FAO y a présenté un document de stratégie pour le renforcement des capacités nationales pour l'agriculture, mais, pour le moment, je dois dire que les premiers projets financés par Capacité 21 s'orientent surtout vers le renforcement des capacités des Ministères de l'environnement et le développement de stratégies de conservation et de protection de l'environnement.

En ce qui concerne l'aperçu général des activités de la FAO en réponse à la CNUED présenté dans la deuxième partie, il s'agit essentiellement d'un tableau récapitulatif d'activités dont les détails sont fournis dans d'autres documents. Son but est de permettre aux gouvernements d'avoir une perspective générale de ce qui est fait par la FAO pour le suivi de la CNUED et d'orienter les priorités. Je m'abstiendrai donc d'essayer d'apporter des compléments d'information ou de mise à jour.

Quant à la troisième et dernière partie, elle concerne les grands défis et nouveaux problèmes posés par la Conférence de Rio. Je dois dire à ce sujet qu'il nous a fallu faire un choix car les problèmes sont nombreux. En préparant ce texte, le Secrétariat a tenu compte de deux recommandations importantes des sessions précédentes: éviter les doubles emplois et les répétitions avec d'autres documents, en particulier sur le débat que vous avez eu à propos d'Agriculture: horizon 2010, et permettre un dialogue non pas entre les gouvernements et le Secrétariat, mais surtout entre les délégations elles-mêmes. Dans ce contexte du développement durable et de l'environnement il nous est apparu plus important d'aborder des relations entre les secteurs de l'agriculture, des forêts et des pêches d'une part, et les autres secteurs y compris les aspects institutionnels et économiques, plutôt que de pousser l'analyse des problèmes dans ces secteurs. Je rappellerai que nous avons présenté une telle analyse à la dernière session de la Conférence. Le document Agriculture: horizon 2010 pousse plus loin cette analyse.

En terminant, je voudrais attirer l'attention des délégations sur la dernière page de ce document où nous faisons des propositions d'action à l'intention de la Conférence, ceci à deux niveaux, d'une part au niveau des

gouvernements, et d'autre part au niveau du Secrétariat de la FAO. C'est sur ces points principalement que le Secrétariat souhaiterait recevoir les avis et recommandations des pays membres.

CHAIRMAN (Original language. German): Thank you, Dr Mahler, for that very detailed introduction to the document. I would particularly like to thank you for what you said regarding the future shaping of this item.

When we start our discussions we should particularly look at what is contained in paragraph 11 where it says quite expressly that in 1995 land, forests, desertification and biological diversity will be reviewed. We might be well-advised to see whether it would be a good idea if Council in November 1994, when it is putting together its agenda for that session, ought to discuss this matter in the light of the discussions which we are now going to have.

Mats DENNINGER (Sweden): First, I would like to thank Mr Mahler for his excellent introduction.

At the July Council Meeting the Nordic countries asked for a systematic analysis of all the 73 programme areas of Agenda 21 which are within the purview of FAO's mandate. It is needed in order to make priorities. It will outline actions and procedures necessary for the implementation of the Agenda.

The document before us is a useful first and preliminary analysis of contributions by FAO in priority areas and of cooperative efforts with other organizations. A number of new activities may be contemplated. FAO must thus demonstrate its willingness and preparedness to shoulder its responsibilities as the centre of excellence on the integration of environmental concerns in agriculture, forestry and fisheries. That is necessary.

FAO should, in the view of the Nordic countries, in close cooperation and partnership with the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), and in mutual dialogue with UNEP, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on Climate, lay down a priority course of action to promote sustainable development in the three areas where it is the lead agency of the UN system: namely agriculture, forestry and fisheries. In the following, I will focus on three areas in the follow-up of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the UNCED, where urgent action by FAO is imperative at this point in time. I refer first and foremost to forest management compatible with sustainable development, to conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and, finally, to responsible fisheries.

The Rio conference adopted a "non-binding authoritative statement of principles for a global consensus on the management, conservation and development of all types of forests". The participating countries committed themselves to implement the UNCED decisions on forests. In the follow-up process of the conference the European Forestry Commission of FAO and the Timber Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe will be actively involved. Overlapping and repetition of work will be avoided.

The Commission on Sustainable Development was established to monitor and guide the follow-up of UNCED. At its first substantive session earlier this

year CSD put forward a close partnership with the relevant UN agencies as a prerequisite for success in the implementation process. In the field of forest-management, FAO is, by mandate, the lead agency in the UN family CSD and FAO should thus develop a close partnership in the important task to guide, support and monitor the implementation process. Active participation of other intergovernmental bodies, within and outside the UN system, is essential.

In the multi-year programme of work that the CSD adopted at its first substantive session earlier this year, the first CSD review of the progress of governments and international organization in the implementation of the forest principles will take place at its session in 1995.

FAO should make a major contribution to the intergovernmental cooperative preparations for that review. The time is short. The task is huge and complex. This Conference must take the necessary and urgent decisions to set-in train the process needed within FAO to produce that contribution.

The Nordic countries would like to propose major elements for such a process that would lead to a necessary strengthening of the role of forestry within FAO. They would lead to an FAO that could more effectively than today carry out the role as the leading world organization on forest management. The Nordic countries firmly believe that FAO should play that role.

The following steps should, in the view of the Nordic countries, be taken by FAO in order to better shoulder its responsibility in the preparation of the 1995 CSD review, as well as in a longer-term perspective.

Firstly, in connection with the next regular session of the FAO Committee on Forestry in 1995, ministers or high-level officials responsible for forests would meet and get the opportunity fully to consider and provide their essential contribution to the CSD review of both the national implementation of the forest principles and of the support provided by relevant international organizations.

Secondly, the high-level meeting should be prepared by the regional forest commissions of FAO. They should, in line with the recommendation by the FAO Council, in good time before the 1995 COFO-meeting, be convened for a first dialogue on national reporting, on action taken for the implementation of the UNCED forest principles.

The FAO should urgently develop and adopt guidelines for the reporting of the FAO Secretariat on national and international cooperative action, to implement the forest decisions of UNCED. The decisions from the first substantive session of CSD on this issue should be used as the basis for the development of such guidelines. Efforts should be made to assist developing countries, upon request, to prepare their national reports.

The Director-General of FAO should inform CSD at its next session in 1994 of the preparedness of FAO to make these contributions to the CSD review of steps taken to implement the forest principles and the commitments on forest management in Agenda 21.

Thirdly, the Director-General should further be requested to prepare, before the next session of the Council, a report on concrete proposals for action to strengthen the normative role of FAO on forest management, compatible with sustainable development and its role in a cooperative UN

mechanism, on the implementation of the UNCED forest principles. I would in this context like to submit some suggestions for action to be further studied for possible inclusion into the report: one, proposals for action by FAO in the building of a close partnership between CSD and FAO to provide a joint UN mechanism for review of, dialogue on, and support of national implementation of the UNCED decisions on forests; two, the establishment of a continuous mutual dialogue on the implementation of the principles between FAO, through COFO, and relevant intergovernmental bodies in the field of environment, such as UNEP, and in the field of environment and development such as the Conferences of the Parties of the Conventions on Biological Diversity and on Climate; three, measures to secure active involvement in the FAO work on forestry by ministers and high-level decision-makers responsible for forests; four, measures to improve the contributions of the FAO regional forestry commissions to the follow-up of the UNCED decisions on forests; five, the possible creation of an ad hoc mechanism within the framework of FAO to provide advice on sustainable management of forests; six, continuous monitoring and assessment of the status of world forests, including the establishment of the proposed intergovernmental panel of experts, in forest resource assessment and monitoring; seven, ways to integrate forestry issues into existing programmes in agriculture, where possible and appropriate.

Implementation of these proposals for the strengthening of the role of FAO in the sector of forestry would lead to needs for resource reallocations within FAO.

Agenda 21 also includes a chapter on sustainable agriculture. We would like to commend the FAO Secretariat for its major contributions to the development of that chapter, including the organization of the Den Bosch Conference on sustainable agriculture in developing countries.

We are basically satisfied with the UNCED recommendations on sustainable agriculture. However, we would have liked to see more recommendations referring to the developed countries. The demands of sustainable development should not only be directed towards the agricultural systems of the developing countries, but also to those of the developed countries. The Nordic countries would also have liked to see an inclusion of the role of agriculture as producer of environmental services which should be properly remunerated.

Of relevance for the further elaboration of the outcome of the Rio Conference, the FAO in its study "Agriculture: toward 2010" analyses in detail the multiple pressures which further demands in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors will put on the natural resource base. We welcome this analysis. I would, however, like to stress that the agricultural forecasts do not fully reflect present uncertainty as concern the possible environmental consequences. That uncertainty and the strength of the associated risks call for a precautionary approach.

In Agenda 21 the programme area on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture countries contains recommendations for action with major implications for FAO. The Fourth International Conference on Plant Genetic Resources will be prepared and organized by FAO. The well-concerned country-driven preparatory process presented to the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources by the Secretariat should, in the view of the Nordic countries, aim at decisive national action to conserve and sustainably use "agrobiodiversity". New approaches to plant breeding should be developed and introduced. The ongoing genetic erosion must be stopped. It is of

crucial importance in the global efforts to develop an agriculture that is compatible with sustainable development and that can ensure world food security in the future.

The preparatory process for that Fourth International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources to ensure its consistency, synergy and complementarity with the Convention on Biological Diversity that will enter into force on 29 December of this year. A major issue in this context will, in the view of the Nordic countries, be the introduction of the regulated access to genetic resources as laid down in the Biodiversity Convention.

The preparation of a multilateral agreement on the terms of access to the plant genetic resources should form a major part of the negotiations. These intergovernmental negotiations will be a major challenge for the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. They will have to be carried out in close consultation with the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity and with the UN Commission on Sustainable Development. Major contributions should be sought from the IBPGR and the other CGIAR institutes. The role of the Working Group of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources in the negotiation process should be clearly, defined.

This Conference must adopt the draft resolution recommended by the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources in this important matter. The preparations for the Fourth International Conference on Plant Genetic Resources should now shift into a higher gear in the FAO Secretariat, in the individual countries, and in the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. The Commission will form the preparatory committee of the Conference and also be the intergovernmental negotiation committee on the revision of the undertaking, including the preparation of the agreement on terms of access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

I would like to end by speaking only on behalf of my own country, Sweden, on the issue of fisheries.

Action to promote sustainable use of the marine living resources formed part of the chapter on oceans in Agenda 21. Such action is needed to secure maintenance and sustainable use of fish resources, which provide 40 percent of the protein intake for nearly two-thirds of the world's human population. Today the whole ocean is fished to capacity. The area that is overfished is steadily expanding. This poses a serious threat to world food security.

FAO has a major role to play in support of the implementation of the recommendations in this field in Agenda 21 and in their further development. Sweden would like to commend FAO for its important contributions to the first substantive session of the UN Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.

The breakthrough in the negotiations of an "Agreement on the Flagging of Vessels Fishing on the High Seas" which is in fact a full-fledged Compliance Agreement is another highly commendable result of the efficient work of FAO in the field of fisheries.

Efforts should now be made by FAO to prepare for the urgent implementation of the recommendations from the Straddling Stocks Conference. The major negotiations will take place in March next year. Before that FAO has been invited to prepare a document on the precautionary approach, elaborating this useful instrument for fisheries management and improving the

scientific and technical basis for applying it in various forms of management. Sweden is ready to play an active role in the preparation within the FAO framework of the important and urgently needed document. The existing regional fisheries management organizations supported by FAO should in the view of Sweden be mobilized as soon as possible for urgent action in the follow-up process. The need for and interest in establishing new regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements should be investigated and identified. The aim should be to establish a global system of such bodies with a compulsory membership of all states fishing straddling and highly migratory fish stocks.

The role of the Committee on Fisheries in future efforts to harmonize the efforts of the regional organizations or arrangements of such a global system should be clearly defined and established.

The efforts to conclude an ambitious international code of conduct for responsible fishing should be intensified, aiming at adoption not later than 1995.

The degradation of the marine environment in coastal areas caused by land-based activities is posing a major threat to fisheries in many parts of the world. Sustainable development in coastal areas preconditions an active participation by national institutions responsible for agriculture, forestry, fisheries and rural development in integrated decision-making, planning and management of coastal zones. Sweden strongly recommends the efforts by FAO to prepare sectoral guidelines for the integration of agricultural, forestry and fishery concerns in coastal area management planning and development. That would provide an important contribution by FAO to the 1995 Conference on Marine Environmental Degradation Caused by Landbased Activities, to be held in Washington.

Paul Neville ROSS (Australia): We would firstly like to thank the Secretariat for the preparation of the document before us and to thank Dr Mahler for his detailed introduction. In our statement, we would like to outline the action we have taken in addressing issues of environmental protection and sustainable development within Australia, to describe briefly some of the contributions we are making to UNCED follow-up, and to offer some comments on FAO's role, and on some of the specific issues raised in the document.

First, let me describe what we have done to address sustainability issues at our national level. In December 1992 the Council of Australian Governments - that is, the Federal Government together with the State and Territory Governments - agreed on the national strategy for ecologically sustainable development and a national greenhouse response strategy. These strategies provide comprehensive frameworks through which all the levels of government seek to integrate environmental, economic and social elements and to improve decision-making.

Important issues which are being progressed nationally through these overall frameworks include furthering the use of community-group approaches to improve agricultural resource management. For example through the National Landcare Programme, a partnership between government and landholders, which is an example of how Australia encourages integrated strategies for land water and related vegetation issues; implementation of a national forest policy statement; development and implementation of the national water quality strategy; movement towards the management of

fisheries on an ecosystem basis; and development of national strategies for the coastal zone, conservation of biological diversity and endangered species.

Australian governments are also examining and progressing as appropriate outcomes from the UNCED process. Australia has ratified both the Framework Convention on Climate Change in December 1992 and the International Convention on Biological Diversity in June 1993. We are close to finalizing a national strategy for the conservation of biological diversity. Australia is also currently preparing a report for the next session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in respect of the cluster of Agenda 21 issues to be reviewed in 1994.

Australia is also playing an active role in the development, of the convention to combat desertification referred to in paragraph 18 of the Document. If the convention is to be effective, we believe it needs to focus on the underlying socio-economic causes of desertification. About 70 percent of Australia is range-land and we have developed considerable expertise in the management of these regions. We believe that Australian technology and skills, knowledge and experience in managing arid areas can be of considerable assistance in the development of an effective convention. Australia is also a strong supporter of FAO participation in the UN-sponsored Inter-Governmental Negotiating Committee developing the convention.

Another UNCED outcome in which we are playing an active role is in the Global Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States to be held in Barbados in April 1994. The Conference is mentioned in paragraph 19 of the Document and was mentioned by Dr Malher in his introduction. Australia is chairing the preparatory process for this Conference. The Conference will be the first opportunity for the international community to implement an action programme addressing the sustainable development commitments made at UNCED. The decisions made at Barbados will be seen by many as precedents for the UNCED follow-up process.

Australia encourages FAO Member States to play an active and creative role in seeking for small island developing states a negotiated plan of action and effective means of implementation consistent with Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration. FAO has proposed holding a second inter-regional conference on small island states in September 1994. This Conference can provide a logical and useful form in which to progress the implementation of the outcomes from Barbados.

Turning to the role of FAO in UNCED follow-up, Australia strongly supports the recognition by FAO of the need to focus its activities on the achievement of sustainability and the implementation of UNCED outcomes. This includes implementation of Agenda 21 and matters relating to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the International Convention on Climate Change and work towards a framework instrument to combat desertification, as already mentioned.

Much of the focus on FAO's work in the area of sustainable development and the environment is already closely linked to Agenda 21. We recognize the significant contribution of FAO to Agenda 21 and believe it provides a sound basis for FAO to plan future action in areas identified. We commend the efforts undertaken by FAO, so far to integrate the follow-up to Agenda 21 into its work programme.

We would stress that it is important in undertaking the follow-up work to UNCED that FAO establishes strong links with other UN bodies - including the Commission on Sustainable Development - and other organizations to avoid duplication and ensure effective delivery of programmes within the overall UN system. We would encourage FAO to continue to cooperate with other UN organizations through the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development.

It is also important that available resources are effectively targeted. The focus should be on providing basic tools from which individual countries can develop their own individual approaches, to address their own individual country problems.

At the FAO programme level, Australia would stress the need to maintain close links among the constituent sub-programmes. Integrated approaches are likely to provide the most effective means of delivering sustainability objectives. This is particularly the case in respect of the management of agricultural resources where integrated and holistic approaches to water, soil and pest management can provide significant benefits, as we have learnt through our own experience in Australia.

Finally, we would like to touch on some of the issues raised in Part III of the document. First, with regard to the need for better tools for sustainability assessment and monitoring mentioned in paragraphs 41 to 43, recent research by Australian agronomists within our Bureau of Resource Sciences has led to the development of indicators to monitor sustainability of agricultural practices. This research is now being further tested and extended for application in South-east Asia with support from FAO. The methodology is under consideration by the World Bank for assessment of agricultural and resource management projects.

This work is providing some of the tools for the assessment and monitoring of environmental factors critical to sustainable land use. It allows the detection of inappropriate practices before irreparable environmental damage occurs. Much work is still required to adapt the methodology for use in a wider range of environments and land uses and Australia, through FAO, will be pleased to share its experience and expertise and to work in collaboration with other countries in addressing this urgent problem.

As indicated in paragraph 60 of the document we wish to reiterate that successful implementation of UNCED outcomes will also be dependent on further trade liberalization, including a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round. Without such liberalization it will not be possible to move towards globally sustainable production and resource systems.

The final issue we would draw attention to briefly is with regard to paragraph 61 of the document. We fully support the comment in this paragraph that trade policy measures for environmental purposes and sustainability objectives should not create new arbitrary or unjustified discrimination, or disguised restrictions on international trade.

Carlos BASCO (Argentina): Quisiera, señor Presidente, agradecer a la Secretaría por la presentación del documento y hacer algunas observaciones al mismo.

La Delegación considera que el documento carece de un enfoque macro sobre el compromiso que tiene la FAO respecto del fomento de una agricultura

orientada al desarrollo sustentable, y elude los aspectos concretos más críticos de la Agenda 21. En igual sentido expresamos que si bien el documento describe una extensa relación de acciones requeridas por la mencionada Agenda 21 a los organismos intergubernamentales, incluidas, entre otras, las que corresponden a la FAO, no identifica claramente aquellas que son de su propia competencia.

Se manifiesta además preocupación por la interacción necesaria entre las instituciones nacionales del sector agrícola y otras instituciones, y entre los órganos de la FAO y otros órganos intergubernamentales, pero diluye igualmente las responsabilidades primarias de la FAO.

La Delegación, en apoyo de lo expresado, recuerda los capítulos de la Agenda 21 que se refieren a temas agrícolas: Capítulo 11 "Lucha contra la deforestación", Capítulos 12 y 13: "Ordenación de ecosistemas frágiles" y, particularmente, el 14 "Fomento de la agricultura y del desarrollo rural sostenible", y propone que sean tomados como marco de la tarea que en este campo debe desarrollar la FAO.

Destacamos además que durante la negociación del texto de la Agenda 21, se procuró incluir entre los diferentes capítulos, y especialmente en el 14, conceptos que permitieran orientar la atención sobre la depredación de recursos naturales producida por el uso intensivo de pesticidas y agroquímicos, financiados con subsidios agrícolas. A ello tienden, por ejemplo, algunas consideraciones que aparecen en las secciones sobre "Lucha integrada contra las plagas agrícolas", párrafos 14.74 y siguientes y "Nutrición sostenible de las plantas", párrafos 14.83 y siguientes.

En este mismo contexto recordamos que, por ejemplo, el párrafo 14.9(b) requiere de las organizaciones internacionales en apoyo a los gobiernos "analizar la política agrícola nacional y regional en relación, entre otras cosas, con el comercio exterior, las subvenciones e impuestos a la agricultura". La FAO debería, en consecuencia, centrar su acción sobre un desarrollo agrícola sustentable en estos puntos.

La Delegación manifiesta que lo expresado encuentra su sustento en el hecho de que la adecuada presentación de estas materias en el marco de la protección de los recursos naturales y preservación del medio ambiente, concurre a reforzar posiciones asumidas en otros foros contra la persistencia de políticas de subsidios.

Se insiste en que la distorsión de los mercados causada por ofertas de productos subsidiados, ha forzado la instalación de sistemas de producción vulnerables en países en desarrollo, que se ven obligados a abandonar prácticas ambientalmente eficientes para compensar los bajos rendimientos de sus exportaciones.

Sería además aconsejable enfatizar la relación que debe establecerse entre consumidores y productores de alimentos, y otros productos de la agricultura, la silvicultura y la pesca, cuya sustentabilidad requiere a menudo mayor diversificación e impone límites a la intensificación y al aumento de la productividad.

Respecto al posible conflicto entre los sectores agrícola y forestal, señalados en el documento, párrafo 46, la Delegación expresa su preocupación por la creciente demanda de tierras e insta a la FAO a continuar analizando eventuales soluciones al mismo. En ese contexto, apoya

la adopción de un enfoque similar al de la interrelación entre agricultura y ecosistemas frágiles.

Con relación a nuevos mecanismos institucionales para hacer frente a la cuestión del desarrollo sostenible, párrafos 55 y siguientes, se destaca la necesidad y conveniencia de aprovechar al máximo instituciones ya existentes y promover una mejor interrelación entre las mismas, antes de pensar en la posibilidad de nuevos organismos.

Respecto a los costos adicionales del desarrollo sostenible, párrafos 59 y siguientes, la Delegación expresa su preocupación al respecto. La presión poblacional sobre ecosistemas frágiles y zonas marginales podría verse muy disminuida si hubiera libertad de circulación de personas. Sin embargo, en un mundo donde sólo se habla de libertades de mercado, de circulación de bienes y servicios, de capitales, de apertura de economías, de caída de barreras tarifarias y no tarifarias, etc., se ponen cada vez más trabas a la libre circulación de las personas. En consecuencia, los costos adicionales que en algunos casos provoca el desarrollo sostenible, deben adjudicarse en cierta medida a esa gran asimetría que se observa actualmente en el mundo.

Estos costos adicionales no se verán compensados por la variación de los términos de intercambio, aunque, por cierto, una mejora de los mismos los aliviaría. Pareciera entonces que la única solución a largo plazo se encuentra en la transferencia de recursos que compense las restricciones señaladas a la libre circulación de las personas.

Chrysanthos LOIZIDES (Cyprus): I wish to thank Mr Mahler for introducing this item and the Secretariat for preparing document C 93/10.

Cyprus has endorsed the principles of sustainable development and has undertaken a methodical process to integrate the goals of its environment policy with those of its development policy. Likewise, Cyprus shares with many other countries the awareness and concern that, within the context of the present unequal world food production and trade systems, increasing ecological stress and environmental destruction are causing severe problems, such as soil erosion and degradation, acidification, the greenhouse effect, ozone depletion, desertification, the transformation of fertile crop land into other uses, and the destruction of the world's forests, advancing at unprecedented rates, leading to disruption of the global environment and food security.

FAO's role in the context of the work of the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development is much appreciated. It is very important that this Committee pursues a more clear delineation of responsibilities and activities between agencies of the UN system, since considerable overlaps have been created in their efforts to promote Agenda 21 issues, which has placed strain on national capacities and created national coordination problems, as each agency has its own separate national focal point.

The action-oriented programme pursued by FAO widens the road opened at Rio and targets sectors of prime concern to most of its member countries. The proposal to concentrate FAO's efforts in those Agenda 21 areas where FAO has a definite mandate and comparative advantage is prudent and wise, as it would enable the Organization to concentrate on addressing some of the major sustainable development priorities. For small States with limited land and water resources, like Cyprus, the agriculture/forestry interface,

coastal areas and producer/consumer relationships are particularly important. Changing life styles of the more affluent segments of society, particularly in the developed countries, should definitely be targeted as an issue of prime concern - and this was one of the major issues at Rio -as consumption patterns are largely responsible for the current unacceptable state of the global environment and development situation.

With regard to the broader international context, efforts should be concentrated on ameliorating the underlying causes of under-development, as not much can be achieved until stable incomes for farmers are safeguarded, skewed income distribution and other inequalities are alleviated and a supportive international economic environment is secured. All countries should undertake their common but differentiated responsibilities on the pressing issues of poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

Particular emphasis should be placed on improving the situation with regard to the access of developing countries to environmentally sound technology. In the national contexts, the foremost activities to be encouraged and assisted are education, information dissemination, public awareness, grass-roots support activities and initiatives and addressing the special problems of the more vulnerable groups, such as the poor, children and rural women.

Technical assistance should also be provided in the area of implementing international conventions, such as the Biological Diversity Convention and the Climate Change Convention.

FAO could assist agricultural sustainability efforts by preparing detailed guidelines for the new type of data required to take stock of the situations and monitor progress, to be incorporated in agricultural censuses which should reflect contemporary concerns, i.e. quality of soil and water resources, rates of application of agro-chemicals, biomass potentials, cultural attitudes towards land and resources, pressures on agricultural lands and encroachment on public lands, rural energy use, stock and resource depletion, etc.

Environmental impact assessment of major agricultural development projects can play a catalytic role towards securing sustainability in the rural sector. Simple and simplified processes and assessment methodologies, based on national contexts and the weaknesses of the information and administrative structures, could be developed by FAO.

Regional and bilateral cooperation is very important and can be further intensified in sustainable agricultural research, integrated watershed and coastal zone management, waste recycling and reuse, preservation of biological diversity, emergency response at accidents, elaboration of principles for taxing negative externalities, prevention of illegal traffic in dangerous wastes, environmental applications of remote sensing, alternative energy sources, etc.

At this point we fully support the proposed action by the Conference as stated on page 21 of document C 93/10.

Cyprus, for its part, will continue to offer educational, technical and professional training to students and professionals from other countries in various fields associated with the broader agricultural and natural resources sectors and will exert all possible efforts to further encourage and promote such cooperation.

Finally, Cyprus will do its utmost to assist FAO to bear the fruits to which it aspires: that is, to secure an environment conducive to the health of man as well as to the vitality of the systems which sustain him.

Ms Faith INNERARITY (Jamaica): I should like to commend FAO for the documentation. I have found not just this document, C 93/10, to be useful; there is a companion document, "FAO at the Crossroads", which is very incisive.

The issue of sustainable development is not a simple one, but contains many contradictions. Man's relationship with the environment has undergone significant changes over time, from veneration to over-exploitation and now reassessment and repair. Today there are many environmental problems which result from economic advancement, and there are also those for which poverty is a root cause. It is to the latter that I would like to address my major comments. The pressure exerted by the rural poor on forestry, fisheries and land resource is enormous, resulting in degradation of these resources. However, this is usually not deliberate, but represents an effort to meet subsistence needs.

Consequently, alternate systems of income generation must be an integral part of plans to stem environmental degradation. If these alternate systems are not in place, then the battle is lost. The peasant who has to consider food for his family, income to provide his basic needs, will not be very interested in Agenda 21. For him this is just the work or product of intellectuals, of those who sit around conference tables. But he is interested in his day-to-day needs. Hence, very often, short-term decisions are taken at the expense of long-term ones.

Therefore, in dealing with this issue of sustainable development, alternative systems of income for peasants in the rural sector must be in place. This relates equally to land utilization. There are many farmers who cultivate land on the hillsides. They clear forests in order to plant crops. This is necessary. How do we get around this? We cannot simply say, "Do not clear the forests", when the land is needed to plant crops. We must come to some compromise.

In my own country at this time we have introduced some hillside farming development systems whereby farmers are encouraged to plant fruit trees and other economic crops on the hillside. This is not just the traditional forest reserve, but these are trees from which farmers can gain income, and, at the same time, the soil is being preserved, reducing soil run-off and so on. There is an emphasis on watershed protection and development.

In the area of fisheries there is a problem with over-exploitation of marine resources. There are many poor fishermen who have no alternate source of income. In order to overcome this, we have been introducing fish farming as an alternate source. This is a little more expensive, but, with proper support and resources, it is possible. I am saying this to emphasize the point that there must be alternatives. Poverty breeds environmental degradation. In order to remove the degradation, poverty must be dealt with.

There is another issue to which I need to bring attention in terms of technology and the environment. Chemicals, pesticides and fertilizers are normally used in order to improve production, with serious consequences for the environment.

What are the alternatives? I believe that FAO should place greater emphasis on research into organic farming and also biological systems of pest management. Much more focus is needed in this area if we are to deal with chemical pollution of underground water resources and so on.

More research is also needed on domestic food crops. In many developing countries such as my own, the research is focused largely on crops for export. Hence, for domestic crops, yields are low and farmers cannot continue to depend on fertilizers. There is need for more adaptive research in the area of domestic food crops. The assistance of FAO would be greatly appreciated in this area.

I should also like to examine the matter of legislation. More and more within the international and the national context there is emphasis on legislation to implement or to achieve environmental growth. However, there is, in fact, a very serious limitation as far as legislation is concerned. It is one thing to put legislation into place, but it is another to enforce it. If legislation is not enforced or if it is not enforceable, then it becomes just a piece of paper.

In this regard I think that both at international and national level there needs to be greater emphasis on moral persuasion, public education, education within the school system, education among farmers, education among fishermen, education among the population at large - everyone who has the responsibility for the environment, because unless attitudes are changed we shall be fighting a losing battle.

Carlos FONTES (Portugal): Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier le Secrétariat pour l'excellent document qu'il nous a présenté. Il ne s'agit pas d'un remerciement de pure forme. Ce document est très bien présenté, avec un recueil d'informations systématisées définissant nettement les options et les tâches à accomplir dans l'avenir.

Le développement durable n'est plus aujourd'hui un concept nouveau. Depuis quelques années, on discute et on améliore sa vraie signification. Mais la discussion sur les actions concrètes à adopter pour sa réalisation doit être encore considérablement améliorée; et l'objectif de ce document est bien de mener une discussion sur les activités à mettre en oeuvre suite à la Conférence de Rio.

On reconnaît l'importance de la décision du Conseil de 1992 d'intégrer le critère de durabilité dans toutes les activités de la FAO. En réalité, le développement durable n'est pas compatible avec l'approche sectorielle souvent suivie dans le passé. La globalité écologique, économique et sociale doit toujours être présente. Mais la globalité dans l'approche ne signifie pas une dispersion des efforts. Suite à la CNUED et à la réunion du Comité interinstitutions du développement durable (CIDD), la FAO a été nommée maître d'oeuvre pour les éléments d'Action 21 relatifs aux terres, notamment l'agriculture et les forêts. Il faut donc se concentrer sur les programmes clés au sein de l'Organisation.

Nous sommes très intéressés par le point relatif aux forêts, domaine auquel le Portugal accorde une importance particulière. Je voudrais souligner l'importance de la Conférence ministérielle pour la protection des forêts en Europe. Cette Conférence s'est réunie à Helsinki au mois de juin 1993 pour mettre en oeuvre en Europe les grands principes adoptés à Rio.

Pour combattre la dégradation des forêts méditerranéennes et tropicales, on a établi au sein de la FAO des programmes-cadres d'une grande importance. A partir de ces programmes-cadres, les pays définiront des plans nationaux. Nous sommes heureux de constater que 18 pays subsahariens ont déjà élaboré des plans d'action avec l'appui du PAFT.

Pour conclure, je voudrais donner mon appui aux propositions présentées à la fin du document relatives au rôle de l'Organisation et, en particulier, à la deuxième, qui souligne le renforcement de la coopération avec d'autres organisations.

Alejandro TRUEBA CARRANZA (México): La delegación mexicana expresa su agradecimiento al señor Mahler por la presentación del documento de trabajo, el cual contiene información completa sobre las acciones de la CNUMAD para la alimentación, la agricultura, la silvicultura y la pesca. Asimismo presenta consideraciones sobre como la FAO ha integrado las cuestiones relativas al medio ambiente y al desarrollo sostenible en sus actuales y futuras actividades.

Al respecto, esta Delegación destaca el amplio campo de actividades para un organismo como la FAO, y en tal sentido lo necesario de adecuar su estructura y sus sistemas de trabajo a fin de fomentar en la sociedad, y principalmente en el sector campesino, un desarrollo agrícola y rural sostenible.

Ante la gran diversidad de acciones que el desarrollo sostenible demanda en el campo de la agricultura y la alimentación, la delegación mexicana considera necesario definir prioridades y establecer una distribución adecuada de responsabilidades tanto entre las instituciones internacionales como a nivel de cada país.

Asimismo se coincide con la necesidad de que el medio ambiente y el desarrollo sostenible se consideren una prioridad dentro del Plan de Mediano Plazo. Sería conveniente definir prioridades de acuerdo a las necesidades de los países en desarrollo, así como a los recursos financieros existentes. Tratar de abarcar una gama de actividades muy amplia podría llevar a dispersar los esfuerzos realizados por la Organización. En este sentido se coincide con las áreas identificadas en el Plan de Mediano Plazo.

En relación a la investigación y la enseñanza, la sostenibilidad agropecuaria y forestal requiere que la FAO aporte su experiencia bajo una dimensión de globalidad e interdisciplinariedad. El enfoque de sostenibilidad agropecuaria y forestal requiere una nueva mentalidad tecnológica y sensibilidad social dado que la capacidad de hacer un manejo efectivo de los nuevos desarrollos en esos campos, son aspectos en los que los sistemas educativos de hoy deben ciertamente progresar.

Entre los puntos prioritarios en los cuales se requiere un apoyo de la FAO, se debe destacar la formación y la gestión, ya que en muchos casos la tecnología ambientalmente sana tiende a depender menos de los recursos de capital y a ser más intensiva en conocimientos, manejo y organización. No se puede olvidar que el desarrollo de tecnología, apropiadas al campo requiere conocer de manera profunda las características y funcionamiento de los distintos ecosistemas, así como la capacidad de integrar diferentes perspectivas disciplinarias y la investigación agrícola, pecuaria y forestal. La FAO tiene, pues, la posibilidad de impulsar la investigación y

la formación en el proceso de sostenibilidad y contribuir a la transferencia de tecnologías adecuadas.

A continuación, me permitiré realizar comentarios sobre algunos aspectos del documento:

En el inciso (iii) del punto 5, se plantea la reorientación de la investigación hacia objetivos que propicien el desarrollo con protección del medio ambiente. Al respecto en México, a través de su Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Agropecuarias, se está en un proceso intenso de reorientación de sus actividades con este enfoque.

En relación al punto 7, México apoya el esfuerzo sectorial de dar una mejor planificación y orden al uso del recurso tierra.

Respecto al punto 8, también se tiene en operación un programa de investigación sobre la agricultura sostenible y otro que contempla estas acciones, enfocado a la evaluación del impacto ecológico de la tecnología agrícola, este programa está estrechamente vinculado con el servicio de extensión agrícola para su promoción ante el sector productivo.

Con relación a la propuesta contenida en la página 9 del documento, mi Delegación manifiesta el interés de México en participar en la Red Internacional de Desarrollo Sostenible.

Sobre el punto 30, nuestro país expresa su interés en tener acceso al servicio de Sistemas de Información Geográfica que desarrolla la FAO. Coincidimos en la necesidad de ampliar y mejorar las bases de datos para una planificación más adecuada del desarrollo.

La delegación mexicana reconoce que tal y como se señala en el tema 4, la pobreza, el desempleo y la migración son consideraciones que deben ser tomadas en cuenta para el diseño de los objetivos y actividades de la investigación.

Dada la complejidad y la importancia del tema, mi Delegación plantea la necesidad de coordinar adecuadamente las labores de la FAO con otros foros en los cuales se analiza esta misma materia, como la Comisión de Desarrollo Sostenible.

Finalmente, consideramos oportuno señalar la conveniencia de que la FAO, en colaboración estrecha con la ONUDI, contribuya con los países en desarrollo en el fortalecimiento de las agroindustrias, a fin de fortalecer su productividad y competitividad con el objeto de inducir el concepto de sostenibilidad en su más amplio alcance ecológico, económico, político y social.

Paolo VICENTINI (Italia): L'Italie a lu avec beaucoup d'intérêt le document C 93/10 sur les activités liées au développement durable et à l'environnement.

Le sujet est lié aux points 6.1 et 6.3, en particulier pour ce qui concerne la situation présente, le plan d'action à moyen terme et l'étude sur Horizon 2010. Nous croyons que la mise en place, à la suite de la résolution de l'Assemblée générale de l'ONU, de la Commission du développement durable est fondamentale. Comme organisme technique du Conseil social et de l'économie, cette commission a commencé son travail en

juin 1993, en approuvant un programme de travail pluriannuel qui prévoit pour la période 1994-97 l'examen spécifique, chaque année, des problèmes indiqués dans l'Agenda 21.

On prévoit que l'étude de chaque sujet sera effectuée grâce à des rapports nationaux et aux contributions techniques de nombreux organismes des Nations Unies. Parmi ces derniers, la FAO joue un rôle de chef de file pour les matières prévues au programme de 1995, c'est-à-dire la gestion des terres, les forêts, la désertification et la diversité biologique dans l'agriculture et le développement rural durable. Toutefois, les contributions de la FAO seront certainement d'une grande importance même dans les sujets prévus pour 1994, 1996 et 1997, lorsqu'ils concernent spécifiquement les secteurs de l'agriculture, l'alimentation et les forêts. Nous trouvons importante la décision prise par la commission de développement durable de créer des groupes de travail intersessions, dans le but de donner des recommandations sur les problèmes les plus graves concernant cette matière, comme la mobilisation des ressources financières et le transfert de technologies, la coopération et le renforcement des capacités de gestion.

Ce sont de graves problèmes qui demandent la juste solidarité de la Communauté internationale et la constante incitation de réponses concrètes et efficaces, même par les sources de financement comme le FEM (Fond pour l'environnement mondial), l'IDA (Association internationale de développement), le Programme "Capacité 21" du PNUD et les fonds pour l'environnement du PNUE.

De toute façon la coopération internationale a obtenu déjà des résultats fort intéressants, à savoir la Convention sur la diversité biologique, signée aussi par mon pays, qui devrait entrer en vigueur cette année après ratification minimum de 30 Etats; les indications données par les groupes d'experts sur l'étude des changements climatiques, pour une meilleure connaissance du phénomène et de ses solutions possibles; la phase avancée d'élaboration de la Convention internationale pour la lutte contre la désertification et la sécheresse.

Il faut aussi souligner l'importance des indications provenant de deux réunions interinstitutions, convoquées par la FAO à l'occasion des travaux du Comité des forêts et du Comité d'agriculture, dans le but d'examiner la suite de la CNUE par rapport aux chapitres 11 et 14 de l'Agenda 21.

Enfin la délégation italienne apprécie beaucoup l'activité que déploie la FAO dans une matière aussi importante, et nous souhaitons que cette activité puisse continuer selon les directives données par le document dont il est question.

Abdul Jamil MOHD.ALI (Malaysia): I thank the Chairman and Mr Mahler for their presentations.

Malaysia played a constructive and proactive role in the negotiations leading to the adoption of the historic UNCED Global Commitments on Environment and Development. My Government is equally committed to the implementation and realization of the goals adopted at Rio.

Malaysia has signed the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Framework Convention on Climate Change. We are in the process of ratification of these Conventions which we hope to do very soon.

Immediately following UNCED, a National Seminar on UNCED implementation was held in September 1992, presided over by our Prime Minister himself, to review and plan the implementation of our commitments of the resolutions adopted at Rio, especially Agenda 21. The Seminar recommended, among other things, the creation of an institutional structure, headed at the highest political level in order effectively to implement the provisions of UNCED.

Taking into consideration the need to integrate environmental considerations in the development process, the Malaysian Government has decided to enlarge the composition of the existing National Development Council to include Ministers responsible for environment and related matters. The National Development Council is chaired by the Prime Minister himself and oversees planning and implementation of development projects in the country as a whole. We do not favour a separate structure for environment or sustainable development as this would only perpetuate the dichotomy between environment and development.

As regards implementation of the various conventions, we are pleased to inform you that concrete steps have been taken to implement their provisions. For example, we are at an advanced stage of adopting a National Policy, Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity Management in Malaysia. A National Committee on Biodiversity is being formed under the auspices of the Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment to oversee the implementation of this Convention.

We are also currently reviewing the National Environmental Quality Act to emphasize preventive measures rather than control and enforcement. A total of 19 activities is currently subject to Environmental Impact Analysis procedures and this list is being enlarged to include other critical activities.

While conservation and environmental measures are taken at the planning level, it is an undeniable fact that most damage is done at the micro or project implementation level. This occurs because environmental considerations are not translated into specific measures at the project implementation level, especially in work specifications. Considering this fact, my Government has agreed that all projects, irrespective of size, would include a "conservation clause" to ensure that these provisions are translated into concrete measures at the implementation level.

Regarding preparation of national sustainability reports for the CSD, we have commissioned a consultancy team to undertake the review and preparation of this report. We realize the importance of this report for a comprehensive coverage of all pertinent national activities to ensure that well-informed decisions could be taken by the CSD in its role as a coordination mechanism for Agenda 21 implementation. We sincerely hope that all countries, especially developed countries, would show full commitment in preparing their national reports.

As all of us realize, the resolutions made at Rio represent a delicate and well balanced negotiated arrangement whereby each nation agreed to fulfil its obligations and commitments. The North especially agreed to provide, among other things, new and additional sources of funds, to facilitate technology transfer and to take concrete measures to remedy adverse economic relationships in terms of trade, aid and debt. My delegation is quite disheartened to note that such obligations have not turned into reality. In fact, after Rio many developed countries made the surprising decision of reducing their overseas development assistance.

I would strongly urge FAO to highlight this disturbing trend and urge developed countries to fulfil their commitments agreed at Rio. The continued debate on the commitments at Rio only serves to prove that the much touted "global partnership on environment and development" may become merely verbiage.

On forestry, we are of the view that necessary preparations have to be made to ensure a substantive and useful review of the forestry issues by the CSD in 1995. In order to have an effective discussion on the implementation of the forest principles adopted at Rio, Malaysia has called for the establishment of an inter-governmental task force on forestry under the aegis of the CSD to undertake the necessary preparations and consultations for the CSD review in 1995. In this respect, we wish to see FAO playing a supportive role to provide the technical input.

We are particularly concerned that all types of forests, temperate, boreal and tropical, should be sustainably managed and utilized. We wish to see the application of sustainable forest management and the sustainability criteria to all types of forest and timbers. It would be a basic contradiction to the decisions at Rio if temperate forest and timbers are left out of the sustainability commitment and standard. As we all know, the only set of internationally agreed standards on sustainability is the one adopted by the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) which applies exclusively to tropical forests. We are making all efforts in the current ITTA negotiations to urge all temperate forest countries to abide by a similar set of sustainability standards for their forest and timber, so that they can join tropical forest countries in their commitment to achieve the sustainability target of ITTO by the year 2000. We would like to urge an early compliance to sustainability because we know that the practice of clear felling of miles and miles of temperate forests causes more environmental damage than the controlled selective logging practised in tropical forests.

For sustainability in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, we agree with the observation in document C 93/10 that "improved management and conservation practices often increase cost and/or limit yields". It is evident, as noted, that additional costs especially of Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development (SARD) "may include those of land use planning, land reform, rural settlement and diversification programmes". Therefore, the provision of financial resources and know-how is indispensable to the process.

We can only achieve sustainability in our various endeavours if we move forward in partnership on a level playing-field. If we wish to see long-term results for a better environment, there must be a genuine desire to create a supportive international economic climate and to eliminate conditionalities and discriminatory measures and labels which promote self-interest rather than the environment. We appeal for good sense and fair play for a sustainable future on the same planet.

Alim FAWZI (Indonesia): My delegation would like to commend the Secretariat for the excellent preparation of document C 93/INF/4 on the topic being discussed. Our brief comment on these matters will concentrate on a few items which we consider important for future follow-up actions.

Paragraph 33 elaborated activities under the Special Action Programme of FAO started in 1991. We welcome the report and are pleased with the

progress of various activities related to forestry and fisheries. In this respect, Indonesia has managed its forestry and plans its programme toward the year 2000 by adopting the results of ITTO and the Earth Summit of 1992. We should like to urge that more activities be implemented under this Special Action Programme.

Referring to paragraph 42 of this document on the gaps and discrepancies in the available data that make it difficult to broaden the scope of environmental impact analyses in addressing sustainability issues, my delegation considers it important to carry out cross-sectoral studies. My delegation also supports the obligation of every country to apply environmental impact analysis.

Paragraph 46 mentions that the Forest Principles and Agenda 21 adopted in Rio de Janeiro address agriculture and forestry separately and do not give sufficient recognition to the fact that deforestation in tropical and subtropical areas is due principally to expansion of the agricultural frontier in various forms, such as shifting cultivation with decreasing fallow periods, ranching, and subsistence or cash-crop production. In this respect, my delegation considers that it is important to prepare a plan of action to anticipate problems relating to allocation of land for the two sectors. FAO should provide technical assistance to developing countries in solving these problems.

Referring to paragraph 47, my delegation is of the view that FAO plays an important role in facilitating the integration of agriculture and forestry policies and plan formulation by cooperating with the relevant international institutions and by preparing contributions for the forthcoming review by the CSD in 1995.

With reference to paragraphs 50 and 51 on coastal areas and small islands, my delegation is of the view that synergy among sectors should be sought more systematically. In-depth studies are needed because a recommended model based on the conditions of an area or island is not always applicable in other areas or islands.

Referring to paragraph 55 of the document and also Chapter 24 of Agenda 21, one of the "major groups" is women who have a very strategic role in sustainable and equitable development. Rural women are very much concerned with family food security. If family food security cannot be maintained, women become abusers of the environment. A systematic education for women is therefore very important in maintaining sustainable development.

To conclude, the Indonesian delegation share the view expressed by the distinguished delegates from Sweden that the Organization should take any step necessary to increase FAO's role in forestry. Resource needs arising out of the proposal should be carefully considered by the Organization so that it would not implicate the present difficulties in budget resources experienced by the Organization and many member countries.

Tae-Jin KWON (Korea, Republic of): Mr Chairman, may I thank you for giving me a chance to speak on these important issues.

My delegation agrees with other delegations on FAO's resolution to integrate sustainability criteria in all its programmes and activities. We know that FAO significantly contributed to the preparation of UNCED, in

particular the Den Bosch Declaration and Agenda for Action adopted by the FAO/Netherlands Conference on Agriculture and the Environment.

As far as concerns sustainable agricultural development and environmental issues, we may interface with many challenges in undertaking these efforts. The agricultural sector has institutional and economic interactions with other sectors. Member countries have their own national development plans through country-driven processes. As UNCED's recognition of these aspects, FAO has to give technical assistance to Member Governments as required to introduce the necessary adjustments in policies, strategies and planning frameworks through inter-agency consultative processes. However, it takes time to adjust conflicting interests among sectors at country level as well as at regional level. We worry that implementing follow-up actions of UNCED agreements may significantly increase production costs of food when government support is unavailable. We are also aware that agricultural budgets are very tight in many developing countries. If the same standard is applied to all member countries, food security problems may not be overcome. In this context, sustainable agriculture and environmental issues are required to be processed gradually. In addition, we would like to ask FAO to prepare tangible guidelines for the development of environmentally sustainable agriculture.

With regard to food security and the environment, my delegation requests that the safe use of agrochemicals is monitored. One method is to develop technologies related to the effective use of agrochemicals; another is to regulate the amount of timing of applications for food safety. In addition to these methods, the preparation of an international standard for food safety is necessary. This process will reduce controversy regarding non-tariff measures in the food trade.

My delegation is pleased to announce that we have reduced significantly the amounts of pesticides used through integrated pest management in paddy rice production. We shall prepare more effective and rigorous measures to follow up UNCED agreements.

Finally, my delegation extends our full support for your efforts.

Dixon NILAWEERA (Sri Lanka): The Secretariat should indeed be commended for the excellent presentation of this document, Activities Related to Sustainable Development and Environment. My delegation supports the FAO's endeavours to approach this important subject as reflected on page 21. However, I would wish to focus attention on only one aspect, namely people's participation in sustainable development. It is indeed heartening to observe that in paragraphs 22, 33 and 55 specific reference has been made to people's participation and in particular to the FAO Action Plan for People's Participation in Rural Development.

Mr Chairman, you will recall that the 26th FAO Conference in November 1991 unanimously approved the FAO Action Plan for People's Participation in Rural Development. Sustainable Development, Agricultural Development and Rural Development are by and large synonymous and are, in fact, intrinsically interlocked. It has been established through several field programmes and research studies that, without people's full participation, sustainable development cannot be brought about. It is for this reason that the 26th FAO Conference adopted the Plan of Action.

This Plan of Action has put forward seven points which ranged from the promotion of greater public awareness of people's participation to the decentralization of decision-making. These are two very important items in this Plan: one, the interaction of appropriate operational procedures and methods; two, the monitoring and evaluation of people's participation. Since my delegation attaches special importance to people's participation as a vehicle of sustainable development, it is of great importance to ascertain the progress made in regard to the FAO Plan of Action.

We understand that the ESH Division of FAO, which is primarily in charge of this area of work, has in fact prepared a progress report on the implementation of the Plan of Action on People's Participation in Rural Development. My delegation would have expected this Plan of Action to be discussed at this Conference, particularly the progress made in achieving the objectives and the types of problems encountered. My delegation would urge this Conference to consider taking this matter up for closer examination at an appropriate level, perhaps at the next Council Session or the next Conference.

Abdul-Razzak AL-HASSAN (Syria) (Original language Arabic): Document C 93/10, as all the other documents we have discussed, is a high level document containing a lot of information dealing with the important matter of undertaking effective activities related to sustainable development and the environment. Many speakers have referred to some aspects of this document and in the observations they have made we have found some very important ideas. We would like to add to them further points which we consider important.

First, we should call upon every human being wherever he is - because the human being is the most important factor in the deterioration of the environment - to preserve and conserve this environment and to leave it in a sound condition for the next generation, while trying to satisfy his own needs at the present time.

Secondly, this Organization as well as other UN Agencies, should make it clear how this environment can be preserved. They should help countries understand and assimilate methods for conserving it. The Organization should also help countries to devise plans for sustainable development, putting emphasis, of course, on the protection of the environment.

Thirdly, since poverty constitutes pressure on natural resources and is the cause of the deterioration of the environment and natural resources, it is important to deal with the root cause of this poverty. Combatting poverty is an important measure which will help the small farmers to rationally manage natural resources. It will also help to achieve sustainable development.

Fourthly, since combatting poverty requires an increase in the production of agricultural products in general, and the use of new technologies in developing countries in particular, the rich countries therefore should provide more technical and material assistance to the needy ones, and should help them have access to those technologies.

Fifthly, international cooperation should be strengthened in the sphere of protection of the environment, particularly with regard to implementing Agenda 21, foremost of which is to provide finance for reactivating the work to be undertaken by the organizations and agencies working in this

field. In this respect, we support all the appeals made to the international organizations and the UN Agencies in order to undertake a more positive and effective role in providing funding and finance for the implementation of Agenda 21, and in order to achieve more progress towards integrating all that has been referred to in Agenda 21 in the national plans.

Finally, we call on all countries to adopt and sign the two agreements recommended by the Rio Conference on Climate Change and Biodiversity.

Angel BARBERO MARTIN (España): En primer lugar, la Delegación Española reconoce el esfuerzo y los buenos resultados de la Secretaría en la elaboración del documento que nos ocupa. Es un documento que refleja fielmente la extensión y la complejidad de los problemas derivados del seguimiento de la Conferencia de Río y de las dificultades de aplicación de sus objetivos.

Nos queda un camino muy duro que recorrer todavía. Hay muchas lagunas y sobre todo falta de información suficiente de tecnología y de adecuación de las estructuras para completar los objetivos que se definieron en Río. El mismo desarrollo de la Conferencia lo puso de manifiesto y yo creo que ahora toca a todos los países, pero sobre todo a las organizaciones internacionales, y muy en especial a la FAO, tener un papel preponderante en resolver estas dificultades, en allanar los obstáculos de este camino.

En el documento, muchas de las propuestas que se han hecho son realmente retos que están por resolver. Ahí es donde nosotros vemos que la FAO tiene la posibilidad de intervenir con eficacia y donde se puede reconocer la necesidad de su presencia. Elijamos, por ejemplo, el tema de los bosques dentro de todos estos aspectos que se han tratado. El papel de los bosques en todos los problemas del medio ambiente y del desarrollo sostenible ha cobrado cada vez más importancia. Sin embargo, es precisamente en el aspecto en que más dificultades existen para lograr acuerdos y también para poner en práctica todas las recomendaciones que se han realizado en la Agenda 21.

Falta una información fiable sobre la extensión de la deforestación, y sobre los ecosistemas deforestados. Falta, por ejemplo, en la debilitación de los bosques por los agentes climáticos, una investigación que sea más global, que no se dedique a establecer solamente aspectos particulares en cada caso. Faltan pruebas científicas rigurosas de la relación causal entre la presencia de contaminantes y el cambio climático o la pérdida de la superficie vegetal.

Ante los resultados, se dijo ya en la Conferencia, del tipo cero-infinito, es decir de probabilidad escasa de que se realicen, pero una vez que se realizan, de consecuencias incalculables, se recomienda una estrategia alejada del riesgo. Pero a veces esta estrategia lleva a soluciones muy costosas y a veces muy difíciles de aplicar, sobre todo en países con dificultades económicas y de otro tipo. El mismo problema de la biodiversidad, el concepto de biodiversidad en prácticas como pueden ser la ordenación de recursos forestales, etc., puede originar también unos desequilibrios que pueden redundar de forma inmediata en las poblaciones que se benefician de forma económica de estos productos.

La evolución, por ejemplo, de las técnicas agrícolas y sobre todo la tendencia a la liberalización de los mercados en ciertos productos que son

básicos va a llevar a que sólo tierras muy fértiles y con la aplicación de unas técnicas cada vez más sofisticadas sean las que puedan producir estos productos de forma que sean competitivos en el mercado. Esto llevará a marginar a muchas zonas rurales y a muchas poblaciones que verán como no pueden continuar con sus cultivos habituales porque éstos no son rentables. Hay que darles las alternativas más adecuadas y evitar que desaparezcan de las zonas, porque su desaparición puede incrementar los fenómenos de desertificación y de deterioro del medio ambiente.

El proceso de industrialización para países en vías de desarrollo es un proceso fundamental en su salida del estancamiento en ese subdesarrollo. Pero si ahora mismo se constriñe el uso de combustibles fósiles, etc., esto puede implicar un paro en este proceso de industrialización. Hay que encontrar estrategias que permitan explotar los recursos naturales y regenerar estos recursos sin que ello constituya un detrimento o un atraso en el proceso en desarrollo de todas estas poblaciones.

En la cooperación para el desarrollo muchas veces se han empleado modelos rígidos, tecnologías no apropiadas. Siempre existe por parte de los países donantes una ignorancia sobre los problemas institucionales. Muchas instituciones sobre las que se carga esta tarea en los países que reciben esta ayuda están mal dotadas, el personal es escaso o poco adiestrado y aquí es donde vemos que continúa teniendo extrema importancia el papel de la FAO.

Asociar sobre todo las políticas ambientales, y más concretamente las forestales, a las estructuras sociales es otra de las tareas que tiene que asumir el Departamento Forestal de la FAO.

Entramos en el problema de la desertificación, que es un problema que a España atañe muy directamente. Sin embargo, es un problema de alcance mundial, que afecta a todos los continentes y en el que interviene una compleja combinación de factores que deben ser estudiados y atacados en su origen. No sólo el Sahel sufre desertificación. La Cuenca Mediterránea, zonas áridas de la América Latina, también se ven afectadas por estos procesos. España, que ha firmado el Convenio sobre Desertificación y que piensa en breve ratificarlo, cree que su aplicación debería conducir hacia más protección y mejora de las condiciones ambientales, que no se limite a una mera canalización de recursos de ayudas al desarrollo. Tenemos que tener en cuenta que la desertificación se produce por las acciones humanas. Las sequías, los cambios climáticos influyen, pero en definitiva quien causa la desertificación es el hombre y es ahí donde nosotros queremos que se incida y las acciones en el desarrollo de este Convenio se apliquen.

En cuanto a nuestras políticas que tienen relación con el medio ambiente y sobre todo con la desertificación que, como digo, es un fenómeno que nos atañe; el 44 por ciento de nuestro territorio está afectado por procesos erosivos importantes; el 2,2 por ciento sufre una extrema erosión que sube más allá de las 200 toneladas por hectárea y año y más del 5 por ciento de nuestro territorio tiene una erosión muy alta, entre las 100 y las 200 toneladas por hectárea y año. El World Watch Institute, en su informe de 1992 sobre la situación en el mundo, señalaba que la erosión en España es la mayor en términos porcentuales entre los países desarrollados.

De no tomar urgentes medidas, como se está haciendo para restaurar el suelo, la desertificación avanzará no sólo en nuestro país sino en otras regiones, como hemos apuntado anteriormente. Nos preocupa especialmente en el Mediterráneo. Para ello España ha diseñado un Plan Nacional de

Restauración Hidrológico Forestal, para el control de la erosión, que se elaboró en 1991. Queda abierto además constantemente a la introducción de nuevos conocimientos y experiencias. Abordamos con este Plan la reconstrucción de 2 millones de hectáreas con la regeneración de la cubierta vegetal, obras de hidrotecnia, construcciones de suelo agrícola sobre 1,3 millones. Esto se acompaña con un ambicioso plan de reforestación que pretende alargarse durante 20 y 40 años en dos fases que nos hemos fijado. Se espera que en 5 años se repueblen 800 mil hectáreas y hay una inversión anual de 200 a 300 millones de dólares para desarrollar este Plan que será cofinanciado además por la Comunidad Económica Europea.

En el Mediterráneo el PNUMA aprobó, dentro del Programa de Acción del Mediterráneo, un plan prioritario de acciones de lucha contra la erosión que se inició en 1989 y que concluirá en 1996, en el que España, con esta preocupación que hemos ya señalado sobre la cuenca del Mediterráneo, ha intervenido de forma importante. El Plan pretende definir y cuantificar los procesos erosivos y planificar las acciones para luchar contra ellos. Hay tres áreas establecidas para determinar centros de investigación en Túnez, Turquía y en España, en la cuenca del río Adra. El proyecto de lucha contra la desertificación en el Mediterráneo - LUCDEME - es un proyecto que nació ya hace 11 años en colaboración con universidades y otros centros de investigación, como el Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Agrarias y el Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas.

Asimismo participamos en algunos proyectos europeos, como el Modelo Europeo de Erosión del Suelo en el que están otros ocho países, o el Proyecto MEDALUS en el cual España participa aportando los estudios que se están realizando en la cuenca del río Segura. Hemos participado, sobre todo porque se hizo bajo la presidencia española, en el informe que se hizo sobre el diseño de políticas de protección del recurso suelo en el Grupo de Gestión de Recursos Naturales de la OCDE, que publicará sus resultados en 1994.

Sobre biodiversidad, hemos aumentado y pretendemos seguir aumentando la red estatal de los parques nacionales de manera que recojan la totalidad de los diversos ecosistemas que pueblan nuestro territorio nacional y al mismo tiempo se están realizando también políticas de protección de flora y fauna, detectando y mejorando sus habitats y tomando medidas legales para la protección. Está estudiando España también su participación en el Fondo Mundial para el Medio Ambiente de manera que además se pueda colaborar en los proyectos que se realicen para este Fondo.

Tenemos, al mismo tiempo, un documento que está en español a disposición de las delegaciones que quieran consultarlo y que pueden solicitarlo a la Delegación española, sobre todo a la Representación Permanente, un documento que se ha realizado sobre el estudio de la desertificación en nuestro país y que creemos que puede aportar información a todos aquellos países que quieran intercambiar con nosotros estos conocimientos.

Arnaldo BADILLO ROJAS (Venezuela): La Delegación de Venezuela desea expresar su agradecimiento a la Secretaría por la extensa y documentada información que nos ha entregado sobre los avances en las actividades que instituciones internacionales y gobiernos han realizado en materia de desarrollo sostenible, con posterioridad a la realización de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Medio Ambiente y el Desarrollo.

De la lectura del informe se desprende que, a pesar de la trascendencia que la sostenibilidad del desarrollo tiene para el futuro de la humanidad, no parece existir todavía la voluntad suficiente al nivel global o de interorganismos para hacer efectivas las aspiraciones que la comunidad internacional ha expresado a través de las diferentes declaraciones y acuerdos emanados de la CNUMAD.

Los países en desarrollo, vistos individualmente, parecen manifestar mayor disposición a avanzar, pues ven en el desarrollo sostenible una alternativa real para el largo plazo. Especial importancia asignamos a los asuntos relacionados con la cooperación entre organismos, aspectos que se detallan en las páginas 11 y 12 del Informe, ya que, y esto lo hemos planteado en la discusión de otros temas de esta Conferencia, en la complementariidad y compatibilidad entre acciones institucionales de los organismos internacionales descansa en alto grado la efectividad de la acción de estos organismos para enfrentar la solución de los grandes problemas a cuya atención están abocados: la pobreza y el hambre en el mundo en desarrollo.

Visualizamos en las reuniones y en la cooperación entre organismos internacionales la posibilidad de superar las superposiciones e incompatibilidades en alineamientos y acciones en esferas de gran interés para la agricultura y el desarrollo rural sostenible, como lo señalamos en el párrafo 22 de este documento.

Nos preocupa por ello que, en relación a reuniones entre organismos tan vitales para el avance de las políticas y proyectos de agricultura y desarrollo rural sostenible, como la realizada sobre armonización de los marcos estratégicos en 1992, donde han participado instituciones de gran peso y poder en la determinación y formulación de estrategias nacionales de desarrollo, no llegáramos a tener la continuidad y celeridad necesarias en momentos en que las estrategias de desarrollo inicialmente diseñadas deben ser flexibilizadas para poder atender problemas tan trascendentes como la sostenibilidad del desarrollo.

Nuestra Delegación tiene la esperanza de que la cooperación entre organismos clave para enfrentar las tendencias y efectos negativos de las reformas económicas que se adelantan en los países en desarrollo pueda efectivamente llevarse adelante con celeridad y proveer así orientaciones que conduzcan al objetivo del desarrollo sostenible. El desarrollo sostenible debe ser viable como estrategia de desarrollo, pero esto no será posible si no se compatibilizan sus acciones y objetivos centrales con los objetivos de modelos y estrategias económicas que tienen un peso dominante en la conducción de muchas de las economías en desarrollo en este momento.

David SHERWOOD (Canada): I should like to express thanks and appreciation to Mr Mahler for his introduction to this subject. Canada appreciates the scope of the document and supports its continuation as a future agenda item. As one of the lead international agencies responsible for Agenda 21 follow-up, continued monitoring and information sharing is of great importance.

Annex 1 provides a good ready reference showing the linkages between Agenda 21 and the various FAO programmes, the role of FAO and the divisions responsible. We should have liked, however, a better sense of incremental activities and emphasis than can be deduced from this Annex.

Canada supports the activities being implemented by FAO in the areas of agriculture, animal and plant genetic resources, fisheries and forestry to achieve sustainable agriculture and achieve compliance with the articles of the Biodiversity Convention through sustainable management of our renewable resources.

As requested in the document, we should first of all like to share some of our own experiences with you on the domestic front. Canada is following up on sustainable agriculture in several ways. In 1990, after several years of work, Canada announced our own "Green Plan". The success of this plan was largely dependent on an extensive national consultation process. Canada's Green Plan targets action directed to environmental conservation, protection and remedial measures on specific priority issues. It also encourages measures which focus on making fundamental changes to decisionmaking so that environmental considerations become an integral part of the daily lives of Canadians, as individuals, as businesses and governments. Agriculture Canada has established a Bureau for Environmental Sustainability for implementation of the Green Plan. Last year Agriculture Canada launched a Green Plan initiative to build on measures under way in soil conservation, surface and ground water policy, wildlife habitat, air quality and climate change, energy use, pollution and waste management and genetic resources.

At the political level, a standing committee of the House of Commons of the Canadian Parliament has reviewed the Biodiversity Convention and Agenda 21 and issued a series of recommendations for Canadian agriculture. A Biodiversity office has been established within Environment Canada, which is monitoring the actions taken by federal departments on those recommendations and on response to the articles of the Biodiversity Convention by the federal, provincial and territorial governments.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is currently working to identify and develop a set of environmental indicators for agriculture in the following categories: inputs, land, resources, water quality and quantity, wildlife, genetic diversity, and air and climate issues, with linkages to economic aspects where feasible and appropriate. A workshop is being organized for 6 and 7 December 1993 in Ottawa to discuss these issues, and we are pleased to extend an invitation to FAO to send a representative to participate with us.

In the forestry area, Canada has formulated, and is implementing, its new national forests strategy, highly convergent with both the Forest Principles and Agenda 21. The Federal and Provincial Governments, industry and non-governmental organizations have all committed to implement our action plan and modify practices towards sustainable forest management. We are reviewing all relevant forestry policies to align them with our UNCED commitments. In addition, we have established a national model forest network where we will experiment with innovative approaches to practise sustainable forestry.

In the international area, we should like to offer some comments to FAO on its activities, mainly in the forestry sector. In the area of forestry, Canada generally concurs with the priorities which FAO has set for itself. In this regard, priority should be given to (1) policy advice, (2) national capacity building, and (3) technical support to the formulation of criteria and indicators for sustainable development of forests.

To achieve the above objectives, FAO should concentrate its efforts where it enjoys a comparative advantage in activities related to resource assessment, inventories, policy analysis, information networks and data analysis. In this regard Canada agrees with FAO's position regarding FAO's future role as one of the nodes and a full partner in the development, integration and coordination of broader data-collection networks to be able to assist its member countries in building their national capacity in the FAO sectors.

UNCED recognizes, and FAO concurs, that forests are of prime importance to the planetary ecological balance and the survival of sustainable development of human populations. However, as is so very often repeated, Canada is concerned that FAO has been giving forestry issues low priority. We share the position expressed by the Swedish delegation on the necessity for FAO to strengthen its role in forestry, define its field responsibility in relation to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, and better focus its activities.

Internationally, Canada will continue to assist developing countries to implement Agenda 21 for forests and the Forest Principles through the programmes of the Canadian International Development Agency and through the International Development Research Centre. In addition, following its Rio commitment, Canada has initiated consultations and negotiations with three other countries with the aim of establishing an international model forest network.

Finally, under the auspices of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Canada has held an international seminar of experts on sustainable development of boreal and temperate forests. Some 40 countries and a good number of international organizations, including FAO, took an active part in this event. Although the discussions in that particular forum were not intended to represent commitments or binding obligations, this initiative represents a significant step in the progress towards international agreement on criteria and indicators.

We are all concerned about the question of funding. The ability of FAO potentially to access funding from the global environmental facility is crucial and requires continuing consideration and effort. Although this might be considered in greater detail under another agenda item, we would hope that the global environmental facility will allow funding of the International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources. This delegation would like to raise comment on the section entitled "Managing the Interfaces and Trade-offs among Sectors", paragraphs 44 to 54. The overall impression was given that necessary actions are being taken. However, it will require all agencies responsible for follow-up to Agenda 21, including FAO, essentially to have to work constantly to avoid the twin dangers of overlapping responsibilities and duplication or, even worse, having items fall between the cracks and not receive due and adequate attention.

Ms Charlotte E. ROE (United States of America): We wish to express our appreciation for the thoughtful introduction by Dr Mahler and the excellent introduction provided in C 93/10.

The United States has followed closely this topic, through participation at the UN Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development, the follow-up to Agenda 21 now taking place within the UN system, and through the regular

and comprehensive reporting provided by FAO. We commend FAO for its contributions to the UNCED process and its follow-up which integrates and emphasizes sustainability criteria in all FAO programmes and activities and specifically in the food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors in Agenda 21.

I think, we can all agree that the process of developing a course of action has been carefully elaborated over a long period. It is now time to implement. FAO has definitely established its presence in the Agenda 21 process, including its role as task manager for land resources. As requested at the Hundred and Second FAO Council, the Secretariat has now begun to clarify its priorities and means for reinforcing environment and sustainable development considerations within its core mandate. In addition to improved effectiveness of FAO programmes, we hope an added benefit will be to enhance cooperation with UNDP and UNEP.

The United States has consistently encouraged and supported FAO initiatives in the area of environment and sustainable development. We believe that the International Cooperative Programme Framework for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (ICPF/SARD), now broadened to include forestry and fisheries, enhances FAO's position in the United Nations. The Special Action Programmes that will contribute to implementation of Agenda 21, the steps to incorporate environment and sustainable development initiatives in the 1994-95 Regular Programme budget, the Medium-Term Plan and a variety of related activities also place FAO in a very favourable and unique position in the United Nations. It is notable that this has been achieved in a situation where financial resources available to the Secretariat have been rather limited.

It is in this spirit that we would wish to see further progress in several areas where FAO has a clear comparative advantage. The United States supports the general recommendations proposed on page 21 of this Report, although they could have been more action-oriented. Let me briefly point out several areas that, in the view of the United States, could yield important dividends for FAO:

Firstly, activities related to environmental assessment, including the impact of chemical-intensive agricultural projects, should be expanded considerably. Particularly important here are impacts on water quality, food safety and the health of farm workers affected by chemical applications. We also encourage FAO to conduct its own environmental impact assessments as an integral part of plague prevention and pest control effort, such as the desert locust operation.

The on-going need is for strengthening the technical capacity for environmental analysis and planning in ministries of agriculture, including forestry and fisheries, sensitizing FAO field and headquarters staff to the environmental and sustainable components of their work, and for producing technical documentation to guide future agricultural and rural development along lines that are environmentally sound and sustainable.

The United States supports fully the work being undertaken to develop methodologies for sustainability analysis. Future reports should discuss FAO's efforts in environmental accounting, recognizing on-going efforts at other international and national organizations and agencies.

Secondly, there is now growing recognition of the importance of linking farmers, frequently women, and policymakers in the decision-making process.

We must now move beyond such nice-sounding phrases to test different ways of promoting linkages between local non-governmental organizations, farmer cooperatives and other rural groups, and the policy analysis and formulation process. We support the principle of participatory collaboration with appropriate NGOs, ranging from community-based rural organizations to professional associations and industry-based NGOs.

Here again FAO has a unique combination of expertise and country experience which should be applied more widely in supporting small-scale farmers to increase resilience of the agro-ecosystem, to promote diversity in production systems and to minimize economic risk. Policy analysis work in FAO should be intensified to develop technical means for ensuring that environmental and natural resources costing information is incorporated into the planning framework.

Thirdly, we consider development of a SARD information system to be essential. It should be initiated as soon as possible to support countries in analysing their policies based on agro-ecological potential, in developing comprehensive sustainable development plans which take into account population-supporting capacity and in using sustainability indicators to analyse and monitor performance and progress. Such systems, guided by the Secretariat's responsibilities under Agenda 21, should integrate FAO's statistical data, geographically-referenced information and sub-national sector studies. Such an information system would be of enormous value to countries now in the process of developing their national Agenda 21s. Although some preliminary work has been started, it must proceed more rapidly if it is to be used by countries in time to make a difference.

Fourthly, the document correctly notes activities in the areas of plant and animal genetic resources which are among FAO's responsibilities as task manager of the land cluster of Agenda 21. If FAO is genuinely concerned to take up these areas vigorously, then we expect more Regular Programme resources urgently to be devoted to them. Without this, the essential elements for the effective management and coordination of a global programme to assist properly Member Governments will not be achieved. We know FAO has competent individuals to manage these programmes.

Fifthly, we note with particular interest paragraphs 44 to 54, which address the linkages and trade-offs among sectors. In this regard, the United States wishes to encourage FAO's efforts to promote the integration of fisheries and aquaculture in devising effective policies to manage the increasingly-vulnerable coastal areas around the world, an important area of FAO/UNEP collaboration to which many delegates in this room have referred.

We also underscore the importance of FAO's global forest assessment and the need to conduct this valuable monitoring effort on a continual basis, in order to give us more reliable information on forest degradation and the interrelation of these phenomena with communities directly dependent on forests.

The United States wishes to mention its support for Jamaica's insightful views on the critical need for identifying income-generating activities to reduce poverty in support of environmental protection and sustainable use of resources.

In addition, the United States strongly supports the recommendation by Jamaica, Cyprus and Korea and other countries of the need for more FAO focus on developing and promoting integrated farming systems, using reduced agro-chemicals and holistic alternatives in the wisest possible manner.

We have heard many innovative ideas earlier today from our Swedish colleague speaking on behalf of the Nordic Group. With regard to forestry, we agree with what was said about FAO's central role in preparing for the 1995 meeting of the CSD. To accomplish this best, perhaps some modification of FAO's Forestry Department with a view towards channelling more resources to key UNCED follow-up activities merits further consideration. We are not sure, however, that a ministerial-level COFO is needed to do this. Our delegation to COFO meetings is normally at the highest level which can effectively deal both with policy and technical issues. The remarks on plant genetic resources are very much to our liking and we will further of that matter later today.

In conclusion, the United States wishes to express its support for the decentralized approach taken by the Secretariat in promoting programme development in a number of key technical units, whilst at the same time addressing interdisciplinary issues through the Inter-Departmental Working Group on Environment and Sustainable Development and its sub-groups.

This having been said, the United States delegation would be interested to know the intentions of the Secretariat during the next biennium in extending the institutional coordination and providing a strong focal point for environment and sustainable development issues with sufficient financial resources to be effective.

Up to the present, the matter has been taken up ably by the ADG, Special Adviser to the Director-General, supported by the Environment and Sustainable Development Coordinating Centre.

In the post-UNCED context it is essential that the momentum FAO has built up so far be reinforced and intensified with visible and compelling management steps, so that the SARD approach can permeate the Organization's planning, budgeting, and decision-making processes.

The meeting rose at 12.30 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30 horas.

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 93/I/PV/10

Twenty-seventh Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt-septième session
COMMISSION I

27º período de sesiones
COMISION I

TENTH MEETING
DIXIEME SEANCE
DECIMA SESION

(16 November 1993)

The Tenth Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours
Mr Hermann Redl, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La dixième séance est ouverte à 14 h 45
sous la présidence de M. Hermann Redl, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la décima sesión a las 14.45 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hermann Redl, Presidente de la Comisión I

PART I - MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)

PREMIERE PARTIE - PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)

PARTE I - PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)

7. Activities Related to Environment and Sustainable Development (continued)
7. Activités ayant trait à l'environnement et au développement durable (suite)
7. Actividades relativas al medio ambiente y el desarrollo sostenible (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: (Original language German): I welcome delegations to this afternoon's meeting. Once again may I urge you all to be as specific and brief as possible in your address, because we have so many speakers.

J.J. NEETESON (Netherlands): The Netherlands delegation appreciates very much the document on activities related to sustainable development and the environment. We also thank Mr Mahler for his introduction.

This document presents an extensive and useful review of the many activities FAO has undertaken as a follow-up to the Agenda 21 of UNCED. As is mentioned in the introduction, the document adds little to the already available information contained in documents available to the Governing Bodies of FAO.

When sustainability directions and criteria, as formulated by UNCED, are in the process of being integrated into FAO programmes and activities as requested by the previous Conference Resolution 2/91, then this is the way it should be. The integration process has to show up in documents such as the Medium-term Plan, the Programme of Work and Budget, the Programme Implementation Report, and the Programme Evaluation Report. These documents have already been discussed under other agenda items. However, I recall that some delegations pointed out that sustainability criteria are not included, for instance, in the Programme Evaluation Report.

One may get the impression from the document - and this has caused us some concern - that the implementation of the UNCED objectives depends to a large extent on extra-budgetary financing of the Special Action Programmes. We believe that a regular programme could be adjusted to include UNCED objectives without budgetary consequences. A good example of this is the follow-up given to the chapter in Agenda 21 on biological diversity through the FAO Plant Genetic Resources Programme.

It should be realized that consequences do attach to this integration process, namely, the setting of priorities and follow-ups. I noted that out of the twelve Special Action Programmes under the ICPF/SARD the ones on integrated pest management and integrated plant nutrition systems to a large extent have completed the process of integration of the Agenda 21 objectives. We find it important that a great deal of coherence between the Special Action Programmes, of which many are new, could remain too much directed to one often technical sub-sector. Economic and institutional aspects should be taken into account from the outset.

In this respect, I want to make a plea for intensive collaboration with farmers' organizations in the implementation phase. For this, I should like to refer to the Report of the Non-Governmental Organization Meeting held on 9 November contained in document C 93/INF/1 and also to the statement made by the Representative of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers made in Plenary yesterday.

Upon further development of the Special Action Programmes there is also scope for collaboration and exchange of information between FAO and experts and other representatives from Member States on the policies and activities of the various Special Action Programmes. With regard to peoples' participation, we support the suggestion made by a delegate of Sri Lanka this morning that the progress reports on the Action Plan on peoples' participation be presented soon to the relevant FAO bodies.

In conclusion, I should like to say that FAO is well under way in the process of reorienting its programmes and activities towards the objectives and criteria set out by Agenda 21 of UNCED. But I realize that this process is not yet completed. We appreciate the lead role FAO is playing in inter-agency meetings concerning the various chapters of Agenda 21 which are relevant to FAO, such as sustainable agriculture, forestry and also fisheries. Cooperation with other organizations such as UNDP with respect to its programme Capacity 21 is appreciated and should continue to be sought.

My country attaches great importance to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development in monitoring the progress made in the implementation of Agenda 21. Meetings of this Commission are at political level, and representation of FAO at the highest level is therefore justified.

Christian COURCOL (France): Le document présenté par le Secrétariat ne se limite pas à lister les chapitres du Programme de travail de l'OAA correspondant à l'Agenda 21 et en ce sens la délégation française le juge intéressant.

Il suscite cependant, de notre part, un ensemble d'appréciations sur la façon dont les activités relatives au développement durable et à l'environnement doivent être appréhendées.

La nouvelle approche, énoncée lors de la CNUED, insiste sur la compatibilité et l'interdépendance du développement durable et de l'environnement. Sa dimension certainement la plus importante pour les pays en développement n'est pas tant la question des pollutions que celle de la gestion des ressources naturelles.

En effet, l'essentiel de la production agricole des pays en développement, notamment des pays les moins avancés, se fait avec peu d'intrants extérieurs et repose principalement sur l'exploitation des ressources naturelles (fertilité naturelle des sols, ressources en eau, bois et pâturages naturels, gibier).

Dans ces conditions, la permanence du développement rural dans ces pays repose, du moins pour les quelques années à venir, sur une meilleure gestion des ressources naturelles. Il conviendrait donc de focaliser d'ici l'an 2000 les programmes environnementaux sur l'aspect "gestion des ressources naturelles".

L'application de ce concept relève de niveaux de responsabilités différentes :

- au niveau local, elle repose sur l'appropriation par les villageois de ces ressources et sur leur responsabilisation en vue d'une gestion plus durable.
- au niveau national ou régional, il s'agit de planifier à plus long terme l'utilisation des ressources, processus qui relève d'une démarche "d'aménagement du territoire". Il s'agit principalement des questions foncières et du zonage de l'utilisation des sols.

Les atouts dont dispose l'OAA, dans ce domaine, lui permettent de jouer un rôle stratégique.

La capacité de l'Organisation de mobiliser une expertise reconnue en matière de développement agricole lui permet en effet de traduire les nouvelles orientations du développement en concepts opérationnels, en méthodologies appropriées, en flux d'informations organisés.

En conséquence, la délégation française considère que la mission essentielle de l'OAA dans les années à venir devrait être de mettre sa capacité d'expertise au service de la concrétisation opérationnelle des concepts d'application "du développement durable et de l'environnement" et plus particulièrement de la gestion des ressources naturelles.

Dans ce cadre, il nous apparaît fondamental que l'OAA réoriente ses programmes actuels autour des thèmes évoqués ci-dessus et cherche à leur donner une priorité plus forte que celle qui apparaît dans le document C 93/10.

De notre point de vue, elle ne doit pas envisager de créer de nouveaux programmes pour lesquels elle trouverait probablement difficilement des ressources additionnelles.

Dans le contexte de contraintes budgétaires il est primordial de fixer clairement des priorités et de faire des choix.

Ces réorientations sont importantes car le risque que d'autres agences internationales accaparent cette mission essentielle est réel. Nous l'avons déjà constaté dans le domaine forestier où des tendances se sont manifestées en faveur de la création de nouvelles enceintes internationales pour la mise en oeuvre de l'Agenda 21.

Permettez-moi, Monsieur le Président, après ces considérations générales sur les orientations stratégiques des programmes de l'Organisation, de formuler des observations et des questions sur les quatre points suivants:

Premièrement, comme déjà évoqué ci-dessus, la promotion d'un développement durable fondé sur une approche participative est une priorité. Mais il faut éviter, tant au niveau national qu'international, de créer de nouvelles structures. Il est préférable de privilégier l'option présentée au paragraphe 58 qui consiste en un renforcement et en une adaptation des institutions existantes afin d'intégrer les préoccupations environnementales dans leurs activités principales.

Deuxièmement, ma délégation souhaiterait avoir des précisions sur les modalités d'action de l'OAA dans le cadre de la préparation de projets financés par le Fonds pour l'environnement mondial. Il nous intéresserait

également de connaître les modalités de collaboration entre la Banque mondiale et l'OAA depuis la remise en cause du programme de coopération entre la Banque mondiale et le Centre d'investissement. Je remercie le Secrétariat pour les informations qu'il nous apportera sur ce point.

Troisièmement, la France apporte son soutien aux travaux préparatoires, sous la conduite de l'OAA, de la quatrième Conférence technique internationale pour la conservation et l'utilisation des ressources phytogénétiques.

Elle encourage vivement l'Organisation à mener ces actions en étroite collaboration avec les centres internationaux de recherche agronomique membres du CGRAI.

Enfin, la délégation française se réfère à la dernière partie du document sur le partage des coûts du développement durable. Elle considère que la libéralisation des échanges n'est pas la panacée. Un seuil de protection des secteurs économiques les plus fragiles semble une condition indispensable à un développement durable.

En conclusion, la France continuera à aider l'OAA dans ces efforts notamment par la mise à disposition de compétences dans le domaine de la lutte contre la désertification, au travers de l'Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel, la gestion durable des forêts en soutenant le Plan d'action forestier tropical, et dans celui de la lutte contre les criquets.

Koen ADAM (Belgique) : Le développement durable se révèle être pour nous un problème crucial pour l'avenir. C'est dès aujourd'hui qu'il est nécessaire de construire cet avenir.

A la lecture du document C 93/10, préparé par le Secrétariat de la FAO, nous sommes frappés par le grand nombre de partenaires institutionnels et financiers associés au suivi de la CNUED. Il nous paraît indispensable dans ce contexte que la répartition des tâches soit opérée avec vigilance, en gardant à l'esprit l'application concrète des engagements pris.

Nous saluons le fait que, dans certains domaines, la FAO soit, en quelque sorte, le "maître d'oeuvre" du suivi de la CNUED. Nous sommes convaincus que la FAO sera en mesure d'accomplir cette tâche et qu'elle apportera une contribution décisive dans le domaine de l'agriculture et de la foresterie. Dans le domaine de la pêche, le rôle de la FAO, récemment mis en lumière lors de l'élaboration du projet de Convention pour le respect des mesures de conservation des ressources halieutiques, témoigne d'un capital d'expertise qui pourra être mis à profit dans des programmes d'activités spécifiques.

Par ailleurs, la Belgique a déjà confirmé son appui au plan à moyen terme, et à tous les efforts entrepris pour intégrer les critères de durabilité dans les activités de la FAO.

Le rôle multifonctionnel de l'agriculture s'insère directement dans le concept du développement rural. Il est admis par tous désormais que l'agriculture doit, à la fois, assurer une fonction de production et donc de sécurité alimentaire, tout en maintenant les ressources naturelles pour l'avenir.

Le devoir des décideurs politiques est de concilier de manière optimale les impératifs d'un développement qui réponde aux besoins croissants des populations, en préservant l'héritage biologique pour les générations de demain. Pour satisfaire ces objectifs, à première vue divergents, nous devons mettre au point des instruments politiques courageux, qui respectent les contraintes globales sans méconnaître les besoins des communautés locales.

Il est, en effet, inconcevable de mettre en place des politiques nouvelles qui n'obtiennent pas l'assentiment des populations concernées.

Quelles sont les lignes directrices qui vont à l'avenir sous-tendre ces politiques? Le débat n'est pas clos. D'aucuns préconisent le laisser-faire, convaincus que les lois du marché opèrent en toutes circonstances une allocation optimale des ressources au niveau mondial, tout en assurant également leur pérennité. Toutefois, de nombreux exemples démontrent que le recours à ce type de politiques peut provoquer de graves problèmes environnementaux. Nous serions dès lors enclins à une approche plus nuancée.

Pour le développement durable, nous pensons également que les intérêts particuliers ne peuvent intégrer tous les coûts et avantages d'un mode de production agricole spécifique. En conséquence, leur somme peut difficilement constituer une réponse appropriée aux intérêts de la société dans sa globalité. Les contraintes du développement durable débordent largement les logiques commerciales. Nous pensons qu'il est nécessaire pour relever le défi du développement durable, de mettre en phase les lois du marché avec ces objectifs multiformes.

Dans cette problématique, l'apport de la biotechnologie et de l'informatique est d'un grand secours, à condition que celles-ci soient utilisées au service d'une biodiversité la plus large possible, dans le respect de pratiques agricoles, forgées par les contraintes locales.

Certes, la mise en oeuvre des principes du développement durable est encore lacunaire. La récolte de données statistiques fiables est un préalable essentiel à l'élaboration de politiques appropriées à long terme. La FAO a, à cet égard, une responsabilité importante. Malheureusement, l'inventaire alarmant des dégradations irréversibles infligées au patrimoine naturel, comme l'étude sur l'Agriculture 2010 le mentionne, nous oblige à élaborer dans les brefs délais des solutions pragmatiques.

En ce qui concerne les relations entre les consommateurs et les producteurs, nous sommes d'accord avec les vues du Secrétariat exposées aux paragraphes 53 et suivants du document C 93/10.

Effectivement, les objectifs de durabilité dans le domaine de l'agriculture se heurtent aux pratiques d'intensification et d'homogénéisation de la production. Toutefois il nous semble que le producteur agricole et le consommateur ont plus d'intérêts en commun que de raisons de s'opposer. Par exemple, les mesures phytosanitaires: elles garantissent au consommateur un niveau de qualité convenable mais, aussi, évitent à l'agriculteur la propagation de maladies qui affecteraient sa production. Pour développer une meilleure compréhension entre milieu rural et consommateurs, nous proposons de valoriser l'image de marque de l'agriculture par des actions menées auprès du grand public, afin de souligner le rôle multifonctionnel du producteur agricole.

Pour conclure, Monsieur le Président, nous voudrions inciter tous les gouvernements à adopter d'urgence des politiques pragmatiques, conformes aux critères de durabilité. Bien sûr, l'immensité et la complexité du défi peuvent inspirer un sentiment d'impuissance, voire de découragement.

La FAO, par son expertise, contribue à un meilleur diagnostic de la situation mondiale de l'agriculture et peut fournir une aide efficace à cette fin.

D.A. TROTMAN (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom Delegation welcomes FAO's efforts to incorporate post-UNCED developments and their implications in the context of sustainable development and environment.

We welcome FAO's response in Part II of the document to the post-UNCED challenge and are encouraged to see good integration of environment and sustainable development considerations into the proposed programme of future activities. The main difficulty, however, is that expression of interest and response cuts across a very wide spectrum of activities: it will be important for FAO to focus on key issues and select activities accordingly. FAO should be reminded of the Council agreement in paragraph 2 that "... although FAO was concerned with many programme areas of Agenda 21, it should concentrate efforts selectively in a number of key programme areas where the Organization had a definite mandate and comparative advantage in playing a lead role in UNCED follow-up". Criteria for identifying priorities and responsibilities need to be carefully considered, and reviewed, against a general need for closer collaboration and cooperation between UN and other agencies.

Part III of the report identifies emerging issues and major challenges. The analysis is sound. As paragraph 41 indicates, the most immediate challenge (not just at national level!) is to set priorities and ensure appropriate distribution of responsibilities among the institutions concerned. Integrating environmental concerns into "upstream aspects of policy, plans and programmes" (paragraph 42) should be part of a systematic approach, not regarded as an "add-on".

We acknowledge that integrating sustainable development and environmental considerations into all activities will require shifts in policy and procedures, and better coordination. It would be wrong for FAO to suggest, as in paragraph 59, that the only means of achieving these objectives is through additional funding.

Finally, the United Kingdom delegation welcomes the emphasis given by FAO to the environment as a cross-cutting issue in its training programme, as referred to in paragraph 31. Activities of FAO headquarters staff, field staff and, indeed, by planners within the Member Nations themselves, might be further enhanced by the production of an "environment manual" setting out FAO's environmental policies and procedures for project and programme approval. The manual might include an environmental checklist for decision-makers - questions to be asked at the earliest stages of project and programme design - and provide guidance on the need for, and likely content of, environmental impact assessments, etc. A manual or guidance document of this type would further demonstrate FAO's commitment to sustainable development.

Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago): The particular agenda item which concerns us comes as we reflect on the events which took place at the UNCED conference in June 1992. May I at the outset indicate that Trinidad and Tobago has in many respects been addressing the several themes that were raised during that conference and seeking to address policy and programmes within the country to take account of the sustainable development issues which were discussed and the positions arrived at in Brazil in 1992. I will merely instance a few examples of what is being done at present to indicate the continuing interests of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in this regard.

We have been moving rather swiftly to institutionalize a mechanism to coordinate environmental management at the national level, and we anticipate that by the end of 1993 the legislation will have been drafted and passed for the establishment of an environmental management agency within Trinidad and Tobago. At the same time, both forestry and fisheries legislation and policy are under very serious review. Indeed, a new draft Forests Act has already been put together and is being examined currently. With the assistance of FAO we are currently reviewing our fisheries policy and seeking to rationalize fisheries legislation. At the same time we have for the consideration of the Cabinet and ultimately our Parliament a draft food and agriculture policy which seeks to incorporate within its many aspects issues related to sustainable development of agriculture, fisheries and forestry. These are but a few of the current initiatives being undertaken by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in the area of sustainable development. .

Having said that, there are a few specific matters which arise in the document for consideration which I should like to address. Agriculture, forestry and fisheries continue to be the remit of this Organization. Agriculture, forestry and fisheries, it is acknowledged, are responsible for the management of the largest proportion of the renewable natural resource base.

In respect of small island states, the management of the natural resource base poses a major problem in the whole area of sustainability. For small island states, the interface between agriculture, forestry and coastal zone regions is a continuum. They are merely zones of transition, they are not rigid boundaries, and therefore it is incumbent upon us to take a holistic view and approach to the management of the renewable natural resource base in our countries. No doubt it was with that in mind that UNCED recognized the need for a special focus on the small island states. It is with that in mind that actions are being taken and preparatory discussions are under way in respect of the proposed Global Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States scheduled for Barbados in April 1994. Sad to say, those small island states who have gathered for the 27th Conference and who have met over the last week note with alarm that the conclusions and recommendations which emanated from the FAO Inter-Regional Conference on Small Island States in Barbados in 1992, which sought to give due recognition to the issue of the development of food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries within the context of sustainable development in small island states, seem to have been observed more in the breach in terms of what we observe will be on the agenda - at least as proposed thus far - for the Global Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

We are very much concerned about that. In our individual capacities as members of FAO, members of the United Nations family, we aim to draw this

to the attention of our respective governments. However, we would hope, having regard to the fact that FAO is part of the overall preparatory arrangements for this Conference, and in fact sponsored and supported these discussions in Barbados in 1992, that it would play a very key and important role in bringing to the attention of all the partners involved in that global conference in 1994, the concerns that we the small island states share, because, as we said earlier, agriculture, forestry and fisheries constitute the major responsible areas in the management of renewable natural resource bases in our countries. You could not have a global conference dealing with sustainable development of small island states and not speak to the issues of agriculture, forestry and fisheries development.

Another point to which I wish to draw attention relates to -one of the principal areas where FAO has been given a task management role arising out of UNCED 1992. I refer specifically to the area of forestry and forestry development.

It pains me to raise this issue in this forum, an issue which we have been addressing since 1990, as I recall, at many sessions of Council and the last Conference. I have to bring it up again today at the 27th Conference. It relates very critically to the status of the Tropical Forest Action Programme. Where is the Tropical Forest Action Programme in all of this? Where is that momentum which was called forth some three years ago? We have gone through many a contortion in trying to deal with this particular issue and it seems to me that it is, in fact, the task manager's role that FAO must play in this area of forestry and forestry-related issues emanating from UNCED. I would sincerely hope - and in that regard I am not being cynical - that when we come to report at the 1995 discussions of the Commission on Sustainable Development, when we come to report on issues related to land, forest, desertification and biological diversity, I would trust that in the case of the tropical forests we would not be reporting on what might have been, but in fact on what we have done.

In this regard, I would urge that all actions be taken to put on the front burner issues related to the establishment of the consultative group on whatever arrangements we have agreed and for God's sake let's get action started to get the Tropical Forests Action Programme off the ground. Many of the countries, including those of the Caribbean, are now hopefully finalizing the National Forests Action Programme in the eager expectation that donor conferences will be held, will be able to attract funds and will get action going, not in the committees and the conferences, but on the ground. That is to say, trees will have been planted which will yield protection and cover and perhaps also production in our several countries. I trust that the Conference gives a clear signal to all the relevant parties that the time for talk is long past in respect to this particular matter.

It is not extremely clear to the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago what is the specific role that FAO, as one of the cooperating agencies within the UN system, will play, will play in respect of the GEF and in respect of the UNDP's Capacity 21. I note that in paragraphs 35 and 36 and in Boxes 2 and 3, reference being made to the role of the UN agencies, and some specific reference being made to FAO providing assistance to member countries in certain specific activities. However, it is not clear to me that FAO has, what I would call, a catalytic role to play in the activities of these two major areas from which we expect financial support. Perhaps in the ensuing discussions the Chair will be able to assist through the

Secretariat by giving a clear indication of whether FAO has to await some action on the part of another agency before its role is defined, or rather whether FAO can in fact take some lead action to ensure that it plays an effective role in the GEF and the UNDP's Capacity 21.

These are but a few of the observations the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago would like to make on this particular agenda item.

CHAIRMAN: I can assure you that your comments have been taken on board by the Secretariat and note will be taken of what you have said in the course of the responses.

Ms Janet D. GARCIA (Philippines): I shall try to be brief as you requested, Mr Chairman.

In my delegation's intervention I will focus on a few points relating to the document before us. With regard to the Philippine's follow-up actions to Agenda 21 of UNCED, appropriate sectors in the Philippines are now reorienting activities towards sustainable development to address concerns on environmental protection, food, agriculture and forestry. Our policy-makers are reviewing existing policies to discard those inconsistent with the attainment of sustainable development and formulating new policies to serve as a basis in the design of strategies to promote this.

To address the need for closer interaction and cooperation with other sectors, the Philippine Council for Sustainable Development or PCSD, was created on 1 September 1992. The PCSD provides directions in the formulation of policy reforms, programmes and new legislation that respond to continuing and emerging issues, and the charting of future actions related to the environment and development. It is mandated to ensure that the country's commitments to the Earth Summit and Agenda 21 are implemented, periodically monitored and coordinated at global level.

With regard to the programme areas under Agenda 21, we are giving priority to the following areas of concern: firstly, conservation of environment and natural resources considering the current problems we have on environmental degradation and the depletion of natural resources which exacerbate the problem of meeting the needs of the growing population. Activities geared towards this goal include enforcing conservation policies that protect the country's land, water and marine resources to ensure the long-term sustainability of the resource base; promoting cultivation methods for the judicious use of land, forest and marine resources; providing livelihood opportunities for the landless, shifting cultivators in the uplands, occupants of forests and subsistence fisherfolk in overfished coastal waters; and conducting intensive educational campaigns with regard to citizenry's responsibility to protect the environment.

Secondly, the development of appropriate technologies in support of sustainable development and the promotion of those that enhance and preserve the environment such as the Integrated Pest Management approach.

Thirdly, the design of relevant production programmes attuned to food sustainability toward the attainment of food security.

Fourthly, conservation of biodiversity and the enrichment of genetic resources by carrying out research and varietal improvement, agronomy,

horticulture, plant pathology, plant entomology, and biotechnology suitable in any farming system, as well as selection and development of superior crop varieties.

With regard to fisheries, the sector is encountering problems which are consequences mainly of the open policy in fishery exploitation and the rapid increase in the size of poverty-stricken communities where the exploitation of natural resources is most intense. Thus, policy formulation and implementation of activities are geared toward:

- 1) the regulation of fishing efforts within the maximum sustainable yield levels and redirecting these away from identified overfished and degraded areas and towards activities consistent with sound resource management.
- 2) the strict implementation of existing laws, regulations and management programmes on environmental maintenance and resource rehabilitation, particularly where coral reefs and mangroves are concerned.
- 3) intensification of aquaculture production to make up for the shortfalls resulting from reduced efforts in over-fished fishing areas through the provision of improved aquaculture technologies, measures and inputs.
- 4) the conduct of more research, training and extension work on fisheries resource management and aquaculture technologies.

Z.O. ADESINYAN (Nigeria): My delegation would like to recall the fact that Nigeria actively participated in the various preparatory committee meetings of UNCED, including the UNCED Conference itself, because of the importance it attached and still attaches to the various issues the Conference deliberated on and on which it took decisions. Because Nigeria believes in what UNCED stands for, she appended her signature to the Convention on Climate Change and Biodiversity during the Conference in Rio in 1992.

As a follow-up action to UNCED agreements, my delegation would like to report on the steps Nigeria has taken so far. Immediately after the Rio Conference, Nigeria held a post-Rio national conference particularly to consider Agenda 21 and its implementation. This conference was well attended.

Nigeria is seriously considering the ratification of the two conventions of which she is a signatory. My delegation is optimistic that this will be realized in due course.

Nigeria is actively participating in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Drought and Desertification. Because this subject is dear to Nigeria, my delegation hopes that Member Nations of FAO will support this just cause and make the Convention on Desertification by 1994 as scheduled during the Rio Conference.

Nigeria has reorganized its focal agencies responsible for the environment and sustainable development. The Federal Environmental Protection Agency has been rejuvenated, leading to the coalescing of the agency and the National Resources Conservation Council with a broader mandate. The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Federal Ministry of Water and Rural Development have been reorganized and revitalized. All the changes were effected for the proper streamlining of mandates, resulting in cost-effectiveness, the reduction of overlaps and duplication of effort as

they relate to the formulation of national policies and the implementation of plans for sustainable development.

In order to ensure adequate funding of environmental projects in the spirit of UNCED, Nigeria has increased its ecological fund set aside from the National Conservation Fund for Effective and Dynamic Environmental Management.

My delegation is happy to report that for the realization of Nigeria's potential, the UNDP in its period of UNCED has commenced project identification exercises on biodiversity, the environment and forest resource surveys in Nigeria. It is hoped that these projects will materialize and be supported adequately in terms of funding and infrastructure support by FAO and other UN bodies.

In many developing countries there is a dearth or paucity of data. There is an inadequacy of accurate and reliable data; this is a problem. In most cases assessments carried out are mostly assumptions or guesstimates because of the lack of essential infrastructure facilities. It is for these reasons and in order to correct these shortcomings that my delegation supports paragraph 4.3 of this document and urges that FAO makes this a top priority.

In Nigeria, for example, through workshops we have agreed with all national agencies in agriculture and related areas, FAO, UNDP and the World Bank, to harmonize and streamline all agricultural and related data collected and the method of collection in the country.

Nigeria has put in place a National Agro-Statistics Coordinating Committee at federal level. However, the business of data collection, processing, storage and dissemination structurally in developing countries is expensive. My delegation is, therefore, going to suggest that assistance in this area to developing countries should be stepped up, especially in the area of capacity-building, infrastructural and institutional support.

My delegation agrees with paragraph 46 of document C 93/10 that increasing demands for land at the agricultural and forestry interface in developing countries are real rather than a potential source of conflict between those two sectors. It also agrees that the forest principles and agenda item 21 which were adopted in Rio addressed the two sectors separately and do not give sufficient recognition to the attendant problems of deforestation arising from the expansion of the agricultural frontier in various forms, such as ranching, subsistence and cash-crop production.

In view of this shortcoming, my delegation hopes that FAO will address this issue adequately in its areas of mandate in order to bridge the gap.

In paragraph 54 my delegation supports FAO. However, we hope the reality of conservation versus survival in the developing world, whose main resources for development and sustenance are natural resources, would be considered and appropriately advised and assisted.

Finally, my delegation would like to draw attention to the low priority that FAO is currently placing on forestry in its programmes. I wish to indicate that the responsibility placed on developing countries by the Conventions on Climate Change and Biodiversity, and particularly the non-legally binding principles on forests, is great. By implication, the poor economic base and financial resources of the developing countries will

mean they find it difficult to cope with expectations if they are not assisted. It is in this regard that my delegation wants FAO to increase its emphasis and accord a higher priority to forestry as a matter of cost in order to facilitate a balanced march toward forestry management, conservation and development.

During the COFO meeting held in March 1993 my delegation drew attention to the agonizingly slow pace of TFAP implementation, particularly in developing countries, and called on FAO and the lead agencies to address the issue. My delegation would like FAO to comment on the progress achieved in this area so far.

Zahir Shah MOHMAND (Pakistan) : The role of FAO toward achieving the objectives of UNCED is laudable. In fact, this international agency is uniquely placed to combine and integrate the sustainable agriculture consideration with a clean environment and conservation of natural resources.

Achieving the objectives of a sustainable development and environment is a task which will continue as long as man exists. These are not projects which can be completed by a certain point in time. Vigilance and sustained effort globally will be required.

The two paths of sustainable development and maintaining a clean environment are sometimes mutually complementary and often mutually exclusive but more often they are mutually negating.

FAO's efforts, as outlined in document C 93/10, after the Rio Conference are praiseworthy. The Chinese saying goes that a journey of 1 000 miles begins with the first step; thus, the steps taken by FAO in the short span of one year are great strides in the right direction.

Although the role of FAO and other UN agencies in this connection is to provide technical assistance and guidance, and this is significant, the main responsibilities devolve on national governments.

The Pakistan delegation approves and endorses all the actions taken by FAO and will continue to do so in the future, provided there is no discrimination against the trade of any country or group of countries under the guise of policy measures for environmental or sustainability considerations.

I would now like to share with Conference the steps taken in this regard on the home front and on the international front in my country.

In Pakistan we have prepared a National Conservation Strategy (NCS) which is a comprehensive policy document encompassing the following policy parameters: conservation of natural resources and their optimum utilization; pollution management; institutional development, including capacity-building and mass awareness; education and training.

The NCS has recommended 14 programme areas for priority implementation. These are: increasing irrigation efficiency; protecting watersheds; supporting forestry and plantations; restoring rangelands and improving livestock; protecting water bodies and sustaining fisheries; conserving biodiversity; increasing energy efficiency; development and deploying renewables; preventing pollution; managing urban wastes; supporting

institutions for common resources; integrating population and environmental programmes and preserving the cultural heritage.

Pakistan has also signed the Convention on Biological Diversity, ratification of which is in process.

Pakistan has been a member of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) for a period of three years, and participated in the session held in June 1993. We have expressed agreement with the decisions of CSD on the Multi-year Programme of Work, annually reviewing the progress of governments and international organizations in the implementation of cross-sectoral items of Agenda 21. When established, Pakistan would be willing to participate in the two international working groups, the first of which is financial resources mobilization; and, secondly technology transfer, cooperation and capacity building group.

Pakistan, in line with the call of CSD, also urges international agencies to play an increased and more effective role in providing financial and technical resources to the developing countries for the implementation of Agenda 21.

In order to work out the restructuring of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), a meeting of the Participant Assembly was held in Abidjan in December 1992 which adopted eight principles in future dealings with the GEF. The most important of these were: one, additional grants and concessional funding of the agreed incremental costs of achieving agreed global environment benefits; second, financial support to land degradation issues, especially desertification and deforestation; three, financial support to global environmental conventions, including climate change and biological diversity conventions; four, funding programmes and projects which are country-driven and consistent with national priorities designed to support sustainable development.

In addition to these activities on the national front, our two ministries -that is, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the Ministry of Environment - are setting priorities to ensure appropriate distribution of responsibilities among the institutions concerned.

Efforts are also being made to associate various groups and NGOs in sustainable development. The thrust of the activities is being taken to the rural areas so as to give more and more roles to rural people.

Zhang XIGUI (China) (Original language Chinese): The Chinese delegation wishes to thank the Secretariat for having prepared the very informative document C 93/10 and also to thank Mr Mahler for his presentation.

At the global level, the issue of sustainable development and environment is attracting more and more attention. After UNCED, the UN system and national governments have adopted relevant measures to implement the agreements reached at the Conference which are fully reflected in document C 93/10.

As regards the new problems and major challenges on the part of the advance opened up by the Rio Conference, including assessment and monitoring of sustainability, interaction and mutual influence of management sectors as well as the new problems facing the relevant institutions, we endorse the analysis and recommendations of the Secretariat.

The Chinese Government has always taken agriculture as the foundation of national economic development. It has adopted a series of effective measures to promote sustainable development and conserve environment. For example, we have followed a policy of integrated development of agriculture, livestock production, fisheries and township enterprises. Efforts have been made to enhance forestation and control desertification to help our farmers in the poor and remote areas to get rid of poverty.

In doing so central and local governments provide technology and financial resources to these areas so as to help to increase farmer's income, and through combining to help the poor with sustainable development to strengthen the farmer's capacity for self-development. All these measures have gradually reduced the massive influx of the population from the poor areas to the cities.

We would here like to make mention of the financial implications of sustainable development as concluded by the Secretariat. Sustainable agricultural development, forestry and fisheries need a lot of additional resources. These resources can be shared in a better way through reforms in trade. However, as paragraph 61 of the document points out, "Making trade and environment/sustainable development policies mutually supportive is of the utmost importance but it is not likely to be sufficient." Therefore, it is absolutely necessary to increase assistance to developing countries and lessen their debt burdens, transfer technology and resources to these countries so as to promote the implementation of policies for sustainable development.

The Head of the Chinese delegation rightly emphasized in his statement at the Plenary a call for joint efforts of both developed and developing countries to solve the problems of sustainable development and environment, and the agricultural sector needs to take cautious steps towards sustainable development. For example, problems such as the eradication of poverty, the creation of job opportunities, the control of massive influx of rural populations into urban areas, environmental degradation and diminishing natural resources often caused by ever-increasing populations, need to be given high priority by national governments and international organizations. FAO should play a leading role and a coordinating role in this field.

Finally, the Chinese Government is willing to strengthen its coordination with FAO and other countries.

Will you please allow me, in conclusion, to quote the last sentence of the document to conclude my intervention. "In the long run., the cost of inaction could outweigh the financial cost of implementing Agenda 21."

Mrs Hannelore A.H. BENJAMIN (Dominica): My delegation is pleased to participate in this important work on environment and sustainable development and would like to give its views on the document before us.

Dominica's environment can only be protected through the right ecosystem and if UNCED can be successfully completed. Dominica is often asked, "How can a country such as Dominica protect a fragile ecosystem?". We would like to share with you some of our domestic work, and our answer is that Dominica does it through high national cost and through well thought-out ecotourism where people and visitors still appreciate the fauna, flora, lakes and rivers, the marine life and rare birds, and through it help to

protect and preserve its environment, by helping men and women to live in harmony with nature as well as by providing general information on environmental settings of the country by constantly updating its brief reviews on its historical economic and demographic features.

The reforestation programmes conducted to date in Domenica have relied heavily upon exotic tree species because the gammie trees and other high quality native timber species simply grow too slowly by comparison, and thus are unsuitable for maintaining a vital timber industry.

At this point, I must not fail to congratulate, and thank openly here in the forum, Dr Murray, the Assistant Director-General of FAO Forestry, because due to his efforts and those of his staff it means that what at one time looked like a very limp TFAP is finally getting off the ground in Dominica and is finally making slow but steady progress.

Qualitative and quantitative observations contribute to understanding the complexity of agro-chemical pollution, and Dominica and the Caribbean Islands pay very close attention to that. In particular, Dominica watches closely water pollutants, including pesticides and their use, because the latter have caused fish to be killed in local streams and rivers.

The Forestry and Wildlife Division in Dominica has developed a capacity to monitor wildlife pollutant impacts and provides descriptive information on this to its people. However, the FAO Interregional Conference on Small Island Countries on Sustainable Development and Environment in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries which was held two years ago to provide the political framework within the small island states, and to make it available that notice was given for further actions, did not get off the ground as we had thought and we rely now on your new policy recommendations.

My delegation would also have liked to have seen those recommendations outlined in document C 93/10 for small coastal islands. Unfortunately, FAO failed to do this and therefore all the other Member States cannot now fully understand what the small island states are trying to achieve.

However, FAO must make a major contribution by not hesitating to set up a special programme for small island states that would include the following. First, procedures to ensure water quality for multiple uses for fisheries habitats and waste disposal. Second, construction and maintenance of sea defences. Third, implementation of impact assessment for development projects in the coastal zones. Fourth, the setting up of a policy strategy on oil spills and the dumping of hazardous wastes. Fifth, coordinated and broad-based participation in coastal resources management. Sixth, genetic diversity and climate changes. Seventh, ranking of problems and targeting of issues which require priority attention in forestry, agriculture and fisheries. Specific attention should be given to indicators for forestry resources, carrying optimal capacity for recreational areas, and therefore an essential infrastructure is very much needed in all three sectors of sustainable development. Perhaps I should stop on seven!

However, FAO should address in this context further human resources development and the stabilization of earnings for various raw materials, as well as the setting-up of a programme for the use of coconut wood from dead groves to upgrade housing for rural people. This initial step needs to be taken up by FAO. That includes the right framework where provision should be made for essential infrastructure for a major development affecting the

environment and by paying attention to the development of public infrastructure and its facilities.

My delegation was happy to notice that Australia fully supports a Conference on small island states development. This will take place in Western Samoa in September 1994. I would here like to thank the Australian delegate for his understanding and kind words.

Much work needs to be done and if FAO wants to have a maximum outcome for this coming conference, it cannot afford to lose even one day on the matter in preparing this with full speed for the Conference on small island states in 1994.

That must control upland erosion, marine environment, sustainable development in forestry and nutrition. There should be measures to protect beach vegetation; to view the uncertain status and management difficulties associated with migratory pelagic stocks; to focus on environmental impact assessments as part of the planning and land-use optimization process by focusing on a regional coastal development for all small islands with a networking arrangement for sustainable development which includes, besides agriculture, fisheries and forestry, rural development for small farmers, fishermen, foresters and women in rural development.

My delegation places emphasis on pesticides and fertilizers. We also emphasize that legislation must not just be on a piece of paper; it should be a forceful process. I could not agree more.

The time for change and challenge has finally come. We need to understand that everything is based on educational and training programmes that include genetic resources, agro resources and international trade, and that only then will it open the doors to new cooperation with inter-regional and rural development for all.

Finally, I wish to fully support the statement from the delegate from Trinidad and Tobago and share with him his deep concern. I only hope that FAO will place more emphasis on what is important to us in the small island states.

Hitoshi ASAKI (Japan): Firstly, my delegation much appreciates the well prepared document before us and we thank Mr Mahler for his explanation.

UNCED was an epoch-making event. It was called for the purpose of formulating a basic policy framework within which to address the related issues of environment and development in a way that would contribute to the prosperity and welfare of people in the world. Particularly for agriculture, forestry and fisheries the environmental issue was put forward as a key factor for their further development.

If the world population increases rapidly as predicted by the United Nations, further deterioration of the global environment is anticipated through agricultural development, mainly in the developing countries. Since agriculture, forestry and fisheries are industries which use the maximum capacity of the natural ecological system, the basic strategy is to increase natural productivity and to realize a sustainable production system.

I would like to stress the need for a concentrated effort by every country in research and extension activities to achieve sustainable development in response to the increasing demand for food production. My Government would also like to emphasize that the efforts of individual countries to increase food production would not be unreasonably prevented by excessive consideration of environmental conservation in the international community.

Finally, Japan firmly believes that FAO should strengthen its scientific observation of environmental change and based on that, we believe that FAO will achieve balanced coordination between environmental conservation and agricultural development.

With regard to plant and genetic resources, their conservation and effective utilization are firmly recognized as indispensable measures for securing food production for future generations, and international activities on this matter are earnestly needed. My Government highly appreciates the efforts of FAO in this area based on its expertise.

As for animal genetics, my Government would like to offer congratulations on the publication of the "World Watch List" which was requested by Agenda 21 and would inform you that Japan is supporting FAO's project concerning animal genetic resources in the Asian region.

MAUNG MAR (Myanmar): My delegation very much appreciates the broad coverage given in document C 93/10. We would like to support the proposed action of UNCED.

I wish to emphasize only matters relating to deforestation, erosion and the use of chemicals. Deforestation may be caused by the encroachment of agriculture, cutting for firewood and urbanization. However, deforestation is also related with poverty. The rural poor have no other alternatives for their energy requirements. Through the poverty alleviation programme of FAO, we are optimistic that the Organization can prevent or lessen deforestation.

With regard to sustainable agricultural development, erosion is a serious problem which can degrade arable land. It is correlated with mismanagement practices and is aggravated if combined with deforestation. Effective education and extension of preventive cultivation methods are necessary. We would recommend that there should be more FAO activities and involvement in this area.

As more food is needed for the growing population of the world, more utilization of chemical fertilizers and pesticides are to be expected. This will bring about a threat to the environment. Therefore, environmentally-friendly technology should be effectively extended to the farmers, so more research on integrated nutrition management and integrated pesticide management will be needed. There should be more assistance from FAO in this area.

With regard to the prevention of deforestation, FAO should provide assistance or recommendations for a national land use plan. My delegation wishes to say that we appreciate the broad coverage of the document. We would like to say that we are also encouraging activities related to sustainable development and environment for various areas such as integrated nutrient management, sloping land technology, least disruptive agriculture, selective timbering practices in order to prevent

deforestation; agromanagement and water management systems to prevent salinization; reforestation, agroforestry systems and watershed management. Moreover, we are also dealing with methods which will help to sustain our fisheries.

Recently, the Myanmar Government has begun an integrated national programme for nine districts of the dry zone area which is a pocket of rural poor. This is a multisectoral approach. The programme includes the establishment of irrigation facilities, better usage of cropping and farming systems, land reclamation, agroforestation and poverty alleviation programmes.

Finally, I would like to support FAO in its activities relating to sustainable development and the environment.

Eberhard SCHMAUZ (Germany) (Original language German): With this document, the Secretariat has given us an interesting and wonderful document for consultation, and an excellent work base. We think we can draw from this document for the FAO and its Member Nations the necessary task priorities and responses which come under the areas of nutrition, agriculture, forestry, and so on. They are a follow-up to the UNCED Conference.

Full account has been taken of the demands of sustainable agriculture and rural development as well as the protection of natural resources. We welcome the comprehensive portrayal in Appendix I of the work of FAO as well as the work of the specialized divisions in the programme areas of Agenda 21.

Because of the variety of the problems it is clear that we need close cooperation between FAO and other organizations. Therefore, the overview in Appendix I ought to be complemented by means of a list of the United Nations organizations which, because of their leading roles, are ideal partners for FAO in individual programme areas.

The multi-year programme of work decided by the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) on which enclosed clusters up to 1997 of all the issues dealt with under Agenda 21 shows good cooperation for FAO in its activities, especially because the United Nations General Assembly in 1997 hopes to make a kind of half-way assessment of the whole situation on the basis of the UNCED decision. Therefore, my delegation supports the steps provided in the document for FAO which are in coordination with other organizations like UNDP and UNEP which is to help us make progress in priority areas - for example, finance, transfer of technology, the framework function on biological diversity and climatic change, the forest declaration, afforestation, sustainable development, small island states and other programme areas of Agenda 21 in which the FAO has an important role to play.

However, my delegation is also aware of the limits from which FAO is suffering in the face of this great challenge, and because of financial reasons. We hope this approach will be executed in phases because it is the only way in which we can achieve concrete results in priority areas.

Thanks to its information and early warning systems, including remote-sensing techniques, FAO has a great deal of information and many opportunities to monitor the situation of the environmental and agricultural resources round the world and at a regional level. In the opinion of my delegation, we have to give thought in those countries where

measures are to be applied to guaranteeing administrative, legal and socio-economic preconditions for the correlation of data.

The Federal Republic of Germany attaches great importance to the National Action Plans for Sustainable Development. Therefore, we welcome the fact that the FAO is employing political consultations as well as Special Action Programmes in order to help many Member Nations to formulate such action plans for the areas of agriculture and nutrition.

As regards the implementation measures adopted by Germany, we can sum this up in the following way. The two framework Conventions on Climatic Change and Biological Diversity were ratified by most of the corresponding constitutions and came into force on the 14th and 10th September 1993. The handing-over of all the solemn documents of ratification to the United Nations, together with the other EC states, is to follow in the near future.

As regards the framework Convention on Climatic Change, 50 ratification documents have to be provided before it can come into force. This may well be achieved by the time of the first conference of contracting nations, for which my Government has issued an invitation for the 20th March through to 7th April 1995.

My government is in favour of early implementation of the Convention of Biological Diversity. All these are provided for under Agenda 21. We have provided additional funding for cooperation in this area so that in developing countries we can promote country status national assessments on plant and animal genetic resources as well as local conservation authorities.

Germany is actively involved in the preparatory work for the first all-nations conference on biological diversity. The session of the negotiating committees held this year in Geneva showed clearly how important it is to deal with the questions touched on at the 103rd Council Session regarding changes necessary in the commitments of FAO regarding plant genetic resources. This must be adapted to the new Convention on Biological Diversity.

Changes are necessary in order to make sure that we have financial security for the protection measures within the framework of the overall FAO System for plant genetic resources (within the financing mechanisms of the convention).

The planned Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources is a very important contribution by FAO for the implementation of the UNCED decisions. Problems with extra-budgetary financing and other circumstances have slowed down the process of preparation. On the occasion of the 103rd Council meeting the German delegation pointed to the need to deal at the same time as the Fourth Technical Conference with the subject of biological diversity within the 1995 CSD meeting. Unfortunately there is not much time for working out the documents to be dealt with in the Technical Conference. However, despite this, the Federal Government stands by its offer to organize the Conference in Germany. It is vital and urgent that we take a definitive decision within the FAO Secretariat on the conference dates.

Only two-thirds of the extra-budgetary financing has been guaranteed, despite the worldwide importance of these measures. The Secretariat should look at the possibility of taking further funding from the Budget of

1994-95 in order that this Conference can be brought about. We hope that the Secretariat will succeed in obtaining more funding from donor countries.

My delegation believes it is possible to conclude Phase I of the programme before the CSD meeting in 1995. Phase II, which includes the worldwide Action Plan, should be concluded with the holding of the conference in the second quarter of 1996. By then we have to create financial regulations within the framework of the GEF or other instruments in order to be able to implement the measures of the Action Plan.

In the area of forestry, Germany has a great deal of interest in further progress being made in the worldwide area of forest conservation within the framework of the follow-up to the Rio conference. We therefore welcome the stepping up of FAO's forest activities. FAO can take a leading role in this respect because it can analyse the worldwide expert discussions and can steer them along the lines of UNCED and therefore make sure that they are given an efficient shape and form.

Against this background, we suggest that we set up a comprehensive special working group within the FAO Secretariat to deal with sustainable forest management. The CSD meeting in June this year talked about stepping up our activities in this respect. The time we have before we can achieve a proper worldwide forestry convention must be used effectively. We must go beyond national levels of activity. Therefore we must have well coordinated international cooperation in order to implement the decisions taken in the Rio conference. There is very little time before 1995 to obtain initial results from the CSD.

Against this background, we welcome and support the considerations put forward by the Swedish delegation. In principle, the main aim is for us, as well, to use existing structures more effectively instead of creating new institutions. The role of the regional forestry commissions should be stepped up and we should increase cooperation between the regional commissions.

In Part III of the document mention is made of the new challenges, including the need for new and better instruments in environmental monitoring. We agree with the idea of fine-tuning environmental impact studies, and we would also like to offer our collaboration in that area.

Finally, paragraphs 53 and 54 deal with the overlap of the interests of international trade and proper sustainable environmental policy. Even greater importance needs to be attached to negotiations between individual states.

Orhan DOGAN (Turquie): Au nom de la délégation de la Turquie, je voudrais tout d'abord remercier le Rapporteur, M. Malher et le Secrétariat, pour le document rédigé et présenté parfaitement. Je ne veux pas entrer dans les détails et je ne veux pas non plus répéter ce qu'ont dit les différents délégués jusqu'à présent. Cependant, je suis entièrement d'accord avec mes chers collègues sur le sujet de notre Conférence.

Si vous me le permettez, Monsieur le Président, je voudrais donner quelques informations sur mon pays, premièrement en ce qui concerne l'importance de l'agriculture durable et le développement rural; et je vais également résumer quelques propositions sur ce que la FAO doit contribuer à faire dans les années à venir concernant le domaine de l'agriculture rurale et le

développement rural. Croyez-moi, Monsieur le Président, les problèmes de l'agriculture durable et du développement rural sont plus ou moins les mêmes pour tous les pays en développement, soit dans la région méditerranéenne, soit dans les autres pays. La Turquie participe également à quelques projets internationaux contre la désertification, et à la cartographie de l'état de l'érosion ainsi que sur les risques de l'érosion. Je voudrais en citer quelques-uns:

- Le projet de la détermination de la méthodologie de la cartographie de l'érosion des sols pour les pays méditerranéens. Celui-ci est un projet financé par le PAP/PNUE. La Turquie, la Tunisie et l'Espagne travaillent ensemble, avec l'aide technique de la FAO.
- Le projet contre la désertification. Nous avons maintenant un projet de l'Avicenne de la Communauté européenne avec la France et le Maroc
- Nous avons déjà commencé à travailler sur le projet de la diversité biologique et génétique financé par la Banque mondiale.
- Le projet de la formation des agriculteurs, la vulgarisation des paysans dans 32 provinces du pays.
- Le projet de l'aménagement des bassins versants de la rivière de l'Euphrate, aux versants du barrage d'Ataturk.
- Et encore plusieurs travaux pour protéger les sols contre l'érosion hydrique et éolienne.

Comme vous le savez, Monsieur le Président, la Turquie est un pays méditerranéen dont la superficie est de 780 000 km². Elle a environ 60 millions d'habitants. Dans l'ensemble du pays, 28 millions d'hectares sont réservés à l'agriculture, 23 millions aux bois, aux forêts, en partie au maquis, 22 millions aux prairies et aux pâturages.

Les terres cultivées occupent environ 36 pour cent de la superficie totale du pays. Bien que 31 pour cent des terres cultivées soient irrigables, actuellement seulement 4 millions d'hectares sont irrigués. Autrement dit, 47 pour cent des terres économiquement irrigables sont actuellement irriguées. Lorsque le projet du Sud-Est anatolien sera achevé, 1,6 million d'hectares supplémentaires de terres seront irrigués.

Les problèmes qui sont nés de l'utilisation incontrôlée et intensive des ressources naturelles de la Turquie, considérée comme le berceau des civilisations et qui a vu la naissance de l'agriculture, sont indiqués dans le tableau suivant.

Types de Problème	En hectares (1000)	En pourcentage
Erosion hydrique	57 149	63,2
Erosion éolienne	466	0,5
Sol à alcalis et sol salin	1 519	1,7
Sol hydromorphe	2 775	3,1
Sol à graviers	28 484	31,5

Pour regagner ces terres à l'agriculture, il est absolument nécessaire de faire des travaux raisonnables et efficaces en utilisant les critères de l'agriculture durable. Pour cela, il faut créer les programmes principaux afin de protéger, développer et utiliser raisonnablement les ressources naturelles, dans le cadre de l'intégration de l'agriculture et de l'environnement. Parce que le développement durable dans les secteurs de l'agriculture, des forêts et des pêcheries doit conserver le sol, l'eau et les ressources génétiques végétales et animales et ne pas dégrader l'environnement.

En particulier, il sera absolument utile et nécessaire:

- de faire l'agriculture en respectant les principes de la conservation du sol et de l'eau;
- d'adopter des pratiques et des technologies souples, spécifiquement adaptées aux exigences de l'écologie;
- d'appliquer le labour de conservation, le terrassement, la culture intercalaire étagée, la culture en bandes alternées plus intense des rotations de cultures, la culture légumineuse, l'agroforesterie;
- de faire le labour minimal ou nul combiné avec le semis direct de la culture de printemps sur les résidus de la culture de couverture précédente;
- d'utiliser efficacement et rationnellement les intrants agricoles (les engrais chimiques, les pesticides, l'irrigation);
- de développer les modèles de la production alternative protégeant l'environnement.

En Turquie, l'agriculture devient de plus en plus intensive; mais l'augmentation des intrants agricoles (engrais chimiques, pesticides, fumier, etc.) est très basse par rapport à celle de certains pays développés. Cependant, dans certaines grandes plaines, l'excès des intrants en secteur de culture intensive provoque des dégradations lentes mais irréversibles.

Il faut résoudre immédiatement les problèmes indiqués ci-après dans leurs lignes principales afin d'empêcher la pollution de l'environnement et d'assurer l'agriculture durable et le développement durable. Il sera nécessaire de procéder comme suit:

- faire une planification régionale et nationale de l'utilisation des terres;
- prendre des mesures juridiques qui empêchent le morcellement des exploitations agricoles par héritage ou pour d'autres raisons. Les exploitations d'une taille suffisante pour fournir un revenu adéquat et une occupation à temps complet seront déterminées selon les conditions écologiques et socio-économiques;
- faire une planification de la production selon les demandes du marché, établir l'équilibre entre la production, le marché et la consommation, construire les infrastructures nécessaires pour réaliser ces objectifs;

- empêcher l'utilisation de terres très primitives en dehors de l'agriculture. Pour cela, il faudra déterminer des sites alternatifs;
- déterminer les mesures juridiques et techniques pour l'utilisation des terres marginales en dehors de l'agriculture; exécuter des programmes de remembrement largement déterminés par le niveau de développement économique, social et culturel de la population. Le remembrement doit se faire dans l'ensemble des terres agricoles en commençant par les terres irrigables.

Ainsi, il sera possible de relier les parcelles disséminées; de construire des accès et des routes de desserte; de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour la conservation du sol et de l'eau; d'appliquer un projet d'irrigation et de drainage qui respecte les critères de préservation de l'environnement; d'améliorer les terrains ruraux destinés à la récréation et au travail; de combiner toutes sortes de travaux d'infrastructure liés à la réorganisation des exploitations; d'orienter l'habitation urbaine et industrielle vers les plaines infertiles; de préserver et développer les ressources naturelles, comme le sol et l'eau, et génétiques ainsi que notre richesse constituée par la biodiversité; de contrôler l'augmentation démographique du pays et diminuer le taux de croissance démographique afin de ne pas dégrader les ressources naturelles à cause du surpeuplement; et de prendre les mesures juridiques, institutionnelles et éducatives nécessaires dans les domaines indiqués ci-dessus.

En plus, la formation, la recherche, la vulgarisation agricole, la coopération, l'accréditif et la coordination entre les institutions sont très utiles pour augmenter la production agricole en respectant les principes de l'agriculture durable et du développement rural. C'est pour ces raisons qu'il faut préparer des programmes de formation et de vulgarisation pour les agriculteurs afin qu'ils puissent appliquer la technologie moderne de l'agriculture en conformité avec l'environnement. Ainsi, grâce à l'agriculture durable et au développement rural, il sera possible de diminuer les pertes en sol qui correspondent actuellement à 500 millions de tonnes par an et de transmettre aux générations futures des ressources naturelles protégées et un potentiel élevé de production agricole.

Noah M. NKAMBULE (Swaziland) : I would like to commend Mr Mahler for an excellent summary of the document before this Commission.

My delegation welcomes the integration of Agenda 21 into the FAO Agenda. We believe strongly that agricultural development must be based on ecological principles. It must be based on the principle of sustainable development. This is particularly important for small countries such as Swaziland which have to pursue their agricultural development programmes on very limited land resources. Every square metre of land must be utilized optimally for the benefit of society.

Sustainable development is an indispensable principle for us in the developing countries. In the majority of cases these countries are faced with acute problems of land degradation which are largely attributable to non-sustainable agricultural practices.

Unfortunately, environmental degradation which is prevalent in the Third World is, to a large extent, a direct result of poverty. The rural populations have very few options open to them for survival, other than to

till the land, cut the trees for energy and graze their livestock, even if it means denuding landscapes as a result. With the increasing population numbers, there has been a simultaneous increase in demand for crop land, forests and grazing areas which, in many instances, has far exceeded the supply. Consequent to the above, alarming land degradation problems are now engulfing the developing world.

We appeal to the international community for meaningful interventions which will aggressively address land degradation problems in the developing world. We appeal for assistance in developing institutional capacities in these countries, as embraced in the spirit of Agenda 21.

My delegation welcomes the establishment of financial mechanisms such as the Global Environment Facility and the UNDP Capacity 21. Nevertheless, we strongly urge the custodians of these funds to put in place administrative structures which will minimize the bureaucratic red tape which could frustrate ready access to these funds by target groups in the developing countries. We further welcome the position projected in paragraph 4.4 on precautionary principles to prevent conflicts, not only between environment and agricultural development, but also amongst sectors competing for the same resource base to meet their respective sustainability goals. Conflicts must be minimized as much as possible if we are to achieve our intended goals. We must address ourselves rationally and not radically to the subject of protecting the environment and the earth's ecosystems. Gone are the days of environmental fanatics. The pragmatic approach embraced in the spirit of UNCED must now be given a chance.

Marian BRZOSKA (Poland): Poland faces environmental problems which can be solved both in cooperation with other countries, and by the Polish Government and citizens alone.

Full comments on the document and our position are submitted for the verbatim records.

In my intervention, I should like to underline a few issues. Firstly, the new situation in the level of intensification of agriculture and forestry production in Poland and in the rest of East and Central European countries. After removal of subsidies for agriculture in 1990 and for energy and agricultural inputs, the level of inputs, especially chemicals, is currently two to three times lower than in the 1980s. We change artificially-intensified agriculture to an almost biological one, and this will be the situation up to 2000.

Secondly, the crucial problem in our region is caused by the annual influx of approximately 5 million tons of sulphur dioxide from western industrialized countries into the Polish atmosphere. It is especially dangerous for the forest. In a few regions the Polish forest has been transformed into dead deserts.

Thirdly, there are many national sources of danger to agriculture, water and forest - mainly industry. The Government has prepared a programme "Pro-ecological Orientation in Agricultural Policy in the Twentieth and Twenty-first Centuries". We have established a monitoring system of soil, agricultural products and food. A special national fund and an environmental protection bank have started to operate.

Fourthly, the ecological protection of rural areas in my area at the present moment is based on the development of community infrastructure, mainly sewerage systems. The installations are subsidized by the State up to 50 percent of the cost. This is very important for the Baltic Sea protection.

Fifth, international cooperation in ecological protection of agriculture and forestry is the basic condition of effective work. Poland supports the growing role of FAO in this field.

We are looking, as are other East European countries, for more effective aid, for relief from debts, and for environmental protection, especially forest and Baltic Sea protection.

Mlle Adelaide Manuela RIBEIRO (Cap-Vert): Nous aimerions nous associer aux félicitations qui ont été adressées à M. Mahler pour son excellente présentation. C'est avec une grande satisfaction que nous constatons que la Résolution 2/91 adoptée par la Conférence, à sa vingt-sixième session, et visant à introduire les critères de durabilité dans tous les programmes et activités de la FAO, commence à voir le jour. Effectivement, des priorités ont été accordées au développement durable et à l'environnement, soit dans le Programme de travail et budget pour 1994-95, soit dans le Plan à moyen terme 1994-99.

Dans sa première partie, le document présente une analyse des grandes incidences de la CNUED et des décisions prises aux niveaux national, régional et international. Les réalisations ont été nombreuses mais beaucoup reste à faire.

Aux niveaux national et international, des mesures ont été prises et des activités menées, notamment la demande de ratification de la Convention de la part des autorités concernées, la création de la Commission du développement durable en vue de la formulation de politiques et de plans nationaux en faveur du développement durable et une demande d'évaluation des besoins en matière de renforcement des capacités pour assurer un suivi effectif de la CNUED.

Nous nous réjouissons de l'aide apportée par la FAO à la mise en place des plans forestiers nationaux dont mon pays bénéficie. Nous nous réjouissons également de l'accord de la FAO en ce qui concerne l'élaboration des plans nationaux de lutte contre la désertification dans la région soudano-sahélienne.

Nous partageons l'avis que la Commission du développement durable peut guider le suivi de la CNUED et nous soutenons le programme de travail adopté à sa première session, conformément au paragraphe 11. Nous soutenons aussi la demande faite à la FAO et aux institutions nationales, régionales et internationales de fournir des rapports et de faire d'autres contributions. A ce propos, nous sommes conscients de la remarque faite par M. Mahler au sujet du mécanisme de financement international pour l'application des accords de la CNUED. S'agissant du Fonds mondial pour l'environnement, du Programme "Action 21", du PNUD, du Fonds pour l'environnement du PNUE, nous sommes d'avis que plus d'informations devront être fournies aux pays, surtout pour ce qui est de leur manque de fonctionnement.

Nous appuyons avec satisfaction les initiatives prises par la FAO et la suite donnée à la CNUED, tel que mentionné dans la deuxième partie du document. Nous pensons que la FAO devrait continuer à insister sur l'intégration des questions d'environnement et de durabilité dans tous les programmes et sur la formulation de projets visant le développement durable et l'environnement pour qu'ils puissent être financés par les fonds disponibles.

On s'attend aussi de la FAO qu'elle continue à fournir des services de consultation en matière de politique et de stratégie dans les secteurs de l'agriculture, des forêts et des pêches, entre autres. Ce qui précède montre l'importance accordée à la mise en oeuvre des activités et des recommandations du Programme "Action 21" de la CNUED. Vous conviendrez que l'aide financière de la communauté internationale est indispensable et précieuse pour ce faire.

Pour terminer, nous appuyons la déclaration faite par le Représentant de Trinité-et-Tobago, surtout en ce qui concerne les résolutions relatives aux petits Etats insulaires, en attirant l'attention de leurs partenaires sur l'importance de l'agriculture, des forêts et de la pêche en tant que bases du développement de ces petits pays insulaires.

Abdelouhab KERMOUNI (Maroc): Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier le Secrétariat pour la qualité du document qu'il nous a livré. J'en profite également pour remercier M. Mahler de la présentation complète qu'il nous a faite de ce document.

L'environnement et le développement durable sont devenus aujourd'hui des concepts inséparables et la communauté internationale en prend chaque jour davantage conscience. L'activité économique qui influe le plus sur l'environnement et qui en dépend le plus est sans aucun doute l'agriculture.

L'ampleur accrue des besoins alimentaires de l'humanité et la nécessité de l'intensification agricole, d'une part, et la dégradation des ressources naturelles et des écosystèmes, d'autre part, constituent deux facettes d'un même défi que la communauté internationale se doit de relever. Ce défi est celui de la conciliation entre le développement économique et social pour l'éradication de la pauvreté et de la malnutrition et la protection de l'environnement ainsi que la gestion durable des ressources naturelles qui sont indispensables.

L'Agenda 21 constitue l'instrument le plus adéquat pour gagner l'enjeu du développement durable, et la FAO est l'organe tout désigné pour assurer le suivi de la CNUED.

Mon pays, le Maroc, qui a donné une suite favorable aux recommandations de la CNUED, essaie de définir une stratégie pour l'application de l'ADRD, notamment dans les zones fragiles; terres de parcours, forêts, bassins versants où il faut protéger les ressources phytogénétiques. Il dispose, grâce à la participation de la FAO, d'un plan national de lutte contre la désertification, d'un plan national de reboisement qu'il convient bien entendu d'actualiser et de faire en sorte qu'il réponde aux recommandations de l'Agenda 21. Un plan national des bassins versants est en cours d'élaboration. De même est en cours d'étude une monographie pour tous les sites remarquables à protéger, en vue d'y créer des réserves biologiques ou des parcs nationaux pour augmenter les zones protégées de notre pays.

A ce sujet, je voudrais attirer l'attention du Secrétariat sur les problèmes que pose la mise en valeur des ressources phytogénétiques des pays en développement. La collecte et la conservation de ces ressources, au niveau de nombreux pays en développement, ont un caractère d'urgence et posent un certain nombre de problèmes à ces pays qui ne disposent pas d'organes de recherche performants et ne peuvent tirer profit de leur patrimoine génétique. C'est pourquoi il serait souhaitable que la FAO donne son appui à ces pays pour la création de banques de gènes leur permettant notamment de créer des variétés adaptées à leurs propres conditions agro-écologiques et d'élever leur productivité tout en assurant une meilleure sécurité alimentaire. Je profite de cette occasion pour attirer également l'attention du Secrétariat sur les problèmes que posent les pesticides.

En effet, l'interdiction par de nombreux pays de pesticides hautement toxiques, notamment de la famille des organochlorés et la présence dans de nombreux pays de pesticides périmés constituent dans de nombreux cas des dangers graves qui menacent l'environnement. Là aussi, il serait souhaitable que la FAO apporte un appui urgent à l'élimination de ces pesticides devenus obsolètes ou périmés.

Mon pays apprécie les activités de la FAO, notamment dans la lutte contre la désertification et notamment en ce qui concerne la forêt. Il appuie les efforts de la FAO visant à la protection de l'environnement marin et la protection des ressources halieutiques à travers la mise en place d'une politique globale de développement durable.

S'agissant des pêches en particulier, la délégation marocaine accorde une importance particulière à la préparation, sous l'égide de la FAO et dans un délai raisonnable, d'un Code de conduite pour une pêche responsable. Ce Code attendu constituera sans nul doute le moyen le plus adéquat pour répondre aux aspirations des gouvernements de nombreux pays, des techniciens responsables et des décideurs en matières de pêche, en vue de préserver les ressources vivantes de la mer pour les générations futures et présentes.

Nous accordons beaucoup d'importance à la coopération internationale. Elle seule peut permettre le développement intégré et entraîner un transfert de technologie susceptible de favoriser une vision globale et unifiée en matière de protection de l'environnement à travers le monde.

En ce sens, le renforcement des capacités techniques des pays dans le domaine de l'environnement, de la forêt et de la biodiversité paraît indispensable, en particulier dans le domaine de la formation, dans le domaine de l'information, dans celui de la sécurité alimentaire, dans celui de la lutte contre les ravageurs...

La FAO, en collaboration avec les autres institutions internationales, notamment le PNUD et le PNUE, a à jouer un rôle de pointe pour aider ces pays dans la bonne gestion de leurs ressources naturelles. C'est pourquoi mon pays remercie la FAO pour ce qu'elle nous offre comme appui, comme compétences, et il souhaite qu'elle trouve les ressources dont elle a besoin pour continuer son oeuvre, particulièrement dans le domaine sensible de la protection de la nature.

Alcir CARVALHO REBELLO (Brazil): First of all, let me commend the Secretariat on document C 93/10 and Mr Mahler on his excellent introduction to the item.

Brazil believes that FAO has a major role to play in the coordination and implementation of actions and programmes on food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, as set out in agenda item 21 in the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on Climate Change.

With regard to forests in particular, we believe that FAO has a leading role to play among the intergovernmental organizations in promoting the observance of the non-legally binding authoritative statement of principles for a global consensus on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.

It is also our hope that the aims and goals of the Rio Declaration will be the aims and goals of FAO and of all countries towards sustainable development.

UNCED has given us the instruments for a new era of international cooperation, that of achieving development in a sustainable way. Brazil thinks it essential that we move to action at once. Resources must be allocated to the sustainable development of agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Of course, responsibilities to this end rely primarily on our governments but FAO, alongside the Commission on Sustainable Development and other fora such as UNDP and UNEP, will set the pace of measures for the realization of the goals selected by the international community in Rio.

We are happy to see that FAO is willing to prove its capacity as a centre of excellence by integrating environmental concerns in its agriculture, forestry and fisheries activities.

In our view FAO needs to strengthen further its cooperation and partnership with the CSD, UNEP, the Convention on Biodiversity and the Convention on Climate Change. That will ensure greater efficiency and avoid the overlapping of actions. The contribution of FAO will be particularly important in the review work that is to be carried out by CSD in 1995.

Regarding plant genetic resources, Brazil follows with great interest the work that is being undertaken by our Organization. The preparation for the Fourth International Conference on Plant Genetic Resources in particular will need the mobilization of our technical skills and financial resources. This preparatory process for the Conference will include the harmonization of the international undertaking on plant genetic resources with the Convention on Biological Diversity which Brazil considers to be of the utmost importance.

We have a long way to go in the attainment of sustainable development. We will only be able to reach our goal if we strengthen the partnership among countries and create a positive international climate, free from discriminatory measures and labels.

Gheorghe APOSTOIU (Roumanie): Mon intervention est inspirée, et même encouragée, par le paragraphe 43 dont je me permets de citer quelques mots: "Il incombe à la FAO et aux ministères concernés de renforcer les capacités d'évaluation et de suivi de la viabilité à long terme du développement de l'agriculture, de la foresterie et des pêches dans le contexte global".

Cela m'autorise à rendre hommage à tous ceux qui ont rédigé le document, et je rends hommage également à M. Mahler qui a bien voulu nous faire une introduction de ce document.

Ma délégation appuie les mesures envisagées par la FAO pour le développement durable et l'environnement.

Si je prends la parole, c'est que je viens d'un pays où il y a un manque de moyens, comme l'a remarqué l'honorable représentant de l'Allemagne, pour la mise en application des programmes, même si la volonté politique s'exprime ouvertement et sincèrement.

Nous sommes d'accord avec les initiatives de la FAO tendant à faire siens certains projets de la CNUED dans les domaines de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. Nous sommes appelés à définir les besoins en la matière pour établir l'interaction nécessaire entre les institutions nationales du secteur agricole et les autres institutions, et entre les organes directeurs de la FAO et d'autres organismes intergouvernementaux, en particulier la Commission du développement durable des Nations Unies.

Durabilité dans le domaine du développement, c'est le désir politique de tout pays. C'est un axiome, plutôt. La question qui se pose est de trouver les moyens, et ce n'est pas uniquement la politique qui est le responsable du bien et du mal. L'accès à la science et à la recherche et au programme pragmatique, avec l'assistance de la FAO, a son importance, notamment pour les pays en développement.

Puisque je viens d'un pays en transition ayant conceptuellement une agriculture suffisamment mise au point, mais qui aujourd'hui est en pleine restructuration, je crois que notre expérience et, de plus, nos potentiels et capacités de recherche scientifique pourraient être pris en considération. Pour la mise en valeur de ce potentiel, nous avons besoin de projets d'investissements qui portent spécifiquement sur la conservation des ressources naturelles, la protection de l'environnement et l'amélioration des méthodes de l'aménagement des terres, idée qui ressort du paragraphe 39 de notre document.

En d'autres termes, nous avons besoin de bénéficier de l'intervention de notre Organisation pour refaire de l'agriculture de la Roumanie un secteur viable de l'économie dans la perspective d'un développement durable.

Hans POPP (Switzerland): The Swiss intervention comprises two short parts: firstly, I shall briefly develop the Swiss strategy on sustainability in agricultural policy; secondly, my colleague will make some comments on document C 93/10, and our views on FAO's role in this field.

On the first point, the strategy and the main elements of Swiss policy on sustainability, the Swiss Government goal in its policy programme, and has taken policy measures in this field many years before the Rio Conference. I shall limit my remarks to the respective agricultural programme and related policy fields.

Our strategy to support sustainability contains three main elements: one, dissemination of knowledge, education and training in agricultural schools - by the way, they are compulsory for all young farmers; extension services; research and research dissemination. The basic idea is that the farmer has to know the environmental risks and damage of unsustainable production practices, and he has to learn sustainable production methods. Most importantly, he has to be convinced himself that only sustainable production methods are in his long-term interests. This is the primary policy line.

The second one consists of government regulations based on all kinds of legislation. I shall not repeat all this legislation here but just put forward a few examples. The use of pesticides and other chemical inputs in farming is regulated. There is legislation on water protection, animal protection, and you name it. There are regulations protecting forest land, biotopes and alpine passes, and others.

I shall pass to the third line of our strategy which I would call or name economic incentives and disincentives. This is the most promising line. This is the line which is the least developed and this is the line which follows the principles of a market economy. The basic idea is that sustainable production methods have to be profitable. They have to be economically and financially interesting to the farmers. They must be at least as profitable as the non-sustainable practices of the conventional farmers in the short run and not only in the long-term, because the basic problem, as I see it, is that sustainable production practices are often and mostly more costly or less remunerative than conventional production practices, especially in the short term. This is the basic problem we have to resolve. Unless we do that, unless we make sustainable production practices as profitable as conventional practices, all our preaching and all our talking will be in vain.

How can we resolve this problem? The Swiss Government has developed two policy measures, two main policy lines. The first one is the line of the marketing system. That is to say, we have to get a better price for those agricultural products coming from sustainable and more expensive protection practices. It can be done through protection differentiation, through product differentiation; it can be done through better marketing and other measures. It also has a trade dimension and trade implications.

We are of the opinion that agricultural produce coming from sustainable production practices needs and deserves a certain protection - protection against competition from imports from countries or farmers where the standards and the regulations for sustainability and environmental protection are lower. That is an element we have brought into the GATT negotiations because we are convinced that the GATT rules have to be amended in such a way that they allow an adequate protection for those farmers, respectively countries, which practise protection methods which are in the long run sustainable but methods which, as we know, are in the short term more costly.

To sum up, we must assure a fair market price for agricultural products stemming from sustainable production practices. This has to be the long-term solution. We could invite the FAO to develop this line of thought and policy approach. In the meantime, the Swiss Government has introduced an order - I would call it a second-best line - of policy approach which is to stimulate sustainable production methods through direct income payments. In 1991-92 the Swiss Parliament passed new legislation with demands by the Federal Government to give direct income payments to those farmers who practised such sustainable production methods. I name it biological farming, integrated farming, practices and other things. The idea behind this is that the direct payments have to be of such magnitude that those farmers who respect such practices, which are more costly, are competitive with so-called conventional farmers.

This new programme on a voluntary basis has so far had enormous success. Farmers are not only interested, farmers are asking for information and farmers are applying to participate.

Finally, I would mention a few further policy instruments we have introduced or which we are going to introduce. There is a tax on certain fertilizers and certain environmental damaging inputs. Then there is the obligation to pay for sewage disposal costs and others.

To sum up, I wish to repeat my main thesis which so far has not been put forward by many people here. If we want to have sustainability in agricultural production,- and we need it, that is obvious - we must introduce policy measures which make sustainable production methods for the farmers attractive and profitable. That means measures at national level but also at the international level, especially trade rules which stimulate and protect sustainable production practices, rules which eliminate policies that discourage these sustainable production practices, as is often the case today. To put it another way, we must help and support those farmers who think and act on a long-term basis.

My colleague will make some further comments on document C 93/10.

Anton KOHLER (Switzerland): The challenge to which FAO is planning to respond is well reflected in document C 93/10. It is a long-term effort which sets high expectations beyond the year 2010. However, the Swiss Government hopes that well before 2010 the results achieved in the FAO programme will be substantial and tangible.

The paper before us shows that sustainability has already become an integral part of the whole FAO programme. Together with FAO and many other partners in the field of agricultural development and forestry, the Swiss Development Corporation stands in the midst of a process towards achieving sustainability in its programme of collaboration with developing countries. Switzerland is very interested to share its experiences with FAO. We do not intend to enter into a theoretical debate only, but into a practical exchange of concrete experience in the field. First of all, we are interested to know how much of its budget FAO intends to make available in its programme for field activities and for the total activities related to sustainable development and environment. This is not reflected in the paper C 93/10 submitted to us.

Secondly, we would like to suggest a practical exchange of experience on sustainable management of natural resources by visiting one another's projects, for instance in the field of human resource development, agricultural development, watershed development and afforestation.

This is in order to broaden the scope of environmental impact assessment according to paragraphs 41, 42 and 43 of the document and also to evaluate sustainable management of natural resources in the sense of a joint learning process between FAO, the Swiss Development Corporation and our partners in the respective countries.

Here, I see a link with yesterday's Agenda point on women and sustainable agricultural development. Millions of farmers, especially women farmers in the developing countries, still practise traditional agricultural methods consistent with the demands for sustainable management of natural resources. These must be taken into account when planning field activities to achieve sustainable development.

CHAIRMAN (Original language German) : At the end of our morning meeting I closed the list of speakers. During the course of the meeting I have requested delegations again and again to be as brief as possible in their statements. I much regret the fact that my recommendation was not taken up. Since my recommendation was not followed, could I ask those delegates who have spoken in the course of the afternoon to give their statements in to the Secretariat in writing so that the full content can be added to the verbatim record.

I have some speakers left, and we must finish on time. I have to tell you that the delegate of Cuba has other commitments so he did not give his statement personally. Therefore, we will put the Cuban statement into the verbatim records.

Ms Naima AL-SHAYJI (Kuwait): I promise I will be very brief and respond to your request, Mr Chairman.

I would like just to say specifically that on reading document C 93/10 about the activities relating to sustainable development and the environment, while I enjoyed reading it - and it is very, very comprehensive - I failed to find anything in any part of the document relating to the assessment or the monitoring of some very special cases which need actual monitoring or assessment; namely, no doubt all of you are aware of the environmental crisis and the catastrophe that took place three years ago in our region in the Gulf which left quite a lot of negative impact on the fisheries, marine life, the soil and the groundwater of the region. While there is still quite a lot of effort both from the regions and from bilateral institutions and international organizations in conducting soil studies and evaluations of the impact of what happened, it seems to me it is important that that region should be considered by the world as a laboratory for learning from that bitter experience. Therefore, it needs special attention from an organization like FAO for an impact assessment of the marine environment, specifically the fishery resources, the soil degradation, and the resource of ground water.

Jagan Nath THAPLIYA (Nepal): My delegation first of all would like to thank the Secretariat and Mr Mahler for presenting document C 93/10, which was such an excellent overview.

Given the agrobased economy of Nepal, the agricultural sector needs to be developed in order that food security is maintained, raw material for the agro-industry is provided, and foreign exchange is earned through exports. Thus, the sooner this sector is able to develop its capability the earlier it will lead to the development of other sectors and eventually to a sustained development of the entire economy.

While talking about sustainable development, environmental issues are sometimes considered as constraints to the development process, which is not so. In fact, failure to incorporate environmental considerations into projects and programme planning has adversely affected the natural resource base. This has caused over-exploitation of natural resources, such as loss of soil fertility, deforestation, degradation of forest, and watershed degradation. The current Five Year Plan has taken into consideration agro-ecological diversity, farmers' resource endowment, peoples' participation and integration of women farmers in the development activities. Similarly, agricultural diversification, intensification, commercialization,

geographical comparative advantages and other infrastructural facilities are accounted for in sustainable development.

At this moment, however, we would like technical assistance from FAO in implementing the programmes in order that our economic development process is environmentally friendly and sustainable.

Parviz KARBASI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): In the name of God You are a tough Chairman, Mr Chairman. You have not even given us a break! After 40 interesting interventions, I do not know how much of my intervention will be observed by the Committee. Anyway, I have to deliver my statement and I hope the Commission will listen to me.

I would like to thank Mr Mahler and your colleague for the efforts you have made on the issue of sustainable development in FAO and your activities to integrate the sustainability criteria in all the programmes and activities of FAO. We congratulate you on your hard work.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has a strong commitment to Agenda 21. The issue of the UNCED follow-up is under the supervision of the Vice-President of the country and this indicates the high priority that the Government places on sustainable development. At the last Conference it was agreed that a sustainable development programme be initiated in one of the provinces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with the assistance of FAO and Iranian experts. In this regard, the Government assigned one of its estates, with an area of 2 250 000 hectares as a pilot programme for the implementation of a plan of action for sustainable development. It is a great pleasure for me to thank FAO for its technical assistance in the preparation of the documents. With assistance from our experts, the plan is ready and work is going on. We welcome any technical cooperation for this pilot plan of action.

Regarding the follow-up of Chapter 12 of Agenda 21, managing fragile eco-systems and combating desertification and drought, it is my pleasure to inform the commission that during the last 25 years the Islamic Republic of Iran has done extensive work in the sphere of sand-dune fixation to combat desertification. We have rehabilitated more than three million hectares of an arid and desert area.

For the next five years, social and economic development will mean that over seven million hectares of desert area will be converted to productive land. These activities in our country have led to extensive experience and expertise output. Recognizing this, at its 102nd Session of Council FAO accepted the invitation of the Islamic Republic of Iran to make use of this country's expertise and long-standing experience in the implementation of large-scale combating-of-desertification plans. It is our honour to inform you that the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to share this experience with all Member States concerned, and the international community.

As indicated in paragraph 18 of the document before us, the United Nations General Assembly in its Resolution 77/188 of 22 December 1992 established an intergovernmental negotiating committee for the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa. FAO contributed to this issue. This was highly appreciated and we urge FAO to continue to make its contribution to the preparation and implementation of this Convention.

My delegation congratulates FAO on its designation as task manager in Chapters 10, 11, 13 and 14 of Agenda 21. This is a major achievement and a recognition by the international community that FAO has an important role to play in environment and sustainable development. My delegation requests FAO to mobilize sufficient human and financial resources to implement the programme relating to these major chapters and as task manager to report on achievements to the next FAO Council.

We know about the establishment of the Commission on Sustainable Development to monitor and guide the follow-up to the Agenda 21 of UNCED, which has 40 chapters with 115 programmes. As I mentioned before, FAO is designated as a task manager in Chapters 10, 11, 13 and 14 of Agenda 21. My delegation believes that the Commission on Sustainable Development needs advice and assistance from FAO Member States regarding the follow-up action of Agenda 21 and those chapters whose implementation is mainly for FAO. In this regard, I hope the Commission agrees with me that the Conference takes steps for the establishment of a working group from the regional groups of FAO to have a look at FAO activities, and as an advisory working group to assist the Commission on Sustainable Development. This would enhance the Plan of Action and give appropriate views to CSD.

Regarding document C 93/10, we fully support paragraph 5, particularly the emphasis on combating poverty, which is the main cause of environmental degradation, and we believe that close policy coordination of Member States for food security and adequate population and human settlement policies is essential for streamlining the work of Agenda 21.

We should also like to emphasize paragraphs 59 to 61 of the document on sharing the cost of sustainable development and paragraph 34 on the importance of TCDC. We also hope to see more activities in FAO regarding programmes D and E of Chapter 14 of Agenda 21 concerning water.

We believe the essence of any activity is research, particularly on the complex issue of sustainable development. In this regard, we call for close collaboration and coordination with international agricultural research centres and with CGIAR, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research. FAO is a co-sponsor of the CGIAR and should recognize the strength of international agricultural research centres in research. In the same way, CGIAR should look on FAO as the main player in sustainable development for agriculture. We believe CGIAR should not duplicate FAO's work and that FAO should play a major role as the interface between international agricultural research centres, national agricultural research centres and NGOs.

Shri H. PRADEEP RAO (India): I should briefly like to detail some key aspects of our own national experience in this critical area of environment and sustainable development. As mentioned in the document, the outcome of UNCED has placed multiple demands for action at international, national and regional levels on governments, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs. With specific reference to paragraph 5(i), I should like to mention that India's current policies and programmes in the area of forestry have been broadly in conformity with the activities highlighted in Agenda 21, especially Chapters 12, 13 and 15. The National Forest Policy of 1988 embodies many of the aspects which have been emphasized in these chapters.

With reference to paragraph 7 of the document, I should like to mention that Agenda 21 concerns relating to food, agriculture, forestry and

fisheries sectors have also been reflected in our government's own National Conservation Strategy, which lays down the guidelines for development of policies and programmes in agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry and other sectors and also the strategy for the conservation of land, water and biomass resources. We have also embarked upon a project to formulate our own National Forestry Action Programme, under which various inter-sectoral linkages will be taken into consideration.

India also proposes to participate in the two inter-sessional working groups of the CSD which will be making recommendations in the key areas of financial resource mobilization, technology transfer and cooperation and capacity building. We have always believed that the complete implementation of the Rio agreement, including Agenda 21 and the non-legally binding Forest Principles, would only be possible when resources and technology are available to developing countries. We feel that FAO can certainly play a major role from this angle. While on the subject of the CSD, I should like to mention that we agree with the suggestion made by the distinguished delegate from the Islamic Republic of Iran that there should be proper coordination and flow of inputs from the Member Nations of the FAO to the CSD to ensure a proper and broad perspective in the work of the CSD.

In so far as paragraph 15 relating to funding mechanisms is concerned, India has been participating in the debate on restructuring and replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). There should be openness and transparency in the functioning of GEF and also some dedication of funds within this facility to meet the requirements of the Conventions on Biodiversity and Climate Change. I may mention here that India has already ratified the Convention on Climate Change. We are formulating our Environmental Action Programme and it is likely to be completed very shortly.

Paragraphs 47 to 49 of the document highlight key aspects of the agriculture-forestry interface. We are aware of the need to make sustainable agriculture and forestry mutually supportive, and our National Forest Policy of 1988 recognized the complementary roles of agriculture and forestry. The National Forestry Action Programme, which I mentioned earlier, is being formulated and will specifically dwell on these linkages.

We agree with the point made in paragraph 58 of the document that a balance has to be struck between the requirement for creating new institutional capacities to address issues relating to environment and sustainable development and the need to strengthen and adapt existing capacities, especially in a period of scarce resource availability.

Ricardo LEON-VALDES (Chile): En primer término, quisiera expresar el reconocimiento de mi delegación al señor Mahler y su equipo por la presentación de tan completo documento que refleja la preocupación, atención y seguimiento que ha venido dando la FAO a los temas relacionados con la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente, materia que resulta ser de la mayor importancia en la formulación de políticas en mi país.

En efecto, ante la constatación del grado de deterioro ambiental, en 1990 se creó en Chile la Comisión Nacional del Medio Ambiente, instancia responsable de definir una política ambiental para nuestro país, y como respuesta a la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente se ha preocupado de perfeccionarla.

Entre sus preocupaciones, destaca la de formular un cuerpo legal que dé organicidad a la profusa legislación ambiental existente, buscando incorporar la variable "Evaluación del Impacto Ambiental", instrumento llamado a prevenir los posibles impactos de un proyecto sobre su área de influencia.

Lo anterior tiene como objeto básico el asegurar un crecimiento económico sostenido, sujeto a consideraciones ambientales, a fin de hacer sustentable la estrategia de desarrollo global.

En este sentido, señor Presidente, mi delegación quisiera agradecer al señor delegado de Alemania por su ofrecimiento de compartir su experiencia en lo que se refiere al análisis del impacto ambiental.

Del mismo modo quiero aprovechar esta oportunidad para poner a disposición de aquellos países que lo requieran, lo que ha sido nuestra experiencia en esta materia.

Asimismo, coincido con India y la República Islámica de Irán en cuanto a la necesaria cooperación y coordinación que debe existir entre la FAO y los países miembros.

Sin duda existe consenso en que el desarrollo económico, y particularmente el agrícola, debe basarse en criterios ecológicos que aseguren el desarrollo sustentable.

Al respecto, mi delegación, junto con apoyar lo expresado en el párrafo 54, considera de la mayor importancia los esfuerzos que se puedan realizar a fin de sensibilizar a la población rural frente a los desafíos que plantea la degradación del medio ambiente, por ser estos los usuarios directos, a través de una adecuada capacitación, entregándole los conocimientos para un adecuado manejo de los recursos naturales a los que se le podrían entregar financiamientos a través del propuesto Fondo para la Protección del Medio Ambiente.

Hayim BAR-SHAI (Israel) : I was much impressed by the diversity and multiplicity of bodies and actions having to do with sustainability and environmental preservation, as well as with their view and the programme of work and coordination represented in document C 93/10, which means that we have a very important and promising subject. In Israel, too, we have a surge of activity in this area, although it is not new - we have been dealing with it for several years - and I would like to name a few of the subjects that are being dealt with through academe and in the field. Work is being carried out on purification of water for use for certain purposes and crops - in general better utilization of water resources, including desalination. Work is being carried out on integrated pest and insect management - in other words the use of insects for insecticides. A large part of our agricultural export is grown under this system. Work is being carried out on development of arid areas through suitable crops and products from desert animals and so forth. Afforestation is being carried out in Israel, mostly for recreation. There is work on intensive fisheries breeding, mostly in inland ponds, where complementary species are growing simultaneously.

We have been attaching much importance to regional cooperation and, like my colleague from the Islamic Republic of Iran, I support the concept of

stronger representation of regional aspects in the world or conference framework.

I am also glad to note that talks are currently being held in Cairo within the framework of the multilateral peace talks on environmental issues of mutual interest to the nations in the area. Many national and international bodies have shown much interest in assisting and cooperating.

Sustainability and environmental care are very lengthy and costly processes. We must carefully find rational and safe modes for using safe agricultural fertilizers, insecticides and other accessory materials and tools in optimal methods. Many aspects of these materials have still to be studied and researched. We should also bear in mind that, after all, different climates demand different treatments and solutions and for many countries the immediate priority is production of more, and sufficient, food, pure and simple.

We have to be careful not to create new impediments to international trade under the cover of sustainability and environmental considerations. The suggestion we heard here for the taxing of certain fertilizers is an example of a device which can be very useful but which often turns out to have negative results. On the whole, we hope that FAO will assume an increasing and fruitful role in promoting this issue. Israel will, of course, cooperate with FAO and the world and regional bodies on this very important issue on which, after all, our future depends.

Bandar AL-SHALHOOB (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic): I should like to thank the Secretariat for the preparation of this excellent document and for all the activities concerned with sustainable development, which will have positive impacts on agricultural policies and forestry policies. The efforts exerted by FAO are quite clear in the follow-up activity to UNCED. Taking into account the pioneering role of the Organization, in cooperation with other organizations and non-governmental organizations, we should like to express our satisfaction on what has been included in paragraph 24, particularly with what has been undertaken by the Director-General in including the component of sustainability in all activities.

Here we should never forget the main task of the Organization, namely the alleviation of poverty and hunger all over the world. This enhances this concept when we come to lay down the guidelines of sustainable development and environment.

In paragraph 34, the rationalization of the activities in the Organization is a source of satisfaction for our delegation.

In paragraph 39 and the investment projects that aim at achieving sustainable development, here we can see the benefits of cooperation between the agencies in the field. It also highlights the importance of complementarity at regional and country levels, as well as at international level.

I agree with what has been included in paragraph 61 and the positive effects of liberalization of trade on the prospects of development and sustainable development in the environment. Sustainable development is an important issue in my country in our future plans for development. We also

have the National Authority on Sustainable Development and we are working to develop all aspects of life in Saudi Arabia.

In conclusion, I support what has been said by the distinguished representative of Kuwait.

CHAIRMAN (Original language German): I would especially like to thank the representatives of the OECD and IFAD. Both representatives indicated that their declarations would be put in the verbatim report.

I would like to call upon Dr Hartmans, as representative of the International Consumers and Chairman of the NGO Group.

Edmond HARTMANS (Observer of Caritas Internationalis) : I am speaking for some 25 organizations and I will try to make it as brief as possible. At the same time, I have to recognize that I need to satisfy some of the delegations which made certain important points.

Although structural adjustments and Rural Development involve usually important technical measures, such measures often touch the very essence of life in the family and in the community or the region. As can be expected, these social and economic aspects were of main concern to the NGOs in their meeting of 9 November. In order to be very brief in this intervention, I will restrict myself to some of these aspects only, and will not deal with any technical matters which have been raised by delegates already.

Throughout the lively debate, emphasis was placed on the necessity for the participation of farmer peasants and rural people's organizations. Participants urged governments to encourage the organization of rural people for self-reliance and urged FAO to assist governments in this respect. Strengthened people's and farmers' organizations and their participation will certainly more effectively achieve the objectives of SARD.

Participants in projects and programmes should be involved in all project stages including formulation, implementation and evaluation on an ongoing basis.

It is proposed that in the 70 countries with national coordinating committees on sustainable development, a study be made to ascertain to what extent non-governmental and peasant farmers' organizations are included. This study should also cover the 14 countries which have a draft and/or final Agenda 21 plan of action. It would be particularly useful if the difficulties encountered regarding the participation of NGOs and farmers' organizations could be pinpointed so that possible corrective action could be taken in the future.

The NGOs felt, as some of the delegates, and particularly the delegate of Iran, have said, that more research is needed on the very complex structural and socio-economic questions of sustainable development and the environment related to nutrition, agriculture, forestry and fisheries. More emphasis should be placed in national and international research centres on farming systems and on-farm research, and especially on agro-forestry systems. In determining the workplan of the organizations and in conducting agricultural research farmers'/peasants' organizations should be involved

and the necessary framework should be established for the continuous interchange and sharing of available know-how with rural communities.

Participants considered that in developing countries poverty is the major cause of environmental degradation. As long as absolute poverty experienced disproportionately by women and children is not eradicated, fragile ecosystems will be under threat. Millions of the world's poorer women face the cruel dilemma that activities vital to the survival of their families in the short term, can also damage the environment on which long-term survival depends. The lady delegate of Jamaica dealt with this problem very eloquently indeed.

Participants suggested that FAO use its influence to find a better balance between the demands of industrialized markets and affluent consumers on the one hand, and meeting the basic minimum quantities of food for the undernourished. This would include more emphasis on staple foods such as roots and tubers and pulses, and the strengthening of local and regional markets which provide outlets for such local production.

In this connection participants stressed that the diversity of agricultural systems should be maintained in order to support the local markets of traditional food supplies. NGOs felt further that the structural adjustment programmes are pushing producers very often toward an ever greater degree of specialization and monoculture, including the use of potentially harmful chemicals. Concern was expressed about the impact of trade liberalization in destabilizing markets. It was noted that structural adjustment policies may have a negative effect on world market prices of agricultural products. FAO was urged to continue to draw attention to contradictions between the goals of SARD and structural adjustment policies.

Many other matters were raised which are contained in the report of the meeting, C 93/Inf. 1, pages 13-35, which I hope delegates will find time to read. The NGOs worked very hard and diligently on this and I myself believe it is a rather valuable report.

I wish to end this intervention with a pledge that NGOs are anxious and ready to collaborate with FAO, governments and other organizations for consultation and participation in SARD-related activities, especially at the local field level. Many NGOs have considerable expertise, and experiences, which are readily available to improve the life of rural people. They are generally very familiar with local conditions and are also very cost effective.

CHAIRMAN (Original language German): Mr Hartmans, did you also speak on behalf of the Consumers' Union? Is that correct?

Edmond HARTMANS (Observer of Caritas Internationalis) : In this meeting I am representing Caritas Internationalis, but I only spoke at this time as Chairman of the INGO Group, not for the Consumers' Union.

Sra. Elsa NIVIA (Observadora de la Organización Internacional de las Uniones de Consumidores): Voy a hablar en nombre de la Organización Internacional de las Uniones de Consumidores. Agradezco al señor Presidente la oportunidad de dirigirme a la Conferencia. Voy a tratar de abreviar la declaración que había preparado, en razón de la hora, y espero que todos

los delegados hayan tenido la oportunidad de leer el informe C 93/INF/1, sobre el cual nos acaban de informar, sobre la reunión de ONGs donde están consignadas nuestras discusiones acerca de la implementación de la Agenda 21.

La Organización Internacional de Uniones de Consumidores IOCU, la Red Internacional de Acción en Plaguicidas PAN, el Instituto de Políticas al Consumidor, la Red de Acción en Plaguicidas de América Latina RAP-AL, RAPALMIRA y muchas otras Organizaciones no Gubernamentales, celebramos esta política de la FAO y su compromiso de apoyar la Agenda 21, y hacemos un llamado a los gobiernos para que se reconozcan también los Tratados Alternativos propuestos por las ONGs en Río, para que la agricultura sustentable sea decretada como política nacional y se asignen los fondos adecuados para la investigación, difusión e implementación de estos programas.

El concepto de la agricultura sustentable va más allá de las definiciones estrechas tradicionales de manejo de plagas. La agricultura es sustentable cuando es económicamente viable, ecológicamente sana, culturalmente apropiada y socialmente justa. Y no son precisamente éstos los principios del modelo de agricultura predominante, la cual se basa en el uso de productos químicos como plaguicidas y fertilizantes sintéticos que degradan el ambiente y los recursos naturales y agravan los problemas de las plagas a los que se suman los efectos tóxicos agudos y crónicos en hombres mujeres y niños de familias campesinas o en trabajadores del campo que están expuestos directamente a estos venenos, además de los riesgos a largo plazo como el cáncer y otras enfermedades a que está expuesta la totalidad de la población, incluso quienes asistimos a esta Conferencia y nuestras familias, por ser consumidores de agua y alimentos contaminados.

A causa de estos problemas solicitamos a los gobiernos reconocer la urgencia de implementar la Agricultura y el Desarrollo Rural Sustentables, disminuir la disponibilidad de químicos de alto riesgo en los mercados aplicando el principio de prevención, eliminando químicos obsoletos, como ya lo propuso aquí el representante de Marruecos en la tarde de hoy, y asegurar los fondos necesarios para empezar a aplicar sin demora los 12 Programas Especiales de Acción propuestos por la FAO, con la participación de los campesinos y la comunidad rural, ONGs y universidades, destacando la salud humana como objetivo primordial de la protección ambiental y de los recursos naturales. La agricultura sustentable es necesaria para lograr la seguridad alimentaria, no sólo en términos de cantidad sino también en términos de calidad de los alimentos, para cumplir el objetivo principal de la agricultura de satisfacer las necesidades básicas de nutrición y salud de los pueblos.

Un componente clave de la Agricultura y el Desarrollo Rural Sustentable es el Manejo Integrado de Plagas, apoyado por la FAO hace casi 30 años, pero cuyas definiciones han sido tan débiles y poco claras que no han resuelto realmente nuestros problemas agrícolas y sí se han prestado para que el concepto sea manipulado por la industria agroquímica, para que se relacione en muchos casos sólo como rotación de químicos para combatir la resistencia en las plagas y para mantener el comercio de plaguicidas de alto riesgo, muchos de ellos ya prohibidos en varios países por sus efectos de salud y ambientales.

Solicitamos a la FAO definir nuevamente en términos agroecológicos el Manejo Integrado de Plagas, adecuado al concepto de sustentabilidad, donde se determine claramente la necesidad de reducir los insumos externos como

plaguicidas y fertilizantes químicos, y de promover la biodiversidad y los métodos biológicos, orgánicos y naturales en el manejo de los cultivos. Una buena base para empezar esta redefinición de Manejo Integrado de Plagas podría ser el concepto incluido en la Circular de Programas de Campo de la FAO N° 8, de diciembre de 1992, por todos ustedes conocida.

Recomendamos tener en cuenta los resultados positivos que se están logrando en los países del Sur y Sureste de Asia, con un nuevo enfoque del Manejo Integrado de Plagas enmarcado dentro del manejo integrado del cultivo del arroz, donde la FAO y los gobiernos están trabajando con los campesinos, ONGs y universidades, a través de los cursos llamados "Entrenamiento de Entrenadores" y "Escuelas de Campo de Agricultores". Allí muchos gobiernos han asumido el programa de Manejo Integrado de Plagas como política nacional, lográndose el mayor éxito donde además se han prohibido los plaguicidas más peligrosos y se han eliminado los subsidios, como en Indonesia.

Solicitamos incluir al menos cuatro observadores de ONGs con experiencia en Manejo Integrado de Plagas y agricultura sustentable, en el Panel de Expertos FAO/PNUMA sobre Control Integrado de Plagas en la Agricultura. Estos representantes de ONGs pueden ayudar a identificar, investigar y documentar aquellos plaguicidas, políticas gubernamentales y prácticas de la industria que socavan la efectividad y viabilidad de los programas de Manejo Integrado de Plagas.

Cuando proponemos la presencia de ONGs en el Panel de Expertos sobre Control Integrado de Plagas, debemos aclarar que nos referimos a ONGs sin ánimo de lucro desde sus orígenes, como ONGs ambientales y de desarrollo o asociaciones de agricultores, y no a ONGs formadas por personas u organizaciones orientadas al lucro como consultores privados, corporaciones transnacionales o vendedores de fertilizantes y plaguicidas, quienes están interesados en vender sus productos y no en promover la sustentabilidad, por tanto no pueden ser jueces de sí mismos.

Respecto al Código de Conducta sobre Distribución y Uso de Plaguicidas, el cual fue aprobado por la FAO en 1985 y enmendado en 1989 para incluir el "Consentimiento con Previa Información" o principio PIC: Recomendamos la revisión y fortalecimiento de este Código de Conducta para adaptarlo a los nuevos criterios de la Agricultura y el Desarrollo Rural Sustentables y la Agenda 21, y usar el PIC para seleccionar los productos obsoletos que deben ser retirados de todos nuestros mercados. El Panel de Expertos sobre Control Integrado de Plagas en la Agricultura, en el que hemos propuesto cuatro observadores de ONGs, debería trabajar con el Panel de Expertos sobre el PIC del Código de Conducta sobre Plaguicidas, con el fin de incluir en la lista PIC los plaguicidas nocivos para el Manejo Integrado de Plagas, por causar desequilibrios en las poblaciones de plagas y de agentes benéficos.

Respecto a la Políticas de Ajuste Estructural y Agricultura, la FAO como entidad asesora de los gobiernos en la definición de políticas, debe asegurarse que no haya contradicción entre los objetivos de la Agricultura y el Desarrollo Rural Sustentables y las Políticas de Ajuste Estructural del Banco Mundial y el Fondo Monetario Internacional.

Por último, quiero referirme a los recursos genéticos y biodiversidad. Actualmente existen personas y compañías que están saqueando nuestros recursos genéticos sin autorización. Es urgente apoyar el Código de Conducta sobre Colección y Transferencia de Germoplasma de Plantas. Los

gobiernos deben darle alta prioridad, como elemento crucial en su compromiso con la Agricultura y el Desarrollo Rural Sustentables.

P.J. MAHLER (Conseiller spécial du Directeur général, Sous-Directeur général pour l'environnement et le développement durable): La longueur de ce débat témoigne de la richesse des informations que les délégations ont bien voulu partager entre elles et aussi communiquer au Secrétariat.

Le Secrétariat est très reconnaissant aux délégations qui ont bien voulu appuyer l'action qui a été menée par la FAO jusqu'à présent, et surtout nous donner des orientations pour l'avenir. Nous avons besoin de ces orientations politiques devant un sujet aussi vaste. A ce propos, je voudrais dire combien j'ai apprécié les déclarations en particulier de la Jamaïque et de la Suisse. Il y en a eu beaucoup d'autres. Mes collègues et moi-même avons noté scrupuleusement tout ce qui a été dit et nous ferons en sorte que ce débat soit reflété dans le rapport.

Pour limiter mes réponses à cette heure tardive, je voudrais, si vous le voulez bien, laisser de côté le sujet des ressources phytogénétiques, puisqu'il va être abordé au point suivant. Mais nous avons noté que beaucoup de délégations ont aussi appuyé l'action de l'Organisation en ce qui concerne les ressources génétiques animales, et aussi ce que nous faisons dans le cadre de la conservation et de l'utilisation de la biodiversité, et de notre coopération avec les organes intergouvernementaux qui assurent la mise en place de la Convention internationale sur la biodiversité.

Nous avons reçu de la part des délégations de nombreuses directives en ce qui concerne nos priorités et le poids qu'il faudrait donner à tel ou tel secteur. Et j'ai relevé évidemment de nombreuses interventions sur les forêts. A ce propos, j'ai été informé que, en Commission II, demain, une résolution devrait être présentée sur ce sujet. Je crois que l'équilibre de nos activités entre différents secteurs relève principalement des travaux de la Commission II sur notre Programme de travail et budget, et notre plan à moyen terme. Donc, si vous le voulez bien, Monsieur le Président, je ne vais pas m'étendre là-dessus. Mais nous avons évidemment noté les orientations qui nous ont été données à ce sujet, et aussi la requête qui a été faite par de nombreuses délégations de pousser notre analyse d'Action 21, de façon à aller plus loin dans le choix des priorités. Nous avons indiqué dans l'annexe de ce document quels étaient les choix que nous entendons faire et nous avons reçu des orientations supplémentaires ici. Je voudrais quand même faire deux remarques: la première, c'est que je peux vous assurer que, dans des conditions de croissance zéro, il n'est guère possible à l'Organisation d'empiéter sur le mandat d'autres organisations. Et, donc, nous nous concentrerons sur nos priorités.

La deuxième remarque que je voudrais faire, c'est que tout l'effort qui a été conduit pour la restructuration de nos programmes de terrain, ce "streamlining" qui avait été demandé il y a déjà quatre ans, cet effort a été aussi orienté vers une meilleure définition de nos priorités. Et si nous avons choisi, dans le Programme-Cadre de Coopération Internationale pour l'ADRD, 12 programmes d'action spéciaux, 12 programmes qui correspondent à des rubriques bien précises d'Action 21, je pense que c'était dans le même but de poursuivre le choix des priorités.

La délégation des Etats-Unis s'est inquiétée, à juste titre d'ailleurs, de la façon dont nous allions nous organiser pour le suivi de la CNUED et de

la façon dont nous allons procéder à la mise en place de la coordination nécessaire. Dans sa déclaration, la délégation des Etats-Unis a naturellement évoqué les dispositifs qui existent déjà, à savoir un conseiller spécial auprès du Directeur général, un comité directeur, un groupe interdépartemental de travail sur l'environnement et le développement dont M. Zehni, qui est à mes côtés, est le Président, et un certain nombre de groupes de travail. Mais je pense que la question portait plutôt sur les autres aspects, en particulier sur la mise en oeuvre de ce programme cadre et des programmes d'action spéciaux. A ce sujet, je voudrais attirer l'attention sur le document C 93/8 dans lequel, dans le chapitre 6, nous faisons référence, aux paragraphes 303 à 309, (à cette heure tardive, je ne vais pas détailler cela) aux unités techniques principales qui vont avoir la responsabilité de guider ces programmes d'action spéciaux. Nous poursuivons là le même effort de décentralisation de notre coordination et nous assignons à des unités techniques la responsabilité d'assurer la coordination dans certains domaines précis.

Quant aux dispositions que nous devons prendre pour jouer le rôle de "maître d'oeuvre", je veux informer la Commission que nous avons déjà désigné, dans les départements concernés, un point focal pour chacun des chapitres d'Action 21 pour lesquels nous avons la responsabilité de "maître d'oeuvre". Ces points focaux auront la tâche particulièrement difficile de rassembler les informations sur ce que fait le système des Nations Unies dans leurs domaines respectifs, de proposer des stratégies communes, d'identifier les lacunes ou les doubles emplois et aussi de proposer des activités de coopération.. Je ne vous cacherais pas que mes collègues et moi-même sommes très préoccupés par cette charge de travail supplémentaire. Mais nous avons ici eu confirmation de la volonté de nos pays membres de nous voir coopérer avec la Commission du développement durable et répondre à leurs demandes de rapport et d'information pour la mise en oeuvre d'Action 21. Nous allons faire le maximum. Et à ce sujet, je voudrais aussi rappeler que nous avons déjà utilisé certains de nos mécanismes (le Comité de l'agriculture, le Comité des forêts) pour essayer de favoriser cette coopération inter-agences. Et nous avons l'intention de continuer. A ce sujet, référence a été faite aux commissions forestières régionales. Nous avons d'autres mécanismes. Je ne vais pas tous les citer ce soir. Mais c'est aussi à travers ces mécanismes que nous pouvons demander à nos pays membres de guider plus spécifiquement notre coopération et notre coordination dans certains domaines spécifiques, y compris au niveau régional.

Plusieurs délégations nous ont demandé de préparer des lignes directrices, des indicateurs de durabilité, de développer nos systèmes d'information, et même un manuel pour nos activités de terrain. Je suis heureux d'informer la Commission que dans tous ces domaines, nous avons déjà des travaux en chantier. Certains vont être publiés prochainement. C'est aussi notre ambition à terme d'avoir des lignes directrices, des "guidelines" pour chacun des programmes d'action spéciaux du Programme-Cadre de Coopération Internationale pour l'ADRD.

Par exemple, pour l'aménagement des zones côtières: dans le cadre d'une coopération avec le PNUE et la Banque mondiale, nous nous occupons spécifiquement des aspects de la gestion des zones côtières en ce qui concerne l'agriculture, les forêts et les pêches; et nous allons publier prochainement des directives dans ces domaines. Il en va de même pour l'association, la coordination que nous essayons de mettre en place entre les systèmes d'information géographique et les statistiques

conventionnelles dans les domaines de l'agriculture, des forêts et des pêches.

Plusieurs délégations ont fait référence à l'importance de la participation populaire. Je dois dire que le document que nous avons présenté étant plutôt un rapport plutôt d'activités, nous n'avons pas essayé de développer la doctrine. Cela avait été fait dans un document que nous avons présenté à la dernière Conférence. Je peux vous confirmer qu'il s'agit d'un axe fondamental de notre action. Et nous pensons d'ailleurs qu'il ne s'agit pas seulement de mettre en oeuvre, le Plan d'Action pour la Participation Populaire qui avait été approuvé il y a deux ans: c'est une approche qui doit être appliquée dans chacun des secteurs, pour la conservation des sols, pour la lutte intégrée contre les ravageurs, etc. Et c'est ce que nous faisons. Vous avez certainement entendu parler de ce projet de lutte intégrée contre les ravageurs du riz en Indonésie. Ce programme se fait avec la participation des riziculteurs et c'est ce qui en a fait d'ailleurs, le succès. La participation populaire est un des programmes d'action spéciaux dans le programme cadre de l'ADRD. Et je suis heureux à ce propos de confirmer l'étroite coopération que nous avons avec de nombreuses ONG, et notamment celles qui s'occupent plus spécifiquement des petits agriculteurs, avec lesquels nous avons des relations étroites.

Le délégué des Pays-Bas a indiqué qu'à l'avenir, il nous faudrait surtout compter sur les ressources du Programme ordinaire, plutôt que des ressources extrabudgétaires. Je voudrais quand même dire que c'est grâce à ces ressources extrabudgétaires, que nous ont données généreusement les Pays-Bas, que nous avons pu démarrer toute cette activité avec la Conférence Den Bosch. Et nous espérons que nous pourrions continuer (d'ailleurs, j'ai enregistré un appui à ce sujet de la délégation de la Suisse), que nous pourrions bénéficier de ces ressources extrabudgétaires, parce que les programmes d'action spéciaux sont essentiellement des familles de projets, de projets de terrain. Et pour mettre en oeuvre ces programmes d'action spéciaux, avec naturellement tout l'appui nécessaire du Programme ordinaire, c'est avec des ressources extrabudgétaires que nous pourrions le faire.

Pouvons-nous indiquer dans notre Programme ordinaire quels sont (et je crois que c'est une demande de la délégation suisse) les montants que nous allouons à l'environnement et au développement durable? Je dirai qu'il nous serait extrêmement difficile de le faire maintenant que nous avons réussi (et cela a été dit) à intégrer ces notions dans chacun de nos programmes. Mais en ce qui concerne l'augmentation de nos activités dans ces domaines-là, je voudrais me référer au paragraphe 25 du Programme de travail et budget. Vous avez là des tableaux sur trois pages qui indiquent quelles ont été les ressources additionnelles qui ont été consacrées à ces domaines.

Plusieurs délégations ont posé des questions en ce qui concerne les nouvelles sources de financement. Il s'agit du Fonds mondial pour l'environnement (FEM) d'une part, et le Programme Capacité 21. En ce qui concerne le Fonds mondial pour l'environnement, je rappellerai que c'était d'abord une opération pilote de trois ans. Elle est actuellement en train d'être évaluée. On envisage de restructurer le dispositif des organes directeurs du FEM. Dans les mois qui viennent, nous devrions avoir le résultat de tout ce processus. A part trois projets je dois dire que, pour le moment, nous n'avons pas réussi (alors que nous avons présenté plus d'une douzaine de demandes) à obtenir des financements suffisants dans les domaines qui nous intéressent. Nous insistons beaucoup auprès du FEM sur le fait que la biodiversité n'est pas seulement à conserver in situ mais

concerne aussi les ressources génétiques. Nous espérons que, avec la mise en place de la Convention sur la biodiversité, nous pourrions avoir plus de succès en présentant des requêtes de la part de nos pays membres pour ces activités.

En ce qui concerne les activités pour le renforcement des capacités nationales, c'est un programme qui est régi par le PNUD. Il est actuellement en voie de démarrage. Quarante millions de dollars ont été promis. Pour le moment, les activités, les projets à financer concernent principalement les ministères de l'environnement. Là aussi, nous insistons pour que les secteurs de l'agriculture, des forêts et des pêches bénéficient de Capacité 21. Nous pensons en particulier, dans notre rôle de "Task Manager", de maître d'oeuvre, pour chacun des chapitres de l'Agenda 21 sur les forêts, sur l'agriculture, etc, il faut promouvoir le renforcement des capacités nationales. Et, dans nos rapports, dans nos relations avec la Commission du développement durable, nous ferons en sorte d'insister sur ces aspects.

Plusieurs délégations ont fait référence au Plan d'action pour les forêts tropicales. Sans vouloir m'étendre à ce sujet, je voudrais informer la Commission de ce qu'il y a actuellement près de 90 pays qui font partie du PAFT. Que le PAFT a déjà mobilisé 2 343 000 000 dollars; qu'au cours des six derniers mois, le PAFT a mobilisé 317 millions de dollars; et que la répartition des fonds du PAFT (qui dépendent des donateurs; ce n'est évidemment pas la FAO qui contribue à ces fonds) se fait de la façon suivante: 68 pour cent à l'Asie et au Pacifique, 18 pour cent à l'Amérique latine, et 13 pour cent à l'Afrique.

Au sujet des petites îles, je voudrais d'abord rappeler que c'était l'initiative du Directeur général de convoquer une réunion sur l'agriculture, les forêts et les pêches dans les petites îles, à la Barbade avant la Conférence de Rio. Et je crois que cette initiative n'a pas été sans effet à la CNUED puisque la CNUED a demandé à ce qu'il y ait une Conférence sur les petites îles traitant de tous les secteurs. Doit-on dire que nous avons échoué à donner un suivi à cette Conférence? Je tiens à la disposition des délégations des listes de projets que nous exécutons dans ces pays. Nous avons préparé ces listes comme l'une des contributions pour la préparation de la Conférence qui se tiendra au mois d'avril de l'année prochaine. Nous avons aussi fait un rapport d'activités et pendant 2 semaines, un de nos hauts fonctionnaires a participé, au Comité préparatoire de cette Conférence. Nous étions d'ailleurs la seule agence à avoir envoyé quelqu'un du Siège. Nous avons fait le maximum, mais nous devons avouer que dans les délégations nationales, les secteurs de l'agriculture, des forêts et des pêches étaient peu représentés; et donc il nous était très difficile, malgré les très nombreuses interventions que mon collègue a faites, de faire passer le message de l'importance de l'agriculture, des forêts et des pêches pour les petites îles. Cela a été dit ici. Mais il faut que ce soit dit dans le Comité préparatoire de cette Conférence. Il faut que ce soit dit à la Conférence elle-même. Et ceci permettrait d'avoir des recommandations d'action, donc un programme d'action, et certainement un accroissement de nos activités dans ce domaine.

Je crois que j'arrive à la dernière question (j'en ai peut-être oublié et je m'en excuse à l'avance): au sujet de l'impact écologique de la guerre du Golfe. Nous avons participé à une étude générale d'impact conduite sous l'égide du Programme des Nations Unies dans cette région. Nous avons aussi proposé, dans le cadre du Sous-Comité des pêches pour les pays du Golfe,

une action conjointe des pays concernés. Et nous sommes disposés, si des ressources extra-budgétaires sont disponibles, à poursuivre notre action dans ce domaine.

Monsieur le Président, en terminant je veux encore une fois remercier les délégations des gouvernements et des observateurs pour la richesse de ces débats. Nous avons engrangé énormément d'informations et d'idées. Et je peux vous assurer que cela nous aidera énormément à jouer ce rôle de "maître d'oeuvre" qui nous est confié. Je vous remercie.

Sra Grafila SOTO CARRERO (Cuba) : La delegación de Cuba agradece a la secretaría de la FAO por la preparación de este documento referido a las actividades de medio ambiente y desarrollo sostenible.

Consideramos que la FAO debe continuar siendo uno de los protagonistas principales en la ejecución del Programa 21 aprobado en la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre medio ambiente y desarrollo, dando continuidad a la labor que en ese sentido despliega conjuntamente con los Estados Miembros y en los Estados Miembros fundamentalmente en la aplicación del marco internacional del Programa de Cooperación para la Agricultura y el Desarrollo Sostenible.

Mi país, señor Presidente, presta una atención prioritaria al seguimiento de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre medio ambiente y desarrollo y este aspecto ha sido tenido muy en cuenta en las recientes modificaciones de la constitución de la república, donde se incluyó el cumplimiento del Programa de acción de esta Conferencia.

Las actividades que en mi país se realizan están regidas por un comité nacional intersectorial presidido por la presidenta de la Academia de Ciencias e integrado por todos los organismos nacionales, que de un manera o de otra tienen que ver con las tareas planteadas en el Programa 21, y donde el papel de las mujeres y los jóvenes es muy importante pero siempre respondiendo a las necesidades y prioridades de nuestro país, para su entera ejecución dentro de nuestros planes nacionales de desarrollo en los diferentes sectores.

Señor Presidente, mi delegación apoya los planteamientos que se han hecho a favor de aprovechar al máximo las posibilidades de los órganos y organismos internacionales que ya realizaron actividades en favor del medio ambiente y el desarrollo sostenible, considerando innecesario la creación de nuevas instituciones que tal vez solamente nos llevarían a duplicar los esfuerzos que ya se están realizando. Apoyamos pues, el contenido del Párrafo 58 del documento que analizamos en el sentido de reforzar el alcance de las instituciones existentes.

Señor Presidente, mi delegación considera muy pertinente los planteamientos contenidos en el Párrafo 54 del documento C 93/10 puesto que el aumento de la pobreza y de las dificultades económicas hace necesario que se obtengan pautas de consumo y producción y de estilo de vida sostenible. En tal sentido consideramos necesario que se deberán ejecutar las acciones concretas, que al respecto están contenidas en el Plan de Acción de la CIN y de lo cual tal vez la FAO puede ocuparse también de manera prioritaria en el futuro.

Señor Presidente, para concluir, reiteramos que nuestro país trabajará tenazmente a fin de lograr que nuestra población y nuestras instituciones

participen de forma individual y colectiva en los esfuerzos encaminados a conseguir el desarrollo sostenible en un medio ambiente adecuado.

Quisiéramos, señor Presidente, que se tengan en cuenta las solicitudes hechas por las delegaciones de Trinidad y Tabago y Dominica para las pequeñas islas del Caribe¹.

David KING (Observer for the International Federation of Agricultural Producers): Sustainable development is not only the responsibility of governments, it is the responsibility of society as a whole. Farmers' organizations, represented in IFAP, therefore have a responsibility to play a leadership role in the conservation of natural resources and in the sustainable development of human society.

IFAP's concept of sustainable agriculture is based upon three principles, namely:

1. Agriculture must be considered first and foremost an economic activity, producing an adequate and safe supply of food, feed and renewable raw materials. Only an economically-viable agriculture is capable of effectively meeting environmental objectives.
2. Agriculture must be based upon environmentally-sound production methods and must assure the economic and social health of the rural economy. There must be a direct responsibility of individual farmers for the environmental effects of their farming practices.
3. Where society makes additional demands on farmers, adequate additional remuneration must be assured.

At the heart of any sustainable development policy must be measures to alleviate poverty, since poverty is strongly connected to the destruction of the environment. Such measures include: secure land tenure, remunerative prices for farm products, reduction of foreign debt burdens, fair terms for international trade, enhanced value-added through farmer-owned cooperatives.

At the heart of any programme of action must be a political commitment to involve the people in their own development. In the farm sector, this means recognizing representative farmers' organizations as essential partners in the establishment and implementation of rural development strategies.

Finally, Mr Chairman, at the heart of technological progress must be effective agriculture research, development and extension services focused on site-specific, sustainable farming methods and the development of renewable resources.

In order to ensure progress, action must be undertaken in a systematic fashion within an agreed time-frame and a stable, long-term policy.

In its work on sustainable development, IFAP has been fortunate to enjoy excellent cooperation with FAO, especially through Dr Mahler. We greatly

¹ Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa.

appreciate this, and look forward to continuing cooperation with FAO in addressing these key issues.¹

Gérard VIATTE (Observateur de l'Organisation de coopération et de développement économiques): Je félicite Vous et les Vice-Présidents pour Votre élection et le Secrétariat pour l'excellente documentation qu'il nous a présentée. Je remercie M. Mahler pour son intéressante présentation. L'OCDE se félicite que la Conférence de la FAO accorde une haute priorité aux relations entre l'agriculture, l'environnement et le développement durable, notamment dans le cadre du suivi de la Conférence de Rio. Pour sa part l'OCDE participe activement à l'analyse de ces relations et la réflexion sur l'orientation de politiques à la suite de la CNUED, notamment dans ses Comités de l'environnement, de l'agriculture et des pêcheries.

Lors de la réunion du Comité de l'agriculture au niveau ministériel, tenue en mars 1992, les Ministres de l'agriculture de l'OCDE avaient identifié les relations entre l'agriculture et l'environnement comme l'un des défis majeurs auxquels sont confrontés les décideurs politiques. Ils avaient souligné que l'agriculture peut avoir à la fois des effets positifs et négatifs sur l'environnement.

L'agriculture pourrait contribuer de plus en plus à assurer la viabilité écologique et la conservation des ressources rurales. La réforme des politiques agricoles, à laquelle se sont engagés les pays de l'OCDE, pourrait avoir des effets positifs sur l'environnement, et il serait judicieux d'intégrer les coûts et bénéfices environnementaux dans les prises de décision dans le domaine agricole. A cet effet, il faudrait réouvrir à la fois à des mesures réglementaires, déjà largement utilisées dans les pays de l'OCDE, et à des instruments économiques basés sur le marché, notamment des accords de gestion de l'environnement, des mesures financières et la reconnaissance de la valeur des services environnementaux fournis par l'agriculture.

Le principe pollueur-payeur, qui est l'un des fondements de la politique de l'environnement, développée par l'OCDE, devrait s'appliquer autant que possible à l'agriculture.

La création en septembre 1993 d'un Groupe de travail mixte des Comités de l'agriculture et de l'environnement de l'OCDE souligne l'importance attachée à l'intégration des politiques agricoles et environnementales. Il traduit bien l'orientation fondamentale des travaux de l'OCDE en matière d'environnement, axée sur l'analyse économique et sur l'intégration des politiques générales et des politiques sectorielles. Dans ce contexte, les travaux engagés portent principalement sur les relations entre la réforme des politiques agricoles et l'environnement (par exemple, par des paiements directs), sur la mise au point d'indicateurs agri-environnementaux, sur les possibilités de développer le recours aux instruments économiques et de mieux appliquer le principe pollueur-payeur, et sur les relations entre les politiques commerciales et les politiques de l'environnement dans le domaine agro-alimentaire.

Les conditions de développement de l'agriculture durable et des relations entre agriculture et forêts sont aussi traitées.

¹ statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request.

Dans le domaine des pêcheries, une attention particulière a été portée à la gestion des ressources côtières, qui a fait l'objet d'une recommandation du Conseil de l'OCDE en 1992. Le Comité des pêcheries va poursuivre ses travaux en recherchant les moyens de surmonter les conflits entre utilisateurs des ressources côtières.

Monsieur le Président, dans toutes ces activités, l'OCDE maintient des contacts très étroits avec les services et comités compétents de la FAO et de la Commission économique pour l'Europe. D'une manière plus générale, l'OCDE est pleinement engagée dans le suivi de la Conférence de Rio sur de très nombreux sujets, tels que la désertification, le changement climatique, la gestion des ressources marines, etc.

L'importance des enjeux en cause, qui est bien mise en lumière par la présente Conférence, exige en effet une coopération internationale très étroite, à laquelle chaque Organisation doit contribuer selon sa compétence et sa vocation¹.

The meeting rose at 18.30 hours.

La séance est levée à 18 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.30 horas.

¹ Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 93/I/PV/11

Twenty-seventh Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt-septième session
COMMISSION I

27° período de sesiones
COMISION I

ELEVENTH MEETING
ONZIEME SEANCE
UNDECIMA SESION

(17 November 1993)

The Eleventh Meeting was opened at 17.00 hours

Mr Parviz Karbasi, Vice-chairman of Commission I, presiding

La onzième séance est ouverte à 17 heures

sous la présidence de M. Parviz Karbasi, Vice-Président de la Commission I

Se abre la undécima sesión a las 17.00 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Parviz Karbasi, Vicepresidente de la Comisión I

A. PAPASOLOMONTOS (Director, Plant Production and Protection Division):

Before introducing 7.1 and 7.2, I should like to touch on two points. In the first instance, many delegations have already spoken in support of the Plant Genetic Resources Programme, especially under items 7 and 12. I would like to assure that the Secretariat has already taken note of those comments and of your support.

Under these two topics are two resolutions which have been extensively discussed and accepted by the appropriate bodies. So I would hope that they would be seen by this Commission in that light.

PART I - MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
PREMIERE PARTIE - PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE
D'ALIMENTATION ET d'AGRICULTURE (suite)

PARTE I - PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA
ALIMENTACION (continuación)

- 7.1 Revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources (Draft Resolution)
- 7.1 Révision de l'Engagement international sur les ressources phylogénétiques (Projet de résolution)
- 7.1 Revision del Compromiso Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos (Proyecto de Resolución)
- 7.2 International Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collection and Transfer (Draft Resolution)
- 7.2 Code international de conduite pour la collecte et le transfert de matériel phylogénétique (Projet de résolution)
- 7.2 Código Internacional de Conducta para la recolección y transferencia de Germoplasma Vegetal (Proyecto de Resolución)

A. PAPASOLOMONTOS (Director, Plant Production and Protection Division): In introducing Item 7.1 the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources or CPGR which, as you know, celebrated its tenth anniversary this year, dedicated a substantial part of its Fifth Session last April to discussing the implications of UNCED's Agenda 21 and the Biological Diversity Convention on the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, including the FAO Global System. Its recommendations were endorsed by the Hundred-and-third Session of the FAO Council.

The Commission and the Council noted Agenda 21's recommendations to strengthen the FAO Global System on Plant Genetic Resources and to implement the agreements on farmers' rights. They also noted Resolutions 2 and 3 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the first of which requested FAO's cooperation in the establishment and operation of the Interim Secretariat of the Convention, and the second requested that solutions to outstanding matters of the Convention, inter alia access to ex situ collections and the realization of farmers' rights agreements, be sought within the FAO Global System on Plant Genetic Resources.

The Commission's Resolution for the revision of the International Undertaking is attached to document C 93/28. It requests the Director-General to provide a forum for negotiations among governments to adapt the International Undertaking in harmony with the Convention on Biological

Diversity, and to consider the issues of access to plant genetic resources on mutually-agreed terms as well as the implementation of farmers' rights. The Resolution urges that this process be carried out by the CPGR in close cooperation with the intergovernmental body of the Convention.

The Commission established a tentative timetable for the revision of the Undertaking. The Working Group meeting of the Commission is planned for early 1994. Extra-budgetary resources will be needed to continue future meetings and to ensure participation of the developing countries at such meetings.

The Commission recommended that FAO collaborate with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and agreed that the FAO Conference could provide recommendations to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its financial mechanism on matters related to plant genetic resources. In this context, the possibility was suggested of establishing a joint task force of the Commission of Plant Genetic Resources and the Interim Intergovernmental Committee for the Convention on Biological Diversity, or ICCBD, to facilitate complementarity between the International Undertaking and the Convention. The CPGR also agreed that the UN Commission on Sustainable Development should be periodically informed of the progress made by the CPGR in the implementation of relevant aspects of Agenda 21.

In this context it is important to note that the conservation and use of plant and animal genetic resources are dealt within Agenda 21 in Chapter 14 as an integral part of SARD, whereas the broader aspects of biodiversity are covered in Chapter 15. FAO was designated as Task Manager for the cooperation of the UN system in the implementation of Chapter 14 and UNEP will play this role for Chapter 15. Cooperation between FAO and UNEP in this area is, therefore, essential. As part of the multi-year programme of the CSD, both Chapter 14 on SARD and Chapter 15 on biodiversity will come under review by the CSD in 1995.

The first session of the ICCBD took place in Geneva last month. The Committee was informed of the recommendations of CPGR and FAO Council, and reminded of FAO's mandate and activities in relation to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture. It was also informed that the last FAO Conference in 1991 had recognized that CPGR was "the only intergovernmental permanent body in the UN system, addressing a large portion of the biological diversity", and in this context FAO was ready, if requested by its governing bodies, to broaden this Commission into a commission on biodiversity on agriculture, forestry and fisheries. This body could then provide overall policy and programme guidance to all FAO's activities related to plant genetic resources, including forest genetic resources, and animal genetic resources including fish genetic resources. It could also provide support to the ICCBD and to the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biodiversity. Of course, this would not necessarily imply a need for a parallel broadening of the International Undertaking, as different segments of biodiversity may require specific guiding principles and agreements.

The CPGR has also endorsed the aim and strategies of the Fourth International Technical Conference for Plant Genetic Resources and its preparatory process, including the development of the first Report on the State of the World's PGR and the Global Plan of Action, and emphasized the urgent need to initiate it as a participatory and country-driven process. Funds have been, and are still being, pledged and the process is underway.

It should be noted that the revision of the Undertaking and the development of a costed Global Plan of Action are related and complementary activities.

Further, the last session of the CPGR, the CGIAR centres offered to place their base and active collections under the auspices of FAO. A first draft of a Code of Conduct on Biotechnology was also discussed.

In conclusion, the role of FAO in the follow-up to UNCED's Agenda 21 and the Convention on Biological Diversity on matters related to BDFA is especially important for the sectors of food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries. The Secretariat seeks the guidance of the Conference on the proposals for cooperating with the ICCBD and the Conference of Parties for the Convention. The CPGR Resolution for the revision of the International Undertaking is submitted to the Commission for approval. It will be a first step to developing and strengthening cooperation as regards plant genetic resources. Actions to be taken for animal and fishery genetic resources, including considerations for broadening the scope of CPGR, may also need to be discussed. Additional extra-budgetary funds for the revision of the International Undertaking and to continue preparations for the International Technical Conference are needed. We hope that further pledges will be made during this Conference.

I turn now to Conference Item 7.2.

The Draft Resolution on the International Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collecting and Transfer, which is submitted to you in documents C 93/28, and also in C 93/INF 17, represents the culmination of a process which started in April 1989.

At its Third Session in 1989 the CPGR noted that most countries do not request any kind of licence or permit for collecting plant genetic resources in their territories. It discussed the need for international regulations in the collecting and transfer of plant genetic resources which would allow countries to exercise sovereignty and to benefit from their plant genetic resources. It recommended that the Working Group of the Commission assisted by the Secretariat, prepare an International Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collecting and Transfer.

The Secretariat sent a questionnaire to a wide range of experts, including germplasm collectors and curators, sponsors, plant breeders, biotechnologists, botanists and policy-makers; national and international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and industry seeking their advice on issues to be addressed. Material for the preparation of the draft Code was also assembled from national codes and regulations and from literature reviews.

A first draft Code of Conduct was discussed in 1990 by the Working Group of the Commission. Since then the Working Group and the Commission itself have provided the intergovernmental fora through which member countries have developed and negotiated the Code. You considered an earlier draft at your last session, when there was general agreement on its contents. This has formed the basis of further elaboration by the Commission, together with the comments received from member countries. The present revisions seek to ensure consistency and complementarity with the Convention on Biological Diversity on matters which are relevant to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

The Code is intended as a set of standards for those who voluntarily adhere to the principles it embodies. It provides ethical standards of field behaviour for collectors and has also provisions for sponsors, curators and users, long-term responsibilities for the planning and approval of collecting missions, the management of germplasm collections, and the transfer, conservation and use of germplasm itself.

The primary function of the Code is to serve as a point of reference until such time as individual countries establish their own codes, or regulations for collection, conservation, exchange and use. The Code may serve as a source of ideas, both for individual countries in preparing their own national regulations on collection, and for the possible development, at a future time, of an international legally-binding instrument, for example as a Protocol of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Although the terms of this Code relate primarily to international collecting missions, as requested by the Commission itself, its ethical standards, and the principle of fully involving local communities, may also provide guidance for national collecting missions.

The Hundred-and-Third Session of the Council recognized that this latest version of the Code is "the final result of long and difficult negotiations and represents the compromise text that could be acceptable to all countries". I would appeal to you to endorse the draft Resolution on the Code without further delay. In doing so, it should be noted that the Code is a "voluntary instrument", which can be updated, amended or modified later, if and when necessary.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr Papasolomontos, for your excellent introduction.

As I understand it, we are now seeking the approval of the Commission for the Draft Resolution on the Revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, which is document C 93/28, page C2, and the approval of the agreed text on the Draft International Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collection and Transfer, which is document CL 103/16-Sup.1. We are also hoping for an extra-budgetary donation for the Fourth Plant Genetic Convention and, I think, the request of the Secretariat for expanding the Commission.

The floor is open. The interpreters are available up to 11 p.m. but we hope not to waste a lot of time and reach that point earlier.

Alcir CARVALHO REBELLO (Brazil): First of all, I would like to commend the Secretariat on their collaboration, not only of the documents in front of us but for all the work that has been carried out by the Organization in the field of plant genetics.

As a member of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources team and of the Council, Brazil has had many opportunities to express support for the strengthening of the global system on plant genetic resources and its components up to the convening of the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources and the implementation of farmer rights. Our views are fully integrated in the draft Resolution and revision of the International Undertaking and the International Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collection and Transfer. We are, therefore, happy to endorse both drafts, which crown a long but fruitful work process.

Finally, my delegation strongly favours the Council's recommendation that the content of the resolution regarding revision of the International Undertaking be formally brought to the attention of the Inter-Governmental Committee of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Zahir Shah MOHMAND (Pakistan): The Pakistan delegation is in full agreement with the recommendations of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and feels the need for vigorous follow-up by the FAO Conference.

We also urge that the Convention on Biological Diversity should be brought into full operation as quickly as possible, in consultation with Member States and parties concerned. We would, however, stress the need for clearly defining farmers' rights and all possible steps to be taken to safeguard those rights.

The Pakistan delegation also believes that the resolution adopted by the Commission for the Revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources be adopted by Conference and as soon as possible the revised undertaking may be given the shape of a binding legal instrument.

We agree with FAO's concern that, despite the discussion and activities going on at various international fora, genetic erosion is continuing and on a large scale. The potential harmful and insidious collecting activities which are definitely taking place must be stopped.

It is an admitted fact that in the mindless pursuit of cross-breeding and gene analysis, modern researchers are not exercising care and caution. This can cause damage to the genetic assets of nature. Moreover, some thoroughbreds and nondescript species which are part of biodiversity are being wiped out. The researchers and organizations must heed the due rights of people, areas and countries where such genetic researches are carried out. The Commission, *inter alia*, intends to transform the relevant part of the UNCED process, including Agenda 21 and the Convention on Biodiversity, and work to a costed global plan of action based on the report on the state of the World's Plant Genetic Resources.

While we agree in principle with the Commission's intentions, the word "costed" in this context requires a little elaboration and tends to cast some doubts. Secondly, the document nowhere indicates the extent of extra-budgetary requirements for the pledges made so far and the additional pledges required. If it is possible and feasible, FAO might also give such clarification at an appropriate time and in an appropriate forum. The offer of a Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research (CGIAR) to place their base and actual collection under the auspices of FAO is laudable. We hope that this trusteeship will be taken over by FAO with well thought-out terms and conditions.

Miss TING WEN LIAN (Malaysia): First of all, my delegation would like to draw the attention of this Commission to the subject of the ex situ collections which the CGIAR centres have offered to place under the auspices of FAO.

This subject, as our colleagues will recall, was discussed in great depth at the last meeting of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. This is in paragraph 16 on page 4 of document C 93/28.

I only wish to draw the attention of the Secretariat to the portion of this report which says that it requested the Director-General to negotiate with the centres on the basis of the model agreement discussed. My delegation would like to place on record that any further developments in this respect should be reported back to the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources before any decision is taken.

While I am on this point, my delegation would also like to draw the attention of fellow delegates here to the fact that when the CGIAR centres offer to place their base collections under the auspices of FAO, we must also be sure to find out what sort of role is envisaged for FAO. Is it just a decorative role? We would like to see FAO having a say in policy, for instance.

The other point that was also raised in the discussions in the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources is the fact that any such kind of agreement arrived at should be reviewed every four years. I would simply like the Secretariat to take note of these comments.

Another element I want to flag is that the CGIAR talked of trusteeship. During the discussions in the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, my delegation was very concerned that this new concept of trusteeship would bestow on the CGIAR centres a legal status that they never had up till now.

Those are the points that we would like the Secretariat to bear in mind.

On the two points mentioned in the introduction, there was a suggestion that we should address our comments to the proposal of broadening the scope of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources to include forests and fisheries. My delegation is of the view that we do not wish to see any duplication. For the moment we would like the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources to confine itself in the discussion on plant genetic resources to food and agriculture because we do have a Convention on Biological Diversity which will come into force on 29 December this year and, as mentioned from the podium, the first Inter-Governmental Committee, the ICCBD, met in October in Geneva. I led our delegation there.

I would like to say on the second point which was raised, the relationship with the ICCBD, that it is certainly very important for the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources to maintain a very close relationship with the ICCBD. In fact, for the information of our friends here, at the next meeting of the ICCBD in Geneva the subject of ex situ collections in the gene banks will also be discussed. In fact, there should be very close liaison between the work of each commission or each body so that there is no overlap or conflict.

There is another important point I would like to flag. We should look at page 41 of document C 93/28, where we see, right down in the right hand bottom corner, "State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources". It is elaborated on page 3 paragraph 13(i).

There it says, "transform the relevant parts of the UNCED process (including Agenda 21... based on a Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources." As you can see, Mr Chairman, this is part of what the Technical Conference proposes to produce. I would like to advance a note of caution here. In my mind, this so-called State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources and a report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources is very similar to the global list that was proposed in the Convention on

Biological Diversity, which was rejected by the Group of 77 and finally rejected by the whole Conference attending the negotiations because we considered it impracticable and time-consuming, and because funds for that purpose could be more wisely spent on the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources.

I thought I would draw the attention of the Secretariat to that very important point, that we regarded the global list as really of no great importance and that it would be a waste of resources.

Whilst on the subject of the Conference, my delegation feels very strongly that there should be the normal preparatory process. We certainly would not wish to see the FAO Secretariat dealing with this particular subject -although they are very experienced in this area - to prepare papers for us to look at when we arrive at the Conference. I think it is important for all participating countries to give their input in a regular preparatory process of - I do not know, maybe we could have a few meetings. There is the Working Group of Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. We also have meetings of the Commission which could be increased so as to take on board these preparatory processes.

For the time being, those are the points I would like to make and I hope that the Secretariat will take notice of them.

Hitoshi ASAKI (Japan): My delegation would like to express its appreciation for the concise document before us, and for the clear explanation given by Mr Papasolomontos.

My delegation wishes to make some comments on document C 93/28. Japan fully recognizes that the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources with the three appendices is the result of long and careful discussion, and therefore considers that any revision should be treated cautiously, step by step. My Government would like to respect the voluntary status of this Undertaking.

Regarding the International Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collection and Transfer, which Japan approved at the 103rd Council, my Government hopes that this Code will provide an effective technical guideline for member countries.

Finally, as for the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources, my Government appreciates the substantial contribution made by Germany and would wish to be associated with the views expressed.

Theodor GLASER (Suisse): Je remercie le Secrétariat pour la documentation qu'il nous a fournie et son introduction très instructive.

La délégation suisse considère que la conservation et l'utilisation durable des ressources phylogénétiques représentent une activité importante. Ainsi, mon pays participe à la Commission des ressources phylogénétiques et a également adhéré à l'engagement international.

En ce qui concerne le document C 93/28, j'ai les remarques suivantes à faire. Au paragraphe 8, il est dit: "La Commission a noté que, plus tard, la FAO, si on lui en fait la demande, pourrait transformer l'Engagement révisé en un instrument juridique ayant force obligatoire, qui pourrait se

présenter sous la forme d'un protocole de la Convention, avec son propre secrétariat et son propre organe directeur".

Nous sommes de l'avis que, bien que cette projection soit en grande partie légitime de par les travaux à entreprendre en vue de répondre aux actions requises par la Convention sur la diversité biologique, il est nettement prématuré d'entrevoir, au stade actuel des discussions, des lignes directrices aussi précises. Au contraire, comme l'indique d'ailleurs le Secrétariat lui-même, au paragraphe 7, "il faudra agir avec prudence et pragmatisme et procéder par étapes". Pour ce faire, il conviendrait davantage de s'assurer dans une première étape de l'entière adhésion d'un plus grand nombre de partenaires à l'Engagement international. A ce titre, il est à noter, selon les indications à l'Annexe B du document, que plusieurs pays qui auraient un rôle important à jouer n'ont- toujours pas adhéré à l'Engagement international sur les ressources phytogénétiques. Il me paraît plus urgent de convaincre ces pays d'adhérer bientôt à l'Engagement international avant de transformer ce dernier en un instrument juridique ayant force obligatoire.

Il est à plusieurs reprises fait mention de la concrétisation du droit des agriculteurs (farmer's rights) sans qu'il soit précisé de quoi il retourne exactement. Ma délégation considère qu'il s'agit là d'un point essentiel à éclaircir. Comme d'autres pays, la Suisse a souscrit à plusieurs engagements internationaux en matière de propriété intellectuelle, qu'il s'agit d'observer. Je pense, par exemple, aux engagements dans le cadre du GATT et à l'Accord européen en la matière. Des droits d'accès légitimes aux ressources phytogénétiques doivent donc être formulés en harmonie avec les engagements sur la propriété intellectuelle.

Le premier projet de résolution concernant la révision de l'Engagement international sur les ressources phytogénétiques soulève une question. A l'alinéa b) des constats, on cite partiellement l'article 15 de la Convention sur la diversité biologique. Pour que la citation soit correcte, il faudrait introduire, à l'avant-dernière ligne, après "lesdites ressources", la mention "sauf décision contraire de cette Partie". L'alinéa se poursuivrait ensuite avec: "et qu'il s'effectue selon des modalités mutuellement convenues". J'aimerais savoir pourquoi cette partie de la citation a été modifiée.

En ce qui concerne la deuxième résolution, je n'ai pas de commentaire particulier à faire.

Enfin, au paragraphe 54, des doutes sont exprimés quant à la nécessité d'élaborer un code de vaste portée sur les biotechnologies. En considération de tous les travaux engagés au niveau international, aussi bien sur la base des initiatives publiques que privées, nous partageons ces doutes, en particulier parce qu'un tel code risquerait fort d'entrer en duplication avec des instruments déjà existants.

Alan Bruce AMEY (Canada): The Canadian delegation is pleased to see the fruits of its and other delegations' labours in the area of plant genetic resources. As has been indicated in other interventions, this is a high priority area for Canada and other member countries, and we note the progress achieved.

We have discussed the two resolutions at the 103rd Council and are pleased that another step has been reached towards implementation.

Mr Chairman, we would like to support the resolution regarding the revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. However, in the text of the resolution it is noted that the Director-General is requested to provide a forum for negotiations among governments to revise the Undertaking. We understand that a draft text is in an advanced state of preparation already, even before the members have met, and would request a clarification from the Secretariat. There may be a need for a consultation or a Working Group meeting amongst the members before the Secretariat proceeds much further with its work.

Secondly, as called for in paragraph 47 of the report of the CPGR, it would be beneficial to have a report on how well FAO is doing in relation to the timetable of the work that the CPGR has sanctioned, as some delays have occurred. We strongly support the work of the CPGR and urge that the members be given the information necessary to do their jobs.

This delegation also supports the resolution on the Code of Conduct for Germplasm Collecting and Transfer as this is another high priority item for us.

We also support the goals of the International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources. To that end, we will be supporting a forum in francophone Africa with FAO participation on National Planning of Plant Genetic Resources. This forum will contribute to the development of a global Plan of Action and we would urge all nations here present to make a contribution, however small, to the International Technical Conference. In fact, considerable ingenuity by the FAO Secretariat will be needed to launch this conference successfully. For example, it has been suggested that the preparation of the International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources and the revision of the Undertaking might be considered together, and resources devoted to the revision of the Undertaking could also be used for the International Technical Conference.

The Canadian delegation also brought up earlier the possibility of global environmental funding which Mr Mahler touched on yesterday. Many nations have spoken about the high priority of this Conference and we would like to add Canada's voice.

The theme "Harvesting Nature's Diversity" was chosen for World Food Day 1993 and was successful in stressing the importance of biodiversity and generating expectations among member countries that FAO was on track in its activities in this area. This does not appear to be the case, and in particular, progress to date on the Technical Conference has been less than reassuring. We hope that this Commission will give it the high priority it deserves by insisting that the report to the Plenary will be that the proposed Fourth International Technical Conference should take place in 1996 at the very latest.

Finally, we would like to indicate that all possible haste be used in the conclusion of the agreements between FAO and the IBPGR on the issue of the Control of Plant Genetic Resources currently under the control of the IBPGR.

José Ramón LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): En primer lugar deseo felicitarle a usted por presidir tan eficazmente los trabajos de esta Comisión y agradecer al Dr. Papasolomontos sus comentarios iniciales.

La Delegación de México ha apoyado activamente, desde el inicio, a la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos, al Compromiso Internacional y al Programa de Acción y nos congratulamos de los avances y de la importancia creciente que ha cobrado en la conciencia internacional esta actividad.

Con miras a consolidar el esfuerzo realizado durante más de una década, México aprueba los Proyectos de Resolución sobre la revisión del Compromiso Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos, así como la del Código Internacional de Conducta para la recolección y transferencia de germoplasma vegetal.

Igualmente, apoyamos firmemente y endosamos los objetivos y la estrategia de la cuarta Conferencia Internacional Técnica de Recursos Fitogenéticos. Existe una clara complementariedad entre dicha Conferencia y la revisión del Compromiso Internacional que llevará al primer Informe Mundial sobre el estado de los recursos fitogenéticos y al Plan Global de Acción costeadado.

Los esfuerzos en materia de recursos fitogenéticos forman parte integral de la ejecución de la convención sobre diversidad biológica y de varios de los capítulos de la Agenda 21.

Queremos agradecer en este foro a aquellos países que generosamente han donado fondos extrapresupuestarios para la realización del proceso de preparación de la Conferencia Técnica y, en particular, a Alemania, país que además ha ofrecido generosamente hospedarla. Esperamos que la Conferencia convenga reunirse en Alemania para mediados de 1996.

Instamos al Director General para que encuentre los recursos necesarios presupuestarios y extrapresupuestarios para que el proceso preparatorio de la Conferencia Técnica se inicie de inmediato. Los recursos adicionales para concluir la podrá y deberán hacerse llegar durante el proceso. Estamos seguros de que la Comunidad Internacional reconoce la prioridad que este esfuerzo significa para la supervivencia y el mejoramiento de las condiciones de vida de toda la humanidad, de las generaciones presentes y futuras.

Es necesario que se asegure una retroalimentación entre los foros intergubernamentales y las reuniones técnicas. En ese sentido, consideramos fundamental que la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos, guíe, coordine y asegure la convergencia y la congruencia de todo el proceso preparatorio de la Conferencia Técnica Internacional. Una mayor colaboración con el Comité Intergubernamental de la Convención sobre Biodiversidad Biológica, es también necesario.

Instamos, señor Presidente, al Director General para que asegure la celebración de una reunión del Grupo de Trabajo de la Comisión a comienzos de 1994, a fin de que se inicien las negociaciones sobre la revisión del Compromiso Internacional. Asimismo le instamos a encontrar los fondos para convocar una sesión extraordinaria de la Comisión durante el año 1994, que será el foro para la renegociación del Compromiso Internacional y que determinará el que se realice, o la oportunidad de que se realice, una reunión del Grupo de Trabajo.

En ese sentido, señor Presidente, volvemos a insistir como lo hemos hecho en otros foros, y como se ha recomendado en nuestra Comisión, en el Comité del Programa y en el Consejo de la Organización, para que se dé mayor visibilidad a la Secretaría de la Comisión y se le asignen más recursos financieros y humanos al secretario de dicha Comisión.

La Comisión tiene enfrente de sí una gran tarea. Debe estar en grado de informar, entre otras cosas, de sus progresos al próximo Consejo de la Organización de noviembre de 1994.

Por otro lado, señor Presidente, nos ha preocupado la posible participación insuficiente de expertos de países en desarrollo, debido a limitaciones financieras de esos países en el proceso preparatorio de la Conferencia y en la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos. Entendemos, no obstante, que la generosa contribución de varios países permitirá sufragar parte de dichos gastos. Esto asegurará una efectiva convergencia de intereses y esfuerzos para beneficio de todos los países, los donantes de fondos y los donantes de germoplasma.

En este proceso de convergencia, también apreciamos mucho el gesto de los centros del grupo consultivo de investigaciones agrícolas internacionales de poner sus colecciones bajo los auspicios de la FAO.

La Comisión y el Consejo han solicitado ya al Director General que llegue a un acuerdo provechoso con dichos centros, tomando en consideración los problemas de tipo legal y financiero y el papel de la Comisión en relación a decisiones de política relativas a dichas colecciones.

Otro aspecto importante de conformidad a la Resolución 3 del Acta Final de Nairobi, es la búsqueda de soluciones a problemas de las colecciones ex situ no adquiridas de acuerdo a la Convención de Diversidad Biológica, y la implantación de los derechos de los agricultores. Estos aspectos y estos conceptos deberán explorarse próximamente y deberán también analizarse los términos en que se convenga mutuamente el acceso a los recursos fitogenéticos.

La Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos y la Conferencia Técnica se abocarán en el contexto de la versión del Compromiso Internacional a estudiarlos.

Finalmente, señor Presidente, enfatizamos que todo este proceso deberá converger en la Conferencia de las Partes de la Convención sobre Diversidad Biológica donde el Compromiso Internacional revisado podría, así lo esperamos, conformar un protocolo de dicha Convención, y en donde el Plan Global de Acción podría convertirse en una ventanilla del Fondo Global para el Medio Ambiente.

La reflexión final de la Delegación de México, es en el sentido de que en nuestra Organización debemos considerar seriamente la conveniencia de que la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos se expanda eventualmente para abarcar los otros aspectos de la diversidad biológica a fin de darle un tratamiento similar a todos los recursos genéticos y a los ecosistemas.

Ulf SVENSSON (Sweden): Let me thank the Secretariat first for as always in the field of plant genetic resources, providing a clear, lucid and excellent document - and also my thanks for the representation made by Mr Pappasolomontos.

We support the adoption of the resolutions presented to us by this Conference. The first resolution requests the Director-General of the FAO to provide a forum for negotiations among governments - that is, for inter-governmental negotiations on some very important topics, the revision and adaptation of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources to make it in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity that will

be a legally binding document on the 29th December of this year. We are not to discuss the Undertaking here, but I can only state that Sweden will negotiate in inter-governmental negotiations on the Undertaking in order for us to be fully bound by it and to act in accordance with it as a legally binding instrument. We are not going to negotiate anything that is not binding because it is based on a binding instrument, the Convention on Biological Diversity.

This will be a complex negotiation. We will have to make the Undertaking compatible and in harmony with the chapters on *in situ* conservation, *ex situ* conservation, sustainable use, and also the provisions, chapters and articles on access to genetic resources, the transfer of technology and funding in the Biodiversity Convention. That is a tall order. We have the forum for it, and it is said in the resolution that the forum will be the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. It is said - and my delegation has accepted it - that it be convened if necessary with extra-budgetary financing. But I know of no other inter-governmental body in that case but FAO where inter-governmental negotiations, fora negotiating conventional instruments and treaties of great significance would be financed from extra-budgetary resources and not from regular budgetary resources.

I can imagine how the governing body of UNEP would have reacted if the negotiation upon the Treaty of Biological Diversity had to be financed from extra-budgetary resources. There would have been a row if there had been such a proposal. Similarly in the General Assembly if the Treaty on Climatic Change had been negotiated in sessions financed from sources outside the regular budgetary resources. I must say we are a bit surprised that the budgetary proposal before this Conference does not include from regular budgetary resources the finance for the necessary negotiating sessions of a very important instrument. We hope that the Secretariat will redress that and provide the necessary one or two extraordinary sessions with the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, and perhaps three, four, five or six extra sessions of this working group reflected in the resolution from budgetary resources.

Then, when it comes to the necessary full participation from the developing countries in these important negotiations - and from our side we compare them with the negotiations on the Treaties on Biological Diversity and Climatic Change in significance and importance, maybe even more - we hope the developing countries will participate. Those resources, or most of them, will have to come from extra-budgetary resources. That is quite clear and from our point of view, Sweden will do its utmost to contribute to them.

We strongly support the statement made by the delegate of Malaysia. In this case we are in a process which, as she said, will have to be a normal preparatory process where governments in inter-governmental negotiating sessions really formulate the instrument down to each comma if we are going to be bound by it. It is not going to be a Secretariat document that we rubber stamp. We are going to negotiate seriously as we did with the Biodiversity and Climate Conventions where there was not a word left in by the Secretariat and where governments were ready with the conventions for signing, and which we are now ratifying.

In the wider position, when the text of the biodiversity convention was adopted - and Resolution 3 is reflected in the document - the signatories requested a global system of plant genetic resources as is operated by FAO

to investigate two outstanding issues, the issues of farmers' rights and of access to ex situ collections not addressed by the Convention.

The Resolution before us takes up that invitation, and we invite FAO to carry out this process. We would therefore suggest that the Conference request the Director-General to carry this Resolution to the meeting in the spring of next year of the Inter-Governmental Committee on the Convention on Biodiversity, the so-called ICCBD, and then to the first meeting of the conference of the parties to the Convention in November/December 1994. We share the view expressed by the distinguished Ambassador of Malaysia that we shall receive guidance from these bodies. Negotiations will have to be carried out in order to ensure that the text we shall ultimately agree upon is in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity. I take it that the whole negotiation process will be carried out in close consultation with, and dialogue between, the forum for negotiations among governments, the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, and the governing body of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The Ambassador from Malaysia also mentioned ex situ collections and expressed some concerns on the agreement between FAO and the international agricultural research centres. In the agenda for the international negotiations which we have in the Resolution, there is also introduced the issue of access, on mutually agreed terms, to plant genetic resources, including ex situ collections not addressed by the Convention. That means that those collections which are presently in the international agricultural research centres will be drawn into the inter-governmental negotiations for agreement. The whole issue of ownership of, and remuneration for, access to such material will be taken up, deliberated and agreed upon. I therefore think that the concerns of the distinguished Ambassador for Malaysia will be well taken into account in the negotiations of the Commission. We therefore request the Director-General to invite the IBPGR and also the other international agricultural research centres to provide the technical material concerning the negotiations, i.e. the ex situ collections, inter alia, necessary for the negotiations.

The Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources will, in the view of Sweden, be the first global summit on plant genetic resources, a technical conference with technical elements but also highly political, a conference which will have before it the agreement on access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, including ex situ collections. It will be a highly political conference in Germany.

In Agenda 21 it was said that the conference would take place in 1995, and that was our decision previously. Now we hear that it may instead be held in 1996. I hope we shall not hear that it will be held in 1997 or 1998 because the preparatory process has not yet started. I would appeal to other donor countries to make proper contribution to the preparatory process, which, to a large extent, will have to be financed extra-budgetarily. It is a question of US\$7.5 million, which is not big money for such a highly important conference and for the preparatory process, which is not the normal consultancy process but a country-driven process in which countries will prepare and decide upon national action plans on in situ and ex situ conservation, on plant breeding, on production of the seeds which will feed so many people into the next century. We hope that the money will be forthcoming and that the FAO Secretariat will move into that higher gear which my Under-Secretary referred to yesterday. In that preparatory process use should be made of the secretariat of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, as well as other secretarial

resources, and the information produced by the IBPGR and the international agricultural research centres.

Finally, I share the views expressed by the distinguished Ambassador of Malaysia on the state of the world plant genetic resources. We are convinced, as she is, that it must not be developed upon a global-list perspective. That was something that was flatly rejected in the negotiations on the Biological Diversity Convention. We are certain that the Secretariat and the countries involved in the country-driven process of preparing for that report will take the logical and important action-oriented approach which is called for in order to make that important report a basis for action in the field of conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Sra. Concha Marina RAMIREZ DE LOPEZ (Honduras): Agradecemos a la Secretaría por la presentación del documento y sus comentarios.

Permítame, señor Presidente, brindar en primer lugar el apoyo de mi Delegación a la Conferencia Técnica, la que consideramos necesaria e importante para poner en práctica la Agenda 21 y la Convención de Diversidad en materia de Recursos Genéticos para la Agricultura y la Alimentación; importante también para los derechos del agricultor.

Es urgente que se ponga en marcha el proceso preparatorio con suficientes medios económicos y humanos para producir el Plan de Acción Global con presupuestos inmediatos.

Apoyamos la resolución sobre la Revisión del Compromiso Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos, y estimamos que es necesario encontrar fondos adecuados presupuestarios y extrapresupuestarios para implementar esta Resolución.

Este proceso debe integrar el proceso preparatorio de la Conferencia Técnica Internacional que debe estar, así como la Conferencia misma, bajo la guía y el monitoreo de los gobiernos a través de la Comisión y de los Grupos de Trabajo.

El Secretariado de la Conferencia Técnica debe estar integrado fundamentalmente por profesionales de los países en desarrollo.

Mi Delegación apoya también el Código Internacional de Conducta para la Recolección y Transferencia de Germoplasma. Es necesario y urgente y no se puede perder más tiempo en discusiones y debe quedar aprobado en esta Conferencia.

Mme Maria de Lourdes MARTINS DUARTE (Cap-Vert): Monsieur le Président, sachez que nous nous réjouissons de vous voir présider notre séance. Avant tout, nous tenons à remercier M. Papolomontos de la présentation des deux sous-points 7.1 et 7.2. Permettez-nous également d'adresser nos remerciements à M. Esquinas qui, par sa patience et sa compétence, a bien su conduire nos travaux qui aboutissent aujourd'hui aux résultats, objet de la présente analyse.

Monsieur le Président, dans un souci de brièveté et tenant compte de l'avis exprimé par d'autres délégations telles que le Brésil, le Pakistan et le Mexique, auxquelles elle se rallie, la délégation du Cap-Vert appuie tout

simplement les projets de résolution constants des documents C 93/28 et C 93/INF/17.

Francis Montanaro MIFSUD (Malta): Mr Chairman, I should like to say first of all how pleased we are to see you in the Chair. I should like to express our appreciation for the excellent documentation which has been given to us and also for the lucid presentation by Dr Paposolomontos.

Our delegation fully supports the two draft resolutions on the revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources and the International Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collection and Transfer. As you will recall, they have been examined in detail and in depth in the Commission for Plant Genetic Resources.

With regard to the planned International Technical Conference, I should like to associate myself with the remarks made by the distinguished representative of Malaysia, echoed by, among others, the representative of Sweden, in regard to the importance of involving member countries in the preparation process. The same considerations apply, in my submission, to the preparation process for the revision of the International Undertaking. We are pleased to hear that a session of the Working Group of the Commission is planned for early 1994. However, I submit that this is not enough, considering the importance of the issues which are to be dealt with and the importance of these issues for Member States. I presume that one or more full sessions of the Commission are called for. With regard to meetings of the Working Group, I would hope that member countries which do not form part of that Group will also be able to participate in this preparatory process, since so much of the preparatory work tends to be carried out in the smaller working groups.

So much for the draft resolutions.

The only other point I should like to make - which I have made before and which has been made by other representatives here - is the importance of strengthening the Secretariat if it is to be put in a position to carry out what I think I am not exaggerating in calling the Herculean task before it.

Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago): The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago intervenes on this agenda item to indicate its support for the two draft Resolutions before us. They reflect hard-won consensus after arduous negotiations amongst the Member States. They also reflect the consummation of goodwill and good sense in the light of the insidious and pervasive activities in the area leading to genetic erosion and genetic loss.

Our plant genetic resources constitute a major pillar, some may say a bedrock, upon which our food and agricultural systems are based. In consequence, we would urge the Member States and the Secretariat to take all necessary action to advance the agenda most urgently in respect of the holding of the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources.

We believe that this is a critical and crucial issue on which the Secretariat should move swiftly and purposefully, together with Member Nations, if it is to maintain its credibility and provide technical and professional leadership in this very important area. We trust that the date

for the hosting of the International Technical Conference will not constitute a continually receding horizon.

Eberhard SCHMAUZ (Germany) (Original language German): My delegation would also like to thank the Secretariat for this excellent document C 93/28. We would like to thank Mr Papasolomontos for his very comprehensive and lucid introduction.

Yesterday, when we were looking at the Fourth Technical Conference, we gave considerable detail about questions pertaining to plant genetic resources. At that time my delegation repeated its invitation to hold this Conference in Germany in the middle of 1996. We would like to thank delegations who have referred during this discussion to that Conference and to those countries who have supported the running of the Conference in my country.

As we said yesterday, we need a definite decision by the FAO Secretariat, so that the necessary preparatory work can be put in hand quickly in my country.

With regard to the Resolutions which are contained in this document, we believe that the revision of the International Undertaking should be brought in line with the International Code on Biological Diversity. For that reason, we would give our support to this draft. As in paragraph 7 of this document, we believe that we do have to have a pragmatic and step-by-step approach.

We would also welcome the resolution on the Code of Conduct.

Kiala KIA MATEVA (Angola): Monsieur le Président, je voudrais d'abord féliciter le Secrétariat pour le document C 93/28. Je ne voudrais pas me répéter sur les ressources phytogénétiques, car la déclaration de mon pays, en plénière, en parle.

Monsieur le Président, 111 pays plus une organisation d'intégration économique sont membres de la Commission FAO des ressources phytogénétiques et 108 par contre ont adhéré à l'Engagement international. Avec l'admission des nouveaux membres au sein de l'Organisation, ce nombre pourra augmenter à court terme; ce dont je me félicite. Cela démontre l'importance que les uns et les autres attachent aux ressources phytogénétiques, déjà contenues dans le chapitre 14 d'Action 21.

Les documents que le Secrétariat a mis à notre disposition sollicitent de la Conférence deux choses:

- la première, c'est l'approbation des deux projets de résolution, l'un sur la révision de l'engagement international sur les ressources phytogénétiques, l'autre adoptant le texte du projet de Code international de conduite pour la collecte et le transfert de matériel phytogénétique;
- la seconde sollicitation, ce sont les recommandations à l'intention de la Conférence des Parties à la Convention sur la diversité biologique prévue en 1994.

Monsieur le Président, l'Angola, qui a participé activement à la CNUED, est signataire de la Convention sur la biodiversité. Le processus d'adhésion à

L'Engagement international étant en cours, ma délégation appuie sans difficulté les deux projets de résolution, sans oublier la décision souveraine prise lors de son adhésion à la Commission FAO des ressources phylogénétiques.

Je voudrais ici appuyer les propos de la délégation suisse lorsqu'elle demande que le Secrétariat fournisse un peu plus d'éclaircissements sur les droits des agriculteurs.

En ce qui concerne les recommandations à formuler à l'intention de la Conférence des Parties à la Convention sur la diversité biologique prévue en 1994, la délégation angolaise fait siennes les préoccupations de la délégation de Malte, c'est-à-dire renforcer le Secrétariat de la Commission des ressources phylogénétiques si elle veut arriver la tête haute à la Conférence technique. Elle appuie également les paragraphes 7 et 8 qui supposent des ressources extrabudgétaires. Comme il est prévu au paragraphe 16, les négociations ont déjà commencé. Ma délégation appuie la FAO pour continuer et accélérer les négociations avec le CIRP afin qu'elles aboutissent avant la tenue de la Conférence; ce qui viendrait enrichir les débats pendant ladite Conférence.

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America): I would like to thank Dr Papolomontos for his excellent introduction to these important topics.

Most of the issues before us today have been fully discussed in a number of other fora during the past year. We are not being asked to make any decision on issues that have not been previously addressed.

We support the resolution pertaining to the revised International Undertaking. It is indeed a step-by-step process, as noted in paragraph 7. We were encouraged by the Programme Committee Report which revealed that the revised draft is under way. This draft should be submitted to the Commission's Working Group as soon as it is finalized; but to make genuine progress, the Working Group must meet early in the new biennium. Whether the revised Undertaking might eventually be transformed into a legally binding document is beyond the scope of our present discussions, as noted by Switzerland.

The draft International Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collecting and Transfer will be a valuable reference document and we support this voluntary Code.

As with others, most of our concerns relate to the many issues surrounding the preparations for the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources. As we have said repeatedly in recent months, efforts made today to conserve genetic resources for future utilization will pay dividends in the next century. Whilst the Technical Conference itself will finalize a number of efforts, the activities which comprise the preparatory process are the most critical. Yesterday and today Sweden said that we must shift into a higher gear. The point is that much needs to be done. It is up to this Conference to make decisions that will instruct the Secretariat on what is to be done and with what resources. We do not want a lack of decisiveness in the language adopted during this Conference to be an excuse for inaction or delayed action during 1994-95. We cannot rationalize further delays.

In listening as carefully as we could to what others have said before us, a combination of developed and developing countries' views, it seems to us that the Conference agrees that the following five things must happen: first, the Working Group should meet in early 1994 to commence negotiations on the revised International Undertaking.

Second, an extraordinary session of the Commission should be convened in 1994 which will serve as a forum for the renegotiating of the International Undertaking. An additional session of the Working Group will be held if necessary. The Commission must meet in sufficient time to allow a report of its progress to be considered by the FAO Council in November 1994. The increased funding in the 1994-95 Regular Programme for Commission activities should be used to fund these meetings.

Third, Regular Programme resources will be allocated as necessary to augment available extra-budgetary funds to enable the preparatory process for the Technical Conference to proceed immediately. In particular, this includes the hiring of Secretariat staff and regional coordinators, making travel funds available and other items as sequentially required and costed in the approved project document.

Fourth, FAO should maintain and increase collaboration with the Inter-Governmental Committees on the Convention on Biological Diversity. FAO can help the ICCBD Secretariat, and they can assist FAO.

Fifth, and finally, the Conference should decide that the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources will, at the invitation of Germany, convene in that country in mid-1996.

On other issues that have been raised during our discussion, we agree with Malaysia regarding the need to limit the scope of the Commission to plants at this time. We would also like to seek clarification from the Secretariat on the status of the FAO CGIAR discussions regarding the ex situ collections. Our understanding is that the Commission and the Council have given approval to conclude an agreement. If this is not the case, we would like to be informed.

Regarding the content of the state of the world's plant genetic resources, the points made by Malaysia and Sweden appear prudent, but we certainly believe that the report itself is central to the preparatory process of the Technical Conference.

ZHANG XIGUI (China): (Original language Chinese): We wish to thank the Secretariat for preparing document C 93/28 and the information document, part 7. I wish to thank the Secretariat for their introduction.

Plant genetic resources are an essential basis for the development of agricultural production, if they are properly conserved. They are part of the heritage of humankind and they are a historical and sustainable way of promoting agricultural development to the benefit also of future generations.

The delegation of China has noted with appreciation that the international community and the governments of different countries attach very special importance to this problem. The implementation of the Convention on Biodiversity will play a very important role in the definition of policies for plant genetic resources. Therefore, we support the recommendations

formulated by the FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources during its 25th Session to re-examine and review the international undertakings so as to harmonize the latter with all the relevant provisions of the Convention.

The Chinese Government wishes to participate further in the work carried out in this particular area and also promote cooperation with all international organizations which are interested in the different countries. We are certain that with full respect to the sovereignty of states for their own plant genetic resources and the realization of farmers' rights, it is necessary to establish an international form of cooperation for the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources.

In a general manner, the International Code of Conduct for -Plant Germplasm Collection and Transfer has reflected these basic principles and the Government of China attaches great importance to the appropriate use of plant genetic resources, as well as to international cooperation and exchange in this area.

We have already decided to become members of the FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. We wish to give substance to the major principles of this particular area. We wish to support the consensus.

CHAIRMAN: Last week China became a member of the Commission. We would like to welcome China to the Commission.

We have had many interventions and I see no further speakers. The interventions have given a direction to the Secretariat as to what to do. To some extent this has been summarized by the different Member States. I will ask Mr Papolomontos to give some answers to the questions which were raised.

A. PAPASOLOMONTOS (Director, Plant Production and Protection Division):

First of all, may I take this opportunity to thank all those delegations who have taken the floor and for their general support given to the FAO Programme on Plant Genetic Resources. We would particularly like to thank all of you for the helpful comments and suggestions you have made.

Some specific questions have been asked. We will try and answer some of these. Mr Moore, Legal Counsel, will answer those of a legal nature.

I think it was Pakistan who asked a question on the estimated cost of the International Technical Conference. The estimated total cost for the programme and Conference itself is about US\$7.5 million, out of which about US\$4.4 million or US\$4.5 million have already been pledged.

A question was asked on the status of the provision of the International Undertaking. I think more particularly Canada and the United States would like to know where we stand on this issue. We are in the process of making a preliminary revision which will go forward to the Working Group when it meets early in 1994.

On the same issue, may we also indicate that we plan to hold a committee of the Commission in late 1994.

Switzerland and Angola asked for the definition of farmers' rights. Rather than read it out, which will take some of your valuable time, I would refer you to document C 93/INF/17, page 2 Article 2.4 which gives the definition of farmers' rights as approved and before you right now.

Malaysia, Sweden and some other countries have raised important issues. I wish to assure all of you that in the preparation for the Technical Conference we will consult very closely with all member countries. They will be fully associated with the preparatory process.

Mr Chairman, these are the basic technical questions that were asked. I am sure Mr Moore will have some answers to the legal questions that were raised.

LEGAL COUNSEL: I would like to respond to three points that have been raised of a legal nature. The first is the actual wording of the Draft Resolution relating to the revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources and in particular paragraph (b) of the first preambular section.

A comment was made by the distinguished delegate of Switzerland that we have been incomplete in our reference and quotation from the Convention on Biological Diversity. We now have the text of the Convention on Biological Diversity before us. I would suggest that after the words "providing such resources" in the last line of paragraph (b) of the first preambular section, we should include the words "unless otherwise determined by that Party", and then carry on "and shall be on mutually agreed terms".

I think this reflects perfectly the wording of Article XV of the Convention.

The second point was with respect to the status of the negotiations on the agreement with the CGIAR on the ex situ collections, bringing them under the auspices of FAO. I would like to confirm that the negotiations will, of course, be on the basis of the comments and observations made by the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources.

Several comments and observations were made at that time, including on the duration of the agreement and its review, policy aspects, etc., and including, of course, the difficult question of trusteeship and avoiding any undue implications regarding legal ownership flowing from the notion of trusteeship.

I would also like to say that we will, of course, report on the progress of those negotiations to the Working Group when it next meets and, as necessary, to the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources itself.

Finally, I think this point has already been covered by Mr Papasolomontos, we have certainly noted the very strong comments and urging of the Conference here today that the revision of the International Undertaking must be an intergovernmental process and that governments must be fully involved. We certainly will do everything to ensure that this is a truly intergovernmental process and that governments are fully involved at every stage.

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America): I appreciate the clarifications given by both Dr Papolomontos and Mr Moore. I guess I was a little disappointed to hear that the session of the Commission has been fixed for some unknown time in late 1994. I am wondering, given what I thought to be a consensus by several countries that it needed to be held sufficiently early if these proceedings were to be discussed at the Council in November 1994, if perhaps that could not be reflected in our report.

Ulf SVENSSON (Sweden): I support what was said by the distinguished delegate of the United States.

Alan Bruce AMEY (Canada): I say the same as Sweden and the United States. I think it is important that the Commission be convened early enough to take the results into consideration at the November Conference.

José Ramón LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): Para unirme al consenso y para enfatizar que esto debe reflejarse en el Informe de manera que la Comisión puede reportar al Consejo de la FAO en noviembre del próximo año. Asimismo quisiéramos tener información de cuándo se va a celebrar la reunión temprana del Grupo de Trabajo de la Comisión.

CHAIRMAN: With these interventions, I think we can close Items 7.1 and 7.2.

I would like to bring to the attention of the Commission that there are two resolutions to be discussed. One of them is the resolution follow-up of the International Conference on Nutrition proposed by the delegation of the Netherlands which is document C 93/LIM/37. The other one is the resolution on the Control and Monitoring of the Desert Locust Situation which is document C 93/LIM/35.

Mme Yvette LANGRAND (France): Ce sera très bref. Je voulais simplement dire que je souhaiterais que nous examinions plutôt ces textes demain matin car, dans la mesure où nous venons seulement de les avoir à notre disposition, nous n'avons pas eu le temps de les étudier avec nos délégations.

The meeting rose at 18.45 hours.

La séance est levée à 18 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.45 horas.

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

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TWELFTH MEETING
DOUZIEME SEANCE
12ª SESION

(18 November 1993)

The Twelfth Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours

Mr Hermann Redl, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La douzième séance est ouverte à 10 h 00

sous la présidence de M. Hermann Redl, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 12ª sesión a las 10.00 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hermann Redl, Presidente de la Comisión I

PART I - MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
PREMIERE PARTIE - PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)

PARTE I - PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)

- 6. World Food and Agriculture Situation and Outlook (continued)
- 6. Situation et perspectives mondiales de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)
- 6. Situación y perspectivas de la agricultura y la alimentación en el mundo (continuación)
- 6.1 State of Food and Agriculture (Draft Resolution) (C 93/LIM/35)
- 6.1 Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (Projet de résolution) (C 93/LIM/35)
- 6.1 El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (Proyecto de Resolución) (C 93/LIM/35)

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I would simply like to point out that implicit in this Resolution is the need for considerable funds. I would assume therefore, that the Commission and the Conference would take this to mean that funds for these activities would be obtained in the normal manner that we obtained resources for the Desert Locust situation, i.e., through the funding process of extra-budgetary resources.

Alternatively stated, I am cautioning you that the Programme of Work and Budget which you approved yesterday does not have the financial resources necessary to implement what is called upon and recommended here. I am quite confident this is the understanding among all concerned, recalling and knowing that these emergency activities are funded through contributions by donors. I just wanted to make sure delegations understood that in the process of adopting the resolution.

Mme Yvette LANGRAND (France): La délégation française est d'accord, sur le fond, avec le projet de résolution qui nous est proposé. Je voudrais simplement faire une proposition, sur le plan de la rédaction, aux pays qui ont présenté ce projet. Je propose que nous supprimions le paragraphe 5 de la résolution et que nous modifiions le paragraphe 1. Je rappelle que la résolution invite le Directeur général de la FAO à convoquer des réunions des institutions et des pays donateurs. La modification que je propose est d'ajouter, après "à convoquer des réunions des institutions et des pays donateurs": "et des pays affectés".

Je propose que ce paragraphe soit rédigé de la façon suivante:

"1) en vue de mobiliser les ressources humaines, matérielles et financières nécessaires à la conduite des opérations de lutte pour la campagne hiverno- printanière en cours et les campagnes estivales futures dans les aires d'invasion;

2) en vue d'informer les pays intéressés au suivi des campagnes antiacridiennes."

Zachee YEM YEM (Cameroun) : La délégation du Cameroun approuve dans son ensemble le projet de résolution traitant d'un fléau qui menace la situation agricole souvent précaire dans plusieurs régions du monde en développement. Elle voudrait rappeler qu'en 1989, notamment, son pays a été la cible des criquets pèlerins dans la partie septentrionale de son territoire dont la configuration n'est pas éloignée du type sahélien. Par ailleurs, le Cameroun est membre de l'organisation commune de lutte antiacridienne et il est régulièrement informé par la FAO des invasions du criquet pèlerin.

Notre pays a mis en place des équipes - surtout à titre préventif - de lutte contre le criquet pèlerin, les acridiens et les oiseaux ravageurs.

Compte tenu de ce qui précède et avec votre permission, Monsieur le Président, nous souhaitons que l'Afrique centrale soit ajoutée à la liste des régions intéressées par la lutte contre le criquet pèlerin. On ajouterait donc, au paragraphe 3 du projet de résolution, après "l'Afrique de l'Ouest": "l'Afrique du Centre".

Mme Amina BOUDJELTI (Algérie): Monsieur le Président, je ne reviendrai pas sur l'importance que revêt pour nos pays ce projet de résolution, ni sur le véritable fléau que représente le criquet pèlerin. Je voudrais simplement dire qu'après avoir entendu l'intervention faite par la déléguée de la France, nous approuvons, en tant que pays coauteur, la proposition qui a été faite. Nous pensons qu'effectivement cela allégerait le texte sans rien enlever à nos préoccupations.

En ce qui concerne l'intervention qui vient d'être faite par le Représentant du Cameroun, je voudrais simplement préciser que la préoccupation première des coauteurs du projet de résolution était de viser avant tout les aires de reproduction, mais que nous n'avons rien contre l'adjonction qui a été proposée.

Bamanga ABBAS MALLOUM (Tchad): Tout d'abord, ma délégation voudrait se porter coauteur de ce projet puisque des consultations préalables ont déjà eu lieu à un haut niveau entre nos pays, dont une réunion en Algérie.

Je voudrais également approuver la proposition de la délégation française qui demande que les pays affectés soient associés à la réunion qui sera convoquée par la Directeur général.

Je voudrais profiter de l'occasion pour adresser nos remerciements à la FAO qui a mobilisé les moyens techniques nécessaires à l'évaluation de l'invasion des criquets pèlerins et à l'organisation de la lutte. Qu'il me soit également permis de manifester la gratitude de mon gouvernement aux pays amis et aux institutions internationales qui ont répondu avec promptitude à l'appel lancé par le Tchad pour freiner la progression du criquet pèlerin. Il s'agit notamment de la France, de l'Allemagne, de la Suisse et de la Banque islamique de développement.

Nous pensons que l'adoption de ce projet de résolution par la vingt-septième Conférence de la FAO contribuera à sensibiliser la communauté internationale et la poussera à prendre les moyens appropriés pour lutter contre ce fléau qui menace dangereusement non seulement nos pays mais aussi les régions d'autres continents.

Quant à la proposition de la délégation camerounaise d'inclure l'Afrique centrale dans le projet de résolution, je la trouve tout à fait opportune puisque l'Afrique centrale est une région située entre l'Afrique sahélienne et l'Afrique de l'Ouest, et que d'autres pays d'Afrique centrale, notamment le Cameroun qui est voisin du Tchad, sont affectés par ce fléau.

Zahir Shah MOHMAND (Pakistan): FAO is aware that Pakistan suffered a massive attack of desert locusts in the summer of 1993. By the Grace of God Almighty, and with the assistance of friendly countries and donor agencies, particularly FAO and UNDP, we were able to contain the attack. Our special thanks are due to FAO, to UNDP and to the friendly countries for their timely assistance. I just wanted to put this note of thanks on record.

CHAIRMAN (Original language German) : I would ask the delegate of France to read her suggested amendment.

Mme Yvette LANGRAND (France): Je propose donc que l'on supprime le paragraphe 5 de la résolution et que l'on modifie le paragraphe 1 comme suit - je vais le relire en y intégrant ma proposition de modification:

"1. Invite: le Directeur général de la FAO à convoquer des réunions des institutions, des pays donateurs et des pays affectés:

1) en vue de mobiliser les ressources humaines, matérielles et financières nécessaires à la conduite des opérations de lutte pour la campagne hiverno-printanière en cours et les campagnes estivales futures dans les aires d'invasion;

2) en vue d'informer les pays intéressés du suivi des campagnes antiacridiennes."

Je peux, si vous le souhaitez, Monsieur le Président, faire un commentaire complémentaire pour expliciter ma proposition. Je suis à votre disposition.

Parviz KARBASI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): I should like to support the Resolution and the statement made by the distinguished delegate of France. It is important that countries affected should participate and should have the means to do so. This will complement the issue.

CHAIRMAN (Original language German) : Since no one else wishes to take the floor, we now have the draft Resolution as amended, and it stands adopted.

The draft resolution was adopted.

Le projet de résolution est approuvé.

El proyecto de resolución es aprobado.

Mme Amina BOUDJELTI (Algérie): Je voudrais remercier les membres de la Commission pour le soutien qu'ils donnent à ce projet de résolution. Je crois qu'il est également bon ici et qu'il n'est pas de trop - c'est d'ailleurs inscrit dans le texte du projet de résolution - de remercier la communauté internationale et la FAO pour leur souci et la réponse généreuse

qu'ils ont chaque fois apportée à ce qui représente pour nous un véritable fléau.

Parviz KARBASI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): I should like to record my thanks to the institutions and the donor countries, which have always given an immediate response on this very important issue.

6.2 World Food Security and Nutritional Status (Draft Resolution)

6.2 Sécurité alimentaire et situation nutritionnelle dans le monde (Projet de résolution)

6.2 Seguridad alimentaria mundial y estado nutricional (Proyecto de Resolución)

D.P.D. VAN RAPPARD (Netherlands): In November of 1989 the 25th Session of the Conference decided to begin preparations for the organization of the ICN. Last year, in December 1992, the International Conference on Nutrition, was successfully organized, in this very place, with its World Declaration and Plan of Action. However, ICN has so far not been endorsed by FAO, while WHO took this step in May this year and has already accepted a Resolution to endorse the results of ICN, the Plan of Action and the Declaration and to secure the follow-up process. My country is of the opinion that, considering the fact that FAO took an important role in the preparation of ICN, a similar Resolution would be appropriate. The Resolution before us is very much along the lines of the Resolution considered earlier this year in Geneva. Only a few new points have been brought in. I should like to draw your attention in particular to the fact that the regional approach has been appropriate over the past two years, and we think the follow-up process should be along those lines. A second point which has been brought in concerns increasing nutritional awareness within all FAO Departments.

Parviz KARBASI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): The issue of follow-up of ICN is very important. I should like to ask the Commission to make a recommendation to WHO that they cooperate more closely with FAO. An FAO/WHO pilot project is planned but we are not receiving a very good response from WHO. I would ask that there should be strong cooperation and that, when FAO asks for assistance, WHO should reply.

Mme Yvette LANGRAND (France) : Nous sommes sur le fond en accord avec cette résolution, mais j'ai un problème sur un mot. Cela regarde peut-être uniquement la traduction française.

A la page 3, au paragraphe 3, il y a un petit premièrement, où il est dit dans la traduction française: "à revoir l'engagement qu'elles ont pris en vue de la réalisation des objectifs et stratégies..."

J'aimerais comprendre mieux ce que veut dire "à revoir" dans ce contexte.

Parviz KARBASI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): On page 3, paragraph 3, which "Calls upon organizations of the United Nations System", I would like the words "particularly WHO, and" to be inserted between the word "system" and "other". This would give emphasis, because the issue is mainly related to WHO and FAO. The sentence would then read: "CALLS UPON organizations of the

United Nations system, particularly WHO, and other governmental and non-governmental organizations and the international community as a whole.”.

Tawfiq-e-Elahi CHOUDHURY (Bangladesh): There is a minor point to which I should like to draw your attention. This is on page 2, paragraph 2, where it says "URGES Member States:", and sub-paragraph (1), "by the year 2000, to strive to eliminate famine and famine-related deaths...". If we are asking Member States to do that by the year 2000, then "to strive to eliminate" would be a rather weak argument to make to Member States. My suggestion is to eliminate the two words "to strive", and to rephrase it by saying "by the year 2000, to eliminate famine and famine-related deaths, starvation and nutritional deficiency diseases in communities...". Now this part "...affected by natural and man-made disasters;", even if this situation is prevailing in other areas, which are not affected by natural and man-made disasters, there could be situations -- possibly we are also urging those Member States also to eliminate famine and famine-related deaths, but in any case "to strive to eliminate", you might consider, should be deleted.

CHAIRMAN (Original language German): If I understand you correctly, you want to delete two words "strive to".

Parviz KARBASI (Iran, Islamic Republic of) : I would like to ask the distinguished delegate of Bangladesh, since the inception of the World Food Programme and all the UN system, we have seen an increasing number of hungry and chronically hungry people. How is it possible for us to pose such a resolution when it is impossible that by the year 2000 this can be eliminated? So I suggest that maybe "to strive" would be more appropriate.

Ms Faith INNERARITY (Jamaica) : I should just like to put on record that Jamaica and the rest of the Caribbean have supported the concept of the ICN from the very outset. In fact, one of the regional meetings was held in Jamaica and the Minister of Agriculture for Jamaica was present at the ICN in Rome.

In the Caribbean, we have what we call the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute and many of the objectives and programmes are similar to those established in the ICN.

I should also like to comment on sub-paragraph (1) of 2. It is a noble objective to eliminate famine and famine-related deaths, but I wonder whether this is achievable by the year 2000. So I would say that the better wording in terms of what is possible, what is feasible, is "to strive" to do this.

Zahir Shah MOHMAND (Pakistan) : I just wanted to suggest a minor amendment on page 4, sub-paragraph (5). It reads "to further enhance nutrition awareness within FAO while developing projects and programmes;" I want to suggest that after "nutrition" we should add "enhance nutrition and household food security awareness".

D.P.D VAN RAPPARD (Netherlands): I would like to react to a few points which have been raised. First of all, the Iranian suggestion on page 3 "CALLS UPON organizations of the United Nations system..." to propose adding "and WHO". I think the cooperation between WHO and FAO has been on another level, as with other UN organizations. Moreover, I have mentioned already in my introduction that WHO has a similar resolution which has already been accepted. I do not feel it is appropriate to bring up WHO on the same level as other UN organizations. Perhaps Iran can give a reaction on that.

Secondly, on page 2, the point of striving to eliminate famine and famine-related deaths -- we had a long discussion about this issue during the ICN last year. It was decided to split up "to strive to eliminate". Also, "to reduce substantially," and "to develop , or strengthen as appropriate".

First of all, we made a difference between what should be possible, where it should be strive and where it should be reduce, etc. I think that after that long discussion, we decided to take the reaction as "to strive to eliminate". I do not think it warrants the result of the ICN if we are going to delete it now.

Thirdly, I would comment on the proposal of Pakistan on point (5) on page 4, "to further enhance nutrition awareness within FAO while developing projects and programmes;". We deliberately brought in "to enhance nutrition awareness". FAO pays a lot of attention to food security, of which household food security is an aspect, but if we are going to increase household food security, I wonder why we should bring in food security as such. In that case we should mitigate the purpose of this paragraph "to enhance nutrition awareness".

CHAIRMAN (Original language German): If I remember correctly the delegate from France has made a proposal. In fact, the Dutch delegate did not respond to that.

D.P.D VAN RAPPARD (Netherlands): You are right. Page 3, paragraph 3, "to review their commitment to the achievement of the objectives and strategies set out in the World Declaration and Plan of Action..." etc.: English is not my mother language but "to review" is not an appropriate word perhaps. "To enhance", "to reinforce their commitment" might be better. If that were better language for the French delegation, I am quite happy to replace it.

Parviz KARBASI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): With regard to this last issue, I suggested on page 3 of document C 93/LIM/37, number 3, when it says "calls upon organizations of the United Nations system" that "particularly WHO", or whatever, should be inserted. I think it is customary in all the UN system, when there is a joint project, that they put emphasis on those particular UN organizations. I do not see any difficulty, because I know that WHO is not cooperating very well with FAO in this project, because we have a project and we have asked WHO often to send an expert, and this has not yet been done. So if this issue of nutrition is both for FAO and WHO, I think it is good to insert it.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: With respect to the amendments which are on the table, firstly operative paragraph 2, where concern has been expressed about the words "to strive", may I read to you what you have already committed in the Declaration that was approved by your governments? "We pledge to make all efforts as soon as possible to eliminate: (a) starvation and death caused by famine; (b) widespread chronic hunger; (c) severe protein energy malnutrition, particularly among children", and so forth. In other words, note the words "as soon as possible". The terminology here, by inserting "by the year 2000 to strive to", would, I think, be consistent with "as soon as possible". I think the alternative would be more cumbersome and more difficult: it would be "as soon as possible to eliminate". In other words, what I am saying here is that I believe you will find what you have already pledged to do is consistent with the wording, the way it has been drafted by the Netherlands. It- is not exact, but I believe it is consistent with it. Therefore, I would suggest that you may wish to leave "to strive".

With regard to paragraph 3 and the discussion about WHO, firstly I would point out that there may be isolated instances where collaboration and cooperation is not as good as could be desired, but I must assure you that in the general framework there has been active and good collaboration between the two Organizations in the implementation of follow-up to the ICN.

One can find in the Declaration in the Plan of Action that you adopted last year references to FAO and WHO as the lead agencies for these matters in the UN system. You could, therefore, I think, accept, and it would be perfectly consistent with your previous action, an insertion that would say "particularly FAO and WHO following organizations of the United Nations system". Then it goes on "other inter-governmental and non-governmental".

Also, with respect to paragraph (1) in 3, the question about "review" which, incidentally is spelled wrongly; there have been suggestions here, I think, that "review" is not strong enough. The Declaration in the Plan of Action is explicit. All of the members of the UN system and all of their governing bodies were asked to take action in 1993; some have but not many. Perhaps it would be better to use a stronger word than "review". "Reinforce" has been suggested as well as "undertake", "implement", "honour", and all kinds of suggestions. Perhaps "reinforce" would be the more politic one.

With respect to the suggested amendment in section 4, "REQUESTS the Director-General" and (5), FAO would have no problem with the insertion of "and household food security".

Mme Maria do Lourdes MARTINS DUARTE (Cap-Vert): La Représentante du Cap-Vert est désolée d'être arrivée en retard et de n'avoir pas pu joindre sa voix à celles qui ont appuyé la résolution qui est l'objet de ce point de l'ordre du jour.

S'agissant de la résolution sur le suivi de la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition proposée par la délégation des Pays-Bas, ma délégation aimerait apporter son plein appui.

Zachee YEM YEM (Cameroun): Monsieur le Président, à la page 3, comme la distinguée déléguée de la France, j'avais aussi des inquiétudes sur le mot

"revoir". Mais d'après les explications qui nous ont été données, je pense que nous pourrions peut-être marquer "concrétiser l'engagement". C'est la première chose.

La deuxième chose: dans le rapport, le Gouvernement du Cameroun souhaiterait exprimer ses remerciements à la FAO pour l'aide qu'elle lui a déjà apportée dans la conception de son plan national de nutrition. Je souhaiterais que ce soit mentionné dans le rapport.

Mme Yvette LANGRAND (France): Monsieur le Président, pour ce qui concerne la proposition de M. Hjort, suite à l'intervention du délégué de l'Iran, je crois que c'est une bonne proposition de noter: la FAO et l'OMS. Je ne sais pas si le délégué de l'Iran est d'accord; c'est à lui de le dire. Mais personnellement, je trouve que c'est une bonne proposition.

Pour ce qui concerne le premierement du paragraphe 3, je pense qu'en effet on peut trouver des mots de substitution. Soit simplement, mais c'est plus faible, "donner suite à l'engagement qu'elles ont pris". Soit la proposition du Cameroun: "concrétiser". J'ajouterais à ce moment-là "rapidement", le "plus rapidement possible" par exemple: "concrétiser le plus rapidement possible l'engagement qu'elles ont pris".

Voilà. On peut trouver d'autres mots. Mais je pense qu'il faut introduire "rapidement", "le plus rapidement possible".

Ms Faith INNERARITY (Jamaica) : Following on from what Mr Hjort said on paragraph 2(i), I noted that in the ICN document it says "as soon as possible". By saying "by the year 2000", it might be suggesting that we are going to begin our striving by the year 2000 but the striving is an ongoing process. It has already started. We intend to continue. Could we not simply say "to strive to eliminate"? Do we need that timeframe because we are not waiting for 2000 to begin our striving.

Mohammed Larbi FIRDAWCY (Maroc): Monsieur le Président, pour le paragraphe 3, je pense qu'il faut insister: parmi les institutions spécialisées du système des Nations Unies, particulièrement la FAO et l'OMS. Et pour le premier paragraphe, je crois que la meilleure formule serait de dire: "à renouveler", ce qui veut dire: donc pour ceux qui ont déjà fait une action, continuer; et ceux qui ne l'auraient pas faite; "renouveler" c'est reconfirmer un engagement. Et donc la meilleure traduction de "review" serait "à renouveler l'engagement qu'elles ont pris en vue de". Merci.

Lamin K. JUWARA (Gambia): Having listened to the Deputy Director-General on the pledges already made concerning paragraph 2 on page 2, I wish to suggest a follow-up to the Jamaican delegate, since there is some controversy on the wording. The pledge says exactly, if I have it correctly, "to eliminate as soon as possible". Here we may avoid a new wording and simply indicate by deleting "by the year 2000, to strive", and simply say "urges Member States to eliminate as soon as possible famine and famine-related deaths".

D.P.D. VAN RAPPARD (Netherlands): First of all, I am quite happy with the proposal of Mr Hjort to adopt paragraph 3 as follows and make it "calls

upon organizations of the United Nations system and FAO and WHO in particular". I think that brings both organizations on the same level again.

Secondly, with regard to 2(1), "by the year 2000, to strive to eliminate", dealing with Jamaica's concern, I wonder whether we could not make it "if necessary to strive to eliminate by the year 2000"?

Further, on paragraph 3(1), I am quite happy with the proposal of Cameroon, "to fulfil as quickly as possible".

CHAIRMAN (Original language German) : May I ask the delegate from the Netherlands a question? I think that Gambia's proposal is very precise. Could you accept that proposal?

D.P.D. VAN RAPPARD (Netherlands): My question is whether this proposal is with regard to the first paragraph of 2 or the second one as well.

CHAIRMAN: I understood that this only referred to 2, sub-paragraph (1).

D.P.D. VAN RAPPARD (Netherlands) : I think the proposal made by Gambia is fairly similar to the text accepted by the ICN. I can live with it.

Edward Simon KABUYE (Malawi) : I just wanted to echo and agree with what has been said about page 2 paragraph 2(1), as put by Gambia, and on page 3 paragraph 3(1) where perhaps "reinforce" would be better than what is indicated now with "review".

CHAIRMAN (Original language German) : English is not my mother tongue but I think that perhaps the words "fulfil as soon as possible" would be the best choice.

Mme Yvette LANGRAND (France): Monsieur le Président, simplement sur ce point, je pense qu'il faut éviter d'utiliser un mot qui puisse entraîner en quelque sorte des suivis administratifs; c'est-à-dire que certains mots pourraient laisser entendre que l'on demande aux institutions de renouveler, de reprendre une déclaration, une décision. Il faut éviter ces mots-là. Il faut souligner l'intention de confirmation, en quelque sorte, d'engagement ou de concrétisation en effet, mais éviter tout mot qui entraînerait une suite administrative, ou qui pourrait laisser penser que l'on demande à reprendre des déclarations ou des textes qui ont déjà été faits. Merci.

D.P.D. VAN RAPPARD (Netherlands): I am totally in line with the remarks of the French delegation. I think that is the whole purpose of the resolution. It is not just an administrative procedure but we will give another momentum to the ICN process. Therefore, the wording should be rather strong.

John Bruce SHARPS (Australia): I have a suggestion for the wording there. Instead of "review" could I suggest "reaffirm"?

That would probably convey the feeling of the meeting. I refer to paragraph 3(1), "to reaffirm their commitment" instead of "to review their commitment". This is merely a suggestion.

Zachee YEM YEM (Cameroun): Monsieur le Président, j'appuie personnellement la proposition de la France dans la rédaction de ce point; parce que "renouveler" ne veut pas dire concrétiser. On peut renouveler un engagement que l'on va concrétiser dans dix ans. Donc je pense personnellement qu'il faudrait quelque chose de concret. Je pense qu'il faudrait dire "matérialiser", "concrétiser rapidement".

Eberhard SCHMAUZ (Germany) (Original language German): In paragraph 2(2) it says "by the year 2000, to reduce substantially...". To follow logically from paragraph 2(1), and also to take into account the fact that we do not want to wait until the year 2000 to carry out our activities, we have to begin our action immediately, it would be appropriate to say "to reduce as soon as possible".

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: With respect to the latter point, what you have already pledged is "We also pledge to reduce substantially within this decade." "Within this decade" could go a little past 2000 probably but I really do not think there is any problem with paragraph 2(2). I do not see the need for an amendment there.

What you have pledged in the other case is "we also pledge to reduce substantially within this decade. This says "reduce substantially". It is the same terminology as there. It says "by the year 2000". One can argue it is within the decade, within this decade. I think the reference there is to the decade we are in, which ends in 2000. I think this terminology in paragraph 2(2) is precisely in accord with the declaration that you have adopted. It needs no amendment.

Mohammed Larbi FIRDAWCY (Maroc) s Pour le paragraphe 3, si "à renouveler" implique un travail administratif supplémentaire, je pense qu'il faut effectivement peut-être le changer par "mettre en oeuvre l'engagement", ou "concrétiser".

CHAIRMAN (Original language German) : Does anyone else wish to take the floor? Since no one else wishes to address the point I will now give the floor to the Observer from the Holy See.

Alois WAGNER (Observer from the Holy See) : We are very happy about the realization of this Plan of Action, and I want to point out that we have informed our own organizations around the world, in all countries, about this programme to cooperate with you. We have more than 200 different organizations working on this idea. We have invited them to cooperate, even through their own small contributions, in the national programmes as well as in the governmental programmes in the different countries.

The second point is that we have tried always to convince people that it is not sufficient to wait for help but especially to accept more self-responsibility in all countries. As far as nutrition is concerned, the first right and first responsibility of all countries is to look for better nutrition using all that is possible in those countries. It is already in this Plan for an International Conference on Nutrition.

As a third point, I am happy that it has been clearly expressed that immediately, today, we must start to change the situation of hunger and malnutrition, and even cooperation between FAO and WHO is important.

I merely wish to express our appreciation and the hope that we shall encourage everybody to fulfil all that has been planned in this famous Conference here in Rome.

CHAIRMAN (Original language German) : If no one else is asking for the floor, we have finished the discussion on the resolution and I am now going to ask the Secretariat to be good enough to read out the amendments to that resolution.

W.A. LAMADÉ (Secretary, Commission I) : The first amendment relates to page 2, point 2 where it says "Urges Member States", and then where in (1) it says "by the year 2000, to strive" would be deleted. The sub-paragraph would start with the words, "to eliminate as soon as possible famine and famine-related deaths", and so on.

The second change would be on page 3, paragraph 3, in the first line after the words "United Nations system" we would insert "and the FAO and WHO in particular" and the rest of the two lines of this paragraph would remain unchanged.

Under 3 (1) the words "to review" would be replaced by the words "to fulfil as soon as possible their commitment to the achievement..." and so on.

There would be no further changes there.

The last change would occur on page 4, paragraph (5) where, after the words "to further enhance nutrition", we would insert the words "and household food security" and then we would go on "awareness within FAO" and so on.

The draft resolution as amended was adopted

Le projet de résolution, ainsi amendé, est approuvé

El proyecto de resolución, así enmendado, es aprobado

ADOPTION OF REPORT
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT
APROBACION DEL INFORME

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART II
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - DEUXIEME PARTIE
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE II

CHAIRMAN (Original language German): We will discuss document C 93/I/REP/2 paragraph by paragraph. When you make your intervention will you please tell us very specifically which are the sentences, the parts of sentences or the words which you wish to delete, or any additions you wish to make to the text.

We will start now with the document on World Food and Agriculture Situation and Outlook, World Food Security and Nutritional Status.

Paragraphs 1-3 approved
Les paragraphes 1-3 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 1-3 son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 4
PARAGRAPHE 4
PARRAFO 4

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America): On paragraph 4 we have a few insertions we would like to propose in order to have it made clear that we are talking about the domestic rather than the international context. These would simply be points to try and clarify what I think is intended here. If we can just offer the proposals all together - in the first line of paragraph 4, after the words "in general" we would propose inserting the word "domestic". We are talking about domestic policy changes.

In the third line in the middle we would propose that the word "in" be deleted and the word "within" inserted.

In similar vein, in the fifth line after the word "liberalization" we would propose to insert the words "within nations".

Finally, on the seventh line at the very end after the word "such" we would propose the insertion of the word "domestic". Our intent is to clarify what I believe is already intended, but I think this brings the point home a little bit more strongly.

Julio LUCINI CASALES (Espafia): Tengo delante la versión española del documento y creo que en su segundo párrafo, que empieza: "No obstante, se expresó preocupación especial por el hecho de que, a corto plazo, el proceso de liberalización podría conducir a una disminución del consumo de alimentos y a la interrupción de los suministros", la idea podría mejorarse si en vez de utilizar "podría conducir a una disminución del consumo de alimentos", se sustituyese por la idea de "podría conducir a una menor disponibilidad de alimentos".

Mme Yvette LANGRAND (France): Je voudrais que l'on vérifie que le mot "libéralisation", dans la phrase "On peut toutefois craindre qu'à court terme, le processus de libéralisation ne réduise la consommation d'aliments", se rapporte bien au processus de libéralisation politique à l'intérieur des pays eux-mêmes; ou craint-on que le processus de libéralisation des échanges en général ne réduise la consommation d'aliments à l'intérieur des nations et n'entraîne des ruptures de stocks?

CHAIRMAN (Original language German): Are there any further comments on paragraph 4? If not I will ask the Secretary to take note of the amendments made and to remind us of them once again.

W.A. LAMADÉ (Secretary, Commission I): Paragraph 4 would be amended as follows: in line 1, after the words "in general" we would insert the word "domestic" - "domestic policy changes ..." and so on. In the third line in the middle we would delete the word "in" and replace it with the word "within".

In line 5 after the first three words "process of liberalization" we insert the two words "within nations", and in line seven - always in the English text, of course - after the very last word "such" we add the word "domestic" so that it would read "such domestic measures".

Ms Faith INNERARITY (Jamaica): I am not sure which delegation it was, but someone suggested that the word "consumption" could be changed to "availability", because I think "availability" would really be a better word there - "... could lead to reduced availability of food ...".

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: "Availability" would be covered by the words "interruption of supplies". There were certain delegations which expressed deep concern over what they had actually observed, which was the decline in consumption and nutritional status associated with the privatization and liberalization process under way in certain countries.

Jan Paul ADRIANSENS (Belgique): J'ai suivi l'interprétation française des explications du Secrétariat et j'ai relevé que le Secrétariat disait que la proposition française consistait à insérer "à l'intérieur des nations" après "libéralisation", bien que la France ait proposé de placer ces mots après les mots "ne réduise la consommation d'aliments".

Mme Yvette LANGRAND (France): En faisant ma proposition, j'ai fait observer qu'il fallait vérifier que, dans le cadre de la discussion au sein de notre Commission, le mot "libéralisation" avait bien été utilisé dans le sens national ou qu'il l'avait été dans le sens de libéralisation commerciale en général. S'il s'agit bien de libéralisation nationale, on peut mettre "à l'intérieur des nations" après "libéralisation". Je voulais vérifier que c'était bien l'intention des délégués en général et que cela avait été précisé au moment de la rédaction du rapport. Si, effectivement, l'ensemble du paragraphe ne concerne que les politiques à l'intérieur des pays, je ne vois pas d'objection à ce que l'on mette "à l'intérieur des nations" après le mot "libéralisation" dans cette phrase.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I think the Chairman of the Drafting Committee should be responding to this point. In the debate in the Drafting Committee it was clear the conclusion was that this paragraph should refer to domestic and national but I think this is a matter that the Chairman of the Drafting Committee should address.

Mme Amina BOUDJELTI (Président du Comité de rédaction): Je n'ai pas grand chose à ajouter à ce qu'a dit M. Hjort, qui a participé à nos travaux. Nous avons eu, en effet, de très longues discussions sur ce paragraphe et il a fallu la compréhension de tous pour aboutir à ce que nous proposons. Mais je pense, personnellement, qu'à partir du moment où, à la première ligne, on dit "la Conférence a noté qu'en général les changements politiques nationaux conduisant à une libéralisation", ce souci est pris en compte pour tout le paragraphe. C'est un avis personnel. Cela étant, comme l'a dit M. Hjort, c'est le souci que nous avons eu durant les travaux de la Commission. Je pense, pour ma part, qu'à partir du moment où l'on dit qu'il s'agit de changements politiques nationaux, il n'est peut-être pas nécessaire de le redire à propos de la libéralisation, alors qu'il s'agit du même paragraphe.

Mohammed Larbi FIRDAWCY (Maroc): Je pense que pour éviter la confusion on pourrait dire: "On peut toutefois craindre qu'à court terme ce processus de libéralisation ...". Cela nous ramène à ce qui a été dit dans la première partie du paragraphe.

Mme Yvette LAGRAND (France): Je pense que la proposition du Maroc est bonne. Elle me conviendrait.

Mohammed Larbi FIRDAWCY (Maroc): A la quatrième ligne du quatrième paragraphe: "On peut toutefois craindre qu'à court terme ce processus de libéralisation ne réduise la consommation d'aliments et n'entraîne des ruptures de stocks."

Arnaldo BADILLO ROJAS (Venezuela): Voy a manifestar mi acuerdo con la interpretación que hace la Presidenta del Comité de Redacción en el sentido de que esto hace referencia a las políticas de liberalización económica. Si en lugar de proceso, colocamos políticas de liberalización económica, que se entiende que son aplicadas a nivel nacional, quedaría resuelto el problema. El proceso parece un término mucho más ambiguo que el término de políticas de liberalización económica, que es a lo que hace referencia precisamente este tema.

CHAIRMAN (Original language German): Can I ask the delegate of Venezuela to give us his specific proposal. Which words does he want to add, or which does he want to delete?

Arnaldo BADILLO ROJAS (Venezuela): Voy a leer esta parte de la frase: "No obstante, se expresó preocupación especial por el hecho de que, a corto plazo, las políticas de liberalización económica podrían conducir a una menor disponibilidad de alimentos"; es decir, incorporando la corrección que hizo el Delegado de España.

CHAIRMAN (Original language German): Is that acceptable? There are no objections, it seems. Can I ask the delegate from Venezuela whether he is including the words "within nations" in his proposal?

Arnaldo BADILLO ROJAS (Venezuela): No parece ser necesario, señor Presidente, incorporar la palabra "naciones" si expresamos esto como políticas de liberalización económica que, en cualquier caso, son aplicadas exclusivamente a los niveles nacionales.

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America): I think that, given the concerns about having the words "within nations" in the paragraph, the insertion of the word "policies" seems adequately to suggest that it refers to the preceding sentence, so I think that would be an acceptable way of concluding this.

CHAIRMAN (Original language German): Are there any further comments on paragraph 4?

Mme Yvette LANORAND (France): Je demanderais que l'on nous relise la phrase qui a finalement été adoptée et qui commence par: "On peut toutefois craindre qu'à court terme ...". Je n'ai pas bien saisi la décision définitive. Je vous remercie de bien vouloir nous la relire.

W.A. LAMADÉ (Secretary, Commission I): The sentence as I have it down here would read as follows: "However, particular concern was expressed that in the short term the policies of economic liberalization could lead to reduced consumption of food..." and so on.

Paragraph 4, as amended, approved
Le paragraphe 4, ainsi amendé, est approuvé
El párrafo 4, así enmendado, es aprobado

Paragraphs 5-11 approved
Les paragraphes 5-11 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 5-11 son aprobados

CHAIRMAN (Original language German): I would like to ask the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, Mme Boudjelti, to take up her rightful position on the podium.

Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc): Je voudrais vous remercier d'avoir rectifié ce petit oubli, parce que c'est une tradition que lors de l'adoption du rapport le Président du Comité de rédaction puisse siéger à vos côtés pour répondre aux questions et rapporter exactement ce qu'ont été les discussions au sein du Comité de rédaction. Je vous remercie d'avoir réparé cet oubli.

Mme Amina BOUDJELTI (Président, Comité de rédaction): C'était simplement un petit oubli, nous ne sommes pas formalistes. De ma place, j'ai essayé de suivre la discussion. Mais vous m'avez peut-être empêchée, au début de la

séance, de remercier tous les membres du Comité de rédaction qui ont beaucoup travaillé et qui ont fait preuve de beaucoup de compréhension pour que l'on puisse arriver à ce résultat.

Paragraphs 12-14 approved

Les paragraphes 12-14 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 12-14 son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 15

PARAGRAPHE 15

PARRAFO 15

Mme Yvette LANGRAND (France): Je n'ai pas eu le temps de lire la suite du rapport et peut-être en parle-t-on, mais je pense qu'on n'a pas suffisamment noté la satisfaction exprimée par les délégations pour la qualité de ce document. C'est peut-être ici l'endroit où le dire.

Mme Amina BOUDJELTI (Président, Comité de rédaction): Il s'agit d'une toute petite correction. Je pense qu'elle ne concerne que la version française. A la huitième ligne, on parle des "Etats Membres", alors que l'on avait convenu qu'il s'agirait des "Membres", puisque la CEE était intéressée par ces consultations. C'est une correction qui concerne uniquement la version française.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I thought that perhaps here might be an appropriate place to follow up on the concern expressed by the delegate of France. Perhaps one could amend the first sentence to read: "The Conference, in expressing its appreciation for the Study, considered that its findings would be useful..."

Parviz KARBASI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): If possible, I should like some explanation from the Drafting Committee on the last sentence of paragraph 15, which states: "Some delegations suggested publication of a summary version."

Mme Amina BOUDJELTI (Président, Comité de rédaction): Je ne sais pas exactement ce que souhaite savoir le délégué de l'Iran mais, en effet, c'est au niveau du Comité de rédaction que nous avons, à la suggestion de certains membres, ajouté cette demande qui est plus pratique, plus réaliste, et qui pourrait être opérationnelle plus vite. Il y a même eu des considérations économiques. On a convenu que ce ne serait pas une mauvaise chose. Je ne sais pas quel est le souhait du délégué de l'Iran.

Paragraph 15, as amended, approved

Le paragraphe 15, ainsi amendé, est approuvé

El párrafo 15, así enmendado, es aprobado

Paragraphs 16-24 approved
Les paragraphes 16-24 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 16-24 son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 25
PARAGRAPH 25
PARRAFO 25

Mme Yvette LANGRAND (France): Il s'agit, je pense, d'un problème de vocabulaire. Dans la version française, à la ligne 3 du paragraphe 25, on parle d'"aménagement rationnel des stocks de poisson". Dans la version anglaise, il y a le mot "management" qui est plus précis. Je souhaite que l'on remplace "aménagement" par "gestion" ou "conduite rationnelle".

CHAIRMAN (Original language German): We will take that into account in the French version.

Paragraph 25 approved
Le paragraphe 25 est approuvé
El párrafo 25 es aprobado

PARAGRAPH 26
PARAGRAPH 26
PARRAFO 26

Parviz KARBASI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): I apologize first of all for my English which is not very good. So far as paragraph 26 is concerned, I wish to take one minute of the Commission's time to explain what we have been thinking. For example, there is the project of buffalo over 50 years in FAO. We would like to see what has been successful. In Thailand they have a buffalo project. We would like to see why it was so successful. There has been a project on sesame, there have been different co-financing projects. We think this would be something which would be useful for college people, for policy-makers, for extension education - this would be a big volume of work, if that makes sense. We were not working only to have evaluation. If it were prepared, it would evaluate itself. This would show which functions of this Organization are necessary and which are not necessary. I do not know if this makes any sense or not. I should like to ask for some clarification.

Mme Amina BOUDJELTI (Président, Comité de rédaction): J'avouerais que je pensais que cette préoccupation était prise en compte dans le terme "évaluation". Peut-être que Monsieur le Représentant de l'Iran a des termes plus précis à nous proposer. Peut-être que l'on pourrait mettre "l'examen". Mais je ne sais pas; c'est tellement critique; alors que je crois que ce qu'il souhaite, c'est au contraire quelque chose de positif. Je ne sais pas: le "passage", la "revue". Mais "l'évaluation" me paraît tout à fait satisfaisante.

Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc): Monsieur le Président, je crois que lorsque le délégué de l'Iran s'est exprimé sur cette question, nous n'avons pas eu d'inconvénient à apprécier sa proposition. Simplement, là, nous parlons du cinquantième anniversaire. Je crois que c'est un événement qui va être fêté par tous. Donc, pour ne pas donner une certaine connotation au texte en parlant "d'examen" ou de "review", peut-être que l'on pourrait, s'il acceptait, simplement dire: "pourrait être l'occasion d'entreprendre" ou "de préparer", par exemple, "un rapport sur les activités de l'Organisation". Là, cela peut coïncider avec un événement de ce type. Après cinquante ans dans la vie d'une organisation, on peut s'arrêter et produire ce genre de chose. Mais un "examen" ou une "évaluation", personnellement je ne pense pas que cela soit à maintenir en l'état dans ce texte. Et de la même manière, je ne sais pas comment le Comité de rédaction a formulé cette phrase; mais le fait qu'on dise "Quelques Etats Membres" au moment où l'on parle du cinquantième anniversaire, moi, cela me laisse un peu perplexe.

Mme Amina BOUDJELTI (Président, Comité de rédaction): Monsieur le Président, je dois dire que le paragraphe n'a pas fait l'objet d'un examen ou de commentaires particuliers en Comité de rédaction. Ce que je pourrais vous proposer actuellement, c'est, pour reprendre un peu l'idée du délégué marocain, de remplacer "même rapport" qui est peut-être trop administratif par "un document", ou "une étude". Un "document" pourrait peut-être aller.

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America): We all know that there will be a celebration in 1995 in Quebec at which there will be a series of events to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of FAO, and no doubt at that time a brochure will be prepared in which many of these activities will be discussed.

I would also question whether or not, in the budget which was approved yesterday, there was any discussion of a specific study which might be undertaken. It seems to me that it might satisfactorily capture what is intended here if we, rather than use the words "for undertaking an evaluation of", inserted the words "to reflect upon". This is just a suggestion. There will be many opportunities to comment and to acknowledge what FAO has done. I think the idea of doing an evaluation would not be a very appealing way of stating it.

Mme Amina BOUDJELTI (Président, Comité de rédaction): Oui, je pense que cela pourrait nous agréer.

Parviz KARBASI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): I wish to thank Morocco for helping me with this issue. I wonder if we might put the words "the Commission considered", because I do not think anybody disagreed with this issue. Therefore, it will go to the Conference.

I would just tell you why I am really pushing this idea. The 12 documents which go to every nation usually cannot be reached by everybody. For example, there is every year a USDA annual board which will spread all its information and that is very useful. FAO has all this information and it could be a very useful instrument for everybody.

Mme Yvette LANGRAND (France): Monsieur le Président, je pense qu'en effet "Quelques Etats Membres" est un terme qui réduit l'intention. Je suis vraiment d'accord avec le délégué de l'Iran pour indiquer que c'est la

Commission qui l'a souhaité. Et si je peux me permettre d'ajouter une question ... on va peut-être finir sur ce point, et je reviendrai à l'autre tout à l'heure.

CHAIRMAN (Original language German): Instead of having the word "Commission", I think it would be better to use the word "Conference". In my opinion that will be stronger. So at the beginning of this we will put "The Conference".

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America): I would just appreciate it if you could read that sentence. I would like to make sure what we are adopting.

W.A. LAMADÉ (Secretary, Commission I): As I have it written down, the sentence reads as follows and includes the suggestion by the United States to replace the words "for undertaking an evaluation of". It would read "The Conference considered that the forthcoming 50th Anniversary of FAO offered an opportunity to reflect upon the Organization's activities over the past 50 years."

Joseph NZARAMBA (Rwanda): Monsieur le Président, si j'ai bien compris l'intervention du délégué des Etats-Unis, il a également fait remarquer que, lors d'une cérémonie comme celle-là, il serait normal que l'on parle naturellement des activités de l'Organisation; et qu'on conçoit mal comment, en réalité, lors d'une occasion comme celle-là, on pourrait effectivement passer outre l'importance d'évoquer les activités qui ont été abordées et effectuées par une Organisation telle que la FAO.

De ce fait, ma délégation s'interroge sur l'opportunité de ce paragraphe. Pour l'instant, nous sommes occupés à traiter un chapitre qui s'intitule "Situation et perspectives mondiales de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture". Je me rends compte que le point 26 est un point formulé de manière générale sur l'ensemble des activités. Et je me demande si c'est cette Commission-ci qui est habilitée à faire cette proposition. Donc ma délégation se demande sérieusement s'il ne serait pas plutôt opportun de se passer de ce paragraphe.

Parviz KARBASI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): I expected the Secretariat to answer. I was looking for Mr Lamade, but I did not see any response. I think this is the right of the Commission and this is the issue of the state of the world of agriculture. We are asking FAO. This is our right. It is the duty of FAO to prepare a document for us telling us what has been happening during the last 50 years - which project has been successful and why. This would be a guide for us. I do not see why we are not able to do it. If we do not do it, who is going to do so, which committee? The General Assembly maybe?

Ms Naima AL-SHAYJI (Kuwait) : This last paragraph with the amendment by the Secretariat is not very clear to us. Is the intention to document the activities of the Organization for the 50 years which have elapsed, or is it to reflect on some specific activities, or is it to evaluate the work of the Organization? Those three questions are important. It is important to have documentation of outstanding achievements. It is also essential for some members. Maybe some evaluation is needed, but this paragraph as it stands now is not very clear to us.

Mohammed Larbi FIRDAWCY (Maroc): Je pense qu'un cinquantenaire est un événement suffisamment important; et donc il est important que le paragraphe 26 mentionne que la Conférence estime que ce cinquantième anniversaire pourrait être l'occasion de présenter une rétrospective. La présentation d'une rétrospective est beaucoup plus globale, puisqu'elle permet donc de faire une sorte de bilan. Cela peut sous-entendre "sous-évaluation", etc. Et cela reste suffisamment général et à la hauteur de l'événement qu'est un cinquantenaire.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I think, first of all, we should remind ourselves that a resolution on the 50th Anniversary has already been passed by Conference. I do not think that means that one cannot say something again in this particular report. The matter was addressed in this Commission.

I wish to recall that in 1995 it will not only be the anniversary of FAO but also of the United Nations. I coordinate an inter-departmental group and am identified as the focal point as far as the Secretary-General is concerned with respect to preparations for these celebrations, both for the United Nations and for FAO.

As you know, we have a new Director-General coming into office. In view of what I have just said about our preparations being in process, I would appreciate it if the Conference would not tie the hands of the new Director-General or the Secretariat too tightly on the matter.

You will recall that at the 40th Anniversary there was a booklet issued, medals struck, postage stamps issued and so forth. All of these avenues will be pursued. The Secretary-General wishes to seize this opportunity in 1995 as one to put the UN in its place, where it needs to be, on the importance of the United Nations system to development, to the environment and to social well-being. A lot of activities are planned along those lines, all of which means that I would appreciate it if it could be left in the general sense that I believe it has been formulated: "The Conference considered that the forthcoming 50th Anniversary of FAO offered an opportunity to reflect upon the Organization's activities over the past 50 years".

I think it captures the sense of the matter and provides a framework that does not constrain the new Director-General from coming forward with different ideas and proposals on ways of commemorating the first 50 years.

CHAIRMAN (Original language German): You have heard the proposal from the Deputy Director-General. Can you accept it?

Ms Faith INNERARITY (Jamaica): I support wholeheartedly what the Director-General has just said but I would like to make an additional comment.

The distinguished delegate from Iran seemed to be largely interested in having available to him comparative analyses of FAO projects over time and how they have performed in different countries. Perhaps the Director-General could indicate the extent to which this information is already available through FAO's Evaluation Department of projects in various areas and regions. I believe this could in some way fulfil that need which has now been expressed.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: There is a Regular Programme of Evaluation on field projects. I believe, however, that the distinguished representative from Iran is looking for something a bit different from that, perhaps taking the results of previous evaluations, to highlight those that have been success stories and also those that have been failures. I think it is an intriguing idea but I notice that the distinguished representative from Iran was saying "yes" to the proposition that it be left generally at this point and not tied down to anything too specific.

Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc): Monsieur le Président, j'ai suivi avec beaucoup d'attention les informations qui nous ont été données par M. Hjort, Directeur général adjoint. Avant de faire connaître mon dernier sentiment sur la question, j'aimerais qu'on nous relise à nouveau ce texte parce que, dans la version anglaise, les termes sont peut-être légèrement différents mais, dans la version française "réfléchir aux activités" me semble bien plus compliqué que ce que j'avais demandé auparavant.

CHAIRMAN (Original language German): Can I ask the Secretary once again to read out the text slowly?

W.A. LAMADÉ (Secretary, Commission I): "The Conference considered that the forthcoming 50th Anniversary of FAO offered an opportunity to reflect upon the Organization's activities over the past 50 years".

Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc): Il n'est pas dans notre habitude de retarder les travaux d'une commission. Je voulais simplement faire remarquer qu'à notre sens, le terme "rétrospective" avait l'avantage d'être plus général que ceux "réfléchir sur les activités". Cela me fait penser à l'examen des buts et opérations de la FAO, chose que, personnellement, j'aimerais éviter. Mais nous n'insisterons pas.

Mine Amina BOUDJELTI (Président du Comité de rédaction): Je crois que nous pouvons prendre acte de ce que vient de nous dire le représentant du Maroc et laisser les choses en l'état.

Parviz KARBASI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): I wanted to bring the matter to the attention of Jamaica. I know where the information is. In fact, I would like to support the distinguished delegate of Morocco.

Paragraph 26, as amended, approved
Le paragraphe 26, ainsi amendé, est approuvé
Il párrafo 26, así enmendado, es aprobado

Mme Yvette LANGRAND (France): Je voudrais savoir si l'on a retenu la proposition de M. Hjort, qui consistait à exprimer notre satisfaction ou notre reconnaissance, au sujet de l'étude "Agriculture: horizon 2010". Est-ce que cela a bien été repris? C'était là ma préoccupation.

Draft Report of Commission I, Part II, as amended, was adopted
Projet de rapport de la Commission I, Deuxième Partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté
El Proyecto de Informe de la Comisión I, Parte II, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART III
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - TROISIEME PARTIE
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE III

Mme Amina BOUDJELTI (Président du Comité de rédaction): Monsieur le Président, j'ai le plaisir de vous dire que, sur tous les points, nous avons travaillé dans un grand esprit de coopération et avec beaucoup de bonne volonté. Mais ce point, en particulier, n'a pas provoqué de longues discussions. Nous avons adopté très facilement cette partie du rapport.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I only wish to add that the draft of this document was prepared by a woman and the Chair of the Drafting Committee was a woman. It would seem to me this one is ready to be adopted en bloc.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRMAN (Original language German): I see from your applause that we are adopting this en bloc.

Draft Report of Commission I, Part III, was adopted
Projet de rapport de la Commission I, Troisième Partie, est adopté
El Proyecto de Informe de la Comisión I, Parte III, es aprobado

The meeting rose at 12.15 hours.
La séance est levée à 12 h 15.
Se levanta la sesión a las 12.15 horas.

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 93/I/PV/13

Twenty-seventh Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt-septième session
COMMISSION I

27° período de sesiones
COMISION I

THIRTEENTH MEETING
TREIZIEME SEANCE
13^a SESION
(19 November 1993)

The Thirteenth Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours
Mr Hermann Redl, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La treizième séance est ouverte à 15 heures
sous la présidence de M. Hermann Redl, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 13^a sesión a las 15.00 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hermann Redl, Presidente de la Comisión I

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART I

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - PREMIERE PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE I

Mme Amina BOUDJELTI (Président, Comité de rédaction): Monsieur le Président, je n'ai pas de remarque particulière à vous faire sur cette première partie du rapport. Il n'y a absolument rien de particulier. Nous avons travaillé dans une bonne ambiance et nous avons pu adopter assez rapidement ce document. Merci.

CHAIRMAN (Original language German) I would suggest that we go through the document paragraph by paragraph, unless there are other suggestions.

Paragraphs 1 to 3 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 3 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 3 son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 4

PARAGRAPH 4

PARRAFO 4

Sra. Grafila SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): La Delegación de Cuba quisiera añadir algo al final del párrafo 4 donde hay una frase que comienza: "Muchos miembros pidieron un mayor alivio de la carga de la deuda y su reestructuración". Proponemos añadir: "Así como que no se utilicen los alimentos como arma política". Eso fue expresado por nuestra Delegación y otras en la discusión de este tema. No tuvo ningún tipo de comentario en contra y es una cuestión que casi todos los informes, tanto de la Conferencia como del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, han recogido y nos parece que tal vez se omitió involuntariamente.

CHAIRMAN (Original language German): I should like to ask the Cuban delegate to give us a wording.

Sra. Grafila SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Sí, señor Presidente, con muchísimo gusto. Nosotros proponíamos que al final del párrafo 4, que termina en la versión española con las palabras "y su reestructuración", se añadiera: "así como que no se utilicen los alimentos como arma política".

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America): We recognize that this point has been made, and we have often accepted a text comparable to this, particularly in the Committee on Food Security. I believe that the text we have more often used and which we have come to agree with, which is a little bit different in nuance, is that food should not be used as an

instrument of political pressure. I think, if you look at some of the prior CFS reports, that is the language which has often been adopted.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: On this point I would essentially support what has just been said and remind members that in the Declaration which 159 countries adopted in December 1992 it is stated: "We affirm, in the context of international humanitarian law, that food must not be used as a tool for political pressure". If the Cuban amendment could be amended to read as the Declaration, then that would be fine.

CHAIRMAN (Original language German): You have all heard the proposal. Is there any objection to Dr Hjort's proposal? There is no objection, which means that the paragraph is adopted, with the amendment proposed.

Paragraph 4, as amended, approved
Le paragraphe 4, ainsi amendé, est approuvé
El párrafo 4, así enmendado, es aprobado

Paragraph 5 approved
Le paragraphe 5 est approuvé
El párrafo 5 es aprobado

PARAGRAPH 6
PARAGRAPHE 6
PARRAFO 6

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America): In looking at one sentence, one thinks that FAO is promoting the idea of trade distortions. I do not think that that is the intent. Probably the intent is that we want to recognize that, for a variety of reasons, trade distortions may continue. There is definitely reason to believe that. Therefore, perhaps to clarify it further, we would propose the following changes: on the third from last line, which is the second line of that sentence, we would propose striking out the word "would" and inserting the words "are likely to". Then after the word "continue", we would offer the following end to the sentence: "given the gradual reduction envisaged toward full market liberalization". We would end the sentence at that point, so that the newly constructed sentence would read: "It also noted that distortions in international markets are likely to continue, given the gradual reduction envisaged towards full market liberalization".

We would then suggest that the next sentence be modified slightly at the beginning to say, "Member Nations would therefore ..." and so on. And the sentence would continue as it currently reads.

We believe that would clarify what was meant by the idea in the first place.

Mme Yvette LANGRAND (France): Je pense que le texte doit refléter ce qui a été vraiment dit par les membres de la Commission et que la proposition du Représentant des Etats-Unis ne semble pas le faire, notamment lorsqu'il

propose les termes "libéralisation totale des marchés". En effet, cette perspective n'a pas vraiment été évoquée. Je ne peux donc pas me rallier entièrement à la proposition du Représentant des Etats-Unis.

D'autre part, je demanderais que le Représentant des Etats-Unis relise la phrase dans son intégralité pour ce qui concerne la fin de sa proposition.

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America): I will read the revised first sentence and then follow it through to the end with the recommended change to start a new second sentence. The first part of it stands without change. "It also noted that distortions in international markets are likely to continue, given the gradual reduction envisaged toward full market liberalization. Member Nations would therefore have to continue to take these distortions into account in formulating national food and agricultural policies". That would be the proposed revised text.

If I could comment briefly on what France has said, I am not so sure that our comments were not more along the lines of the proposed revision than the text which exists right now, so suggesting that in fact we are distorting the truth is something we have a little difficulty with.

Mme Yvette LANGRAND (France): Personnellement, je propose d'accepter la modification de la phrase jusqu'aux termes "ont des chances de persister" à substituer au mot "persisteraient". Cela donne un caractère moins affirmatif à la phrase. Mais les termes "étant donné la réduction progressive envisagée en vue d'une libéralisation totale des marchés" proposés ensuite par le délégué des Etats-Unis ne me semblent pas vraiment acceptables car je suis persuadé que, dans leurs déclarations, les uns et les autres n'ont pas été jusque-là. Je pense que l'on peut apporter une nuance, mais que l'on ne doit pas aller jusqu'au bout de cette phrase.

CHAIRMAN (Original language German) Does the proposal of the French delegation suit the American delegation?

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America): I want to be sure that I understand what is being proposed. As I understand it, France would find it acceptable if the words "are likely to" are changed to "may", with the rest of the text remaining? Is that correct?

Mme Yvette LANGRAND (France) : En effet, j'ai proposé que l'on apporte une nuance dans la phrase en substituant au mot "persisteraient" les termes "ont des chances de persister" mais que l'on arrête là la modification. Voilà ma proposition. Je dois dire que, sur des points précédents, nous avons nous-mêmes fait l'impasse sur une partie de ce que nous aurions souhaité voir dans le texte. Je remerciais le délégué des Etats-Unis de tenir compte de ma proposition.

CHAIRMAN (Original language German): With the inclusion of the word "may", do we adopt paragraph 6, with the addition by the United States?

Sra. Grafila SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Discúlpeme, señor Presidente, pero no estoy muy segura de lo que dice el párrafo 6.

CHAIRMAN (Original language German): Could I ask the Secretary to specify this paragraph, especially the last sentence?

W.A. LAMADÉ (Secretary, Commission I): In fact there are two sentences now instead of one sentence. The last two sentences read, "It also noted that distortions in international markets may continue given the gradual reduction envisaged toward full market liberalization. Member Nations would therefore have to continue..." and from then onwards there would be no more change.

CHAIRMAN: Cuba, are you satisfied with the text? Thank you.

Mme Yvette LANGRAND (France): J'ai reçu un message au moment où, en réponse à la déléguée de Cuba, le Secrétaire relisait la dernière phrase du paragraphe 6. Il me semble que les quelques échos que j'ai eus de la dernière phrase ne reflétaient pas la proposition de modification que j'avais faite. Le Secrétariat serait-il assez aimable pour me relire la dernière phrase du paragraphe 6. Je suis désolée de revenir en arrière, j'espère que je n'aurai plus à le faire.

W.A. LAMADÉ (Secretary, Commission I): The last two sentences of paragraph 6, as we have them down, read as follows: "It also noted that distortions in the international markets may continue, given the gradual reduction envisaged toward market liberalization" . That is the way we have it up to this moment. The next sentence would then read: "Member Nations would, therefore, have to continue", and there would be no more change.

Mme Yvette LANGRAND (France): C'était bien mon impression. Je suis désolée de revenir sur ce point, mais j'avais demandé que l'on se contente de nuancer le mot "persisteraient", et que l'on n'évoque pas la libéralisation totale des marchés. C'était très clair. On retrouve dans la rédaction du secrétariat la quasi intégralité de la proposition des Etats-Unis qui avaient bien voulu me suivre. Je suis désolée. Je crois qu'il y a un malentendu. Je vous saurais gré d'éclaircir ce point.

CHAIRMAN (Original language German): What do you propose as the amendment?

Mme Yvette LANGRAND (France): Je reprends le début de la phrase qui avait été assez fortement remaniée par la proposition américaine: "Elle a également constaté que les distorsions sur les marchés internationaux ont des chances de persister", au lieu de "persisteraient". J'avais demandé que ce soit la seule modification de la phrase.

CHAIRMAN (Original language German): Could I ask the US delegate whether he would agree with this amendment?

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America): We would have some difficulty with that and propose that we keep the text that, as I understood, we have already agreed to twice.

Mme Yvette LANGRAND (France): Je crois qu'il y a un vrai malentendu, parce que j'avais demandé que l'on modifie seulement le mot "persisteraient" et l'on n'avait pas à évoquer la libéralisation totale des marchés. J'avais demandé que l'on supprime cette partie de phrase. Je la retrouve intégralement, alors que j'avais cru comprendre que les Etats-Unis étaient d'accord sur ce point. Je fais une proposition. Je reprends la phrase: "Elle a également constaté que les distorsions sur les marchés internationaux ont des chances de persister, et que les Etats Membres, étant donné la réduction progressive envisagée, devraient continuer d'en tenir compte lors de la formulation de politiques nationales concernant l'alimentation et l'agriculture."

J'insiste sur le fait que l'évocation de libéralisation totale des marchés (qui par ailleurs me paraît difficile à atteindre) n'a pas été évoquée en cours de réunion.

Je demande que ma proposition soit acceptée par les Etats-Unis, s'ils le veulent bien.

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America): My feeling is that most - and I thought all - countries had agreed with the text as you had read it out, Mr Chairman, which included this last sentence. Some modification of that last portion might be possible if there was concern about the word "full", whether or not there was full market liberalization. We might modify that in some way to suggest "further" rather than completely to strike out that last phrase and start dealing with a new phrase which we have not had in its entirety. Perhaps we could work with the phrase we have been dealing with and look for an alternative to the word "full" if that would help the concern of France.

Also, it would be useful to have some views from other members as well.

Mme Yvette LANGRAND (France): Je suis d'accord avec les Etats-Unis si on enlève le mot "complète", ou "totale", puisqu'il faut vraiment préciser. Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président.

CHAIRMAN (Original language German): You have heard the proposal. France has agreed to delete the word "full".

D. Sands SMITH (United Kingdom): I note that the French delegation agrees to the deletion of "full", a proposal made by the United States.

I further note that the United States proposed not only the deletion of the word "full" but that it should be replaced by another term. The word "further" was suggested.

It seems to me that if this clause is going to make sense it needs to read "given the general reduction envisaged towards further market

liberalization...". If we can accept that form of words, we have a good text which hangs together logically and clearly.

CHAIRMAN (Original language German): You have heard the proposal made by the United Kingdom. Do you agree with it? I see that the French delegate nods. Are there no other comments?

Paragraph 6, as amended, approved

Le paragraphe 6, ainsi amendé est approuvé

El párrafo 6, así enmendado, es aprobado

PARAGRAPH 7

PARAGRAPH 7

PARRAFO 7

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America): I am not sure that our habit of commenting on every paragraph will continue, but please bear with me one more time. In the last sentence of paragraph 7, we think what is being asked of FAO, in gaining access to biotechnologies which are often involved in private sector ownership, may be a bit beyond the mandate of what FAO can and should do. We certainly do remember that this idea was discussed in the debate on this subject, but we believe that the main point is that countries need to know more about how to take advantage; they need to know what the biotechnologies are and how they can best be used in their countries, how to adopt them and so on. We think "gain access to" is a phrase we would rather not see there. Thus, what we propose is, on the next to the last line, to delete the words "to gain access to", and then the word "and" would be changed to "to". Thus the new sentence, if it is to be attributed to the Conference, would say "the Conference urged FAO to take a lead role in helping developing countries to take advantage of these new technologies."

Parviz KARBASI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): In the last line of paragraph 7 I would like to make an inclusion. I will read the two lines: "The Conference urged FAO to take a lead role in helping developing countries to upgrade their knowledge and to gain access to and take advantage of these new technologies."

Alcir CARVALHO REBELLO (Brazil): I would like to support the view expressed by Iran. I think this proposition completes what was said before in the paragraph.

Ricardo LEON-VALDES (Chile): Apoyo también la propuesta de Irán. Me gustaría agregar a la frase donde dice: "En lo que se refiere a ayudar a los países en desarrollo a acceder y beneficiarse de esas nuevas tecnologías", lo siguiente: "disponibles por parte de la Organización".

Zachee YEM YEM (Cameroun): Je voudrais donner mon appui à la proposition du distingué délégué de l'Iran.

W.A. LAMADÉ (Secretary, Commission I): The sentence as I have it down now reads: "The Conference urged FAO to take a lead role in helping developing countries to upgrade their knowledge and to gain access to and take advantage of these new technologies".

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America): As you might have expected, this new addition proposed by Iran and supported by others runs very much counter to my original proposal. We could not attribute the Conference to having said this. If we are going to use that kind of language, if we cannot delete the phrase "to gain access", which we will not deny has been said in both this and prior fora in many instances, we would have to make it attributable to something less than the full Conference.

Mme Amina BOUDJELTI (Président, Comité de rédaction): Personnellement, je me souviens que cela n'avait pas posé de problème au niveau du Comité de rédaction. On peut peut-être mettre: "La Conférence a prié" plutôt que: "La Conférence a instamment prié".

David SHERWOOD (Canada): This point was raised in the Drafting Committee. At the time it was raised the question was put about the extensive role of FAO in transfer technology. If you recall, the Deputy Director-General did address this point and indicated it was a major role of FAO. In terms of the discussions that did take place and in view of the strong support being given to this at this point, we would suggest alternative wording such as "many members urged FAO to take a lead role in helping developing countries".

Parviz KARBASI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): I think the Commission can make the decision at any time. I was just asking this question and it was supported. I think it is the function of FAO, just one of the major functions, to upgrade knowledge on different areas of agriculture. We would like to see this if it is agreed by the Commission. I just do not see any difficulty.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I must say that, yes, this did come up in the Drafting Committee. I believe I said words to the effect that technology transfer was fundamental to the mission and mandate of the Organization. I simply cannot see why or how the Conference would wish to urge FAO to do other than what is said here. I just do not understand why "to gain access to" should be deleted. Does that mean that somebody else should have the lead role in helping developing countries? Does it mean that some countries do not wish developing countries to get access to technology?

I do not understand why there should be a problem with this terminology. It certainly comes under FAO's mandate. Technology transfer, as I say, is very fundamental and very important to us. We are the lead Organization on food and agricultural matters. I cannot see why there should be a problem with this.

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America): The last thing I would be interested in doing today would be to engage the Deputy Director-General. We have had a lot of discussions about the importance of plant breeders'

rights, the recognition of the new power of convention and so on. It suggests to us that this language potentially might be in conflict with that. Certainly, technology transfer is extremely important. We cannot see that having that phrase deleted suggests anything other than FAO taking a lead and an important role in upgrading knowledge and taking advantage of these new technologies. "Gaining access to" has a slightly different view from our perspective. I think, rather than worry about this, given that there has been a lot of support for leaving this wording in, Canada's suggestion may be an option. We would have suggested "some countries" but perhaps, rather than go round and round on this issue, we could adopt what Canada has offered here - I think it is probably a good compromise - and say: "many members urged FAO".

Mme Amina BOUDJELTI (Président, Comité de rédaction): Lorsque j'ai dit que cela n'avait pas posé de problème, c'était parce que, comme cela ressort des explications de M. Hjort, nous n'avions pas changé le libellé qui existait. J'ai suivi les débats et dire "plusieurs pays" va en deçà de la vérité. Je proposerai que l'on mette au moins "la plupart des pays". C'est une question qui, d'après mon souvenir et selon mes notes, n'avait pas provoqué de discussions enflammées au Comité de rédaction. On pourrait donc dire "la plupart des pays".

Mme Yvette LANGRAND (France): Je me rallie très volontiers à la proposition de notre Présidente du Comité de rédaction.

Alcir CARVALHO REBELLO (Brazil): Regarding paragraph 7, I would like to confirm my understanding that the approved text reads "most members". What about the suggestion of Iran on "to upgrade their knowledge". Was that kept or not?

CHAIRMAN: It stays in as far as I have seen it. Are there any further comments?

Paragraph 7, as amended, approved

Le paragraphe 7, ainsi amendé, est approuvé

El párrafo 7, así enmendado, es aprobado

PARAGRAPH 8

PARAGRAPHE 8

PARRAFO 8

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on Paragraph 8?

Zahir Shah MOHMAND (Pakistan): My suggestion refers to the first sentence of the paragraph, the second line, after the comma, "emphasized the importance of extending the sustainable management of forests". The Commission will see that the word "importance" has been repeated in this sentence which to me cosmetically looks slightly out of place. If the second use of the word "importance" could be substituted by the use of the word "urgency", it would be preferable.

CHAIRMAN: If I understood you correctly you are proposing in the third line to delete the word "importance" and substitute the word "urgency"? Are there any further comments? If not, the paragraph as amended by Pakistan is adopted.

Paragraph 8, as amended, approved

Le paragraphe 8, ainsi amendé, est approuvé

El párrafo 8, así enmendado, es aprobado

PARAGRAPH 9

PARAGRAPH 9

PARRAFO 9

Kiyoshi SAWADA (Japan): Before I put forward our amendment on paragraph 9, may I express our appreciation for the broad support of Member Nations on the issue of the International Conference on Sustainable Contribution of Fisheries to Food Security which was proposed by Japan.

My amendment is as follows. In line 8 of paragraph 9 which starts "fisheries management", then there is a comma and it continues "including measures to control high seas fishing", we would like that to be replaced with "both on the high seas and in areas within national jurisdiction". The reason is as follows. Since better fisheries management is important for both the 200 sea mile areas and also for the high seas areas, it is unnecessary to emphasize that it includes high seas particularly. If it is needed, the report should emphasize the 200 sea mile areas also.

Moreover, the original sentence before us, which emphasized high seas areas, does not fit with the next sentence which mentions the International Conference even though these two sentences are connected by the words "In this connection", because the object of the proposed International Conference is to pursue better fishing without the distinction of the high seas and the 200 sea mile areas.

W.A. LAMADÉ (Secretary, Commission I): The change would occur on the 7th line from the bottom of page 4 which starts "fisheries management". After these two words and after the comma, the phrase "including measures to control high seas fishing" would be deleted and replaced by a new insertion which would read "both on the high seas and in areas within national jurisdiction". This would be the only change which I have noted down.

Parviz KARBASI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): I would like to ask what is the difference? I am not very clear on Japan's proposal. I did not see any difficulty in what we had before.

Kiyoshi SAWADA (Japan): I will explain again. I could not see why only the high seas are emphasized in this sentence when in the next sentence we have that the International Conference is to pursue better fishing without the distinction of the high seas and the 200 sea mile areas. That is the reason.

CHAIRMAN (Original language German): Do you agree with that explanation? I see that you agree. Are there any other amendments? If this is not the case, paragraph 9 is adopted with the amendment proposed by Japan.

Paragraph 9, as amended, approved
Le paragraphe 9, ainsi amendé, est approuvé
El párrafo 9, así enmendado, es aprobado

Paragraphs 10 to 13 approved
Les paragraphes 10 à 13 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 10 a 13 son aprobados

Draft Report of Commission I, Part I, as amended was adopted
Le projet de rapport de la Commission I, première partie, ainsi amendé est adopté
El proyecto de informe de la Comisión I, Parte I, así enmendado es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART I - Sup.1
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - PREMIERE PARTIE - Sup.1
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE I - Sup.1

CHAIRMAN: The next document is C 93/I/REP/1-Sup. 1. May I draw your attention to the fact that the paragraph in the document will be inserted after paragraph 6 of the document we have just adopted. Are there any questions or comments?

Draft Report of Commission I, Part I - Sup.1, was adopted
Le projet de rapport de la Commission I, première partie - Sup.1, est adopté
El proyecto de informe de la Comisión I, Parte I - Sup.1, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART I - Sup.2
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - PREMIERE PARTIE - Sup.2
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE I - Sup.2

CHAIRMAN: May I draw your attention to the fact the paragraph in the document will be inserted after paragraph 1 in document C 93/I/REP/1-Sup.1.

Ms Naima AL-SHAYJI (Kuwait): We have some reservation on this paragraph.

CHAIRMAN: Can I propose that your reservation be laid down in a footnote?

Ms Naima AL-SHAYJI (Kuwait): Yes, Mr Chairman.

CHAIRMAN: So it will be put in a footnote. Are there any other comments on the footnote and the reservation of the delegate of Kuwait?

D. Sands SMITH (United Kingdom): I have not seen the text that will be proposed for the footnote which will be added by the delegate of Kuwait. It may be that the United Kingdom will wish to support that footnote.

CHAIRMAN (Original language German): I request the delegate of Kuwait to read out the text of the footnote at dictation speed.

Ms Naima AL-SHAYJI (Kuwait): The Kuwait delegation has a reservation on paragraph 1 in document C 93/INF/REP/1-Sup.2. If you wish I can say the exact wording in Arabic as well.

Zahir Shah MOHMAND (Pakistan): May we see the English translation of the Arabic?

Ms Naima AL-SHAYJI (Kuwait): I purposely said it in English and then in Arabic so there was no need for the interpreters to interpret. I will say it again in English. The delegation of the State of Kuwait has a reservation on adopting paragraph 1 in document C 93/I/REP/1-Sup.2. Is that clear?

D. Sands SMITH (United Kingdom): We would like to say we also have a certain reservation over this, and associate ourselves with the delegation of Kuwait.

CHAIRMAN: Does that mean that we say "the delegations of Kuwait and the United Kingdom", or would you not be included? O.K. - you will be included.

E.WAYNE DENNEY (United States of America): The United States of America would like to associate itself with the delegations of Kuwait and the United Kingdom.

CHAIRMAN: You will also be included.

David SHERWOOD (Canada): Canada would like to be associated with the reservation.

Luis DELGADO SANCHO (EEC): We want to associate ourselves with the reservation along with Canada and the United States of America.

Sra. Grafila SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Solamente para hacer una pregunta: Si la reserva de la Comunidad Económica Europea se refiere a todos sus Estados Miembros o solamente al representante de la Comunidad.

Luis DELGADO SANCHO (EEC): This concerns the Community and its Member States.

CHAIRMAN: You have heard the explanation of the EEC. With those remarks we will adopt the document.

Draft Report of Commission I, Part I - Sup. 2, as amended, was adopted
Projet de rapport de la Commission I, Première Partie - Sup. 2, ainsi
amendé, est adopté
El proyecto de informe de la Comisión I, Parte I - Sup. 2, así enmendado,
es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART IV
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - QUATRIEME PARTIE
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE IV

Paragraphs 1 and 2 approved
Les paragraphes 1 et 2 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 1 y 2 son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 3
PARAGRAPHE 3
PARRAFO 3

Parviz KARBASI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): We have had a long discussion which I summarize in this statement as written if it is agreed with the Commission. I would like to add at the end of paragraph 3 - or maybe we could have another paragraph, maybe paragraph 3 .1 or 3(a) after we have changed it. This would read as follows: "The Conference recommends the establishment of a working group from the regional group representatives to advise the Commission on Sustainable Development and to oversee FAO activities for the follow-up of UNCED".

CHAIRMAN (Original language Gorman): Would anybody like to comment on this proposal? It is a new one.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: My only reaction on this point, just having seen it, is to remind you that as far as overseeing FAO activities for the follow-up of UNCED are concerned, we have a responsibility to report to the Committee on Fisheries, Committee on Forestry, Committee on Agriculture, the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee, the Council and the Conference. So I am not sure that it is in the interest of the Member Nations of FAO to establish another body to review FAO's follow-up to UNCED, to have oversight responsibilities with respect to FAO activities for the follow-up of UNCED. That I think is only part of what is being proposed here.

With respect to the advice on CSD, I think that is another matter, and Mr Mahler as the Director-General's representative to the CSD is more appropriately equipped to speak to that matter than I.

P.J. MAHLER (Sous-Directeur général pour l'environnement et le développement durable): Monsieur le Président, pour conseiller la Commission du développement durable, il faudrait que celle-ci établisse

elle-même son propre groupe consultatif ou qu'elle le demande. Je comprends l'esprit de la proposition du délégué de l'Iran. Effectivement, à la Commission du développement durable, la majorité des délégations ne sont pas composées par les Ministères de l'agriculture, des forêts et des pêches.

Je n'ai pas encore saisi quelle serait la relation du Groupe proposé avec la CDD. A qui ce groupe devrait-il faire rapport? Devrait-il faire rapport au Conseil, à la Conférence ou à la Commission du développement durable? J'éprouve donc quelques difficultés à me prononcer à ce stade.

Parviz KARBASI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): I would like to explain what we mean by this. I know all you know that in some of the chapters of Agenda 21 the task manager is FAO, and we know that the Commission on Sustainable Development is somewhere else. We know that among the many issues which are discussed, the issue of agriculture usually is the last issue discussed in the General Assembly.

To me that is essential in order that the governments can look at the issue of UNCED and support those chapters and give advice to the Commission on Sustainable Development. It is essential, because we can give information on what is going on. Mr Hjort has mentioned that at the moment sustainable development involves activities by different divisions, so the reports will go to different divisions and there will thus be a spread. We have seven regions and two or three representatives for each region. This group would gather all the information to advise the Commission on Sustainable Development so that they would be better informed about what was going on. We had a lot of support for this. Many people have made interventions. I think this is something that we have to look to. We want governments to be able to tell the Secretariat what they have to do. It is the responsibility of governments to put the money to work. They have to say what they believe, what they can do and what their capacity is. The way to do it is for the representatives here to have a group to advise the Commission.

CHAIRMAN: You have heard the explanation given by the distinguished delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran. I should now like to invite comments.

Alcir CARVALHO REBELLO (Brésil): En ce qui concerne la proposition du délégué de l'Iran, ma délégation ne serait malheureusement pas d'accord pour créer un tel organisme. Elle favorise plutôt l'allocation de ressources mais non la création de nouveaux organismes, instances ou fora.

Mme Amina BOUDJELTI (Président du Comité de rédaction): En ce qui concerne ce paragraphe et les suivants, nous avons beaucoup parlé, au Comité de rédaction, des décisions pertinentes de la CNUED. Je pense qu'il y avait la volonté de refléter les débats. Mais nous pensions que le paragraphe 4 tel qu'il est rédigé - surtout les dernières lignes, où l'on demande qu'un rapport soit présenté au Conseil, qui est un organe gouvernemental - tenait largement compte de ces préoccupations. Voilà ce que je voulais ajouter.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any further comments concerning the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran? I see no support for the Islamic Republic's proposal. Paragraph 3 is adopted as it stands.

Paragraphs 3-5 approved

Les paragraphes 3-5 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 3-5 son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 6

PARAGRAPH 6

PARRAFO 6

Miss TING WEN LIAN (Malaysia): We should like to amend the first sentence of paragraph 6 by adding the word "preparatory" between the word "the" and "process" in the first line and deleting the word "of" before the word "implementation" in the second line and replacing it by the words "for the". The sentence would then read: "The Conference recommended that FAO take a lead role in the preparatory process for the implementation of the ..." etc. This would better reflect the debate and would be in conformity with the last but one line on the same page where it is correctly stated, "the building of a close partnership between CSD and FAO in support of the implementation of the UNCED decisions". Only the CSD will be at the helm, so to speak, in deciding how to go about implementing the UNCED decisions.

In the same paragraph, on page 4, in line 2 we would wish to see the word "government" added so that it would then read, "measures to secure active involvement on the FAO work on forestry by ministers and high-level government decision makers". This is to emphasize the point that at all times governments should be involved in this discussion, because sovereign natural resources will be involved.

We could probably live with the rest, but I might come back with another point.

Alcir CARVALHO REBELLO (Brésil): La délégation du Brésil voudrait se rallier totalement à la proposition faite par la déléguée de la Malaisie.

CHAIRMAN: This brings us to the adoption of the amendments made by Malaysia, but I would like to make the following announcement. In accordance with the Financial Regulations, Rule XIII, the following sentence should be added to paragraph 6: "The Conference was advised by the Secretariat that the implementation of these proposals carried additional budgetary implications estimated at approximately US\$202 000 from the Regular Programme and US\$47 000 from extra-budgetary sources, none of which are included in the Programme of Work and Budget for 1994-95".

Eberhard SCHMAUZ (Germany) (Original language German): I should like to propose that in the second line on page 4, in order to correspond with the wording on page 3, the wording should be: "by ministers or high level government".

CHAIRMAN: If I understood you correctly, you mean the word "and" should be deleted and replaced by the word "or".

You have heard the proposal from Germany. Are there any objections?

Martti POUTANEN (Finland): Could we keep it open by having the wording "ministers and/or high level government officers", meaning that some countries would be sending ministers whereas others would be sending high-level government officers?

CHAIRMAN (Original language German): Are there any objections to this proposal made by Finland? There are no objections so we will follow the proposal.

Paragraph 6, as amended, approved

Le paragraphe 6, ainsi amendé, est approuvé

El párrafo 6, así enmendado, es aprobado

PARAGRAPH 7

PARAGRAPH 7

PARRAFO 7

Mrs Hannelore A.H, BENJAMIN (Dominica): I have several comments on paragraph 7. On line 3, "(Barbados April 1994)" should be deleted and replaced with "(Western Samoa September 1994)". Barbados April 1992 was when the Small Island States had a meeting. In the fourth line "noted with" should be deleted and replaced by "expressed its". The word "considered" should be deleted and replaced by "accepted". The wording would then be, "and expressed its concern that the Draft Action Programme to be accepted by the Global Conference...".

I would propose that the last sentence should read, "ensuring that key elements for the food and agriculture sectors for sustainable development...".

I should like to have an extra sentence added. Because of the slowness of UNCED and the slowness of the implementation of ICN, and in order to have a faster and successful outcome of the Global Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island States, my delegation would recommend that we set up a small working group of maybe four representatives from the Small Island States who are here in this room, which will not involve any additional budget resources, to advise the Secretariat by making recommendations for the Global Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island States.

Maybe if we could do that and if we could make our ideas available to the Secretariat more quickly, then the implementation of the Global Conference would be faster.

P.J. MAHLER (Sous-Directeur général pour l'environnement et le développement durable): Il y a effectivement plusieurs conférences sur les petits Etats insulaires.

Une première conférence s'est effectivement tenue à la Barbade en avril 1992. C'était avant la CNUED. Elle avait été organisée par la FAO.

Il y a ensuite, à la suite d'une recommandation de la CNUED, une autre conférence à la Barbade, mais c'est une conférence globale qui ne sera pas uniquement centrée sur les aspects de l'agriculture, des forêts et des pêches. C'est une conférence organisée par les Nations Unies. Elle aura lieu du 25 avril au 7 mai 1994.

Finalement, la FAO a proposé une deuxième conférence des petits Etats insulaires sur le développement durable de l'agriculture, des forêts et des pêches, qui se tiendrait à Samoa, si nous pouvons recueillir les fonds extrabudgétaires nécessaires, vers la fin de l'année 1994. Dans le rapport que lorsqu'on parle de la conférence "globale", il s'agit de la conférence qui aura lieu en avril-mai 1994, conférence organisée par les Nations Unies.

Parviz KARBASI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): I think the request by the distinguished delegate of Dominica could be implemented, because when I hear the intervention by the distinguished delegate of Brazil who hosted UNCED, I think we can, in answer to Dominica, have a task force in our regional groups which can handle the issue. It would be possible to do that.

Mrs Hannelore A.H. BENJAMIN (Dominica): I am a little confused. Are we now going to have a Global Conference in Western Samoa or are we not? If we are going to have it, I would like to see it reflected in this paragraph. I would also, after "(Barbados, April 1994)", and instead of having "noted with" insert "expressed its concern" not "noted with concern". It was definitely expressed, not noted in the meeting. Then after the draft Action Programme "to be accepted", not "to be considered". If we only continue to consider things, then we are wasting our time.

CHAIRMAN: You have heard the proposal of Dominica. Are there any objections? Madam, would you be so kind as to explain to me what is now the content of the brackets? What is included in the brackets?

Mrs Hannelore A.H. BENJAMIN (Dominica): In the third line, after "Barbados, April 1994", since you insist that you are referring to that particular worldwide conference held from 28 April to 7 May, I have no further objection to that. Then close the bracket, comma and take out "noted with" and insert "expressed its concern", continuing "that the draft Action Programme to be accepted" instead of "considered".

I am also not very clear whether we do set up a small working group in Rome without any extra cost which could help the Secretariat to make some recommendation and advice on how the Small Island Sustainable Development Conference would take place in Western Samoa in 1995. This is where I am confused. Are we going to have the Global Conference, or are we not going to have the Global Conference? Because in one of the previous documents, when the environment was under discussion, I did read "Western Samoa" in one of the paragraphs.

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): I do not think we are really in a position to give instructions to a Global Conference, so I do not see that it is possible to have it accepted here. The Global Conference will have to consider things.

CHAIRMAN: If there are no further comments, it means that we remain with the standing text. Do we agree?

Mrs Hannelore A.H. BENJAMIN (Dominica): Not exactly. Are we going to insert "expressed its" and take out "considered" and write in "accepted"?

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Allow me to make a suggestion to see if this meets the requirements. Instead of "to be considered by", all of that, perhaps it would be best to say "expressed its concern that the draft Action Programme before the Global Conference did not give adequate consideration to sustainable development" and so forth. It will not accept a "draft Action Programme". It will accept an "Action Programme". We could get away from that potential confusion. As I understand it, the document has been released and is before the members, so if we just say that the draft Action Programme before the Global Conference did not give adequate consideration to sustainable development in the food, agriculture, and so on, that is the main concern of the Conference.

CHAIRMAN: You have heard the comments of the Deputy Director-General. Do you agree? I see no objections.

Paragraph 7, as amended, approved

Le paragraphe 7, ainsi amendé, est approuvé

El párrafo 7, así enmendado, es aprobado

PARAGRAPH 8

PARAGRAPH 8

PARRAFO 8

Zahir Shah MOHMAND (Pakistan): My suggestion is with regard to the last two words of the paragraph "Member Governments". I just want to know if it can raise any special meaning, because both the words start with capital letters. It is my understanding that if that is substituted by "member countries" it will be more comprehensible. Obviously the reference is to the public sector.

CHAIRMAN: So you are proposing that the word "Governments" is deleted and replaced by "member countries"?

Zahir Shah MOHMAND (Pakistan): "member countries".

CHAIRMAN: I see no objections, so the proposal of Pakistan is accepted.

Paragraph 8 as amended, approved
Le paragraphe 8 ainsi amendé, est approuvé
El párrafo 8, así enmendado, es aprobado

Paragraphs 9 and 10 approved
Les paragraphes 9 et 10 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 9 y 10 son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 11
PARAGRAPH 11
PARRAFO 11

Morad Ali ARDESHIRI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): As you know, in our statement we mentioned the role of FAO in the elaboration and implementation of the International Convention on Desertification. I would like to propose that just before the last sentence of paragraph 11, there should be added "It was also requested that FAO's role on elaboration and implementation of the International Convention to Combat Desertification should be continued".

CHAIRMAN: Would you read that again slowly.

Morad Ali ARDESHIRI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): In paragraph 11, before the last sentence, another sentence should be added. This sentence should read, "It was also requested that FAO's role on elaboration" - or if you wish, you can say "on preparation" - "and implementation of the International Convention to Combat Desertification should be emphasized", or "continued". You can change the wording, but I think it is necessary to mention that in this paragraph.

P.J. MAHLER (Sous-Directeur général pour l'environnement et le développement durable): Nous sommes reconnaissants au délégué de l'Iran de souligner le rôle que nous jouons déjà dans la préparation de la Convention internationale pour la désertification.

Je ne sais pas s'il est souhaitable de parler du rôle de la FAO dans l'exécution d'une Convention qui n'est pas encore signée. Il faudrait peut-être dire: "dans l'élaboration", et peut-être "l'adoption", si la Commission voulait aller aussi loin. Mais je ne sais pas si on peut anticiper notre rôle dans la mise en oeuvre elle-même. J'espère que la FAO aura un rôle, évidemment, mais je ne sais pas si nous pouvons l'anticiper.

Morad Ali ARDESHIRI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): I agree with that. Why is it necessary to mention in this paragraph "the role of FAO"? If it is not necessary to participate that way, I am satisfied. Just mention it in the elaboration of the Convention because the experience of FAO is so important.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Perhaps it might facilitate matters to say: "It also stressed FAO's role in the elaboration and adoption of the International Convention to Combat Desertification".

Morad Ali ARDESHIRI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): I agree that the last words should be "to combat desertification", not "diversification".

Paragraph 11, as amended, approved

Le paragraphe 11, ainsi amendé, est approuvé

El párrafo 11, así enmendado, es aprobado

PARAGRAPH 12

PARAGRAPH 12

PARRAFO 12

Ms Naima AL-SHAYJI (Kuwait): I have a point of clarification on this paragraph. I do not know what the idea of the drafters was when they said in the second line "including incentives and disincentives". What is meant by "disincentives"? This is not very clear.

Mme Amina BOUDJELTI (Président, Comité de rédaction): Je vais laisser la parole à M. Mahler qui aura sans doute beaucoup plus de précisions à apporter.

P.J. MAHLER (Sous-Directeur général pour l'environnement et le développement durable):

Merci, Madame le Président. Je crois que cette partie se réfère en particulier, mais pas exclusivement, à la déclaration du distingué délégué de la Suisse. Il y a une panoplie d'instruments et d'outils pour essayer de conduire le développement durable. Il y a évidemment d'un côté les subventions, mais il peut aussi y avoir les mesures fiscales, par exemple des taxes. Ce qu'on cherchait à refléter sous ce mot qui est utilisé ce sont des mesures fiscales, des taxes et certains règlements. Je pense que c'est cela qui est sous-entendu sous ce mot.

Mme Amina BOUDJELTI (Président, Comité de rédaction): Tout ce que je peux ajouter, c'est que nous n'y avons pas touché au Comité de rédaction.

Paragraph 12, as amended, approved

Le paragraphe 12, ainsi amendé, est approuvé

El párrafo 12, así enmendado, es aprobado

PARAGRAPH 13

PARAGRAPH 13

PARRAFO 13

Alcir CARVALHO REBELLO (Brazil): I have just a small suggestion which is in the first line of paragraph 13: "The Conference recognized that rural poverty was in 'most' cases the root cause of environmental degradation". My suggestion is to replace "many" with "most".

Ivan MARULANDA GOMEZ (Colombia): Para sugerir que se cambie el tiempo del verbo, que diga: "La Conferencia reconoció que la pobreza rural es ...".

Ms Charlotte E. ROE (United States of America): We do not wish to get tangled up in the debate about this one word but I would comment that I think you are losing clarity when you change "many" to "most". Environmental degradation is not simply a problem of struggling countries. It is a problem of rich countries as well. I think that we agreed in the debate when people cannot feed their families they tear up resources. That needs to be addressed urgently. That is not to say when you solve the question of poverty, or at least reduce it significantly, you completely solve the problem of environmental degradation because that goes on around the world.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: May I suggest that you delete the words "in many/most cases", so that the sentence would read: "The Conference recognized that rural poverty was a root cause of environmental degradation".

Zahir Shah MOHMAND (Pakistan): In paragraph 13, the second sentence beginning, "The Conference agreed that developed and developing countries had roles to play...", the word "roles" should be preceded by an appropriate word, to my way of thinking, such as "big", "great" or "substantial", whichever word is suitable.

CHAIRMAN: I ask the distinguished delegate from Pakistan to repeat that.

Zahir Shah MOHMAND (Pakistan): The proposal is that in the second sentence the word "roles" should be preceded by "substantial", "big", "great", whichever suits.

Morad Ali ARDESHIRI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): I have a comment on this paragraph as well. In paragraph 13 there is the mention of developed and developing countries having a role. We believe that should be put more strongly and that poverty alleviation should be stressed. There is no mention of poverty alleviation. It just says "roles". What is the benefit of these roles?

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Could I suggest that the point could be emphasized a little bit more by putting in the amendment that has been suggested: "The Conference agreed that both developed and developing countries had substantial roles to play in combating poverty, hunger and malnutrition"?

CHAIRMAN: You have heard that proposal.

Ivan MARULANDA GOMEZ (Colombia): Ahí se debe también cambiar el tiempo del verbo. Debe decir: "tienen", no "tenían".

Morad Ali ARDESHIRI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): I am sorry to be asking for the floor so often. I have a problem with this paragraph. "The Conference recognized that rural poverty was in many cases the root cause of environmental degradation". Does that mean it is not now?

CHAIRMAN: Is this acceptable now?

Jagan Nath THAPLIYA (Nepal): I would like to say: "The Conference recognized the role of poverty in developing countries", and that something in the developing countries is, in many cases, the root cause of environmental degradation. It is the role of poverty in the developing countries. It is something else in the developed countries. I would like to bring to your notice that something is added, that environmental degradation is not the only cause of poverty in developing countries.

Mme Amina BOUDJELTI (Président, Comité de rédaction): Je dois vous avouer que, pour ma part, j'adhère aux remarques qui ont été faites, mais je pense qu'elles sont bien reprises ici, dans le paragraphe, c'est assez net. On parle des rôles de chacun, pays développés, pays en développement, de rôles importants dans la lutte contre la pauvreté, la faim, la malnutrition. Cela me paraît assez clair. Je ne sais pas s'il y a quelque chose à ajouter.

CHAIRMAN: You have heard the comments of the Chair of the Drafting Group. Are there any objections to the sentence? It will stand as it is. With these comments, we have now finished with paragraph 13.

Paragraph 13, as amended, approved
Le paragraphe 13, ainsi amendé, est approuvé
El párrafo 13, así enmendado, es aprobado

Paragraph 14 approved
Le paragraphe 14 est approuvé
El párrafo 14 es aprobado

PARAGRAPH 15
PARAGRAPHE 15
PARRAFO 15

Ulf SVENSSON (Sweden): I wish to raise an issue that is somewhat complicated and so I will therefore explain it.

When the resolution on the Revision of the International Undertaking of Plant Genetic Resources was drafted, we made a mistake on the very important collaboration that we are seeking with the Convention and in the interim with the Intergovernmental Committee on Biological Diversity. We have lost a whole crucial year because we introduced into the resolution that before the entry into force of the Convention the relationship should be with the Intergovernmental Committee on the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The Convention enters into force on 29 December and then there will be a whole year before the first meeting of the Conference of the parties takes place in December 1994. That is a serious problem because we really need this close cooperation. It is very clumsy and wrong to ask to substitute for the words "before the entry into force of the Convention" the words

"before the first meeting of the Conference of the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity", but that is what we need.

My question is: despite the unheard of proposal to make changes in a resolution that has gone through so many steps, would it be possible to do it? Or how it would otherwise be possible to secure that we have the legislative basis for having important collaboration between the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and the Intergovernmental Committee on the Convention on Biological Diversity during the whole of 1994.

Miss TING WEN LIAN (Malaysia): I entirely agree with the distinguished colleague from Sweden because it is very important that this collaboration is continued. If the resolution remains as it is, then we are only talking of a period between now and 29 December when the Convention comes into force. There is still the period between 29 December and the following year because, according to the Convention, the first Conference of the parties must be held within a year of the Convention coming into force.

As the proposal now stands, it is planned to have the meeting of the first Conference of the parties some time in November. We will have this period between now and November next year where it is in a grey area. Maybe the great minds up there on the podium may find some way to amend the resolution so that we take into consideration this very important point.

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America): I wish simply to add our support to what has been proposed, and I agree that it is a highly unusual situation, one that we did not foresee several months ago when we were putting the resolution together, that this will take so long and that by the time we got around to adopting it it would not be appropriate any more. It is an unusual set of circumstances that this has gone through the Commission and the Council - that is, the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, the Council and then this Commission - and it is unfortunate that it has emerged at such a late date. I believe it is useful that it has. We owe a debt of gratitude to our Swedish colleague that we know about it all.

Alcir CARVALHO REBELLO (Brazil): For the reasons that were very well expressed by the delegates of Sweden, Malaysia and the United States, my delegation would like to support seeking some adjustment to the resolution.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I do not understand the matter: I do not understand the problem. I have been trying to get an understanding of the problem but I do not have it. Certainly there is no reason why FAO cannot collaborate and report and do anything it needs to, with or without this resolution.

I do not quite understand exactly what the problem is at this moment. Could you give me a moment to see if we can figure it out.

Ms Naima AL-SHAY JI (Kuwait): We wish to associate ourselves with the previous speakers. Secondly, may I suggest that a small task force or a small working group from Sweden, Malaysia and the Secretariat redraft the resolution in accordance with the points that have been made.

Ulf SVENSSON (Sweden): I would like to make a very brief comment to Mr Hjort through you, Mr Chairman. I agree with Mr Hjort that the FAO Secretariat can have whatever contact it likes, but this is a contact that is part of an intergovernmental negotiation process, and therefore we think it should be very clearly laid down by governments in their decision that they want this contact to take place during a special period and not only based on a decision by the Secretariat. That is why we made this unusual suggestion at this late stage for a small technical revision of the draft resolution.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Please give us the specific language in the resolution that you want to amend, and then let us know why again because I cannot understand what the problem is. If the problem is that the Convention on Biological Diversity has not been established and will not be established until December 1994, that is not something that we can do anything about. Nor can this Conference.

Miss TING WEN LIAN (Malaysia): After Mr Hjort's intervention, I almost forgot what I wanted to say because I do not understand why he does not understand!

We find ourselves in this self-created dilemma because Sweden and ourselves were assuming that this resolution, having come all the way through the various bodies up to this supreme and august Conference, is sacred and untouchable and that we could not at will change anything even though this is a very important technical point.

Since we have our Legal Counsel here, probably he could advise us on how we could rectify this technical point which would make it, shall we say, more to the point of what we want in the resolution. It is not a substantive change; it is just a technical point.

LEGAL COUNSEL: I come in in the middle of this, so I am not quite sure whether I am going to make sense to you or not.

As I understand it, the problem here is that in the original resolution you had the words "and before the entry into force of the Convention that there should be discussions with the Intergovernmental Committee on the Convention...". Now you have the information that the Convention will come into force in December 1993, and therefore any meaningful discussions will take place in between December 1993, which is upon us anyway, and December 1994 when the first meeting of the contracting parties takes place. Is this a correct understanding of the problem?

You have therefore suggested deleting the words "and before the entry into force of the Convention" and to substitute therefore the words "before the first meeting of the governing body". That would seem to be appropriate, but I was wondering why you could not just delete altogether the words "and before the entry into force of the Convention" and not have anything in its place. Then you have to say "with the Intergovernmental Committee on the Convention" which presumably will disappear anyway in December 1994.

Is it necessary to have anything? If we just delete "and before the entry into force of the Convention", we automatically cover the period up until the first Meeting of the Contracting Parties in December 1994, and from

then on the cooperation obviously is with the Contracting Parties. Is that alright? I see some nodding of heads. If you delete the words "and before the entry into force of the Convention" that may handle it.

CHAIRMAN: Do we agree with Mr Moore's proposal?

Miss TING WEN LIAN (Malaysia): Yes, of course we agree if that makes the sense we want. We were, as I said before, only wondering whether we can tamper with a draft resolution seeing that it has come this far, but if the Legal Counsel, Mr Moore, has gone ahead and done it, so be it.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: The Conference is a superior body to anybody else that has messed with the resolution.

Paragraph 15, as amended, approved
Le paragraphe 15, ainsi amendé, est approuvé
El párrafo 15, así enmendado, es aprobado

Paragraphs 16 and 17 approved
Les paragraphes 16 et 17 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 16 y 17 son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 18
PARAGRAPHE 18
PARRAFO 18

E. WAYNE DENNEY (United States of America): This is just for clarification of paragraph 18 in the third line. I think that someone reading this may not know what the State of the World report would be. I suggest that we indicate it is FAO's World's Plant Genetic Resources Report.

If I might add, two lines below that where it talks about the "CPGR assisted by its working group", prior to that we have talked about the CPGR and its working group.

Miss TING WEN LIAN (Malaysia): Since my attention has been drawn to this by the delegate of the United States of America, although I was not meaning to comment on this paragraph but I have had my attention drawn to it, I would like to add an amendment at the end of the second line, "including the proposed preparation of the first State of the World report..." whatever. You will recall in the debate my delegation expressed very clear reservations on this particular preparation. We should use the word "proposed" because otherwise we are assuming we are all going ahead with it.

Mme Amina BOUDJELTI (Président du Comité de rédaction): Je peux ajouter que j'ai sur mes notes, qui reflètent les travaux de la Commission, que nous avons parlé de préparation. Je n'ai pas cru bon de corriger cela, mais il s'agissait bien de préparation et non d'établissement. Mme l'Ambassadeur de

Malaisie reflète exactement ce que nous avons ajouté au Comité de rédaction.

Paragraph 18, as amended, approved
Le paragraphe 18, ainsi amendé, est approuvé
El párrafo 18, así enmendado, es aprobado

Paragraphs 19 and 20 approved
Les paragraphes 19 et 20 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 19 y 20 son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 21
PARAGRAPH 21
PARRAFO 21

E. WAYNE DENNEY (United States of America): During our discussion in the Commission there were considerable references to getting the International Technical Conference Secretariat fully formed and since I do not see that referenced anywhere else in this text, I propose a new sentence at the end of the first sentence. This new sentence would read as follows: "It noted the importance of putting in place a Conference Secretariat as soon as possible full stop". This would not say anything about resources or exactly when it would happen, but it would just note the importance of achieving this important step in the preparatory process.

CHAIRMAN: You have heard the proposal of the delegation of the United States of America. Are there any comments?

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: In partial - I guess mostly - jest, we could say "On 4 October the Director-General instructed that the Secretariat be established".

Paragraph 21, as amended, approved
Le paragraphe 21, ainsi amendé, est approuvé
El párrafo 21, así enmendado, es aprobado

PARAGRAPH 22
PARAGRAPH 22
PARRAFO 22

Miss TING WEN LIAN (Malaysia): I would simply request the deletion of the last two words "as necessary", so the sentence would end with "itself". This is to avoid an ambiguous situation arising whereby someone might decide it necessary or not necessary and what we expressed in our statement is not on it.

Alcir CARVALHO REBELLO (Brazil): I did not understand what Mr Hjort said regarding the Secretariat. If he would be kind enough to repeat it?

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I simply reported that on 4 October 1993 the Director-General instructed that the Secretariat for this work be established.

CHAIRMAN: Should this be incorporated into the Report?

E. WAYNE DENNEY (United States of America): It would be perfectly acceptable to us. The way I understand it is that until the Secretariat has been fully put into place, then the Organization has not complied with the instructions of the Director-General.

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): I am not very clear whether I understood this very well. Mr Hjort said an instruction was being given by the Director-General to create a Secretariat. The instruction was to create it by when?

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Immediately.

Laughter

Rires

Risas

Paragraph 22, as amended, approved

Le paragraphe 22, ainsi amendé, est approuvé

El párrafo 22, así enmendado, es aprobado

Paragraph 23 approved

Le paragraphe 23 est approuvé

El párrafo 23 es aprobado

Paragraph 24, including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 24, y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 24, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

Draft Report of Commission I, Part IV, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Commission I, quatrième partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Comisión I, Parte IV, es aprobado

Jan Paul ADRIANSENS (Belgique): Monsieur le Président, ayant participé aux travaux du Comité de rédaction, je voudrais, au nom de la délégation belge et de la Communauté européenne et ses Etats Membres, rendre un hommage chaleureux à Mme la Présidente du groupe de rédaction, Mme Amina Boudjelti. Elle a su diriger et guider les travaux du Comité de rédaction avec une maîtrise sans laquelle nous ne serions probablement pas arrivés à trouver de formulation acceptée par tous les membres du Comité.

Je voudrais également inclure dans cet hommage le Secrétariat et les collègues du Comité de rédaction. C'est la première fois que je participe aux travaux d'un groupe de rédaction dans cette enceinte, et je dois avouer

que j'ai été frappé par l'habileté du Secrétariat à résumer dans des paragraphes très brefs le contenu et le sens de longues déclarations.

Enfin, je voudrais également adresser mes remerciements aux traducteurs et au personnel de la FAO, qui ont rendu possibles nos réunions et nos débats.

Merci, Madame la Présidente et merci, Monsieur le Président, de m'avoir donné la parole.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN (Original language German): I thank the delegate of Belgium for his kind remarks; I can only return your compliments. It was only possible for us to finish our work today because it was carried out in a spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding. For this cooperation I thank you all. My thanks go not only to the Secretariat; I would like to thank the Secretary, the interpreters and all those who behind the scenes have contributed to the success of our work. I do not want to quote any individuals but to thank absolutely everybody involved. Thank you all for making it possible to finish our work here today. This will allow us to have a free weekend.

With this we have finished the work of Commission I and I thank you for the good cooperative spirit you have shown.

The meeting rose at 17.30 hours.

La séance est levée à 17 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.30 horas.