

**conference**

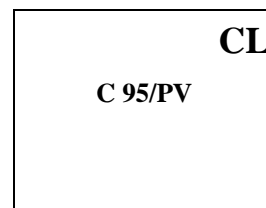
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conférence**

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

**conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



---

Twenty-eighth Session  
PLENARY

Vingt-huitième session  
PLÉNIÈRE

28° período de sesiones  
PLENARIA

**Rome, 20-31 October 1995**

**VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE  
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES DE LA CONFÉRENCE  
ACTAS TAQUIGRAFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS DE LA CONFERENCIA**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE DES MATIERES

INDICE

FIRST PLENARY MEETING  
PREMIERE SEANCE PLENIERE  
PRIMERA SESION PLENARIA  
(20 October 1995)

	Page/Pàgina
OPENING OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH CONFERENCE SESSION OUVERTURE DE LA VINGT-HUITIÈME SESSION DE LA CONFERENCE INAUGURACION DEL 28° PERIODO DE SESIONES DE LA CONFERENCIA	2
Opening Statement by the Director-General Discours d'ouverture du Directeur général Discurso de apertura del Director General	2
INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE ET EXAMEN DE LA SITUATION DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION	2
1. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen (C 95/LIM/1; C 95/LIM/2)	2
1. Election du Président et des Vice-Présidents (C 95/LIM/1; C 95/LIM/2)	2
1. Elección del Presidente y de los Vicepresidents (C 95/LIM/1; C 95/LIM/2)	2
Address by the Chairman of the Conference Discours du Président de la Conférence Discurso del Presidente de la Conferencia	2
2. Appointment of General Committee and Credentials Committee (C 95/LIM/2)	
2. Constitution du Bureau et de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs (C 95/LIM/2)	4
2. Nombramiento del Comité General y Comité de Credenciales (C 95/LIM/2)	4
OTHER MATTERS QUESTIONS DIVERSES OTROS ASUNTOS	5
27. Any other matters 27. Autres questions 27. Otros Asuntos	5

- 27.2 Nineteenth McDougall Memorial Lecture, to be delivered by Prof. Gian Tommaso Scarascia Mugnozza, President, National Academy of Sciences, Rome and Rector, University of Tuscia, Viterbo
- 27.2 Dix-neuvième Conférence McDougall, qui sera prononcée par M. Gian Tommaso Scarascia Mugnozza, Président de l'Académie nationale des sciences de Rome et Recteur de l'Université de Tuscia à Viterbe 6
- 27.2 19ª disertación en memoria de McDougall, a cargo del Prof. Gian Tommaso Scarascia Mugnozza, Presidente de la Academia Nacional de las Ciencias, Roma y Rector de la Universidad de Tuscia, Viterbo

SECOND PLENARY MEETING

DEUXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE

SEGUNDA SESION PLENARIA

(20 October 1995)

- INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued) 16
- INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE ET EXAMEN DE LA SITUATION DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
3. Adoption of the Agenda (C 95/1; C 95/INF/16)
3. Adoption de l'ordre du jour (C 95/1; C 95/INF/16) 16
3. Aprobación del programa (C 95/1; C 95/INF/16)
- First Report of the General Committee 16  
Premier rapport du Bureau  
Primer Informe del Comité General
4. Arrangements for the Session and Allocation of Agenda Items (C 95/12; C 95/LIM/1)
4. Organisation de la session et répartition des questions inscrites à l'ordre du jour (C 95/12; C 95/LIM/1) 17
4. Organización del período de sesiones y asignación de los temas del programa (C 95/12; C 95/LIM/1)
5. Admission of Observers (C 95/13)
5. Admission d'observateurs (C 95/13) 19
5. Admisión de observadores (C 95/13)
- APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS 20  
NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS  
NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES
23. Applications for Membership in the Organization (Vote) (C 95/10; C 95/10-Sup.1)
23. Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation (Vote) (C 95/10; C 95/10-Sup.1) 20
23. Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización (Votación) (C 95/10; C 95/10-Sup.1)

	Page/Página
OTHER MATTERS AUTRES QUESTIONS OTROS ASUNTOS	21
27. Any other matters	
27. Autres questions	21
27. Otros asuntos	
APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued) NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS (suite) NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)	27
23. Applications for Membership in the Organization (continued) (C 95/10; C 95/10-Sup.1)	
23. Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation (suite) (C 95/10; C 95/10-Sup.1)	27
23. Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización (continuación) (C 95/10; C 95/10-Sup.1)	
27.3 Presentation of B.R. Sen Awards (C 95/INF/6)	
27.3 Remise des Prix B.R. Sen (C 95/INF/6)	28
27.3 Entrega de los premios B.R. Sen (C 95/INF/6)	
27.4 Presentation of A.H. Boemia Award (C 95/INF/7)	
27.4 Remise du Prix A.H. Boerma (C 95/INF/7)	31
27.4 Entrega del premio A.H. Boerma (C 95/INF/7)	
27.5 Presentation of Edouard Saouma Award (C 95/INF/8)	
27.5 Remise du Prix Edouard Saouma (C 95/INF/8)	34
27.5 Entrega del premio Edouard Saouma (C 95/INF/8)	
APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued) NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS (suite) NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)	38
23. Applications for Membership in the Organization (continued) (C 95/10; C95/10-Sup.1)	
23. Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation (suite) (C 95/10; C95/10-Sup.1)	38
23. Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización (continuación) (C 95/10; C95/10-Sup.1)	

THIRD PLENARY MEETING  
TROISIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
TERCERA SESION PLENARIA  
(21 October 1995)

	Page/Página
IN MEMORIAM	48
IN MEMORIAM	
IN MEMORIAM	
His Excellency Khalid Abdul Moneem Rasheed, Minister for Agriculture, Iraq	48
Son Excellence Khalid Abdul Moneem Rasheed, Ministre de l'Agriculture de l'Iraq	
Su Excelencia Khalid Abdul Moneem Rasheed, Ministro de Agricultura de Iraq	
DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S STATEMENT TO THE CONFERENCE	48
DECLARATION DU DIRECTEUR GENERAL A LA CONFERENCE	
DECLARACION DEL DIRECTOR GENERAL A LA CONFERENCIA	
INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL'S STATEMENT TO THE CONFERENCE	57
DECLARATION DU PRESIDENT INDEPENDANT DU CONSEIL. A LA CONFERENCE	
DECLARACION DEL PRESIDENTE INDEPENDIENTE DEL CONSEJO A LA CONFERENCIA	
Video presentation on the Special Programme in Support of Food Security in Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries entitled "Bridging the Gap" and "A Road of Hope"	60
Présentation de deux films vidéo sur le Programme spécial: production alimentaire à l'appui de la sécurité alimentaire dans les pays à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier intitulés "Bridging the Gap" et "A Road of Hope"	
Presentación de los vídeos sobre el Programa Especial en Apoyo de la Seguridad Alimentaria en los Países de Bajos Ingresos con Déficit de Alimentos, titulados "Bridging the Gap" y "A Road of Hope"	
Adoption of First Report of Credentials Committee	60
Adoption du premier rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs	
Aprobación del primer informe del Comité de Credenciales	
INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)	61
INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE ET EXAMEN DE LA SITUATION DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)	
INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)	
6. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (C 95/2;C 95/2-Sup.1)	
6. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (C 95/2; C 95/2-Sup.1)	61
6. Examen del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (C 95/2; C 95/2-Sup.1)	

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS	
- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATIONS	61
- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES	
Philippines, Gabon, Syria, Norway, Mauritania, Georgia, Algeria, Spain, European Community	

FOURTH PLENARY MEETING  
QUATRIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
CUARTA SESION PLENARIA

(21 October 1995)

INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)	80
---	----

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

INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)

6. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (continued) (C 95/2;C 95/2-Sup.1)

6. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite) (C 95/2; C 95/2-Sup.1) 80

6. Examen del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (continuación) (C 95/2; C 95/2-Sup.1)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS	
- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION	80
- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES	

Nigeria, Austria, France, India, Cameroon, China, Denmark, Myanmar, Australia, Slovenia, Belgium, Mexico, Netherlands, Bangladesh, Sweden, Thailand, Czech Republic, Sudan, Moldova, Guinea, Cambodia, and Organization for Agricultural Development

FIFTH PLENARY MEETING  
CINQUIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
QUINTA SESION PLENARIA  
(23 October 1995)

	Page/Pàgina
INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)	118
INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE ET EXAMEN DE LA SITUATION DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)	
INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)	
6. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (continued) (C 95/2; C 95/2-Sup.1)	
6. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite) (C 95/2; C 95/2-Sup.1)	118
6. Examen del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (continuación) (C 95/2;C 95/2-Sup.1)	
- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)	
- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)	118
- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)	
Pakistan, United States of America, Cyprus, Indonesia, Germany, El Salvador, Tunisie, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Suisse	
Address by His Holiness Pope John Paul II on the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, on the Occasion of the Twenty-eighth Session of the Conference	139
Allocution de Sa Sainteté le Pape Jean-Paul II en l'honneur du Cinquantième Anniversaire de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, à l'occasion de la vingt-huitième session de la Conférence	
Discurso de su Santidad el Papa Juan Pablo II en el Cincuentenario de la fundación de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación, con ocasión de la celebración del 28º período de sesiones de la Conferencia	

SIXTH PLENARY MEETING  
SIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
SEXTA SESION PLENARIA

(23 October 1995)

	Page/Pàgina
INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)	144
INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE ET EXAMEN DE LA SITUATION DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)	
INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)	
6. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (continued) (C 95/2;C 95/2-Sup.1)	
6. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite) (C 95/2; C 95/2-Sup.1)	144
6. Examen del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (continuación) (C 95/2; C 95/2-Sup.1)	
- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)	
- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)	144
- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)	
Ireland, Uganda, Korea, (Republic of), Congo, Finland, Saint Lucia, Niger, Greece, Cape Verde, Slovakia, Namibia, Italy, Mauritius, Lithuania, Portugal, Viet Nam, Canada, Romania, Burkina Faso, Libya, Malaysia, Cuba, Armenia, Djibouti	

SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING  
SEPTIEME SEANCE PLENTERE  
SEPTIMA SESION PLENARIA

(24 October 1995)

INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)	194
INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE ET EXAMEN DE LA SITUATION DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)	
INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)	
6. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (continued) (C 95/2;C 95/2-Sup.1)	
6. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite) (C 95/2;C 95/2-Sup.1)	194
6. Examen del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (continuación) (C 95/2; C 95/2-Sup.1)	



- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)
- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite) 194
- MANIFESTACIONES DE LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)  
Iraq, Ghana, Mongolia, Jamaica, Egypt, Japan, Dominica, Nicaragua, Barbados, Kuwait,  
Tonga, Bahrain, Colombia, United Arab Emirates, Nepal, Brazil, Ethiopia.

EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING

HUITIEME SEANCE PLENIERE

OCTAVA SESION PLENARIA

(24 October 1995)

Second Report of the General Committee 226

Deuxième rapport du Bureau

Segundo Informe del Comité General

Adoption of the Second Report of the Credentials Committee 226

Adoption du second rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs

Aprobación del segundo Informe del Comité de Credenciales

INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued) 227

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

INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)

6. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (continued) (C 95/2; C 95/2-Sup.1)

6. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite) (C 95/2;C 95/2-Sup.1) 227

6. Examen del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (continuación) (C 95/2;C 95/2-Sup.1)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite) 227

- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

Argentina, Mozambique, Saudi Arabia (Kingdom of), Zimbabwe, New Zealand, République centrafricaine, Venezuela, Swaziland, Laos, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Burundi, Estonia.

NINTH PLENARY MEETING  
NEUVIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
NOVENA SESION PLENARIA  
(25 October 1995)

	Page/Pàgina
INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)	250
INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE ET EXAMEN DE LA SITUATION DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)	
INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)	
6. Review of the state of food and agriculture (continued) (C 95/2;C 95/2-Sup.1)	
6. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite) (C 95/2;C 95/2-Sup.1)	250
6. Examen del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentacion (continuación) C 95/2;C 95/2-Sup.1)	
- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)	
- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATIONS (suite)	250
- MANIFESTACIONES DE LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación) Suriname, Israel, Rwanda, Poland, Guyana, Bulgaria, Afghanistan, Hungary, South Africa	
OTHER MATTERS	265
QUESTIONS DIVERSES	
OTROS ASUNTOS	
27. Any other matters	
27. Autres questions	265
27. Otros asuntos	
27.1 FAO Fifth Anniversary Declaration on Food and Agriculture (C 95/21-Rev.1; C 95/21-Sup.1; C 95/LIM/23)	
27.1 Déclaration sur l'alimentation et l'agriculture à la occasion du cinquantième anniversaire de la FAO (C 95/21-Rev.1; C 95/21-Sup.1; C 95/LIM/23)	265
27.1 Declaración sobre la agricultura y la alimentación con ocasión del Cincuentenario de la fundación de la FAO (C 95-21-Rev.1; C 95/21-Sup.1; C 95/LIM/23)	

TENTH PLENARY MEETING  
DIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
DECIMA SESION PLENARIA

(25 October 1995)

	Page/Página
INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)	268
INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE ET EXAMEN DE LA SITUATION DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)	
INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)	
6. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (continued) (C 95/2;C 95/2-Sup.1)	
6. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite) (C 95/2;C 95/2-Sup.1)	268
6. Examen del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (continuación) (C 95/2;C 95/2-Sup.1)	
- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)	
- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATIONS (suite)	268
- MANIFESTACIONES DE LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)	
Lesotho, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Haiti, Guinea-Bissau, Uruguay, Sierra Leone, Albania, Angola, Grenada, Liberia, Malawi, Zambia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Chile, Samoa, United Nations Development Programme	

ELEVENTH PLENARY MEETING

ONZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE

11ª SESION PLENARIA

(26 October 1995)

Adoption of Third Report of General Committee (C 95/LIM/25)	
Adoption du troisième Rapport du Bureau (C 95/LIM/25)	302
Aprobación del tercer informe del Comité (C 95/LIM/25)	
INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)	302
INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE ET EXAMEN DE LA SITUATION DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)	
INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)	

	Page/Página
6. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (continued) (C 95/2;C 95/2-Sup.1)	
6. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite) (C 95/2;C 95/2-Sup.1)	302
6. Examen del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (continuación) (C 95/2;C 95/2-Sup.1)	
- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)	
- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)	302
- DECLARACIONES DE LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)	
Paraguay, Holy See, Tanzania, Maroc, Iceland, Senegal, Malta, Eritrea, Cook Islands, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Federation of Agricultural Producers, International Cooperative Alliance	
TWELFTH PLENARY MEETING	
DOUZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE	
12ª SESION PLENARIA	
(27 October 1995)	
Adoption of Fourth Report of General Committee (C 9S/LIM/28)	324
Adoption du quatrième Rapport du Bureau (C 95/LIM/28)	
Aprobación del cuarto informe del Comité General (C 95/LIM/28)	
Adoption of Third Report of Credentials Committee	324
Adoption du troisième Rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs	
Aprobación del tercer informe del Comité de Credenciales	
APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued) NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS (suite)	325
NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)	
24. Election of Council Members (C 95/11; C 95/LIM/6; C 95/LIM/18)	325
24. Election des membres du Conseil (C 95/11; C 95/LIM/6; C 95/LIM/18)	
24. Elección de miembros del Consejo (C 95/11; C 95/LIM/6; C 95/LIM/18)	
THIRTEENTH PLENARY MEETING	
TREIZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE	
13º SESION PLENARIA	
(27 October 1995)	
IV. APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)	
IV. NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS (suite)	334
IV. NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)	

	Page/Página
24. Election of Council Members (continued) (C 95/11; C 95/LIM/6; C 95/LIM/18)	
24. Election des membres du Conseil (suite) (C 95/11; C 95/LIM/6; C 95/LIM/18)	334
24. Elección de miembros del Consejo (continuación) (C 95/11; C 95/LIM/6; C 95/LIM/18)	
25. Appointment	
25. Nominations	343
25. Nombramientos	
25.1 Appointments of the Independent Chairman of the Council (C 95/15)	
25.1 Nomination du Président indépendant du Conseil (C 95/15)	343
25.1 Nombramiento del Presidente Independiente del Consejo (C 95/15)	
ADOPTION OF REPORT	355
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT	
APROBACION DEL INFORME	
DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART I (from Commission II) (C 95/REP/1)	
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - PREMIERE PARTIE (de la Commission II) (C 95/REP/1)	355
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE I (de la Comisión II) (C 95/REP/1)	
16. Programme of Work and Budget 1996-97 (paras 1-14)	355
16. Programme de travail et budget 1996-97 (par. 1-14)	
16. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1996-97 (párrs. 1-14)	
DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART II (from Commission II) (C 95/REP/2)	
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - DEUXIEME PARTIE (de la Commission II) (C 95/REP/2)	356
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE II (de la Comisión II) (C 95/REP/2)	
16. (part of) Budget Level (including Resolution .../95 on Budgetary Appropriations 1996-97) (paras 1-6)	
16. (partiel) Montant du budget (y compris Résolution .../95 relative à l'ouverture de crédits pour 1996-97) (par. 1-6)	356
16. (parte) Cuantía del presupuesto (incluida Resolución .../95 sobre las consignaciones presupuestarias (párrs. 1-6)	

FOURTEENTH PLENARY MEETING

QUATORZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE

14ª SESION PLENARIA

(31 October 1995)

	Page/Pàgina
PART IV - APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)	368
QUATRIEME PARTIE - NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS (suite)	
PARTE IV - NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)	
25. Appointments	368
25. Nominations	
25. Nombramientos	
25.2 Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee (C 95/16)	
25.2 Nomination des représentants de la Conférence de la FAO au Comité de la Caisse des pensions du personnel (C 95/16)	368
25.2 Nombramiento de Representantes de la Conferencia de la FAO en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal (C 95/16)	
26. Date and Place of the Twenty-ninth Conference Session	
26. Date et lieu de la vingt-neuvième session de la Conférence	369
26. Fecha y lugar del 29º período de sesiones de la Conferencia	
27. Any Other Matters	
27. Autres questions	369
27. Otros asuntos	
- In Memoriam	
- In Memoriam	369
- In Memoriam	
- Climate Agenda	
- Action pour le climat	370
- La acción para el clima	
- Delegates' Comments on Information Documents listed in Conference Agenda	
- Observations des délégués sur les documents d'information figurant dans l'ordre du jour de la Conférence	370
- Observaciones de los delegados sobre los documentos de información indicados en el programa de la Conferencia	
ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)	
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)	371
APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)	
DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART IV (from Commission III) C 95/REP/4)	371
PROJECT DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - QUATRIEME PARTIE (de la Commission III) (C 95/REP/4)	
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE IV (de la Comisión III) C 95/REP/4)	

	Page/Página
17. Amendments to the General Regulations of the World Food Programme (para 1)	371
17. Amendements aux Règles générales du Programme alimentaire mondial (par. 1)	
17. Enmiendas a las Normas Generales del Programa Mundial de Alimentos (párr. 1)	
DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART V (from Commission III) (C 95/REP/5)	
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - CINQUIEME PARTIE (de la Commission III) (C 95/REP/5)	371
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE V (de la Comisión III) (C 95/REP/5)	
18. Draft Revised Agreement between OAU and FAO (para. 1)	371
18. Projet d'Accord révisé entre l' OUA et la FAO (par. 1)	
18. Proyecto de Acuerdo revisado entre la OUA y la FAO (párr. 1)	
19. Audited Accounts 1992-93 and Report on Action taken on Recommendations of the External Auditor (paras. 2-5)	
19. Comptes vérifiés 1992-93 et rapport sur la suite donnée aux recommandations du Commissaire aux comptes (par. 2-5)	371
19. Cuentas comprobadas de 1992-93 e informe sobre las medidas adoptadas en relación con las recomendaciones del Auditor Externo (párrs. 2-5)	
20. Scale of Contributions 1996-97 (paras 6-7)	371
20. Barème des contributions 1996-97 (par. 6-7)	
20. Escala de Cuotas para 1996-97 (párrs. 6-7)	
FIFTEENTH PLENARY MEETING QUINZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE 15ª SESION PLENARIA (31 October 1995)	
ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)	374
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)	
APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)	
DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART VI (from Commission III) (C 95/REP/6)	
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - SIXIEME PARTIE (de la Commission III) (C 95/REP/6)	374
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE VI (de la Comisión III) (C 95/REP/6)	
21. Financial Position of the Organization including Status of Contributions and the Discount Scheme (paras 1-2)	
21. Situation financière de l'Organisation, notamment état et système de remise (par. 1-2)	374
21. Otros asuntos administrativos y financieros, incluidos el estado de las cuotas y el plan de descuentos (párr. 1-2)	

	Page/Página
22. Other Administrative and Financial Matters (para. 3)	374
22. Autres questions administratives et financières (par. 3)	
22. Otros asuntos administrativos y financieros (párr. 3)	
DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART III (from Commission II) (C 95/REP/3)	374
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - TROISIEME PARTIE (de la Commission II) (C 95/REP/3)	
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE III (de la Comisión II) (C 95/REP/3)	
14. Programme Implementation and Programme Evaluation Report 1994-95 (paras 1-5)	
14. Rapport d'exécution du Programme et Rapport d'évaluation du Programme, 1994-95 (par. 1-5)	374
14. Informe sobre la ejecución y evaluación del programa de 1994-95 (párrs. 1-5)	
15. Medium-term Plan 1996-2001 (paras 6-10)	374
15. Plan à moyen terme 1996-2001 (par. 6-10)	
15. Plan a plazo Medio para 1996-2001 (párrs. 6-10)	
DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART VII (from Commission I) (C 95/REP/7)	
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - SEPTIEME PARTIE (de la Commission I) (C 95/REP/7)	376
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE VII (de la Comisión I) (C 95/REP/7)	
8. International Agricultural Adjustment (paras 1-8)	376
8. Ajustement agricole international (par. 1-8)	
8. Reajuste agrícola internacional (párrs. 1-8)	
9. Broadening of the Mandate of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources (including Resolution) (paras 9-13)	
9. Elargissement du mandat de la Commission des ressources phylogénétiques (y compris Résolution) (par. 9-13)	376
9. Ampliación del Mandato de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos (inclusive la Resolución) (párrs. 9-13)	
10. Phytosanitary Standards (paras 14-18) 10. Normes phytosanitaires (par. 14-18) 10. Normas fitosanitarias (párrs. 14-18)	376
DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART VIII (from Commission I) (C 95/REP/8)	376
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - HUITIEME PARTIE (de la Commission I) (C 95/REP/8)	
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE VIII (de la Comisión I) (C 95/REP/8)	



11.	Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (including Resolution .../95 and Resolution .../95) (paras 1-8)	
11.	Code de conduite pour une pêche responsable (y compris Résolution .../95 et Résolution .../95) (par. 1-8)	376
11.	Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable (con inclusión de la Resolución .../95 y la Resolución .../95) (párrs. 1-8)	
12.	Revised FAO Plan of Action for Women in Development and Progress Report (paras 9-14)	
12.	Version révisée du Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement et Rapport d'activité (par. 9-14)	376
12.	Plan de acción revisado de la FAO para la integración de la mujer en el desarrollo, e informe sobre los progresos realizados (párrs. 9-14)	
13.	United Nations/FAO World Food Programme Pledging Target 1997-98 (including Resolution) (paras 15-19)	
13.	Objectif de contributions au Programme alimentaire mondial ONU/FAO pour 1997-98 (y compris Résolution) (par. 15-19)	376
13.	Objetivo de promesas de contribución al Programa Mundial de Alimentos Naciones Unidas/FAO para 1997-98 (inclusive la Resolución) (párrs. 15-19)	
DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART IX (from Commission I) (C 95/REP/9)		
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - NEUVIEME PARTIE (de la Commission I) (C 95/REP/9)		377
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE IX (de la Comisión I) (C 95/REP/9)		
7.	World Food Summit (including Resolution) (paras 1-8)	
7.	Sommet mondial de l'alimentation (y compris Résolution) (par. 1-8)	377
7.	Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación (inclusive la Resolución) (párrs. 1-8)	
13 bis	Desert Locust Situation and Action Required (including Resolution) (paras 9-13)	
13 bis	La situation du criquet pèlerin et les mesures à prendre (y compris Résolution) (par. 9-13)	377
13bis	Situación de la langosta del desierto y medidas necesarias (inclusive la Resolución) (párrs. 9-13)	
DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART X (C 95/REP/10)		
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - DIXIEME PARTIE (C 95/REP/10)		377
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE X (C 95/REP/10)		
1.	Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen (paras 1-2)	
1.	Election du Président et des Vice-Présidents de la Conférence (par. 1-2)	377
1.	Elección del Presidente y los Vicepresidentes de la Conferencia (párrs. 1-2)	
2.	Appointment of the General Committee and the Credentials Committee (para. 3)	
2.	Constitution du Bureau et de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs (par. 3)	377
2.	Nombramiento del Comité General y del Comité de Credenciales (párr. 3)	
3.	Adoption of the Agenda (para. 4)	
3.	Adoption de l'ordre du jour (par. 4)	377
3.	Aprobación del programa (párr. 4)	

	Page/Página
4. Arrangements for the Session and Allocation of Agenda Items (paras 5-23)	
4. Organisation de la session et répartition des questions inscrites à l'ordre du jour (par. 5-23)	377
4. Organización del período de sesiones y asignación de los temas del programa (párrs. 5-23)	
- Establishment of Commissions and Appointment of their Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen, Rapporteur and Drafting Committees (paras 6-11)	
- Constitution des Commissions et nomination de leurs Présidents et Vice-Présidents, Rapporteur et Comités de rédaction (par. 6-11)	377
- Establecimiento de las Comisiones y nombramiento de sus Presidentes, Vicepresidentes, Relator y Comité de Redacción (párrs. 6-11)	
. Resolutions Committee of the Conference (paras 12-14)	
- Comité des Résolutions de la Conférence (par. 12-14)	377
- Comité de Resoluciones de la Conferencia (párrs. 12-14)	
- Right of Reply (para. 15)	
- Droit de réponse (par. 15)	377
- Derecho de réplica (párr. 15)	
- Verbatim Records (para. 16)	
- Comptes rendus sténographiques (par. 16)	377
- Actas taquigráficas (párr. 16)	
- Verification of Credentials (paras 17-18)	
- Vérification des pouvoirs (par 17-18)	377
- Verificación de credenciales (párrs. 17-18)	
- Voting Rights (paras 19-23)	
- Droit de vote (par. 19-23)	377
- Derecho de voto (párrs. 19-23)	
5. Admission of Observers (paras 24-25)	
5. Admission d'observateurs (par. 24-25)	377
5. Admisión de observadores (párrs 24-25)	
- Observers from Applicants for Membership (para. 24)	
- Observateurs des pays ayant présenté une demande d'admission à la qualité de membre (par. 24)	377
- Observadores de los países que habían solicitado el ingreso en la Organización (párr. 24)	
- Admission of Observers from Belarus, Russian Federation and Ukraine (para. 25)	
- Admission des observateurs du Belarus, de la Fédération de Russie et de l'Ukraine (par. 25)	377
- Admisión de los observadores de Belarus, la Federación de Rusia y Ucrania (párr. 25)	

	Page/Página
DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART XI (C 95/REP/11)	378
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - ONZIEME PARTIE (C 95/REP/1 1)	
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE XI (C 95/REP/1 1)	
6. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (paras 1-6)	378
6. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (par. 1-6)	
6. Examen del Estado Mundial de la Agricultura y la Alimentación (párrs. 1-6)	
23. Applications for Membership in the Organization (paras 7-10)	378
23. Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation (par. 7-10)	
23. Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización (párrs. 7-10)	
24. Election of Council Members (para. 11)	378
24. Election des Membres du Conseil (par. 11)	
24. Elección de los Miembros del Consejo (párr. 11)	
DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART XII (C 95/REP/12)	378
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - DOUZIEME PARTIE (C 95/REP/12)	
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE XII (C 95/REP/12)	
25. (part of) Appointments (paras 1-2)	378
25. (partiel) Nominations (par. 1-2)	
25. (parte) Nombramientos (párrs. 1-2)	
25.1 Appointment of the Independent Chairman of the Council (Resolution) (paras 1-2)	378
25.1 Nomination du Président indépendant du Conseil (Résolution) (par. 1-2)	
25.1 Nombramiento del Presidente Independiente del Consejo (Resolución) (párrs. 1-2)	
26. Date and Place of the Twenty-ninth Conference Session (para. 3)	378
26. Date et lieu de la vingt-neuvième session de la Conférence (par. 3)	
26. Fecha y lugar del 29º período de sesiones de la Conferencia (párr. 3)	
27. Any Other Matters (paras 4-5)	378
27. Questions diverses (par. 4-5)	
27. Otros asuntos (párrs. 4-5)	
27.1 FAO Fiftieth Anniversary Declaration on Food and Agriculture (Resolution) (paras 4-5)	378
27.1 Déclaration sur l'alimentation et l'agriculture à l'occasion du Cinquantième anniversaire de la FAO (Résolution) (par. 4-5)	
27.1 Declaración sobre la agricultura y la alimentación con ocasión del Cincuentenario de la Fundación de la FAO (Resolución) (párrs. 4-5)	
27.2 McDougall Memorial Lecture (para. 6)	378
27.2 Conférence McDougall (par. 6)	
27.2 Disertación en memoria de McDougall (párr. 6)	
27.3 Presentation of B.R. Sen Awards (paras 7-11)	378
27.3 Remise des prix B.R. Sen pour 1994 et 1995 (par. 7-11)	
27.3 Entrega de los premios B.R. Sen (párrs. 7-11)	

	Page/Página
27.4 Presentation of A.H. Boerma Award (paras 12-13)	378
27.4 Prix A.H. Boerma (par. 12-13)	
27.4 Entrega del premio A.H. Boerma (párrs. 12-13)	
27.5 Presentation of Edouard Saouma Award (paras 14-19)	378
27.5 Prix Edouard Saouma 1994-95 (par. 14-19)	
27.5 Entrega del premio Edouard Saouma (párrs. 14-19)	
DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART XIII (C 95/REP/13)	378
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENTERE - TREIZIEME PARTIE (C 95/REP/13)	
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE XIII (C 95/REP/13)	
25. (part of) Appointments	378
25. (partiel) Nominations	
25. (parte) Nombramientos	
25.2 Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference Staff Pension Committee (para. 1)	378
25.2 Nomination des Représentants de la Conférence de la FAO au Comité de la Caisse commune des pensions du personnel (par. 1)	
25.2 Nombramiento de los representantes de la Conferencia de la FAO en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal (párr. 1)	
27. (part of) Any other Matters (paras 2-3)	378
27. (partiel) Autres questions (par. 2-3)	
27. (parte) Otros asuntos (párrs. 2-3)	
- In Memoriam (para. 2)	378
- In Memoriam (par. 2)	
- In Memoriam (párr. 2)	
- Climate Agenda (para. 2)	378
- Action pour le climat (par. 2)	
- Programa sobre el clima (párr. 2)	
- Delegates' Comments on Information Documents listed in Conference Agenda (para. 3)	378
- Observations des délégués relatives aux documents d'information énumérés dans l'ordre du jour de la Conférence (par. 3)	
- Observaciones de los delegados sobre los documentos informativos enumerados en el programa de la Conferencia (párr. 3)	
FIFTH REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE (C 95/LIM/32)	379
CINQUIEME RAPPORT DU BUREAU (C 95/LIM/32)	
QUINTO INFORME DEL COMITE GENERAL (C 95/LIM/32)	

20 October 1995



منظمة الاغذية  
والزراعة  
للالامم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

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

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

# CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Twenty-eighth Session • Vingt-huitième session • 28° período de sesiones

**FIRST PLENARY MEETING**  
**PREMIERE SEANCE PLENIERE**  
**PRIMERA SESION PLENARIA**

20 October 1995

**The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.15 hours**

**Mr Costas Petrides,**

**Chairman of the Conference, presiding**

**La première séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 15**

**sous la présidence de M. Costas Petrides,**

**Président de la Conférence**

**Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 10.15 horas**

**bajo la presidencia del Sr. Costas Petrides,**

**Presidente de la Conferencia**

OPENING OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH CONFERENCE SESSION

OUVERTURE DE LA VINGT-HUITIEME SESSION DE LA CONFERENCE

INAUGURACION DEL 28° PERIODO DE SESIONES DE LA CONFERENCIA

Opening Statement by the Director-General

Discours d'ouverture du Directeur général

Discurso de apertura del Director General

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Excellence, Mesdames et Messieurs les ministres, Monsieur le Président indépendant du Conseil, Mesdames et Messieurs, je déclare ouverte la vingt-huitième session de la Conférence de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture. Je voudrais vous souhaiter la bienvenue au Siège de l'Organisation, de votre organisation.

INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE ET EXAMEN DE LA SITUATION DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE

INTRODUCTION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

1. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen

1. Election du Président et des Vice-Présidents

1. Elección del Presidente y de los Vicepresidentes

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Nous allons procéder à l'élection de notre Président. Comme vous le savez, la 109e session de notre Conseil avait décidé de proposer la nomination de son Excellence Costas Petrides, Ministre de l'agriculture, des ressources naturelles et de l'environnement de la République de Chypre. Je voudrais avoir votre avis sur cette proposition.

Cette proposition a été acceptée par acclamation, par la Conférence, et je voudrais demander à Monsieur le Président Costas Petrides de rejoindre sa place sur le podium. Je tiens à le féliciter de la confiance que la Conférence place dans sa compétence et dans son expérience pour diriger nos travaux.

Mr Costas Petrides took the Chair

M. Costas Petrides assume la Présidence

Ocupa la presidencia el Sr. Costas Petrides

Address by the Chairman of the Conference

Discours du Président de la Conférence

Discurso del Presidente de la Conferencia

CHAIRMAN: Mr Director-General, Excellencies, ladies, Distinguished Delegates and gentlemen. I am extremely grateful of the honour that you unanimously bestowed upon me and my country by electing me as the Chairman of the Twenty-eighth Session of the Conference which coincides with the 50th anniversary of the Organization. I feel highly privileged and I wish to thank you all very warmly. I am confident that with your cooperation all of us together will be able to proceed speedily and efficiently to make this historical session of the Conference a benchmark for the action of this Organization, not only for the coming biennium but also for the years ahead towards the twenty-first century.

I wish to congratulate and thank the Director-General, His Excellency Jacques Diouf and the Secretariat for the arrangements which have been made for the Conference and for the comprehensive and informative

documentation which has been prepared for the various agenda items. I am positive that these arrangements will facilitate our meaningful deliberations.

Ladies and gentlemen, four days ago we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of our Organization in its birth place, the beautiful city of Quebec in Canada. We are grateful to the government and the people of Canada for having organized the commemorations of the founding of this great Organization. Since this historical date of the 16th of October 1945, FAO has evolved into a radically changing world when most of the founding Member Nations were struggling to restore their economies and their agricultural sectors devastated by the world conflict while others were entering the process for achieving their status as independent nations. At that time FAO provided critically needed services for agricultural development. It also provided an inter-governmental forum on policy issues.

In early 1960s as a number of its Member Nations increased, FAO broadened the scope of its activities to include the provisional technical assistance to help countries improve their agricultural productivity and production especially in the poorer areas of the world.

In the late 1970s, the Technical Cooperation Programme emerged as a need to respond to emergencies and provide assistance to unforeseen requirements, training the promotion of investments.

During the 1980s the World Food Security Compact was adopted with the expectation to ensure that all people have access at all times to the food they need. That was and remains the noble mandate of this Organization.

Therefore, FAO's mission is set for then in the preamble of its constitution remains just and valid today to raise levels of nutrition and standards of living, to improve the efficiency of production and distribution of food and agricultural products, to improve the conditions of rural populations and to continue thus to an expanding world economy and to humanity's freedom from hunger. However, despite all efforts today more than 800 million people world wide continue to suffer from poverty, hunger and malnutrition. The number of chronically undernourished people may still be some 730 million by the year 2010 unless further action is taken. The task before all nations is therefore huge and requires general mobilization and sustainable effort. The Director-General's initiative to call for a World Food Summit in 1996 and to which this Conference is called to approve should be seen in this perspective of the urgent and compelling duty to ensure food for all by renewing our commitment to pursue goals and fulfil the dreams of the founders of this Organization.

Distinguished delegates for the first time the Conference, the supreme body of this Organization, is expected to conclude its work in two weeks rather than three weeks as in the past. The agenda however remains heavy and many important items need to be examined and decided upon I therefore seek your whole hearted cooperation so as to avoid any waste of time. All matters brought at the Plenary and at the Commissions should be examined speedily to enable us to conclude the work of this Conference on time. I wish to assure you that I am willing to work closely with all of you and I will spare no efforts to bring this Conference to a successful conclusion through the appropriate consultations so that items that might be wise to different points of view be solved constructively and in a friendly manner. Then our sole aim may be to give to this great Organization under the leadership of the Director-General the means it requires to an better and more efficient performance in the years to come for the planet and the people of all nations.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: We will proceed to this morning's work. First of all we have the election of the Vice-Chairman and other members of the various Committees and as you very well know paragraph 8 of Rule 8 of the General Rules of the Organization provides that the nominations committee shall propose to the Conference firstly the candidates for the three posts of Vice-Chairman of the Conference. Secondly the seven Member Nations' members of the General Committee of the Conference require under paragraph 1 of Rule 10 of the same General Rules and thirdly the nine Members of the Collection Committee as laid down in paragraph 3 of Rule 3 of the General Rules. The Nominations Committee, which is to make these proposals, was elected by the FAO Council at its 109th Session held from the 18-19 October in accordance with the

provisions of paragraph 5b of Rule 24 of the General Rules of the Organization. This Committee met yesterday and drew up its recommendations for the posts just mentioned. So I shall now ask the Chairman of the Nominations Committee, Mr Bui Hassan of Iraq to place before the Conference the nominations agreed to by this Committee. Will Mr Hassan please come to the lectern.

May I ask the Chairman of the Nominations Committee to begin this report with three Vice-Chairmen of the countries.

K.M. Hassan (Chairman, Nominations Committee): In accordance with Rule VII-2 of the General Rules of the Organization, the Committee submits the following nominations to the Conference:

- Salah HAMDİ (Tunisia)
- Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba)
- Ms Mária KADLECIKOVA (Slovakia)

CHAIRMAN: Ladies and Gentlemen, you have just heard the proposals of the Nominations Committee in respect of the three Vice-Chairmen of the Conference. Are there any objections?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: From your applause I take it that there are no objections and that Conference approves these names. Therefore I consider these proposals adopted.

2. Appointment of General Committee and Credentials Committee

2. Constitution du Bureau et de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs

2. Nombramiento del Comité General y Comité de Credenciales

CHAIRMAN: We proceed to Item 2 of the Provisional Agenda, which is the appointment of the General Committee and the Credentials Committee. I will ask the Chairman of the Nominations Committee to proceed with his report. We start first with the Committee's proposals for membership of the General Committee.

K.M. Hassan (Chairman, Nominations Committee): In accordance with Rule X of the General Rules of the Organization, the Committee submits the following nominations to the Conference for Members of the General Committee:

ANGOLA

EGYPT

SPAIN

BELGIUM

NICARAGUA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

CHINA

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

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos



CHAIRMAN: Since there are no objections, I will consider the seven Member Nations to be duly elected to serve on the General Committee of the Conference.

It is now my privilege once again to request the Chair of the Nominations Committee to make his proposals concerning the Credentials Committee.

K.M. HASSAN (Chairman, Nomination Committee) (original language Arabic): In accordance with Rule III of the General Rules of the Organization, the Committee submits the following nominations to Conference:

CANADA	CYPRUS	CYPRUS
CHINA	GERMANY	PARAGUAY
CONGO	HUNGARY	THAILAND

CHAIRMAN: You have heard the Nominations Committee proposals as regards the nine Member nations to compose the Credentials Committee. Are there any objections?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: I consider these nine nominations duly appointed to constitute the Credentials Committee of Conference.

Ladies and gentlemen, this completes the report of the Nominations Committee. I want to thank Mr Hassan and his Committee for having assisted Conference.

Conference will now listen to the Nineteenth McDougall Memorial Lecture, to be delivered this year by Prof. Gian Tommaso Scarascia Mugnozza, President of the National Academy of Sciences, Rome and Rector, University of Tuscia, Viterbo, Italy.

This is the nineteenth lecture of a series which started with that delivered by Professor Toynbee at the 1959 Conference.

These lectures commemorate the late Frank L. McDougall, who played a leading role in the foundation of FAO and the initiation of its activities. I now ask the Director-General to introduce this year's McDougall lecture.

OTHER MATTERS

QUESTION DIVERSES

OTROS ASUNTOS

27. Any other matters

27. Autres questions

27. Otros Asuntos

27.2 Nineteenth McDougall Memorial Lecture, to be delivered by Prof. Gian Tommaso Scarascia Mugnozza, President, National Academy of Sciences, Rome and Rector, University of Tuscia, Viterbo

27.2 Dix-neuvième Conférence McDougall, qui sera prononcée par M. Gian Tommaso Scarascia Mugnozza, Président de l'Académie nationale des sciences de Rome et Recteur de l'Université de Tuscia à Viterbe

27.2 19ª disertación en memoria de McDougall, a cargo del Prof. Gian Tommaso Scarascia Mugnozza, Presidente de la Academia Nacional de las Ciencias, Roma y Rector de la Universidad de Tuscia, Viterbo

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Thank you, Chairman, Excellencies, Honourable Heads of Delegations, ladies and gentlemen, it is an honour and a great pleasure for me to introduce Professor Gian Tommaso Scarascia Mugnozza, who has kindly agreed to deliver the 19th McDougall Memorial Lecture.

Since 1959 we have had the privilege of listening to the McDougall Memorial Lectures delivered by luminaries who have enlightened and inspired us with their thoughts and vision. Following these traditions, we are privileged today to have with us a great personality from the world of science and academia who is also well known in the field of international development cooperation.

Professor Mugnozza, the Italian scientist, researcher and academician of international repute, now holds the position of Rector of Tuscia University in Viterbo, Italy, and serves as the President of the Italian Academy of Sciences and heads the European Association for Research on Plant Breeding. He is a fellow of numerous national and international, academic, scientific and research organizations and centres of excellence.

I am very pleased to say that I have had the opportunity of knowing Professor Mugnozza personally for a long time. In fact, I recall an event 10 years back when I had the privilege of being with him at the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of FAO organized by Professor Mugnozza at Tuscia University. This also testifies to the long association of Professor Mugnozza with FAO.

At this time Professor Mugnozza is assisting the Organization as a member of the panel for the Special Programme of Food Production in support of food security in the low-income food-deficit countries. He also served as a member of the Technical Advisory Committee on the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and as a member of the Board of the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute.

Professor Mugnozza has distinguished himself in scientific and research work in the areas of plant breeding, mainly in cereals and applied mutagenesis in plant genetics and biodiversity.

I would like to mention in this connection that his research group has succeeded in releasing some high-yielding durum wheat varieties. Professor Mugnozza has also been very active in the field of international cooperation with developing countries through participation in research projects and programmes for human capital formation in the international centres of the CGIAR system, as well as through national institutions and universities. He also served as an adviser on the Special Governmental Committee of Italy, in cooperation with the universities of the developing world, which was led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This Committee, where he most effectively represented the Italian universities, succeeded in developing important cooperation programmes with universities in all the developing regions of the world. The varied work and experience of Professor Mugnozza in a life dedicated to scientific pursuits and development efforts, directed at the betterment of human life on earth, can provide an inspiration to our struggle against hunger and malnutrition and our commitment to achieve food security for all.

We will now listen with great interest to Professor Mugnozza.

Professor Gian Tommaso Scarascia MUGNOZZA (President, National Academy of Sciences, Rome):

Chairman of Conference, Director-General His Excellency Jacques Diouf, honourable delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I warmly thank the FAO Committee and the Director-General for having invited me to give the Nineteenth McDougall Memorial Lecture celebrating the memory of Frank L. McDougall of Australia, one of the founders of FAO.

The title of my lecture is "Protection of biodiversity and conservation and use of genetic resources for food and agriculture: potential and perspectives".

I will introduce the subject and its problems by saying that the loss of biodiversity is often presented as an ecological problem, but the underlying fundamental causes are socio-economic and political. Population growth and the increasing consumption of resources, the effects of the global trading system, ignorance about species and ecosystems, poorly conceived policy and failure to account for the value of biodiversity are key factors of the continuing degradation and destruction of biological diversity. It is a vital challenge for our societies that the precious value of nature's diversity be properly reflected in the world economy, including national assets, market exchanges, rules and regulations. Currently, the basic genetic raw material, with which breeders and biotechnology industries work, is essentially available free of charge from the nature of farmers' fields. The cost of conserving biodiversity is high, but far less than the cost of the dreadful effects of its degradation.

Genetic resources are part of biological diversity. They are natural resources indispensable for present and future generations; indispensable, in a global vision, for the preservation of the environment and the continuation of life, all forms of life, on the earth.

Human responsibility towards the earth, in all its ethical, philosophical, religious, anthropological, cultural and legal implications, has to be fulfilled in a holistic effort, with sustainable action of protection and conservation of biodiversity and, in general, of the natural resources.

Thus, the tremendous potentiality and the delicate equilibrium of the natural resources are founded and safeguarded only to the extent to which human beings acknowledge that nature is for their advantage and benefit, but it is governed by forces well beyond human control.

Fortunately, the awareness and consciousness that man must consider himself the caretaker of nature are increasing and prevailing.

Consequently, it is our moral responsibility, and not only in our material interest and convenience, to adopt measures to protect and conserve and properly utilize biodiversity and, in its domain, the genetic resources for agriculture.

The size of biological diversity known up to now, that is the number of species of plants, fungi, algae, protozoa and bacteria, viruses, animals and fishes, molluscs, insects, etc., the species as now described, amounts to 1.6 million but nature's storehouse is truly huge. The estimated total number of species living on the planet goes from the prudential figure of 12 million species to a maximum of about 120 million species, mainly insects, approximately 100 million of insect species.

As far as plants are concerned, more than two-thirds of the world's plant species originate from the regions surrounding the mountain chains stretching from the Pyrennees to the Alps, Caucasus, Himalaya and in South America, around the Andean chain.

It is estimated that out of the 250 000 botanical species at least 70 000 edible plants exist. In the course of history, however, man has utilized as a source of food only about 7 000 of those species. Moreover, only a very modest number of plant and animal species play a significant role in the present world agriculture and food production. In fact, the world depends for the majority of its food on only seven cereals: wheat, rice, maize, sorghum, barley, rye and oats. Similarly, merely seven legumes: peas, beans, soybeans, cowpea, peanuts, alfalfa and clover, are intensively exploited, and as few as four tropical fruits (banana, mango, pineapple, papaya) and three tuber or root crops (potato, yam and cassava) are produced on a large scale.

By selecting and developing over 10 000 years of agriculture the basic food and agricultural crops, humanity effectively created the portfolio of agrobiodiversity which feeds us today. However, the planting of ever increasing surfaces with a small number of homogeneous varieties in recent years has led to the loss of much of this inherited capital in farmers' fields. By replacing a multitude of local strains, eco-types, land races, each particularly adapted to a usually confined habitat and niche, he has paradoxically condemned to irremediable loss much of the genetic resources of these plants and animals in a process defined as "genetic erosion". As a result, the genetic variability of those species has been dangerously narrowed. But "less

variability" means "less biological plasticity", insufficient ability to respond to selection and impossibility to guarantee improvements in quantity and quality. Such kind of genetic erosion has been particularly frequent and vast in basic crops species as maize, rice, wheat, banana, cowpea, cassava and plantain.

In the animal kingdom, biodiversity of domesticated animals includes approximately 4 000 breeds. Of these, 25-30 percent are at high risk of loss. But in Europe the threat is even more serious. It is estimated that as many as half of the breeds which existed there at the beginning of this century have become extinct. As much as for plants, the diversity of domesticated animals is greatest in the developing countries. Such diversity ensures adequate adaptation to changes in environment, upsurges of diseases, variations in market conditions and future and unpredictable social needs.

Research is discovering new ways to use biological material. According to recent estimates, plant resources could come to account in the near future for more than one third of all industrial material with great environmental and social benefits.

Similarly, man has just begun to explore the immense wealth of species living in the equatorial forests for pharmaceutical purposes. A few of them have been utilized from time immemorial by traditional methods. For others, therapeutical capacities have been discovered only in recent times. But the potential for further discovery is really immense.

Man's interest in the collection and description of biological diversity present in different ecosystems and in the exploitation of various new characters goes back in time and has resulted in the establishment and creation of botanical gardens, zoological parks and aquaria.

Vavilov's discovery during the twenties of the centres of origin and diversification of crop plants and related wild species led to a multiplication of exploratory and germplasm-collecting missions in those regions mainly organized by the most agriculturally developed countries. Particularly from the second half of this century bio-samples, mainly seeds, have been gathered in the so-called gene banks: storage facilities where ex situ collections can be conserved for a long time, classified, analysed and used in reading programmes.

Today many countries have established their own gene bank. The most significant ones, however, are held by the International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, and by about twenty national institutions of developed and developing countries. Nevertheless, no individual country, whether developed or developing, has within its borders or in its gene banks all the genetic resources necessary to meet its needs. All countries must continue to search for new germplasm sources, not only through explorations and collections, but also (and may be mainly) by exchanging germplasm of mutual interest with other countries.

According to FAO's studies, the number of accessions so far stored in the gene-bank system is estimated to amount to about 4-4.5 million. The International Centres' Gene banks in particular, globally considered, represent what is probably the world's largest ex situ collection of genetic resources of food and fodder crops of importance to developing countries' agriculture, conserving about 12 percent (510 000 accessions) of all germplasm maintained at present worldwide.

The genetic resources kept in these ex situ collections have been intensively, if not widely, utilized in the last decades in the frame of vast and successful breeding programmes of the most important crops. The impressive results of the so-called Green Revolution, resting basically upon wheat, rice and maize breeding programmes, are evidence of the importance of having at one's disposal the widest possible genetic variability both in plants and animals of agricultural interest.

However, while the gene banks will have a precise role to play also in the future, the biological evolution, the continuous creation of biodiversity, cannot take place in stored material. It can only become reality in nature, in the dynamics of a continuous contact and interaction with other living forms in the ecosystems or, for crop plants, in the agro-ecosystems.

The need for allowing such processes has prompted an increasing engagement in in situ programmes of biodiversity conservation. The Convention on Biodiversity held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, in its Article 8 promoting the in situ conservation, explicitly recalls the opportunity for the signatory parties to "... establish a

system of protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve the biological diversity ...", with the aim of ensuring the conservation of the ecosystems and the agrobiodiversity and guaranteeing the sustainable utilization of the latter.

Outside gene parks and protected areas, in situ conservation is often carried out at farm level where land races and locally improved material are grown, utilized and conserved as a component of traditional farming systems, and evolve in response also to their dynamics. In situ conservation, according to the same Convention on Biodiversity, shall also aim to "... respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity ... and encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge, innovations and practices".

It may be concluded that the in situ or, under specific conditions, on-farm conservation and cultivation of crop and agro-forestry species may exert a significant role not only in the effective maintenance of agrobiodiversity but also as a component of sustainable development programmes, as also recognized by the Agenda 21. Therefore, measures should be taken, as the establishment of a multilateral agreed funding mechanism, to promote, encourage and implement them.

It has become increasingly evident that the value of genetic resources and of biodiversity at large can be incremented by biotechnology. The development and use of biotechnology procedures permitting the transfer of sequences of DNA from one species to another, and even from one biological kingdom to another (from animals, fish or micro-organisms to plants), has raised the economic value and increased the potential of much biological diversity as a resource in breeding and research.

The incorporation in crop plants of genes for biological nitrogen fixation; resistance to pests and diseases; new and more efficient agents of biological pest control; quantity and quality of animal and plant products; adaptation of crop plants and livestock to diverse ecological conditions (heat, cold, water excesses, drought) will increase stability, eco-compatibility and sustainability of agricultural production and could reduce the pressure on land exploitation and the need for new arable land, thus contributing towards biodiversity conservation itself as well as forestry maintenance.

Moreover, biotechnologies have been developed and largely adopted first by advanced countries. This is likely to further increase the gap between the rich and the poor, at least temporarily. Therefore, it is time now that developing countries need to be involved in the responsible development and use of appropriate biotechnologies to meet their own needs. They host most of the biodiversity of relevance to food and agriculture, and biotechnologies may give them new opportunities and capabilities for speeding the domestication and improvement of promising and/or neglected species. So far, many of these countries, however, lack the resources for such developments.

Also by virtue of these scientific and technical achievements, the long-time effort and series of remarkable initiatives of the FAO, as for instance the constitution of a Panel of Experts on plant exploration and introduction in 1965; the convening of three International Conferences in 1967, 1973 and 1981; the establishment of the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources in 1974; the establishment of the Commission for Plant Genetic Resources in 1983, a permanent intergovernmental forum; the adoption in 1983 of the International Undertaking for Plant Genetic Resources; and since then the development of the FAO Global System for Plant Genetic Resources, have received an international worldwide recognition. In the UN Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992 the Agenda 21 was adopted and opened to signature the Convention on Biodiversity, signed so far by more than 170 countries and ratified by as many as 117.

It must be underlined that Resolution 3 of the Conference for the adoption of the Convention on Biodiversity, as well as Agenda 21, specifically recognizes the importance of genetic resources for food and agriculture, and requests the strengthening of the FAO Global System for Plant Genetic Resources. To accomplish such a task, to develop the Global System, FAO has taken a number of initiatives:

1. The holding in 1996 of the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources. Participatory country-driven processes leading to such conferences are expected to result in two major

elements of the Global System: the First State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources and the First Global Plan of Action on Plant Genetic Resources. Together they will provide guidelines for future action.

2. The negotiation of a revision of the International Undertaking in harmony with Article 15 on the Convention on Biodiversity, including the realization of farmers' rights and the regulation of access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

The Convention says: "Recognizing the sovereign rights of the States over their natural resources, the authority to determine access to genetic resources rests with the national governments and is subject to national legislation"; and "Each contracting party shall endeavour to create conditions to facilitate access to genetic resources for environmentally sound users by other contracting parties and not to impose restrictions that run counter to the objectives of this Convention".

A further initiative by FAO would imply a further development of the international network of the ex situ connections, considering that the Convention on Biological Diversity itself does not regulate the juridical status of those such collections which were assembled prior to the Convention.

With a high sense of responsibility, the International Centres concluded in October 1994 an agreement with FAO which brought the collections under the auspices of FAO itself. In force of the agreement, the International Centres agree not to take out intellectual property protection on the materials and to ensure that the recipients of samples are bound to the same obligation.

However, as far as ex situ conservation is concerned, much uncertainty remains as for future status and accessibility of the germplasm collected before the coming into force of the Convention on Biodiversity, and conserved now in a multitude of other germ banks different from those of the international centres.

Allow me now to express some personal proposals: it is extremely urgent that a timely agreement under the terms of the Convention on Biological Diversity be reached between all germplasm holders worldwide, in order to regulate the status and access and availability by scientists and farmers of genetic resources conserved at present or to be conserved in the future.

Thus I strongly recommend that countries through the FAO Commission for Plant Genetic Resources accelerate the process of revision of the international undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. I also support the creation, as already proposed, of a funding mechanism which would contribute to the implementation of the farmers' rights as adopted by resolutions of this Conference in 1989 and 1991, following a proposal of the FAO Commission - a funding mechanism which could in general also promote conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources. Developed countries, parties in the agreement, would contribute financially to the funding mechanism in addition to making their own plant genetic resources available. This Agenda 21 also requested the realization of the farmers' rights, that is an obligation to compensate farmers for their past, present and future contribution in conserving, improving and making available plant genetic resources, particularly those in the centres of origin and diversity. This principle aims at reconciling the view of the technology-rich and the gene-rich countries in order to ensure the availability of plant genetic resources within an equitable system. The concept of farmers' rights also provides a sort of balance to intellectual property rights, breeders' rights and patents intended to reward innovations, as derived from advanced research and resource investment in industrialized countries.

With regard to the application of biotechnologies, their nexus with biodiversity is important, and the access to the know-how of biotechnology companies and research institutions should be facilitated. Joint ventures that help transfer technology from north to south could also be envisaged. Such action should include first of all the training of personnel from developing countries in advanced laboratories of biotechnology companies and research institutions.

Building local capacities in developing countries for the application of agrobiotechnologies to agrobiodiversity may offer unique opportunities for a real international cooperation among developing and industrialized countries. It is my wish that the propositions I have made in the preceding points could be considered for implementation during the negotiating process for the revision of the International Undertaking, which could be ready for adoption on the occasion of the World Food Summit late in 1996. With respect to genetic resources for food and agriculture other than plants, I also hope that the present session of the Conference

will adopt the draft resolution aimed at broadening the terms of reference of the Commission for Plant Genetic Resources, to also include farm-animal, forestry and fishery genetic resources.

In conclusion, great and worthy of praise has undoubtedly been the effort made so far by politicians, statesmen, managers, diplomats, scientists, newsmen of so many countries and international organizations to elucidate and define facts, problems and actions related to the safeguarding, development and utilization of biodiversity. Clear-cut and valuable proposals have also been advanced to bring those problems to solution, the adoption and implementation of which, however, to a large extent have not yet been realized.

It is the duty of all of us - politicians, managers, scientists, experts, mass media to bear in mind that further delays in fielding the initiatives and abiding by the principles and guidelines provided by the Convention on Biodiversity, the International Undertaking and other multilateral agreements and engagements, could hinder the continuation of the new start of many programmes of conservation of agrobiodiversity and, of course, biodiversity in general.

Nevertheless, we are witnessing an extremely general stalemate. The consequences can be easily identified: genetic erosion and disappearance of species, degradation of ecosystems, narrowing of intraspecific variability, impoverishment of existing ex situ collections, interruption or regression of current initiatives in in situ and on-farm conservation.

It is our duty to prevent the dispersal of the still-hidden treasures of biodiversity, made no longer available for the benefit of all - individuals and nations, today and in the future. It would be an irreparable, dramatic loss which would damage the countries holding genetic resources, with a shrinking of the biodiversity reserves. This loss, however, would be equally serious and irreparable for all countries and peoples on earth because it would reduce the power to face the immense challenges of the future such as the safeguarding of the environment, along with the increase in world population, the need to feed it properly, and the consequent necessity of continuing the selection and improvement of crops and livestock.

It is our duty, especially of politicians and those scientists advising them, to do everything we can to overcome the problems that delay the effective adoption of the rules expressed in the Convention on Biodiversity and in other documents commendably developed by FAO and often previously recalled. A complete, international, planetary cooperation will have to flourish without delay. If the danger is incumbent on all, the benefits of collaboration will also be for all. Let us replenish the ex situ collections, let us multiply the in situ gene parks. Let us truly recognize and respect the farmers' rights as well as the breeders' rights. Let us couple the natural treasures mostly available in the developing countries with the potential of new technologies for a sustainable utilization of natural resources.

In this context of great risks and great responsibilities as well, I as a scientist feel encouraged to put forward a proposal to my colleagues, to the international scientific community, first of all to those who, in every country, in application of the Convention on Biodiversity, have already officially cooperated or are still cooperating with their respective governments in order to "integrate consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision-making". To all those I propose we join together in a movement of thought to support a complete and expeditious application of principles and rules of the Convention on Biodiversity. What I have in mind is a strong movement of ideas, which, together with governments, supranational and international agencies, mass media and public opinion in general, should support the urgent need of giving reality to the glorious action undertaken a long time ago by the UN and FAO in favour of an equitable and sustainable use of biodiversity and agrobiodiversity - a basic element for the achievement of all global development goals.

I believe that an explicit and coordinated action of scientists may contribute to explain and educate the public opinion on the fundamental need, in everybody's interest, to conserve biodiversity, to use its components sustainably, to share, fairly and equitably, the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources.

I am convinced that this contribution to your difficult and complex action, Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Honourable Ministers and Delegates, could be appreciated and accepted as a valid help to advise and support, and make the formation of general consensus easier.

Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Excellencies, Honourable Delegates, ladies and gentlemen: in paying again my respect to you, it is my wish to conclude pointing out that, of all great questions challenging humanity while the III millennium is approaching, I have made special reference to four problems: 1. The need to increase the food and agricultural production, in order to guarantee to all human beings a sufficient, healthy and nutritionally-balanced diet; 2. The need to safeguard the natural environment, the natural resources, including biodiversity, with regard to the requirements of a compatible and sustainable socio-economic development, in the interest also of future generations; 3. The need to promote and support scientific and technological research, in public and private institutions, for the improvement of the agrofood system and for the development of the environmental sciences; 4. The need to guarantee to all peoples the access and use of scientific discoveries, technologies and innovations, so as to determine a more peaceful and harmonious cultural and social development of the nations on Earth.

These four fundamental problems intermingle in the theme that has been at the root of my speech: the protection of biodiversity and the use of plant and animal genetic resources for modern, eco-compatible and sustainable farming systems.

I have tried to demonstrate the need of reaching a common strategic plan for the sustainable use of the natural resources in general, and biodiversity in particular. Let us move from a general consensus on the Convention on Biodiversity to active cooperation, from commitment to tangible and definitive action.

I believe that, thanks to the personal experience and the sense of responsibility of so many illustrious representatives of governments of almost all states on Earth, as well as experts of the most important international agencies and national institutions, gathered here, in Rome, for this biennial Conference of FAO, the engagements made in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 will soon become reality, in a spirit of solidarity among all peoples. It is essentially a matter of expediting and implementing an international commitment aimed at improving the human condition and forming a new society in harmony with nature and the environment.

It shall surely be one of the best ways for celebrating, with concrete initiatives and actions, the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations and of the constitution of FAO.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: On behalf of the Conference and myself, we thank you, Professor Scarascia Mugnozza, for the inspiring and interesting lecture. Since Frank McDougall came from Australia, I now call upon the representative of Australia.

Gregory Frank TAYLOR (Australia): Mr Chairman, on behalf of us all here and on behalf of the Australian Government, it is my privilege to have the opportunity of thanking Professor Mugnozza, President of the National Academy of Sciences of Italy, for the thoughtful address he has given to this Conference. Professor Mugnozza has spoken on a matter of great importance to all agriculture producing countries and for world food security. As the Professor said, we are the caretakers of nature. There must be few issues where global moral responsibility and global economic self-interest more clearly coincide. But there are formidable scientific, legal and financial obstacles to be overcome through international collaboration.

The significance of biodiversity and genetic resource issues is reflected in the range of matters to be considered at this Conference. We need extensive discussion of the new and challenging policy environment emerging in this area. FAO's role is critical and Professor Mugnozza has been inspirational and challenging in informing us of our future work. We are most grateful for this Nineteenth McDougall Memorial Lecture.

Mr Chairman, Australia is justifiably proud of the role Frank McDougall played in the establishment of FAO. The pride we feel in having one of our own honoured at each FAO Conference with a lecture from a distinguished person of world standing is heightened when we see how the Organization he helped to create lives on and how its work continues. Frank McDougall was a man with a vision. The vision of a world



without hunger and poverty had its beginnings in the early 1930s. McDougall also had determination. His ideas have become a basic tenet of this international Organization and have been fundamental in shaping and directing its activities. His life and work should be an inspiration to all of us who are involved in multilateral endeavours aimed at a world free from hunger and malnutrition. Despite our best efforts and those of this Organization over the last 50 years, the problems of poverty and malnutrition still remain to be finally defeated. McDougall and all of those other great founders of FAO must not be let down. We must continue to work together to ensure that the vision can be finally realized.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr Taylor. We have now completed the programme for this morning. The Credentials Committee will hold its first meeting in the Lebanon Room on the second floor of Building D after we adjourn. The General Committee will also be holding its first meeting now. I will ask its members and the three Vice-Chairmen, Mr Handi of Indonesia, Mr Nuiry Sanchez of Cuba and Mrs Kadlecikova of Slovakia, and the representatives of the following seven countries: Angola, Belgium, China, Egypt, Nicaragua, Spain and the USA to proceed to the Mexico Room on the second floor of Building D.

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

The meeting rose at 11.25 hours.

La séance est levée à 11 h 25.

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.25 horas.

20 October 1995



# CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Twenty-eighth Session • Vingt-huitième session • 28° período de sesiones

**SECOND PLENARY MEETING**  
**DEUXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE**  
**SEGUNDA SESION PLENARIA**

20 October 1995

**The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours**

**Mr Costas Petrides,**

**Chairman of the Conference, presiding**

**La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 heures**

**sous la présidence de M. Costas Petrides,**

**Président de la Conférence**

**Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 15.00 horas**

**bajo la presidencia del Sr. Costas Petrides,**

**Presidente de la Conferencia**

CHAIRMAN: Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to call the second meeting to order.

Before proceeding with our business, I will give the floor to the Secretary-General who has a short announcement relating to the Agenda.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: The European Community is participating in this Conference in accordance with paragraphs 8 and 9 of Article II of the FAO Constitution.

I have been asked to inform you that the declaration made by the European Community and its Member States is contained in document C 95/INF/16, which has already been distributed. I would draw the attention of Conference to this declaration.

CHAIRMAN: In accordance with the tentative timetable for the Conference as found in Appendix A to document C 95/12, the items before us this afternoon are numbers: 3, 4, 5, 23, 27.3, 27.4 and 27.5, which are as follows. One, the adoption of the Agenda; two, arrangements for the Session and the location of Agenda items, admission of observers, applications for membership of the Organization, presentation of the B.R. Sen Awards, presentation of the A.H. Boerma Award, presentation of the Edouard Saouma Award.

As instructed by Conference this morning, the General Committee met and prepared its first report containing proposals on these items as well as on other related arrangements.

I now propose that the Secretary-General read the first report of the General Committee section by section for the Conference's consideration. The Report itself will be available to all tomorrow morning as document number C 95/LIM/6.

May I ask the Secretary-General to read the first section of the Report.

INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE ET EXAMEN DE LA SITUATION DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE

INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

3. Adoption of the Agenda

3. Adoption de l'ordre du jour

3. Aprobación del programa

First Report of the General Committee

Premier rapport du Bureau

Primer Informe del Comité General

SECRETARY-GENERAL: The General Committee examined the Provisional Conference Agenda set forth in document C 95/1.

The Committee was informed that the Government of Algeria had requested in the name of the Maghreb countries and Chad, in accordance with Rule II-5 of the General Rules of the Organization, that an additional item entitled "Desert Locust Situation and Actions Required" be added to the Provisional Agenda, and that this request had been circulated to all Members of the Organization on 25 September 1995.

The Committee was also informed that the Director-General had submitted document C 95/24 "Draft Revised Agreement between OAU and FAO" including a Draft Resolution for discussion under item 18 "Other Constitutional and Legal Matters".

The Committee recommends that the Conference adopt the Provisional Agenda with the additional item "Desert Locust Situation and Actions Required" inserted in Part I as a new item after item 13, and that document C 95/24 be examined under item 18 "Other Constitutional and Legal Matters".

Having noted that at the request of the Hundred and Eighth Council Session, the Provisional Agenda printed in document C 95/1 was followed by a list on which information documents were tabled, the Committee also recommends that delegates wishing to comment on these documents be given an opportunity to do so under item 27: Any Other Matters, and that in the light of the new working methods of the Conference consideration be also given to deciding on the need for continuing to have progress and other reports tabled at future Conference sessions.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section? If there are none, I declare the section which has just been read adopted. We proceed to the second section.

Adopted

Adopté

Adoptado

4. Arrangements for the session and allocation of agenda items
4. Organisation de la session et répartition des questions inscrites à l'ordre du jour
4. Organización del período de sesiones y asignación de los temas del programa

SECRETARY-GENERAL:

Establishment of Commissions and Tentative Timetable of the Session

At its Hundred and Eighth Session the Council formulated proposals concerning the organization and timetable for the Twenty-eighth Session of the Conference - proposals which were communicated to all Member Nations in document C 95/12. The Committee recommends that the Conference establish three commissions to consider and report on Paras I, II and III of the Agenda.

The attention of the Conference is called to the fact that, in order to accommodate requests for speaking time by Ministers who will be in Rome only during the first days of the Conference, it may be necessary to prolong the General Discussion during those dates to 13:00 hours in the morning and 18:30 hours in the afternoon. However, the morning and the afternoon meetings must start on time to obtain any benefit from prolonging the meetings. It is hoped that in this way all the speakers wishing to speak on Saturday 21, Monday 22 and Tuesday 23 October will be able to do so. Should this prove impossible, an additional meeting could be planned for one evening. The duration of each intervention should not exceed ten minutes.

With respect to the timetable, the Committee was informed that the additional item on the desert locust situation might be added to the timetable of Commission I at its 8th meeting on the afternoon of Thursday 26 October and that the sub-item "Draft Revised Agreement between OAU and FAO" be considered by Commission III on Friday 27 October. The Committee also noted that since His Holiness Pope John Paul II had graciously offered to grant a Papal Audience on Monday 23 October to all delegates and observers attending the Conference Session to mark the 50th Anniversary of FAO, the meetings timetabled for the morning of 23 October would have to end earlier to facilitate those delegation members going to the Vatican City.

The Committee recommends that the Conference approve the tentative timetable proposed by the Council with the variations indicated in paras 7 and 8 above. It is also understood that this timetable may be subject to modifications in the light of progress made in the Plenary and in the commissions.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section? If there are none, I declare this section which has just been read adopted. We proceed to the next section.

Adopted

Adopté

Adoptado

SECRETARY-GENERAL:

Appointment of the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Three Commissions

In accordance with Rules VII-I and XXIV-5(b) of the General Rules of the Organization (GRO) and as indicated in document C 95/LIM/1, the Council at its Hundred and Ninth Session proposed the following candidates for chairmanship of the Commissions:

- Commission I: Thomas YANGA (Cameroon)
- Commission II: Jacques LAUREAU (France)
- Commission III: Thomas FORBORD (USA)

The Committee recommends that the Conference adopt the Council's proposal.

In accordance with Rule X-2(c) GRO the Committee recommends that the Vice-Chairmanship of the Commissions be distributed as follows:

- Commission I: Mohamed HARBY (Sudan)  
Jan BIELAWSKI (Poland)
- Commission II: Shahid RASHID (Pakistan)  
Kenji SHIMIZU (Japan)
- Commission III: Carlos DI MOTTOLA (Costa Rica)

Ernst ZIMMERL (Austria)

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section? Since there are none, I declare this section adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Adoptado

SECRETARY-GENERAL:

Resolutions Committee

The Council at its Hundred and Eighth Session recommended the establishment of a Resolution Committee of the Conference consisting of seven members, one from each FAO region. Its terms of reference are described in document C 95/12, Appendix D, as are the criteria which should govern the formulation of resolutions.

The Committee recommends that the Conference adopt the Council's proposal, and that the following Member Nations, identified by the region to which they belong, sit on the Resolutions Committee.

- |                                   |          |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| - Africa                          | MOROCCO  |
| - Asia                            | MALAYSIA |
| - Europe                          | MALTA    |
| - Latin America and the Caribbean | CHILE    |

- Near East

KUWAIT

- North America

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- Southwest Pacific

NEW ZEALAND

Delegations of the countries concerned are requested to communicate to the Chairman of the Conference, as early as possible, the name of their representatives on the Resolutions Committee.

The Committee also recommends that the Resolutions Committee be chaired by Francis Mifsud (Malta) the Representative of the Europe Region.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section? Since there are none, I declare this section adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Adoptado

5. Admission of Observers

5. Admission d'observateurs

5. Admisión de observadores

SECRETARY-GENERAL:

Admission of Observers from Applicants for Membership

As is customary, the Director-General has provisionally invited the applicants for membership to be represented by observers until a decision has been taken on their application. The Conference will no doubt wish to confirm the invitations in respect of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

CHAIRMAN: Are there comments on this section? If there are none, I declare this section which has just been read adopted and we can proceed to the next section.

Adopted

Adopté

Adoptado

SECRETARY-GENERAL:

Admission of Observers from Belarus, Russian Federation and Ukraine

The Director-General has received from Belarus, Russian Federation and Ukraine letters expressing the interest of the Government in attending the Twenty-eighth Session of the FAO Conference. Invitations to attend the Conference as observers were sent to the Government concerned, pointing out, however, that they were subject to confirmation by the Conference, in accordance with the Principles relating to the granting of Observer Status to Nations (Basic Texts, Section L, para. B-1) which specify that Non-Member States of FAO may on request be invited "by the Conference ... to be represented by an observer at a session of the Conference". The Committee recommends that the Conference confirm the invitations.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section? If there are none, I declare this section which has just been read adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Adoptado

#### APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

#### NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS

#### NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES

23. Applications for membership in the Organization (Vote)

23. Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation (Vote)

23. Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización (Votación)

#### SECRETARY-GENERAL:

##### Admission of new Member Nations

In conformity with the provisions of Rule XIX of the General Rules of the Organization, the following applications for membership had been received by the deadline of 20 September 1995:

- Azerbaijan
- Georgia
- Moldova
- Tajikistan
- Turkmenistan

Under Article II-2 of the Constitution, the Conference decides on the admission of additional Member Nations by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast provided that a majority of the Member Nations of the Organization is present. "Votes cast" means votes for and against, and does not include abstentions or defective ballots (Rule XII-4(a) GRO). Membership becomes effective on the date upon which the Conference approves the application.

The Committee recommends that the Conference hold the vote for the admission of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan at the plenary meeting on the afternoon of Friday 20 October. The result of the vote will be announced later in the same meeting, followed by the ceremony for installing the new Members. As is customary, the Chairman will welcome the new Members and each of them may make a brief statement.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section? Since there are none, I declare the section which has just been read adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Adoptado

#### SECRETARY-GENERAL:

##### Contributions of New Member Nations

In accordance with Regulation 5.8 of the Financial Regulations, the Conference determines the amount of the contribution to be paid by newly admitted Member Nations, beginning with the quarter in which the application is approved.

According to the established principles and customs, the minimum contribution due from these new members for the last quarter of 1995 and the advance to be made to the Working Capital Fund are provisionally: Azerbaijan, contribution for the last quarter, US\$100 880, working capital fund advance US\$32 500; Georgia, contribution for the last quarter, US\$100 880, working capital fund advance US\$32 500; Moldova, contribution for last quarter US\$69 840, working capital fund advance US\$22 500; Tajikistan, contribution for last quarter US\$15 520, working capital fund advance US\$5 000; Turkmenistan contribution for the last quarter, US\$23 280, working capital fund advance US\$7 500.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section? If there are none I declare this section which has been read adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Adoptado

#### OTHER MATTERS AUTRES QUESTIONS OTROS ASUNTOS

27. Any other matters

27. Autres questions

27. Otros asuntos

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL:

#### Appointment of the Independent Chairman of the Council

By the date determined by the Council, i.e. 18 August 1995, one nomination had been received for the office of Independent Chairman of the Council, that of Jose Ramon Lopez Portillo (Mexico). This nomination was notified to all Member Nations by Circular Letter GCF-4/3 of 25 August 1995.

Under the terms of Rule XXIII-1(b) General Rules of the Organization, the General Committee determines and announces the date of the election. The Committee recommends that a secret ballot for this appointment take place in the afternoon of Friday 27 October 1995.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section? Since there are none I declare this section which has just been read adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Adoptado

#### SECRETARY GENERAL: Election of Members of the Council

Rule XXII-10(a) GRO provides that the Conference, on the recommendation of the General Committee, shall, not later than the end of the third day of the Conference Session, decide the date of election of members of the Council and the date by which nominations must be submitted.



The Committee accordingly recommends:

- (a) that the election begin on the morning of Friday 27 October; and
- (b) that nominations for the Council seats to be filled at the present session be communicated to the Secretary-General at the Conference (B-202) by 12.00 hours on Saturday 21 October at the latest, to permit the General Committee to communicate to the Conference the valid nominations received at least three working days before the date selected for the election in accordance with Rule XXII-10(d) GRO.

In this connection, the Conference will note in particular the following provisions of paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 7 of Rule XXII of the General Rules of the Organization:

"3. In selecting Members of the Council, the Conference shall give due consideration to the desirability of:

- (a) including in its membership a balanced geographical representation of nations interested in the production, distribution and consumption of food and agricultural products;
- (b) ensuring the participation in the work of the Council of such Member nations as contribute in a large measure toward the success of the Organization;
- (c) giving to the greatest possible number of Member Nations an opportunity, by rotation of membership, to serve on the Council."

"4. Member Nations shall be eligible for re-election."

"5. No Member Nation shall be eligible for election to the Council if it is in arrears in payment of its financial contributions to the Organization in an amount equal to or exceeding the contributions due from it for the two preceding calendar years."

"7. A Member of the Council shall be considered to have resigned if it is in arrears in payment of its financial contributions to the Organization in an amount equal to or exceeding the contributions due from it for the two preceding calendar years, or if it has not been represented at two consecutive sessions of the Council."

All relevant information concerning the seats for which nominations must be submitted, and forms for submitting nominations, will be found in document C 95/11.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section? If there are none, I declare this section which has just been read adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Adoptado

SECRETARY-GENERAL:

Right to Vote

The General Committee notes that the following Member Nations have not paid sufficient amounts of their assessed contributions to retain their vote in the Conference. Mr Chairman, the countries in question are as follows with the amount in arrears in US\$:

Afghanistan	94 396.00
Bolivia	123 078.29
Burundi	117 287.63
Cambodia	308 960.00

Chad	196 938.44
Comoros	145 314.50
Cook Islands	62 718.00
Djibouti	102 607.00
Dominican Republic	730 480.00
Gabon	491 695.91
Gambia	121 845.22
Grenada	122 235.00
Guatemala	244 460.55
Guinea	62 718.00
Guinea-Bissau	94 396.00
Iraq	2 132 104.00
Jamaica	99 435.00
Liberia	185 653.60
Mali	70 599.97
Niger	150 076.00
Peru	560 565.00
Qatar	376 308.00
Rwanda	88 695.51
Sao Tome and Principe	122 236.00
Seychelles	124 804.54
Sierra Leone	174 050.14
Solomon Islands	94 396.00
Somalia	198 140.00
Suriname	178 734.00
Togo	98 618.01
Yemen	108 330.03
Yugoslavia	6 811 144.00

Member Nations with Conference Authorized Instalment Plans

Antigua and Barbuda	231 194.90
Equatorial Guinea	147 662.60

Article III.4 of the Constitution states: "A Member Nation which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contribution to the Organization shall have no vote in the Conference if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the two preceding calendar years. The Conference may, nevertheless, permit such a Member Nation to vote if it is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the Member Nation."

The Committee noted the recommendations of the Council at its Hundred and Seventh Session that the approach to the restoration of voting rights for Members in arrears envisaged in Article III.4 of the Constitution, should be more restrictive than that taken in previous sessions of the Conference. The Committee will take up this matter at a subsequent meeting of the General Committee, in connection with its consideration of application for the restoration of voting rights.

In the meantime, however, the Committee recommends to the Conference, in accordance with the past practice, that all Member Nations in attendance be authorized to vote on Friday 20 October on Item 23 of the Agenda (Applications for Membership in the Organization) on the understanding that contacts with them shall be continued with a view to regularizing their arrears situation.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section? If there are none, I declare the section which has just been read adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Adoptado

SECRETARY GENERAL: Right of Reply

At its fourteen previous sessions, the Conference had decided that, if a delegate wished to reply to criticisms of his Governments' policy, he should preferably do so on the day on which such criticisms had been voiced after all those wishing to participate in the discussion had had an opportunity to speak. The Committee recommends that these same arrangements be followed at the present session.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section? If there are none, I declare the section which has just been read adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Adoptado

SECRETARY GENERAL: Verbatim Records

Rule XVIII-1 GRO lays down that verbatim records shall be kept for all Conference plenary and commission meetings. The right of delegates to check the accuracy of the record of their interventions is expressly recognised in Rule XVIII-2 GRO.

The accuracy of the records may be maintained by either correcting typing and other errors, or by amending a word or phrase actually used. In practice such corrections or amendments to statements are accepted only from the delegation which made the statement, and should be submitted within 48 hours of circulation of the draft verbatim record concerned.

In 1961 a procedure was formally adopted by the Conference whereby speakers who so desire may have their statements inserted in the record without delivering them in Plenary. This procedure is still followed and is recommended in the interests of saving time.

While the Committee sees no objection in principle to the insertion of statements in the records when time does not permit them to be delivered, it recognizes the difficulties which might arise if no occasion is given to delegates to exercise the "right of reply" to any criticism of their government's policy made in the inserted statement.

The Committee therefore recommends that the Conference continue to permit the insertion of such statements on condition that:

- (a) the Plenary, or the Commission concerned, is informed by its Chairman that a statement not actually delivered, or a substantive addition to a statement that has been delivered, is being inserted in the record;
- (b) the text handed over to the Chairman for insertion is in English, French or Spanish, the languages used in the verbatim records;

(c) the provisional verbatim record containing the additional statement is circulated at least three days before the close of the Session; and

(d) delegations attending the Session are able to avail themselves of the right of reply by having an opportunity to make, prior to the close of the Session, a written statement relating to the additional statement.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section? If there are none, I declare the section which has just been read adopted now.

Adopted

Adopté

Adoptado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Statements by Heads of Delegations. Paragraph 38. The Committee recommends that a list of speakers be published daily in the journal of the Conference, in the order in which they will be called upon by the Chairman, and further recommends that statements be limited to a maximum of 10 minutes.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section? If there are none, I declare the section which has just been read adopted now.

Adopted

Adopté

Adoptado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Admission of Observers from Intergovernmental and International Non-Governmental Organizations. Paragraph 39. The list of Intergovernmental and International Non-Governmental Organizations which have been invited by the Director-General to be represented in an observer capacity at this session of the Conference is given in document C 95/13. The invitations sent to Intergovernmental Organizations with which FAO does not have a formal agreement and to International Non-Governmental Organizations which do not have consultative status with FAO are extended on a provisional basis and are subject to approval by the Conference.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section? If there are none, I declare the section which has just been read adopted now.

Adopted

Adopté

Adoptado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Paragraph 40. After having reviewed this list, the Committee recommends that the Conference confirm the said provisional invitations.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section? If there are none, I declare the section which has just been read adopted now.

Adopted

Adopté

Adoptado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Statements in Plenary Meetings of the Conference by International Non-Governmental Organizations having consultative status. Paragraph 41. The General Committee was apprised of requests from the following International Non-Governmental Organizations in consultative status with FAO, to address the Plenary of the Conference:

- International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)

- International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP)

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section? If there are none, I declare the section which has just been read adopted now.

Adopted

Adopté

Adoptado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Paragraph 42. Having examined this request, the Committee, in accordance with Rule X-2(g) of the General Rules of the Organization, is now reporting to the Conference, and recommends that the Conference grant speaking time to the above mentioned organizations on the understanding that a maximum time limit of five minutes will be observed and that in no case will such organizations be given priority in speaking over representatives of Member Nations.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section? If there are none, I declare the section which has just been read adopted now.

Adopted

Adopté

Adoptado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Informal Meeting of Observers from Non-Governmental Organizations. Paragraph 43. The Council recommended that, as at previous sessions of the Conference, observers from Non-Governmental Organizations be invited to attend an informal meeting, so that their advice and suggestions on the Organization's activities and programmes may be communicated to the Conference. It is suggested that this meeting take place on the morning and afternoon of Saturday, 21 October. The Committee recommends that the Conference accept this proposal.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section? If there are none, I declare the section which has just been read adopted now.

Adopted

Adopté

Adoptado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Attendance by liberation movements. Paragraph 44. In conformity with the suggestion made by the Council at its Hundred and Eighth Session, the Palestine Liberation Organization has been invited to attend the Conference in an observer capacity. The Committee recommends that the Conference confirm this invitation.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section? Since there are none, I declare this section which has just been read adopted now and we proceed to the conclusion.

Adopted

Adopté

Adoptado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Conclusion. Paragraph 45. Lastly, the Committee recommends that the Conference conform all the detailed arrangements for the session and that, except for the cases mentioned in 7 above, the normal working hours for both Plenary and Commissions be 09.30 to 12.30 hours, and 14.30 to 17.30 hours. Night meetings may also be convened from immediately after the Plenary, that is, 18.00 hours to 21.00 hours if required. The Committee also invites all delegations to observe all working hours with maximum punctuality.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section? If there are none, I declare the section which has just been read adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Adoptado

APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued) NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS (suite)  
NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)

23. Applications for Membership in the Organization (continued)

23. Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation (suite)

23. Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización (continuación)

Ladies and gentlemen, the Conference will now vote on the admission as Members of the Organization of the following five countries: Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. This vote is governed by Article II.2 of the FAO Constitution, which reads: "The Conference may by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, provided that a majority of the Member Nations of the Organization is present, decide to admit as an additional Member of the Organization any nation which has submitted an application for membership and a declaration made in a formal instrument that it will accept the obligations of the Constitution as in force at the time of admission." The documents giving details of these applications are C 95/10 and C 95/10-Sup.1. I shall now call on the Secretary-General to give details of the voting procedures.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Delegates will receive five ballot papers, one for each of the countries applying for membership in the Organization. Each ballot paper has boxes with "yes", "no", and "abstention" written on them. The delegate will vote by marking one of those three choices with an X. Please note that, in accordance with Rule XII.4(c) of the General Rules of the Organization, blank ballot papers will be treated as abstentions. Please also note that, according to paragraph 4(d) of the same rule, ballot papers must carry no other notation or mark than those required for the purpose in indicating the vote.

CHAIRMAN: In accordance with Article II.2 of the FAO Constitution, and indeed, the provisions of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, the quorum required for this election is a majority of the Member Nations of the Organization. This means that at least 85 Member Nations must be represented as present in the hall at this time. I have requested the offices in charge of the election to carry out a count and I am told that at this moment there are over 123 delegations of Member Nations present in the hall. We may therefore proceed with the vote.

May I remind you that, in accordance with paragraph 14 of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, once voting has commenced, no delegate or representative may interrupt the voting except to raise a point of order in connection with that vote. In accordance with paragraph 9(c) of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, the Chairman of the Conference appoints two tellers from among the delegates or representatives or their alternates. In order to speed up the counting process, I should like to suggest that we appoint four tellers, as has been done on past occasion. If there is no objection, I will request the delegates of Australia, Indonesia, South Africa and Trinidad and Tobago to serve as tellers for this election. Will these four delegates please proceed to the voting area. I now call the Assistant Secretary-General to proceed to the voting area.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL: (Vote). Voting continuing.

CHAIRMAN: The voting has now been completed. The tellers will leave the room and, with the assistance of the officers in charge of the election, will count the votes.

While counting is taking place, we will proceed with the presentation of the B.R. Sen Awards, the A.H. Boerma Award and the Edouard Saouma Award for 1994 and 1995.

### 27.3 Presentation of B.R. Sen Awards

#### 27.3 Remise des Prix B.R. Sen

#### 27.3 Entrega de los premios B.R. Sen

It is time to present the B.R. Sen Awards for 1994 and 1995. This Award was established by the Conference in honour of Mr B.R. Sen, who was Director-General of FAO from 1956 to 1967. Annually the Award is made to a field officer who has made a special contribution to the country or countries to which he or she was assigned. The prize consists of a medal, a scroll, a cash prize of US\$5 000 and a round trip for the winner and the spouse to the Conference Session in Rome when the Awards are distributed.

I will now ask the Director-General to introduce the winners and to present the B.R. Sen Awards.

EL DIRECTOR GENERAL: Este prestigioso premio se estableció en honor del difunto señor B.R. Sen, que fue Director General de la FAO de 1956 a 1967. El premio se concede cada año al oficial de campo que haya hecho la contribución más importante al desarrollo del país o de los países en que haya estado destinado. Vamos ahora a proceder a la entrega de los premios correspondientes a 1994 y 1995. El premio correspondiente a 1994 se ha concedido al señor Seiichi Etoh, de nacionalidad japonesa, como reconocimiento a su importante contribución al desarrollo de la pesca en Eritrea. Gracias a su esfuerzo personal, a su profesionalidad y sus dotes directivas, el señor Etoh ha desarrollado la capacidad institucional y técnica del Gobierno para llevar a cabo su programa general destinado a la rehabilitación sostenible del sector pesquero, introduciendo también innovaciones técnicas en la mayoría de los aspectos relativos al desarrollo pesquero.

El Gobierno de Eritrea, al aprobar la selección del señor Etoh, ha reconocido su diligencia, su ejemplar sentido de responsabilidad y su enorme eficacia en un período difícil de la historia del país dedicado a la ardua tarea de reactivar su economía.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: I now invite Mr Seiichi Etoh to take the floor.

Seiichi ETOH (Japan): Mr Director-General, honourable representatives, distinguished guests, colleagues and ladies and gentlemen: it is clearly my highest honour to receive the B.R. Sen Award. I was so surprised to hear the news that I was nominated. At that time I was in Japan on home leave.

I have been working for FAO for the last 23 years and, of course, I have been well aware of the existence of this special award but I thought it would be beyond my dreams - just like twinkling stars in the sky. I also know one of the previous winners who had achieved many outstanding tasks which are too high for me to reach. Therefore I thought it would belong to a world where I could not go.

I started working with Technical Assistance in developing countries in 1966 and since then I have been helping continuously in various countries in Africa and Asia. Throughout twenty-eight years of service I have tried to maintain the principle as much as possible that a technical expert should work in one developing country at least for five years in order to produce a tangible output. The first year of assignment involves simply a familiarization of the situation of the country, including learning local languages. I believe this is essential not only as a means of communication but also as a matter of courtesy and creating personal contact networks. In the following couple of years one is able to focus on preparation for the next stage, which includes construction of necessary infrastructure and facilities and training national counterparts. The subsequent years represent the implementation stage, where the real substantial activities can be deployed and realized. As such, the development process needs a tenacious approach and I believe that little significant impact can be expected from the approach which means that technical experts move from one country to another on short-term assignments.

Mr Director-General, this award is very honourable for me and acknowledges my effort towards an achievement of the current project on which I have been assigned. Given this situation, I would have requested that it be awarded not to me alone but to be shared with all the project staff in the field. We are equally dedicated towards the same goals as an integrated team. I used to talk to my colleague on the project saying that although we are not regarded as volunteers, we should not forget the volunteer spirit when carrying out our duties in the field, which means that experts are expected to sacrifice and give up something of their own normal lives to some extent. Bearing in mind this motto, each staff member on the project has been dedicating himself to the assigned work, and I believe it is this which has resulted in this outstanding achievement.

The country where I am now working is newly-developed Eritrea. Just after independence, the project started from scratch and has been undertaking many activities towards the goals with full leadership of the Government and support from several donors such as UNDP and UNCDF, which I highly appreciate.

Furthermore, more credit for these achievements should be given to the national staff involved in the project activities. Most of them have been undertaking their duties in an industrious manner with minimal salaries. You may be surprised to hear that until April of this year most of the project staff were working without any salary. We just provided some provisions and accommodation, which is beyond my comprehension but it is a fact. In addition, they are willing to work even weekends and overtime without any remuneration. Their dedication to rebuilding the country in such a manner is highly commendable and respectable. I would say that I am happy to have been given a chance in such a country and with such staff. All the honour given by this award therefore reflects also on all the staff of the project.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all those outside Eritrea who have supported and assisted me as well as the project, and would ask for this favour to continue in the same way in the future.

Also, let me take this opportunity to express particular appreciation to my wife and sons who have accepted the obligation to live apart from me for the last eight years because of the constraints prohibiting us from



living together at my duty stations. They have, in a sense, also volunteered and sacrificed their normal lives to assist developing countries.

Thank you very much again. This is an inspiration and encouragement to me.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

EL DIRECTOR GENERAL: El premio correspondiente a 1995 ha sido concedido al señor Roberto Samanez-Mercado, de nacionalidad brasileña, por su extraordinaria contribución a los trabajos de la Secretaría Pro Tempore del Tratado de Cooperación Amazónica en Colombia, Ecuador y Perú.

Bajo su supervisión se ha proporcionado apoyo técnico a la Secretaría en materia de conservación, utilización racional y desarrollo sostenible de los recursos naturales renovables y protección del medio ambiente de la Amazonia.

La selección del señor Samanez-Mercado para la concesión del premio B.R. Sen ha sido apoyada por los Gobiernos de Colombia, Ecuador y Perú, que han reconocido así su extraordinaria labor, dedicación y compromiso con la tarea de los países del Tratado de Cooperación Amazónica en el desarrollo de la región del Amazonas, una de las más importantes del mundo como fuente de nuevos alimentos y oportunidades tanto para los países de la Región como para todo el género humano.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I will now present the award to Dr Roberto Samanez-Mercado.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

I now call on Dr Roberto Samanez-Mercado to take the floor.

Roberto SAMANEZ-MERCADO (Brasil): Excelentísimo señor Director General, señores delegados, colegas de la FAO, señoras y señores. En estos días tan especiales para la Organización y en un momento que es, sin duda, el más importante y emotivo de mi vida profesional, no puedo sino evocar a los hombres y mujeres que a lo largo y ancho del planeta, desde el nacimiento de la FAO hasta hoy, han dado y dan todo de sí, incluyendo en algunos casos sus vidas, por hacer del nuestro un mundo mejor.

Cincuenta años de los que debemos estar orgullosos como expertos de la FAO, por todo lo que se ha realizado. En cada una de sus áreas de acción nuestra Organización ha logrado niveles de excelencia. Y eso se ha debido a la dedicación, el esfuerzo, la mística permanentes, puestos de manifiesto por los expertos de la FAO en todas las latitudes, incluyendo por cierto a los funcionarios de la Sede, de las Oficinas Regionales y de las Representaciones en los países, que son la base firme, garantía del conocimiento y la continuidad, sin los cuales no podríamos actuar en el campo con esos niveles de excelencia.

Respondiendo a su convocatoria, señor Director General, he cruzado el Atlántico proveniente de la Amazonia, una región sinónimo de ríos, selvas, de una naturaleza exuberante, sin igual en la Tierra. Una región de la que, sin embargo, hay quienes olvidan que es también, y antes que nada, una región de hombres y mujeres viviendo en una pobreza tan grande como lo es de sorprendente la inmensidad y el potencial de su territorio.

Luchando por un futuro mejor para esos habitantes, y con ellos para promover el desarrollo armónico con respecto al medio ambiente, están los firmantes del Tratado de Cooperación Amazónica: Bolivia, Brasil,

Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Perú, Suriname y Venezuela, los ocho países en los que se extiende la Amazonia.

La FAO está cooperando con la Secretaría Pro Tempore de ese Tratado, en sus esfuerzos en pro del desarrollo sostenible de la Región. Para quien les habla ha sido un grande y noble desafío el estar participando como uno de los actores en ese esfuerzo.

Tenga la seguridad, señor Director General, de que habremos de seguir dando todo de nuestra parte por cumplir con el sagrado compromiso que significa el ser funcionario de la FAO.

Tengo el deber de agradecer a mis compañeros en todos los países amazónicos por el esfuerzo en hacer realidad el objetivo del Tratado, cual es el promover el desarrollo en la Amazonia con respeto al medio ambiente.

Muchas gracias por este premio que, reitero, acepto como un homenaje a todos los hombres y mujeres de nuestra Organización que durante medio siglo y en estos mismos instantes, están ofreciendo lo más precioso de sus vidas por una existencia más justa para sus semejantes.

Finalmente tengo que reconocer la dedicación de tres hombres, los Secretarios Pro Tempore del Tratado de Cooperación Amazónica con los cuales tuve el honor de trabajar en Colombia, Ecuador y Perú. Sus esfuerzos, dedicación, profesionalismo y amistad han sido inigualables.

A mi familia, Marisa, Gabriela y Patricia por su amor y apoyo durante todos estos años tan estimulantes como recompensadores.

De nuevo, gracias.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Now we proceed to the A.H. Boerma Award, which is a biannual award given to a writer or journalist whose writing or production on radio or television is likely to have increased international awareness of the world food problem and measures leading to its solution. It consists of a scroll, a cash prize of US\$10 000 and a round trip to Rome for the winner and the spouse. I invite the Director-General to introduce the winner and to present the A.H. Boerma Award.

27.4 Presentation of A.H. Boerma Award 27.4 Remise du Prix A.H. Boerma 27.4 Entrega del premio A.H. Boerma

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Il y a 20 ans, à sa dix-huitième session, la Conférence a intitulé le prix A.H. Boerma pour rendre hommage à M. Boerma et à son action en tant que Directeur général de la FAO. Le prix est décerné tous les deux ans à un ou plusieurs journalistes dont les travaux sur le développement ont amené le public à prendre conscience d'aspects importants des problèmes alimentaires mondiaux, contribuant ainsi à mobiliser l'opinion en faveur des mesures prises pour les résoudre.

Pour cette neuvième cérémonie, le prix est décerné à deux éminents journalistes: Mme Fawzia El-Moualled, célèbre journaliste de la radio égyptienne, et M. Michael Pickstock, homme de radio et écrivain anglais bien connu, ancien réalisateur de l'émission de la BBC "The Farming World" et fondateur de la "World Radio for Environment and Natural Resources "WREN".

Le prix a été décerné à Mme Fawzia El-Moualled pour son engagement et la remarquable contribution qu'elle apporte depuis 40 ans, que ce soit à la radio ou dans ses oeuvres écrites, aux questions de développement, en

particulier en ce qui concerne les populations rurales. Pendant sa longue carrière à la radiodiffusion égyptienne, elle a présenté quelque 34 000 émissions, entretiens, interviews et reportages radiophoniques consacrés au développement agricole. Elle a publié 15 ouvrages et 70 études sur le rôle des médias dans la promotion de la production agricole et vivrière, la planification familiale, la lutte contre la sécheresse, l'alphabétisation et le développement au niveau des communautés villageoises etc.

Les présidents El Saddat et Mubarak lui ont rendu hommage pour l'excellence de ses travaux. Il me plaît donc de remettre le prix A.H. Boerma à Mme Fawzia El-Moualled.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: I now call upon Ms Fawzia El-Moualled to take the floor.

Ms Fawzia EL-MOUALLED (Original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, Director-General of FAO, Excellencies, Ministers, Heads of Delegations, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, it is indeed a great honour for me to be here at this very pleasant meeting and to receive the Boerma Award, especially as I believe I am the first Arab journalist to receive this honour, which honours my own country which educated me and enabled me to shoulder important responsibilities in information over the last half century. This great honour extends to my country and to all who are working in the mass media. I have been a broadcaster, but before that I received a Diploma from the Faculty of Agriculture in 1950 before joining the Egyptian Radio network. I come from a family with links in agriculture. I concentrated my work on agriculture and development and the services to be rendered to village peoples. I launched a number of information activities which were crowned with success.

By good fortune the beginning of my career coincided with the youth of your organization. They ran parallel. From the very outset I have followed the developments of the organization and I realised the importance of its tasks: everything concerning agriculture: increased production, making food security available to the people, improving agricultural productivity and living conditions. I was therefore convinced that agriculture was the keystone to development. I was also convinced that knowledge was vital for development, so I did my best in my work with the Egyptian Broadcasting Service to increase the awareness of the public and their interest in development issues. I was not just in contact with the Arab world. I was in contact with other African countries, and I can assure you I am extremely grateful to all who have encouraged me throughout my professional career, beginning with my own country, Egypt, which has enabled me to work in this area and devote myself to development. I am grateful to the Ministry of Information of Egypt and I should not forget my own family which has always provided the necessary moral support I needed, especially in view of the difficulties I had to face.

I am also particularly grateful to my colleagues in the Egyptian Radio and Television Networks who have contributed to arousing public opinion and making the public in Arab countries aware of the questions of development.

I am also grateful to FAO and the Director-General Mr Jacques Diouf for having instituted this international award. I am very grateful to the Information Department officers who have always done their best to provide the information I needed and in this way have considerably facilitated my task.

I would also like to express special thanks to all who are working in the Near East office. I have collaborated with them for more than 20 years now. They have always done their best to enhance the lofty image of FAO in our area. At the time of its 50th Anniversary I wish FAO every success and I also wish Dr Jacques Diouf and his staff all the best on this great occasion. Thank you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Ce prix est décerné à M. Michael Pickstock pour avoir consacré toute sa carrière aux problèmes de l'agriculture dans les pays en développement, tant dans ses émissions que dans ses articles, et pour avoir contribué de manière remarquable à sensibiliser et à informer le public.

Pendant plus de 30 ans il a été successivement producteur, rédacteur et collaborateur habituel de l'émission de la BBC "The Farming World", donnant régulièrement des nouvelles de première ligne sur la bataille menée pour accroître la production vivrière grâce à un développement agricole durable. Depuis la fondation de la "World Radio for Environment and Natural Resources (WREN)" en 1986, il a produit du matériel radiophonique pour de nombreuses organisations internationales et non gouvernementales s'occupant d'agriculture et de développement rural. M. Pickstock prépare également un bulletin bimensuel d'informations techniques et scientifiques sur le développement rural et agricole, le bulletin SPORE du Centre technique de coopération agricole et rurale - CTA.

Je voudrais maintenant présenter à M. Pickstock le prix Boerma.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Michael PICKSTOCK: Mr Director-General, Mr Chairman, honourable delegates, ladies and gentlemen, you would expect me to say it is a great honour to receive the Boerma Award from FAO and so it is. But you do not realize I think just how significant this occasion is to me and there is no reason why you should because while this is the 50th Anniversary of FAO, this happens also to be almost to the day the 30th Anniversary of the first occasion when I entered this Plenary Hall to report for the BBC World Service on my first FAO Conference.

During these 30 years I have had the honour to report on and report for FAO during the terms of four of its Directors-General including Dr Boerma, of course, and it was Dr Boerma whose personal interest in and commitment to communication with the public is demonstrated by FAO setting up this particular award to honour a journalist or journalists working in this field.

If I may, Dr Diouf, I would like to share a memory I have of Dr Boerma with you all. They say we are all immortal while we are remembered. It was during a biennial conference such as this that I phoned Dr Boerma's office to request an interview for the BBC World Service. His secretary connected me directly through to Dr Boerma who pointed very quickly that this was a very busy week for him. Before I could express my disappointment, however, he asked "Mr Pickstock, how early do you start work in the morning?" I replied "As early as I have to, Sir". "Then be in my office at seven tomorrow", he said.

When I arrived there was nobody in the corridor; indeed there was nobody in the outer office. There was just Dr Boerma preparing coffee for both of us. We talked, I recorded my interview and within 30 minutes I was on my way to file my report. For a journalist, such accessibility, I do assure you, is greatly appreciated and is remembered. I remember Dr Boerma, as I hope others do, with great respect.

Mr Chairman, the citation from my award mentions WREN, World Radio for Environment and Natural Resources, which we started seven years ago because, although I had come to believe, as many others have, that radio is a priority medium in communicating development to and between rural people, it is very clear that radio is not actually getting and has not got the recognition and support that it needs to deliver its full potential. There is no mistaking the fact that in the majority of countries rural radio is not living up to its potential as a mass medium for information and, dare I say, motivation of the populus at large. WREN attempts to address, as far as it is in its capacity to do so, some of the deficiencies that prevent rural broadcasters from achieving what they could and should achieve. Lack of training is a major deficiency and

when we undertake training we focus on how to make programmes more attractive to listeners as well as more informative. Also, we have been able to offer policy-makers advice on how to provide the environment and resources that broadcasters so badly need in order for them to function effectively.

Mr Chairman, in physical terms this award comprises this beautifully handcrafted scroll, which will be a lasting reminder of this occasion, and also a very generous cash sum. This too will become a lasting reflection of Dr Boerma's and FAO's commitment to communication. Increasingly at WREN we are networking with national correspondence in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean, and this will allow us to upgrade our studio facilities at WREN in order to improve our networking and recording capacity. The Boerma Award this year is presented to two of us in recognition of our activities in the field of communication. In my own case, I cannot claim all the credit for whatever may have been achieved. I owe a great deal to the highly motivated and talented people who comprise our small team at WREN.

One of them happens to be my wife and I owe her a great deal also to make up for all of my many absences over these years. Finally, Mr Chairman, I would like to acknowledge and thank all the organizations and governments, and the people in those organizations and governments who over the years have provided me and my team with the privilege and opportunity to visit and work with so many projects in so many countries. I do hope that all of these people can share this proud moment with me.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr Pickstock. Is there anybody who wants to take the floor?

27.5 Presentation of Edouard Saouma Award

27.5 Remise du Prix Edouard Saouma

27.5 Entrega del premio Edouard Saouma

We proceed to item 27.5, which is the presentation of the Edouard Saouma Award 1994-95. The Edouard Saouma Award was instituted in 1993 and is to be given every biennium to an institution which has implemented with particular efficiency a project funded by the Technical Cooperation Programme and consists of a medal inscribed with the name of the recipient institution and a cash prize in the amount of US\$25 000. I invite the Director-General to introduce the co-winners and to present the Edouard Saouma Award.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: The Edouard Saouma Award was established by the Conference at its Twenty-seventh Session as a permanent feature to honour my predecessor, Mr Edouard Saouma. It is to be awarded to a national or regional institution that has implemented a Technical Cooperation Programme project with particular efficiency and demonstrated the outstanding results that can be achieved with very little means.

As you know, the TCP is a valuable instrument for implementing FAO's practical work in the service of its member countries. The Programme was created to fill critical gaps in technical fields, and to solve urgent and unforeseen problems in the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors.

Of the many nominations received for the Award from all regions and all sectors, a shortlist of the three nominations was drawn up. After considerable discussion and deliberation, the Selection Committee decided that the achievements of each of the three national institutions on the short list were equally remarkable and that it would be unfair to give preference to any one of them, not only because their achievements were in completely diverse fields, all of which were FAO priorities, but also because each had succeeded as a result of the enthusiasm, motivation and commitment of all concerned.

Accordingly, we have invited one representative from each of the national institutions. These representatives have been the driving force behind their respective TCP projects. We are, however, aware that the three

outstanding individuals whom we have the honour and pleasure to welcome today represent larger teams in their home countries.

Dr Gerding from the Chilean Instituto de Investigaciones Agropecuarias (INIA) succeeded in convincing his Government that the threat of the Russian Wheat Aphid (RWA) could best be removed by means of a biological control programme. As a result of timely action and cooperation with Washington State University, it was possible, with a small TCP project, to avoid damage to the Chilean wheat crop estimated at the time at US\$100 million per year. This achievement was made possible only by the ability of INIA to communicate with researchers, extensionists, non-governmental agencies and farmers, and to develop a cooperative effort to control this major threat. As a by-product of this success, biological control activities were extended to other pests in Chile. I believe this project is a fine example of what can be achieved with the Technical Cooperation Programme.

CHAIRMAN: I give the floor to Dr Marco Gerding from the Instituto de Investigaciones Agropecuarias of Chile.

Marcos GERDING P. (Chile): Señor Director General de la FAO, señor Presidente de la Conferencia, señores delegados, señoras y señores, en nombre de las autoridades del Instituto de Investigaciones Agropecuarias INIA-Chile, de mi colega y coinvestigador Hernán Norambuena, del equipo de trabajo de entomología y en el mío propio, deseo agradecer a la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación se distinga a nuestra Institución con el Premio Edouard Saouma, en reconocimiento al Proyecto de "Control Biológico del Pulgón Ruso del Trigo" ejecutado en Chile durante los años 1991/1992. En una ocasión tan especial como ésta, deseo hacer una mención especial a los funcionarios de la Oficina Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe, por su excelente disposición a colaborar en el desarrollo del proyecto.

Los orígenes del Proyecto se remontan a fines de 1989, cuando se detectó la plaga denominada "Pulgón ruso del trigo" (*Diuraphis noxia*). Los antecedentes internacionales de esta plaga pronosticaban un grave problema para la agricultura chilena y del cono sur de América Latina, pues el trigo es la principal fuente alimenticia de la población.

En base a los antecedentes obtenidos en el programa de control biológico de los pulgones del trigo que fue exitosamente realizado por INIA y FAO en 1977, se elaboró un proyecto de Control Biológico del pulgón ruso. De esta forma, en lugar de optar por una solución fácil y aparentemente efectiva, como es el uso de insecticidas, se eligió un método más seguro, permanente y amistoso con el medioambiente, como es el uso de enemigos naturales ya adaptados a nuestro agroecosistema para lograr un equilibrio natural.

La ejecución del proyecto de Control Biológico ha permitido mantener al pulgón ruso a niveles suficientemente bajos, como para no causar daño en las sementeras ni a otros enemigos naturales, que por más de 25 años han mantenido el control de otros insectos del trigo. Con esto se ha reducido el uso de agroquímicos en forma significativa y se han ahorrado más de 15 millones de dólares anuales en la adquisición y aplicación de los mismos.

La experiencia adquirida permitió realizar un taller internacional denominado "Control Biológico del Pulgón Ruso" en que participaron países del cono sur americano como Argentina, Brasil, Bolivia y Uruguay. Estos países no contaban en esa fecha con la presencia de la plaga, y sus condiciones climáticas hacían prever una futura colonización del pulgón, como realmente ocurrió en Argentina en 1992. Además, se reforzó la relación entre los investigadores de los países del cono sur, al establecer relaciones de intercambio del conocimiento obtenido sobre enemigos naturales, para ésta y otras plagas.

Como consecuencia de estas experiencias positivas, Chile ha podido continuar con proyectos de control biológico del Bruco de la arveja, polilla del brote del pino, polilla del tomate, de babosas, de malezas perennes, etc.

Es importante destacar que la investigación realizada en los Institutos Nacionales de Investigación de los países de América Latina, ha permitido reaccionar rápidamente ante situaciones como ésta, en que la

presencia de una plaga de importancia mundial es enfrentada con prontitud gracias a los contactos internacionales, con proyectos multidisciplinarios, preocupados por la contaminación y que tienden a reforzar la sustentabilidad de los recursos.

Finalmente, quiero decir que con mucho agrado recibo esta distinción que se le otorga al Instituto de Investigaciones Agropecuarias de Chile, y que constituye un reconocimiento para el equipo humano que trabajó en el proyecto, en los Centros Regionales de Investigación ubicados en Chillán y Temuco. Pero más que eso, creo que es un homenaje a los investigadores agrícolas de todo el mundo que, con una profunda vocación de servicio hacia la humanidad, buscan mejores opciones para enfrentar la alimentación mundial en el siglo XXI.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** Mr Muemba, Deputy-Director of Agriculture from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing in Kenya has been invited to represent the many national institutions involved in the reintroduction of Asian Vegetables in Kenya, which has not only created income opportunities for many indigenous farmers, but has also laid the foundations of a thriving export sector. TCP assistance was requested to demonstrate the technologies for successful cultivation of crops such as Bottle Gourd, Ridge Gourd, and Okra. But the project's achievement was conditioned by the ability of the Kenyan institutions to use the momentum created to involve researchers, extensionists, farmers, housewives and school children in the production and promotion of these crops. As a result of this project, Kenyan farmers have discovered a remunerative activity which has greatly contributed to improving their standard of living.

**Philip MUEMBA:** FAO, Director-General, Honourable Government Ministers present here today, honourable guests, ladies and gentlemen. It is with much pleasure that I accept this great honour on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing of the Government of Kenya.

Asian or Oriental type of vegetables for those who may not know what they are, include such crops namely in Southeast Asia, like bitter gourd, commonly called Karelia, ridged gourd, commonly called Turia, bottle gourd, commonly called Dudhi, eggplant, okra, drumstick, commonly called Saragwa, ivy gourd commonly called Tindori, just to mention a few. These are mainly consumed by the populations in the Asian subcontinent, and have become more and more popular in Europe in the recent years.

These crops were introduced to Kenya by Asian migrants in the early part of this century and the local people started growing them in the 1970s.

However, indigenous Kenyan farmers who were not very familiar with these crops and were trying to take over the production of these new crops, aimed at the lucrative export market in Europe.

Production was low and of a poor quality before the project due to lack of skills on these crops, poor husbandry, low quality seeds, pest and disease infestations.

These crops are grown in the arid and semi-arid zones of Kenya and the farmers were not treating them as food, but only growing them for export. Any non-exportable surpluses and grain products were not consumed by families but were fed to livestock or just thrown away, although the families in these dry areas may not have sufficient food.

The project was addressed to solving those problems to reverse the situation and at the end of the project the farmers were trained on the cultivation technology for these crops through demonstrations and field days. Reference collection and maintenance were established for the various species and varieties. A programme for Pest Management and Control that reduced the use of pesticides on the major crops was designed. Extension staff and farmers, especially housewives and school children were trained on the nutritional advantages of these crops and taught how to cook dishes that incorporate these crops and local foods. This led to many

farmers starting to consume these crops and treat them as food, and not just grow them for export. Several technical handbooks on their production and field demonstration and cooking guidelines were produced and are now used as training material for extension staff and farmers. As a result of this project through the support of the technical expert assigned by FAO, Mr Pandey, the officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Development, my colleagues and the officers of the National Horticultural Research Centre, were glad to have realized the expected outputs of the project.

Kenyans now view these crops as their food and not just for export.

We are also thankful for the invaluable assistance of FAO, especially the Kenya Country FAO Representative, Mr Norton, who worked at the base and in the field to look at these programmes and whose assistance we highly value.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Professor Chakravarty, of the All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, whose personal drive has without doubt been the key factor in the successful introduction of food control standards for street foods in Calcutta, has come to represent also the other institutions without whom very little could have been achieved: the Calcutta police, the municipality and the Community Services Organization, and above all the street food vendors themselves. With the methodologies introduced by the TCP project, the All-India Institute not only assessed the degree of contamination of street food, but initiated public media campaigns and training sessions to create public awareness and to train street food vendors in improved food preservation techniques and technologies. The project improved not only the quality of street food but also the income of street food vendors. Its outstanding success has led other cities in India to take similar initiatives.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Dr Indira CHAKRAVARTY (India): Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen. I accept this great honour on behalf of my organization the Institute of Hygiene and Public Health of the Government of India which is located in the city of Calcutta with the greatest pride and humility. We are a medium institution in India responsible for training in public health for all categories of in-service professionals for conducting various research programmes related to public health and also for implementing different public health-related programmes on behalf of the Government.

Street food, as we all know, are not only a source of nutrition but also provide work and income to millions of people throughout the world. The impact on agricultural production of street foods is also tremendous. The population living within the area of the Calcutta Municipal Corporation is about 4 million but the greater Calcutta covers about 10 million of the population. The number of vending stores is about 100 000 with over 260 000 people being employed in these various stores. The number of consumers who eat from street food stores every day is about 6.5 million people in Calcutta.

Mr Director-General the TCP project that has been conducted in Calcutta was initially conceived to assess and evaluate the existing street food situation in the city, but as time went by it slowly became by process a movement even before we realized it. We mobilized all resources not only for us to comprehend the distinct situation but also to initiate a programme of action that would improve the quality, safety and nutritional aspects of street foods without enhancing the costs, but most important was to improve the rural life style in the city of Calcutta. We developed a close interaction with the Calcutta Municipal Corporation and the Calcutta police that was coordinated with the head of the Chief Secretary of the State who is the Chief of Administration. We worked together to plan how the existing street food quality could be improved. The



project had a strange totality effect of bringing the very top the bureaucrats, the policy leaders, the political leaders and the grass root level vendors, vendor unions and consumers in close contact with each other. The street food vendors were very important in the whole process and were extremely responsive and supportive. The political leaders lent us their essential backing and consumers helped us with their participation and ideas. It was very exciting for us because it went much beyond our initially conceived regimented ideas. As an increasing support of all concerned the definite strategies could be established by the State administration for the improvement of the street foods in the city.

Mr Director-General I would like to record my deepest appreciation to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and in particular to the Food and Nutrition Division and office of Food Preservation in India for giving us all the necessary technical and administrative assistance for undertaking the project and of course to my government for entrusting this responsibility to me. This has been a unique experience for both myself as a National Project Director and my institution and I will always remember how wonderful it is to have worked with FAO.

From here onwards we do pledge to continue the efforts that have been initiated with the support of FAO of the United Nations for improving the street food quality and the life style of the people of Calcutta.

The Government of India has already recognized the importance of this project and the Director-General of Health Services to the Government of India and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has already formed a national committee on street foods to see how this unique experience in the city of Calcutta can be replicated in other cities of the country which have similar problems. We continue sincerely to plead close cooperation with FAO of the United Nations to carry on these efforts at a national level.

We would indeed feel deeply privileged and honoured Sir if you, Mr Director-General, could please visit us in Calcutta and see for yourself what is being met by the project. This is our most humble and most honest request to you Sir.

Thank you for your attention.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Thank you Mrs Chakravarty. We proceed then to Item 23 which is the applications for membership and the counting of the votes on applications for memberships has ended and I shall ask the Secretary General to read the results.

APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)

NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS (suite)

NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)

23. Applications for Membership in the Organization (continued)

23. Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation (suite)

23. Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización (continuación)

SECRETARY GENERAL: I now wish to declare the results of the vote:

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP ADMISSION DE MEMBRES ADMISION DE MIEMBROS
---	----------	---

1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	131
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	1
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	2

4. Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	126
5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	2
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	128

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	86
------------------------------------	----

### TURKMENISTAN

having obtained the required majority, is admitted to Membership.

ayant obtenu la majorité, est admis Membre.

habiendo obtenido la mayoría, es admitido Miembro.

#### Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escurtadores

Signature    Mr M.D. MADIGAN (AUSTRALIA)  
Firma        .....

Signature    Mr R. MACKAY (SOUTH AFRICA)  
Firma        .....

20.10.95  
.....  
Date  
Fecha

Mr B. Linley, GIC  
.....  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP ADMISSION DE MEMBRES ADMISION DE MIEMBROS
---	----------	---

1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	131
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	3
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	2

4. Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	125
5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	1
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	126

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	84
------------------------------------	----

### TAJKISTAN

having obtained the required majority, is admitted to Membership.

ayant obtenu la majorité, est admis Membre.

habiendo obtenido la mayoría, es admitido Miembro.

#### Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature      Mr M.D. MADIGAN (AUSTRALIA)  
Firma            .....

Signature      Mr R. MACKAY (SOUTH AFRICA)  
Firma            .....

20.10.95

.....  
Date  
Fecha

Mr B. Linley, GIC

.....  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP ADMISSION DE MEMBRES ADMISION DE MIEMBROS
---	----------	---

1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	131
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	2
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	2

4. Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	125
5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	2
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	127

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	85
------------------------------------	----

### MOLDOVA

having obtained the required majority, is admitted to Membership.

ayant obtenu la majorité, est admis Membre.

habiendo obtenido la mayoría, es admitido Miembro.

#### Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature      Mr M.D. MADIGAN (AUSTRALIA)  
Firma            .....

Signature      Mr R. MACKAY (SOUTH AFRICA)  
Firma            .....

20.10.95

.....  
Date  
Fecha

Mr B. Linley, GIC

.....  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP ADMISSION DE MEMBRES ADMISION DE MIEMBROS
---	----------	---

1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	131
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	2
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	3

4. Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	124
5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	2
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	126

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	84
------------------------------------	----

### GEORGIA

having obtained the required majority, is admitted to Membership.

ayant obtenu la majorité, est admis Membre.

habiendo obtenido la mayoría, es admitido Miembro.

#### Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature      Mr M.D. MADIGAN (AUSTRALIA)  
Firma            .....

Signature      Mr R. MACKAY (SOUTH AFRICA)  
Firma            .....

20.10.95  
.....  
Date  
Fecha

Mr B. Linley, GIC  
.....  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP ADMISSION DE MEMBRES ADMISION DE MIEMBROS
---	----------	---

1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	131
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	1
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1

4. Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	128
5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	1
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	129

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	86
------------------------------------	----

### AZERBAIJAN

having obtained the required majority, is admitted to Membership.

ayant obtenu la majorité, est admis Membre.

habiendo obtenido la mayoría, es admitido Miembro.

#### Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escurtadores

Signature      Mr M.D. MADIGAN (AUSTRALIA)  
Firma            .....

Signature      Mr R. MACKAY (SOUTH AFRICA)  
Firma            .....

20.10.95

.....  
Date  
Fecha

Mr B. Linley, GIC

.....  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

CHAIRMAN: May I ask the new Members to come forward.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplauso

It is an honour for me to extend a warm welcome to these new Members as they enter the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Monsieur le Président, je voudrais à mon tour souhaiter la bienvenue aux cinq nouveaux pays membres et les féliciter très chaleureusement. Je suis certain que leur appartenance, maintenant, à la famille de la FAO non seulement apportera du bien à leur population mais aussi fortifiera l'Organisation.

CHAIRMAN: I will now give the floor to the representative of Georgia.

Bakur D. GULUA (Georgia): Director-General, Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, it is a great honour for our delegation to participate in the Conference when one more important decision aimed at the survival and revival of our country has been taken.

On behalf of the Head of State and the President of the Parliament Mr Shevardnadze and all the Georgian people, I would like to express gratitude for your thoughtfulness and effective support to our country.

It is my pleasure to assure you that these efforts directed at the democratic development of Georgia will not be in vain. The Georgian people will greatly appreciate today's decision, as the future of our country is dependent upon agriculture and on the agro-industry in general.

We hope that, despite the great material and moral losses caused by war in Georgia, FAO, by taking this decision, will gain a qualified partner which will be able to utilize completely its own potential and in the near future be a donor country and, with its long-standing agricultural traditions, will share the interests of FAO.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Thank you for your attention.

Valérie BULGARI (Moldova): Director-General, Chairman, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, with your approval today, the Republic of Moldova has taken a further step along the road to international recognition.

Participation in FAO activities and closer contacts with all countries of the world will provide us with the possibility of finding solutions to the agricultural problems being faced by all the economies in transition. With your support, we hope to receive more information about world markets and to contribute to cooperation with different states in the sphere of agriculture.

Agriculture is the dominant sector of our economy and the future of our country is dependent upon agriculture and on agro-industry in general. Moldova is prepared to make every effort not only to supply high quality products but also to contribute comprehensively to a global solution of the food problems. I believe that, with the support of FAO Member States, the Republic of Moldova will overcome all difficulties and in the future it will become an equal and reliable partner.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: This concludes Item 23 of the Agenda which brings our Organization's membership up to 174 Member Nations, one Member Organization and one associate member.

We will have the traditional flag raising ceremony at the site of this building, where the flags of all Member Nations are flown, tomorrow at 9 o'clock. The meeting is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 17.30 hours.

La séance est levée à 17 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.30 horas.



21 October 1995



منظمة الاغذية  
والزراعة  
للالام المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

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

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

# CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Twenty-eighth Session • Vingt-huitième session • 28° período de sesiones

**THIRD PLENARY MEETING  
TROISIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
TERCERA SESION PLENARIA**

**21 October 1995**

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours

Mr Costas Petrides,

Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 heures

sous la présidence de M. Costas Petrides,

Président de la Conférence

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 10.00 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Costas Petrides,

Presidente de la Conferencia

CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I welcome you to the third Plenary meeting. I call the meeting to order and give the floor to the Director-General.

IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORIAM

His Excellency Khalid Abdul Moneem Rasheed, Minister for Agriculture, Iraq Son Excellence Khalid Abdul Moneem Rasheed, Ministre de l'Agriculture de l'Iraq Su Excelencia Khalid Abdul Moneem Rasheed, Ministro de Agricultura de Iraq

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Mr Chairman, honourable Ministers, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, it is with deep regret and sadness that I announce the death in Rome yesterday of His Excellency Khalid Abdul Moneem Rasheed, the Minister for Agriculture of Iraq.

His Excellency Rasheed was heading the delegation of his country to this Conference and participated with us in the opening ceremony yesterday morning. I understand that he was to deliver a statement on the state of food and agriculture in his country.

His Excellency Rasheed was born in 1936 and held a Master's degree in civil engineering. He was a consultant in the Office of the President prior to his appointment in April 1995 as Minister for Agriculture.

I am sure that all delegates will join with me in extending our condolences to the Government of Iraq and in expressing our deep sympathies to the late Minister's family.

I will ask, on your behalf and on behalf of FAO, His Excellency Kutaiba Hassan, Minister Plenipotentiary to FAO, to convey these messages to the Government of Iraq.

May I now ask you to join me in observing one minute's silence in memory of His Excellency Khalid Abdul Moneem Rasheed.

One minute's silence Une minute de silence Un minuto de silencio

CHAIRMAN: The Director-General will now deliver his statement to the Conference.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S STATEMENT TO THE CONFERENCE

DECLARATION DU DIRECTEUR GENERAL A LA CONFERENCE

DECLARACION DEL DIRECTOR GENERAL A LA CONFERENCIA

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL:

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

Il y a quelques jours à peine, dans la charmante ville riveraine du Saint-Laurent, en ce château Frontenac dont la majesté défie le temps, nous replongions dans l'histoire pour retrouver nos racines et notre dimension en profondeur.

Le 16 octobre, date de naissance de notre Organisation et journée mondiale de l'alimentation, nous nous élevions aux cimes de l'idéal philosophique de nos pères fondateurs pour atteindre notre dimension en hauteur.

Aujourd'hui, nous devons retomber sur terre pour affronter la dure réalité de nos programmes et de nos moyens.

Aussi, ne reviendrai-je point sur la problématique de la FAO, son évolution et ses perspectives qui figurent largement dans mon allocution du Cinquantième Anniversaire. Je vous parlerai très prosaïquement d'un horizon temporel plus modeste de quatre années couvrant les exercices 1994/95 et 1996/97.

La ving-huitième Conférence de la FAO se tient à un moment crucial de son existence.

Les cérémonies du cinquantième anniversaire ont connu un succès certain grâce à l'accueil inoubliable et à l'hospitalité généreuse du Gouvernement du Canada, de la Province du Québec et de la ville de Québec. Au cours de la semaine dernière la réunion ministérielle préparatoire au Sommet mondial de l'alimentation a approuvé la "Déclaration de Québec" qui réaffirme le droit fondamental à la nourriture et l'importance vitale d'une gestion durable des ressources végétales, animales, forestières et halieutiques. Enfin, le Séminaire "L'humain au coeur du développement" a montré l'unité de vues des organisations non gouvernementales, du milieu académique et du secteur privé sur la nécessité d'une lutte acharnée pour éradiquer la faim du monde.

Autant d'événements qui augurent heureusement d'un retour aux sources d'une adhésion à la foi et à l'espérance qui ont conduit de grands visionnaires au lendemain de la plus grande entreprise de destruction de l'espèce humaine à faire le pari de la vie, à prendre collectivement l'engagement d'assurer "du pain pour tous".

Hélas, ces temps derniers ont vu aussi la résurgence de l'isolationnisme et la propension au repli sur soi, l'exacerbation des critiques aux institutions des Nations Unies et de Bretton Woods, la remise en cause des principes de l'universalisme et une baisse des engagements en faveur de l'aide au développement.

Autant de signes avant-coureurs d'un retour aux démons de l'égoïsme et de l'exclusion, d'un penchant grandissant pour la primauté des rapports de force dans les relations internationales et dans les sociétés nationales.

Le crépuscule du XX<sup>e</sup> siècle annonce donc la nuit de l'angoisse dans un monde jadis bipolaire et aujourd'hui éclaté, où les antagonismes d'antan remontent des profondeurs de l'intolérance. Et, à l'aube du XXI<sup>e</sup> siècle, le jour risque de se lever sur un monde dangereux et sans pitié.

Pour l'Humanité, les dangers, par-delà les conflits ethno-religieux et les guerres localisées, se profilent à l'horizon de l'insidieuse inclination au "laisser-faire, laisser-aller", ils s'abreuvent dans la croyance religieuse et même dogmatique aux vertus universelles et holistiques du marché comme solution exclusive aux problèmes nationaux et internationaux.

Si la chute du mur de Berlin a sonné le glas de l'étatisation et de la collectivisation comme réponses efficaces à la question économique, si la bureaucratie et le gaspillage ont terni l'image de beaucoup d'institutions publiques et si nul ne saurait envisager un retour aux errements d'autres temps, on est obligé de constater aussi que les règles de la concurrence sont loin d'avoir éradiqué les fléaux de la pauvreté et de la faim, du chômage et de l'exclusion; qu'elles n'ont pas empêché la surexploitation de nos ressources naturelles et la dégradation progressive de notre environnement.

Des valeurs sociales et morales doivent donc compléter les mécanismes de l'accumulation financière afin qu'au sein des pays et entre les nations s'instaurent des rapports fondés sur le sens de la fraternité et de l'appartenance à un même "village planétaire". Ce sont ces valeurs qui constituent le socle de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture et de sa devise "Fiat Panis".

Pour notre Organisation, les dangers se manifestent par des vellétés de réduction des ressources déjà insuffisantes mises à sa disposition. Alors que l'acceptation du principe d'un budget à croissance réelle nulle

constituait déjà un recul au regard de besoins grandissants, il y a maintenant des tentatives pour descendre vers un budget à croissance réelle, voire nominale, négative.

Si l'on ne peut ignorer les difficultés financières effectives de certains Etats Membres et le souci de faire des économies pour réduire des déséquilibres budgétaires nationaux, on doit aussi savoir raison garder et avoir le sens de la mesure. Il y a en effet une masse critique financière minimum nécessaire lorsque l'on doit mettre en oeuvre des programmes pour 176 membres, assurer le droit humain fondamental à la nourriture, organiser la gestion durable des ressources végétales, animales, forestières et halieutiques mondiales ainsi que de leur environnement édaphique et hydrique.

On ne peut faire des coupes drastiques immédiates dans les ressources de notre Organisation sans mettre en péril les efforts méthodiques et systématiques engagés depuis le Conseil de juin 1994 pour alléger les structures et les procédures, décentraliser les moyens au niveau des utilisateurs, innover dans les modes d'intervention, recentrer et intégrer les actions sur les domaines prioritaires.

Ainsi dans le secteur de la gestion:

- les postes des catégories supérieures du personnel sont réduits au profit de ceux des niveaux plus bas. Les postes d'Assistants aux Sous-Directeurs généraux et aux Directeurs sont supprimés;
- les agents de programme internationaux sont remplacés par des homologues nationaux;
- le personnel des services généraux est réduit grâce à un recours plus grand aux outils de la bureautique;
- les experts transférés dans les bureaux régionaux et sous-régionaux disposent de personnel administratif de qualité et moins coûteux;
- la consolidation des directions sectorielles chargées des opérations et le regroupement des agents administratifs éparpillés dans les directions centrales, entraînent une réduction du personnel;
- la mise en oeuvre des programmes de coopération technique entre pays en voie de développement et pays en transition aboutit à un partage des coûts de l'assistance technique;
- l'utilisation de retraités, d'universitaires et de chercheurs en année sabbatique défavorise l'appel à des consultants onéreux.

Au total, les effectifs de l'Organisation, toutes sources de financement et lieux d'affectation confondus, sont réduits de 158 postes par rapport au 1er janvier 1994. Ces mesures qui procèdent d'une longue et profonde analyse de gestion et de changements importants dans le modus operandi de l'Organisation vont être amplifiées au cours de l'exercice prochain et feront économiser à l'Organisation 43 millions de dollars.

Le contrôle de l'utilisation des ressources a été renforcé. Le premier audit global de l'ensemble des bureaux extérieurs de l'Organisation, à l'exception de ceux situés dans des pays en crise, a été effectué en juin et juillet 1994 et a abouti à la production de 60 rapports sur une période de cinq semaines. Cet exercice inédit a retenu l'attention du "Journal International de l'Audit Gouvernemental" et a conduit la revue "L'Auditeur Interne" à écrire qu'il s'agissait du "projet d'audit interne le plus complet jamais réalisé dans le système des Nations Unies".

En outre, des dispositions ont été prises pour que la gestion financière des bureaux extérieurs fasse dorénavant l'objet d'un contrôle mensuel par des sociétés privées spécialisées, permettant à l'Auditeur interne de la FAO de se concentrer sur le siège et les bureaux régionaux.

Enfin, le système de double signature sur les comptes de l'Organisation est maintenant étendu aux projets de terrain, aux bureaux régionaux et sous-régionaux ainsi qu'aux bureaux de représentation et de liaison.

Au niveau de la décentralisation:

Les bureaux régionaux ont été renforcés par l'affectation d'un nombre important d'experts. Cependant, ce mouvement a été ralenti dans certaines régions à cause des retards résultant des travaux et problèmes d'aménagement des locaux d'accueil fournis par les autorités nationales.

Quatre sièges des bureaux sous-régionaux sur cinq ont été identifiés. Deux accords de siège ont été signés. Les deux autres sont en cours de finalisation.

Des mesures appropriées seront prises pour la solution du problème sensible du bureau sous-régional du groupe du Proche-Orient qui était prévu en Afrique du Nord.

Dans l'ensemble, 106 postes supplémentaires ont été transférés au cadre organique des bureaux régionaux, sous-régionaux et de liaison. Parmi ces postes, 86 sont transférés du siège ou des anciennes divisions conjointes. Trente et un experts ont déjà rejoint leur affectation, les autres devraient suivre dans les meilleurs délais.

Les agents internationaux de programme ont été redéployés dans des postes correspondant à leur profil; quelques-uns n'ont pas encore trouvé d'affectation appropriée. La sélection des agents nationaux de programme est pratiquement terminée. Le document cadre pour l'utilisation d'agents/correspondants nationaux fait, en ce moment, l'objet de consultations internes.

Au niveau des nouveaux programmes:

Il s'agit de relancer la coopération avec les partenaires extérieurs et renforcer le recours aux compétences nationales.

L'accord relatif à l'utilisation d'experts pour la coopération technique entre pays en développement a été signé par 75 gouvernements et les candidatures de 37 000 experts ont été présentées. L'accord similaire pour la coopération technique entre pays en transition a été signé par 6 gouvernements et 122 experts ont été proposés. Jusqu'à présent, 14 missions ont été organisées dans le cadre de ces accords mais beaucoup d'autres sont en préparation et le niveau d'utilisation de ces experts devrait fortement s'accélérer au cours de 1996.

L'accord de coopération avec les institutions académiques et de recherche a été signé par neuf pays membres de l'OCDE. Quatre personnalités scientifiques ont déjà été détachées auprès de l'Organisation dans le cadre de ces accords.

Enfin, 38 pays ont signé des accords visant à promouvoir le programme d'utilisation des experts retraités. Un nombre important de retraités ont ainsi fait savoir qu'ils étaient prêts à continuer d'oeuvrer au service du développement et près de 70 d'entre eux ont déjà été utilisés.

Au cours du prochain biennium, le programme d'utilisation de jeunes professionnels des pays en développement, qui est en cours d'élaboration, sera mis en oeuvre.

Ces changements dans l'Organisation, conduits simultanément avec la mise en oeuvre des programmes, ont exigé un effort exceptionnel des agents pour mener de front les transformations et leur travail normal. Je voudrais ici et solennellement les remercier pour leur abnégation, leur compétence ainsi que leur foi dans l'Organisation et ses objectifs.

Les programmes ont cependant souffert des restrictions budgétaires dictées par la situation de trésorerie de la FAO.

C'est ainsi que les activités de formation prévues pour 1994-1995 ont été réduites de 17 pour cent et les publications de 6 pour cent comme indiqué dans le Rapport d'exécution du Programme. En outre, certaines activités spécifiques ont dû être reportées à plus tard ou même annulées. Je citerai, à titre d'exemple, la collecte d'informations sur la production d'engrais et leur prix et l'expérimentation d'un nouveau cadre d'intervention dans le domaine des activités après récolte. Les manuels de formation pour la lutte contre la trypanosomiase n'ont pu être publiés. Les travaux que nous devons exécuter avec l'OMS sur les zoonoses ont

dû être éliminés. La mise en oeuvre du programme de conservation et de réhabilitation des terres africaines a été fortement ralentie. Des publications aussi importantes que "Perspectives de l'alimentation" et "Cultures et pénuries alimentaires", qui étaient mensuelles ne sont plus produites que tous les deux mois. Nous avons également dû réduire la fréquence de publication d'autres annuaires statistiques. Les travaux d'évaluation des ressources halieutiques dans les Caraïbes ont été suspendus. Enfin, dans le secteur des forêts, les travaux de mise à jour de l'évaluation des ressources forestières 1990 ont dû être retardés.

Quoi qu'il en soit, les réalisations pour ce biennium ont été substantielles et je voudrais vous en donner un bref aperçu en commençant par le Programme spécial pour la production alimentaire à l'appui de la sécurité alimentaire dans les pays à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier.

Après un important travail de conception effectué avec l'appui d'éminents experts, le Programme spécial fut lancé en octobre 1994. A ce jour, il est opérationnel dans 15 Etats Membres.

Dans l'ensemble de ces pays, les activités préparatoires au démarrage des opérations de terrain ont été réalisées. Ce qui veut dire que des missions exploratoires ont été menées, les activités à entreprendre ont été définies, des mécanismes nationaux de suivi et de contrôle du programme ont été mis en place, des équipes nationales de formulation du programme ont été constituées et des programmes nationaux et des plans d'opération ont été élaborés.

Les activités de terrain ont été mises en route afin de profiter des saisons agricoles dans la plupart des pays. Ainsi, au Kenya et en Chine le programme national est entré dans sa deuxième campagne agricole tandis que dans sept autres pays d'Afrique les activités de première campagne sont en cours. Enfin, en Zambie, Tanzanie, Haïti, Bolivie, Papouasie-Nouvelle-Guinée et au Népal, les activités de première campagne vont débiter incessamment. Par ailleurs, dans tous les pays concernés, une composante irrigation à faible coût est en cours ou à l'étude.

Je voudrais également ajouter que, pour toutes les activités liées au Programme spécial, la communauté des donateurs a été informée soit à travers des réunions spécifiques à Rome, soit par le biais de réunions périodiques dans les pays participants.

La préparation du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation a mobilisé les différentes composantes de l'Organisation sous la coordination d'un petit secrétariat constitué à partir de ressources humaines détachées. D'ores et déjà, trois documents techniques de base ont été diffusés sous une forme provisoire et les 12 autres le seront d'ici la fin de l'année ou au début de 1996. La moitié d'entre eux sont préparés en collaboration avec d'autres institutions. La structure et le contenu du document de politique générale et du plan d'action qui seront soumis au Sommet ont été examinés par le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire et le Conseil. Un Comité directeur et plusieurs sous-comités ont été mis en place pour assurer la mise en oeuvre de toutes les activités préparatoires indispensables: mobilisation des ressources, activités promotionnelles auprès des gouvernements, des ONG, du secteur privé et des médias, aspects logistiques et opérationnels, etc. Enfin, la réunion ministérielle de Québec, préparatoire au Sommet, a eu lieu avec le succès que l'on sait.

Au niveau du Département économique et social, outre les activités régulières relatives à l'ajustement agricole international et à la publication du rapport annuel sur la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, je signalerai la publication sous forme d'ouvrage d'une mise à jour de l'étude "Agriculture: Horizon 2010", l'appui fourni à 80 Etats Membres dans le suivi de la Conférence mondiale sur la nutrition, l'établissement de liens de coopération avec la nouvelle Organisation mondiale du Commerce, notamment dans le domaine des normes pour les produits alimentaires et l'étude de l'impact de l'Uruguay Round sur le secteur agricole ainsi que la revue du fonctionnement des groupes intergouvernementaux sur les produits.

Le Système mondial d'information et d'alerte rapide sur l'alimentation et l'agriculture a élargi sa couverture géographique et a amélioré ses méthodes de travail et de diffusion des données. Il constitue aujourd'hui l'une des pierres angulaires des activités de la FAO. A ce sujet, j'attire votre attention sur les dernières prévisions de ce système qui vous sont communiquées dans les documents mis à votre disposition. En effet, les perspectives de l'offre et de la demande mondiale de céréales pour 1995-96 se sont encore aggravées. La production céréalière mondiale de 1995 sera de 3 pour cent inférieure à celle de l'an dernier. Pour la troisième année consécutive, la production sera donc inférieure aux besoins. Les prix montent et la marge de

sécurité que représentaient les stocks de report a pratiquement disparu. Pour satisfaire les besoins en 1996-97, il faudra que la production céréalière mondiale augmente d'au moins 5 pour cent en 1996.

Je signalerai ici aussi les progrès réalisés dans la mise en oeuvre du Centre mondial d'information agricole qui doit incorporer les données statistiques et textuelles de l'ensemble de l'Organisation. La composante FAOSTAT est opérationnelle. Les données sont accessibles aux utilisateurs externes sur disquette ou à travers Internet ou même en ligne. Plusieurs bases de données ont été introduites dans la composante FAOINFO telles que les normes du Codex Alimentarius qui sont disponibles sur disques optiques numériques.

La réorganisation en profondeur a touché les activités à caractère horizontal qui sont maintenant rassemblées au sein du Département du développement durable. Cependant, la mise en oeuvre a été poursuivie pour les principaux programmes dans les domaines de la télédétection, du système global d'information géographique et de l'agro-météorologie, en particulier pour la surveillance des précipitations et des conditions agro-climatiques sur l'ensemble de l'Afrique, dans le cadre du système ARTEMIS. L'intégration de ces trois activités dans un seul service jouera un rôle essentiel dans le développement des activités futures pour le suivi de l'environnement et la mise en oeuvre de projets tels que l'atlas électronique de la FAO et la mise au point de cartes d'utilisation des sols.

Le Département a également repris à son compte la coordination des activités de l'Organisation pour le suivi de la Conférences des Nations Unies pour l'environnement et le développement.

La nouvelle Division de la femme et de la participation populaire a été particulièrement active dans la mise en oeuvre du Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement. En outre, c'est notamment grâce à la participation active de l'Organisation que la femme rurale a reçu la place qui lui revient dans la Plate-forme d'action adoptée par la quatrième Conférence mondiale sur les femmes qui a eu lieu à Beijing. Une action similaire en faveur des populations rurales en général a été menée pour la Conférence du Caire sur la population.

Enfin, les deux autres nouvelles divisions de la recherche, de la vulgarisation et de la formation, d'une part, et du développement rural et de la réforme agraire, d'autre part, se sont concentrées sur la définition de leurs programmes et méthodes de travail pour le prochain biennium, tout en poursuivant les activités héritées de la structure ancienne.

Les mesures relatives à la conception et au lancement du programme EMPRES, ou Système de prévention et de réponse rapide contre les ravageurs et les maladies transfrontières des animaux et des plantes, ont été prises. Le programme de lutte contre le criquet pèlerin se concentre dans une première étape sur la région centrale autour de la mer Rouge tandis que, pour la peste bovine, les activités menées dans le cadre d'EMPRES viennent renforcer la campagne mondiale d'éradication et ses trois composantes régionales en Afrique, Asie occidentale et Asie méridionale.

D'autres réalisations importantes ont pu être conduites à terme:

- la conception et la préparation d'un Programme global pour les ressources génétiques animales;
- l'intensification des activités relatives aux ressources génétiques végétales, notamment dans le cadre de la révision de l'Engagement international et de la préparation de la quatrième Conférence internationale sur les ressources génétiques végétales qui aura lieu l'année prochaine en Allemagne. En particulier, l'appui à la production de 134 rapports nationaux et l'organisation de 11 réunions sous-régionales pour assurer l'élaboration participative du rapport mondial sur la situation des ressources génétiques végétales et du Plan d'action qui s'y rattache;
- l'évaluation des ressources en eau et du potentiel pour l'irrigation en Afrique ainsi que la constitution d'une base de données sur l'utilisation de l'eau en zone rurale;
- l'extension en Afrique et en Amérique latine du programme de lutte intégrée contre les ravageurs des cultures en coopération avec le PNUD, la Banque mondiale et le PNUE;
- l'expansion de l'utilisation du logiciel Microbanker de la FAO dans plus de 600 établissements bancaires ruraux.

Dans le domaine des forêts, les efforts ont porté sur la promotion des activités nationales et internationales en vue de l'exploitation durable et de la conservation des forêts et des ressources connexes. C'est ainsi que l'Organisation a organisé plusieurs réunions pour mieux définir la stratégie à adopter en vue d'assurer une parfaite complémentarité entre conservation et exploitation des forêts et mieux comprendre le rôle attendu de la FAO dans ce secteur. Ce processus a été clôturé par la tenue en mars de cette année de la première réunion mondiale des ministres chargés des forêts qui ont débattu exclusivement de la mise en valeur durable des forêts et ont adopté la "Déclaration de Rome sur la foresterie". A cette occasion, la FAO a publié le premier "Rapport mondial sur la situation des forêts" qui sera dorénavant produit tous les deux ans. Parallèlement, le Département a poursuivi ses activités, notamment l'assistance à la préparation de plans d'action forestiers nationaux dans de nombreux pays.

Je terminerai cette revue rapide des programmes techniques par le secteur des pêches en mentionnant bien sûr la mise au point finale, dans un délai très court, du Code de conduite pour une pêche responsable qui est soumis à votre approbation. L'Organisation a également publié pour la première fois le "Rapport sur la situation mondiale des pêches et de l'aquaculture". Ce dernier a été présenté à la réunion des Ministres en charge du secteur des pêches qui a eu lieu en mars 1995 et qui a adopté le "Consensus de Rome sur la pêche mondiale". Je signalerai enfin la participation de la FAO à la préparation de la Conférence de Kyoto sur la contribution durable des pêches à la sécurité alimentaire qui aura lieu en décembre 1995 à l'invitation du Gouvernement du Japon.

Pour ce qui est des activités opérationnelles menées par le Département de la coopération technique, la priorité a été donnée au développement de nouveaux partenariats. La collaboration avec les institutions financières internationales telles que la Banque mondiale, le FIDA et les Banques régionales et sous-régionales a été renforcée. Pour illustrer ce propos, permettez-moi de citer quelques exemples.

Durant le biennium, 41 projets, représentant un niveau d'investissement total de 2 500 millions de dollars E.-U., ont été préparés par le Centre d'investissement pour la Banque mondiale, 45 autres projets sont à divers stades de formulation. Pour le FIDA, 15 projets ont été préparés. Pour la Banque asiatique de développement, le Centre d'investissement a préparé des projets en Chine, en Indonésie et en Mongolie et d'autres sont en cours en Inde, au Pakistan, au Sri Lanka et au Viet Nam. Avec la Banque interaméricaine de développement, notre collaboration a abouti à la formulation de deux projets d'irrigation en Bolivie et au Nicaragua.

D'autres projets ont été préparés pour être présentés au financement de la Banque ouest-africaine de développement, de la Banque islamique de développement, de la Banque africaine de développement et de la Banque de développement des Caraïbes.

De même, la collaboration existant avec nombre d'Organisations, en particulier l'Union européenne, a été renforcée. De nombreux accords de coopération ont été signés, notamment avec l'Institut interaméricain de coopération pour l'agriculture (IICA).

La coopération avec le Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement, qui pour diverses raisons s'était notablement ralenti au cours des dernières années, amorce actuellement une reprise. Dix-huit projets ont été ainsi approuvés durant les premiers six mois de 1995. Il est à noter cependant que le PNUD montre une certaine propension à exécuter ses propres programmes, ce qui comporte des risques de duplication de nos activités.

Durant ce même biennium 1994-1995, 800 requêtes ont été reçues par le Programme de coopération technique et plus de 400 projets ont été approuvés. A la fin du mois de septembre, le niveau d'approbation pour ce biennium s'élevait à 78 millions de dollars.

Dans l'ensemble, grâce au maintien du niveau global de financement extérieur obtenu sur les fonds fiduciaires, le programme de terrain de la FAO pour la seule année 1994 représente une dépense totale de 275 millions de dollars.



Les activités opérationnelles tout comme les activités normatives reçoivent un appui décisif de la part du Bureau juridique, qui en outre a fourni une assistance à plus de 70 pays pour leur législation nationale ainsi que les aspects légaux liés à leurs programmes de développement agricole et aux accords internationaux négociés par l'Organisation.

Je dirai enfin un mot des réalisations des Départements en charge des services d'appui qui ont particulièrement été mis à contribution pour appuyer le processus de restructuration, définir les nouvelles fonctions des différentes unités, préparer les descriptions de poste en collaboration avec les services techniques et enfin assurer les mouvements de personnel. Parallèlement, l'aménagement des locaux a été poursuivi et l'installation au Siège du réseau de communication intégré voix/données est terminée.

Le nombre de postes de travail informatisés a fortement augmenté et des équipements et logiciels plus performants ont été installés. Ces postes ont accès au courrier électronique et à toute une gamme d'informations techniques et administratives. L'Organisation est maintenant entièrement reliée à Internet, ce qui permettra de réaliser des économies substantielles dans les communications car, parallèlement, l'équipement des bureaux décentralisés est en cours pour leur permettre d'être connectés entre eux et avec le Siège.

Je signalerai à ce sujet que nous étudions les possibilités d'utiliser les équipements informatiques qui, tout en étant toujours opérationnels, ne correspondent plus aux besoins de l'Organisation, ainsi que les publications en stockage, en les distribuant dans les pays en voie de développement aux administrations, aux chambres d'agriculture, aux institutions de recherche et de formation.

Les études ont été réalisées en vue du remplacement du système de gestion financière de l'Organisation (FINSYS) et tout est fait pour préparer un appel d'offre pour l'acquisition, dès le début de l'année prochaine si nos ressources le permettent, d'un système performant et qui aura fait ses preuves dans une organisation ayant des besoins similaires à ceux de la FAO. Quant au remplacement du système de gestion du personnel (PERSYS), nous sommes en train d'examiner les possibilités d'utilisation de celui récemment introduit au Secrétariat général des Nations Unies.

En outre, une revue complète des procédures administratives et financières a été effectuée en vue de les rationaliser et de les simplifier. Dans ce cadre, les formulaires administratifs informatisés et automatisés pourront être conservés électroniquement, ce qui permettra des économies substantielles en papier et frais de stockage.

Enfin, une revue complète des procédures de voyages internationaux des agents a été faite; là aussi des possibilités certaines de rationalisation existent.

Je terminerai ce tour d'horizon de nos réalisations en mentionnant que nous venons de terminer l'élaboration d'une politique globale de communication avec le monde extérieur qui non seulement conduira à introduire une nouvelle culture de l'information au sein de l'Organisation, mais aussi servira de base à la restructuration du Département des affaires générales et de l'information. Cette politique fondée sur une approche décentralisée touchera également nos méthodes de production et de distribution des publications en utilisant au maximum les moyens électroniques. Ceci constitue un autre domaine qui présente de grandes potentialités.

Beaucoup de nos activités sont réalisées en coopération avec les autres institutions du système des Nations Unies dans le cadre de programmes conjoints. Mais il faut aussi signaler celles que nous devons réaliser à la demande expresse de ces institutions, et en particulier du Secrétariat général, en application des décisions de l'Assemblée générale ou du Conseil économique et social. Il s'agit de contribuer à leurs propres activités ou de participer à des réunions de coordination. J'attache beaucoup d'importance à cette coopération et à ces activités de coordination indispensables pour éviter les duplications. Toutefois, cette coordination a un coût que nous venons d'évaluer, en excluant la coordination au niveau des bureaux nationaux, à environ 12 millions de dollars pour 1994 soit 5 pour cent de nos dépenses pour le Programme régulier.

Pour revenir au sujet principal qui nous occupe aujourd'hui, à savoir le Programme de travail et budget 1996-97, j'ai proposé, lors de la préparation du schéma au début de cette année, un budget à croissance réelle nulle. Je l'ai fait à contre coeur pour tenir compte des impératifs de rigueur budgétaire qui

prévalent dans l'environnement politico-économique actuel et malgré les importants défis auxquels l'Organisation doit faire face.

A cette époque, la provision pour augmentation des coûts avait été estimée à 59 millions de dollars. Elle a ensuite été revue pour un peu moins de 32 millions de dollars pour le Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget, après que des réductions supplémentaires aient été effectuées. Dans la proposition qui vous est soumise aujourd'hui elle est à nouveau réduite à 24,7 millions de dollars.

Nos estimations les plus récentes indiquent que les augmentations de coûts auraient dû s'élever à 45 millions de dollars. Le budget de 698 millions qui vous est proposé conformément aux orientations des Comités du programme et des finances comporte un accroissement de 3,7 pour cent seulement par rapport à la base budgétaire 1994-95 et représente donc une absorption de coûts qui est estimée à 20 millions de dollars. Nous prenons également le risque de devoir absorber au cours du prochain biennium d'autres augmentations de coûts liées aux ajustements des salaires proposés par la Commission de la fonction publique internationale et aux variations du taux de change entre le dollar et la lire, ce qui porterait le montant total des coûts que nous absorberions à plus de 28 millions.

Enfin, je voudrais attirer votre attention sur quelques faits qui permettront de placer cette proposition de budget dans sa véritable perspective:

Parmi les organisations du système des Nations Unies, c'est la FAO qui a connu la plus faible croissance dans le montant des contributions des Etats Membres au cours des six dernières années.

Aucune des instances de décision des organisations des Nations Unies, dont le budget a récemment été approuvé, n'a accepté un montant inférieur en valeur nominale au budget précédent. Au contraire, certaines ont bénéficié d'augmentations substantielles. Je citerai l'Organisation internationale du travail dont le budget est augmenté de 24 pour cent; le budget de l'Organisation de l'aviation civile internationale augmentera de 3,7 à 7,7 pour cent et enfin l'OMS dont le budget a été augmenté de près de 2,5 pour cent.

Même l'Institut interaméricain de coopération pour l'agriculture, qui est financé à 60 pour cent par un des Etats Membres, conservera le même montant de ressources en valeur nominale.

La FAO est votre Organisation. Vous, les Etats Membres, avez la grande opportunité de la conduire sur les chemins d'un succès si indispensable aux millions de personnes qui n'ont pas accès à la nourriture et aux millions d'enfants de moins de cinq ans qui souffrent de déficit protéinique et calorique.

Vous avez aussi le redoutable pouvoir d'entraîner l'Organisation sur les pentes escarpées de ressources aléatoires, au risque de provoquer sa chute dans l'abîme d'un échec qui serait funeste certes pour les déshérités de la terre, mais qui ne serait pas sans conséquences graves pour les plus nantis vivant sur la même planète Terre.

Le Secrétariat de l'Organisation est votre secrétariat. Il ne prendra pas d'engagements démagogiques dictés par les péripéties d'une conjoncture difficile, mais il appliquera fidèlement et loyalement vos décisions. Il vous apportera toutes les informations pour éclairer vos choix et vous donnera ses avis en ayant "exclusivement en vue les intérêts de l'organisation". Il s'évertuera à être un "exemple de transparence, de responsabilité, de prévisibilité, d'efficacité, de respect des règles et du droit".

A l'heure où vous prendrez des décisions qui seront lourdes de sens, pensez surtout à ces "images d'enfants affamés et d'adultes faméliques qui ne cessent de hanter nos consciences"

Pensez aussi que, par-delà les chiffres, il y a des mesures qui vont affecter des personnes de chair et de sang qui souffrent de la pauvreté à travers le monde.

Pensez enfin que le projet de budget de la FAO, qui doit aider 800 millions d'êtres humains pauvres, ne représente que le montant dépensé en nourriture pour chiens et chats pendant 6 jours seulement dans 9 pays développés.

Réfléchissez-y et que Dieu vous guide et vous garde pour le bien de l'Humanité. Je vous remercie.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplauso

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr Director-General, for your statement which sets the tone for the Conference.

We proceed now to the statement Independent Chairman of the Council and as indicated in today's Journal, the Independent Chairman of the Council, Mr José Ramón López Portillo will now make his statement to the Conference.

INDEPENDANT CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL'S STATEMENT TO THE CONFERENCE DECLARATION DU PRESIDENT INDEPENDANT DU CONSEIL A LA CONFERENCE DECLARACION DEL PRESIDENTE INDEPENDIENTE DEL CONSEJO A LA CONFERENCIA

José Ramón LOPEZ PORTILLO (Presidente Independiente del Consejo): Señor Presidente de la Conferencia, señor Director General de la FAO, Excelentísimos Ministros, Distinguidos delegados, señoras y señores: Deseo, en primer lugar, sumarme a las condolencias expresadas por el Director General al Gobierno de Iraq, por el deceso del Excelentísimo Ministro Khalid Abdul Moneem Rasheed, quien encabezaba la delegación de su país. Al expresarle mis sentimientos a la delegación de Iraq, le pido también que los transmita a la familia del señor Ministro Rasheed.

Hemos escuchado, señor Presidente, con gran interés y agradecimiento la declaración hecha por el Director General, que pone en el marco apropiado las discusiones de esta Conferencia y, en particular, el punto principal que será la aprobación del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1996-97.

Permítanme concentrarme en una sola cuestión. Esta Conferencia enfrenta una responsabilidad grave e inmediata, que tendrá repercusiones irreversibles en el futuro de la FAO y no sólo en el próximo bienio: superar la delicada situación financiera de la Organización, mientras que se potencia su capacidad para fomentar la seguridad alimentaria y un desarrollo agroalimentario sostenible.

A pesar de un mayor optimismo y el respaldo a la Organización al más alto nivel político, el logro de un consenso en torno al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto 1996-97 se ha frustrado en repetidas ocasiones a lo largo de este año.

En grandes rasgos, tres posiciones divergentes se han mantenido:

Una mayoría apoya la propuesta del Director General, que responde al criterio de un programa de labores con crecimiento real cero, que ha sido el elemento básico de consenso. La propuesta del Director General contiene significativos ahorros y economías que permiten absorber buena parte de los aumentos de costos, aunque ejerce un impacto moderado sobre el aumento de las contribuciones. La mayoría ha reiterado que esta propuesta constituye el mínimo necesario para que la Organización continúe realizando su mandato y que todo esfuerzo de eficiencia y economías no debe ir en detrimento de los programas y actividades de la FAO.

Los otros grupos, que son justamente aquellos que han defendido en el pasado el crecimiento real cero, sostienen que aún pueden hacerse importantes ahorros y recortes con miras a reducir al mínimo el aumento de las contribuciones. La mayoría dentro de este grupo rechaza el punto de partida para la fijación del nivel presupuestario con base en la práctica aceptada para el bienio 1994-95 de utilizar el pago de las cuotas atrasadas para financiar el Programa.

El resto, constituido por pocos países, pero que comprende al principal contribuyente, insiste en una reducción sustancial en términos nominales del nivel presupuestario. Junto con otros países, insisten en que lo que llaman realismo financiero debe prevalecer, aun afectando los programas, pues, en caso contrario, dichos programas se verían afectados de todas maneras.

Obviamente, hay que distinguir las posiciones de negociación que pueden formar parte de un eventual consenso, de aquéllas que se originan en circunstancias irreconciliables.

Ciertamente los órganos rectores de la FAO no tienen por qué ser rehenes del consenso. El voto es el sistema incontrovertible para dirimir este tipo de divergencias. No obstante, permítanme advertir que la FAO tampoco debe ser la víctima de la polarización y de una victoria pírrica.

Creo que existen elementos para evitar dicha polarización, partiendo del hecho de que el Programa Regular de la FAO es parte de una ecuación más grande, y que los compromisos de los Estados Miembros con el cumplimiento del mandato de la FAO es una forma mucho más económica de enfrentar los efectos de la pobreza, el hambre y la desnutrición, que otras fórmulas que van desde la opresión y la guerra, hasta la destrucción del medio ambiente.

La Liga de las Naciones, y luego las Naciones Unidas, nacieron como consecuencia de la primera y de la segunda guerra mundial, respectivamente. Corremos el riesgo de que, como ya ocurrió en los años precedentes a la segunda guerra mundial, se pierdan los mecanismos de diálogo y acción y que sean las confrontaciones violentas y la opresión las que lleven a dirimir los problemas entre los países y la desesperación de los pueblos. Esto es especialmente grave en un momento en que problemas ecológicos y medioambientales amenazan a toda la humanidad.

Por cincuenta años la FAO ha sido uno de los instrumentos más importantes de la comunidad internacional para definir el marco normativo y operativo para librar a la humanidad de la opresión del hambre y la desnutrición. En cuanto instrumento per se, su impacto es necesariamente limitado. Pero su ventaja estriba en los mecanismos multiplicativos y amplificadores de esa normatividad y acción, como lo ha constatado la declaración del Director General.

Dichos mecanismos no se basan en el tamaño específico de la FAO, sino en su credibilidad, en tanto centro imparcial, objetivo y democrático, técnicamente calificado al más alto nivel para contribuir a la conciencia agroalimentaria del mundo; capaz de identificar claramente los problemas y ofrecer soluciones viables y demostrables. Su fuerza, pues, estriba en la confianza que ejerza como centro de excelencia y de práctica ejemplificadora en el campo; y de la forma en que compatibilice sus funciones, coordine su acción y coopere con otros organismos del sistema de Naciones Unidas. Estriba también en su ascendencia, en su influencia sobre otras instancias: organismos internacionales, sector privado, organizaciones no gubernamentales, centros académicos, Gobiernos y, sobre todos, los agricultores de todo el mundo.

Por ello, el corazón de esta Organización son sus expertos y técnicos en agricultura, pesca, montes, desarrollo sostenible, actividades de enlace, en la Sede y en el campo: un cuerpo interdisciplinario, internacional, de mujeres y hombres altruistas que entregan todo de sí para contribuir al cumplimiento del más elemental de los derechos, el de la vida, el de la alimentación.

El reconocimiento de estas altas capacidades técnicas y la confianza en su operación transparente y eficiente es lo que le da a la FAO su liderazgo y poder de influencia a nivel global y local.

El apoyo al mandato de la FAO ha sido ratificado repetidamente al más alto nivel político por los Estados Miembros, como se corroboró recientemente en Quebec, y como quedó evidenciado en el apoyo unánime que ha recibido el Director General para emprender una reestructuración y descentralización de la Organización e iniciar programas concretos de seguridad alimentaria y lucha contra plagas y celebrar una Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación en 1996.

De igual manera, a través de un proceso continuo de búsqueda de consensos, adaptación a nuevos retos e ideas, afinación gradual y recomendaciones sabias de expertos y técnicos, se ha conformado la gama de programas y subprogramas que integran hoy las labores de la Organización. Esos Programas no son resultado

de la arbitrariedad o de la extravagancia, sino del diálogo y la identificación de intereses y preferencias de los Estados Miembros.

Pero por otra parte, el contexto internacional ha cambiado. Reformas estructurales han llevado a los Estados a jugar un papel más modesto, mientras que muchos gobiernos enfrentan prolongadas dificultades financieras. Esto compromete a la asignación de sus recursos. En otros casos, también procesos políticos internos y factores institucionales limitan la disponibilidad de asignaciones presupuestales.

De aquí, quizás, el llamado de muchos a reducir el aumento de sus contribuciones a la FAO, a partir de mayor eficiencia y economías en la medida de lo posible, y sin afectar su mandato ni sus programas.

Las dificultades financieras que ha enfrentado la FAO han llevado a ahorros forzosos, afectando la ejecución de sus programas por varios bienios. Esto ha limitado la capacidad de respuesta hacia los países y por tanto los beneficios esperados por los Estados Miembros, lo que podría mermar el interés en la Organización y desmoralizar a su personal. Entre otras cosas, estos procesos reducen la capacidad de acción eficaz de la Organización. Este círculo vicioso debe detenerse.

En este contexto, la aplicación del criterio del llamado realismo financiero propuesta por algunos países, aun a costa del recorte de los programas, no parece salvar la situación. Por una parte, no se da ninguna garantía de que las contribuciones que se establezcan se pagarían a tiempo y de manera completa. Adicionalmente, redefinir un programa que tiene tantos vasos comunicantes a partir de un presupuesto restrictivo requeriría de recortes precipitados en un ejercicio que parece muy difícil a estas alturas. Esto sentaría además un precedente y me pregunto, dentro de dos años, que ocurriría si las deudas para con la Organización aun así se acumulasen, obligaría ello a un ejercicio aún más restrictivo, sobre una base programática aún más estrecha?

En el otro extremo, un Programa de Labores mucho más allá de los recursos que a todas luces va a disponer la Organización, y aquellos recursos, que muchos países que apoyan esta fórmula, están dispuestos o en condiciones de garantizar, llevaría probablemente a un ejercicio incompleto del Programa en virtud de la necesidad de ahorros forzosos. Esto, a la vez, podría llevar a muchos Estados Miembros a perder su derecho al voto, y podría debilitar la confianza en la Organización de parte de otros, en particular sobre su capacidad de adaptación.

Debe existir, pues, una zona intermedia que evite la polarización. Identificar esta zona depende también de que se cuente con información suficiente y clara respecto a la capacidad de absorción adicional de incrementos de costos de la Organización, especialmente a la luz de los ahorros que ya ha hecho el Director General y las eficiencias muy significativas que ha logrado, sin afectar a la integridad de los programas de la FAO.

Tras los debates que se sostuvieron en el Consejo de junio de este año, las discusiones de los Comités de Finanzas y del Programa en septiembre, y las preguntas y planteamientos formulados durante la reunión del Consejo aún en curso, y las respuestas ofrecidas por la Secretaría, consideró que esa zona no debía estar por debajo de un crecimiento cerca nominal del nivel presupuestario de 1994/95, sin incluir el impacto del tipo de cambio lira/dólar. Este es, en principio, el nivel de máxima absorción de incremento de costos que ya comprometería a la ejecución íntegra de los Programas.

Debe recordarse, no obstante, que la condición de la viabilidad de cualquier fórmula que no polarice a la Organización se basa en el pago total de las contribuciones corrientes y de los atrasos. Como tanto se ha repetido, ningún país puede pretender que se condonen sus obligaciones para con la Organización. Ellas son un haber de la FAO. Los Estados Miembros están obligados jurídicamente a respetar los textos de la Organización y las decisiones de sus órganos rectores sin excepción. Una vez tomada una decisión vale para todos los miembros y les obliga a todos. No puede haber cabida alguna para la amenaza o el chantaje a la mancomunidad de Naciones. Sería una afrenta a todos los Estados Miembros, que actúan en buena fe y con responsabilidad y al Director General que ha hecho, quizás, uno de los esfuerzos más grandes en el contexto de las Naciones Unidas para lograr eficiencia y reestructurar a la Organización y encaminarla hacia un futuro más promisorio.

Me he atrevido a expresar mi opinión sobre este tema delicado, en parte por mi frustración de que el Consejo no haya podido ofrecer un acercamiento más definitivo entre las posiciones; en parte también, porque soy testigo del apoyo político al más alto nivel, manifestado en Quebec y en otros foros, al mandato de la FAO

y a su Director General y finalmente, porque considero que este tema debe ser decidido como parte de una problemática más amplia que involucra la sobrevivencia de millones de seres humanos y la prevención de calamidades que es más fácil atender ahora que lamentar después.

Video presentation on the Special Programme in Support of Food Security in Low- Income Food-Deficit

Countries entitled "Bridging the Gap" and "A Road of Hope"

Présentation de deux films vidéo sur le Programme spécial: production alimentaire à l'appui de la sécurité alimentaire dans les pays à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier intitulés "Bridging the Gap" et

"A Road of Hope"

Presentación de los vídeos sobre el Programa Especial en Apoyo de la Seguridad Alimentaria en los Países de Bajos Ingresos con Déficit de Alimentos, titulados "Bridging the Gap" y "A Road of Hope"

CHAIRMAN: As indicated in today's Order of the Day, we will now see two video presentations of FAO Special Programmes in Support of Food Security in two of the participating countries, Guinea and China. Both videos will be screened in their original languages with versions in English. Interpretation will be provided in other languages.

The first video was recently made by the FAO Information Division in the Republic of Guinea and is entitled "Bridging the Gap". It introduces the broad concepts of FAO's Special Programme in Support of Food Security in Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries. The projects featured in the video illustrate what can be achieved when governments make the necessary commitments to create an environment that encourages farmers to join together in adopting adequate agricultural farming methods.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: We will now be shown the second video entitled "A Road of Hope" which was kindly provided by the Government of China. It shows how the same Special Programme can help increase food production and improve the living of peasant farmers. With FAO's technical advice and support from both national and provincial authorities, Chinese farmers achieve substantial increases both in rice and maize production, raise their incomes and improve their village infrastructure.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: We have just seen illustrated two examples of this important special programme that was instituted by the Director-General. It is our hope that it will continue to grow and receive increasing support from all members of this Organization.

We have decided to change this morning's proceedings and, if there is no objection, I would like to give the floor to the Chairman of the Credentials Committee to present the Report of the Credentials Committee.

Adoption of First Report of the Credentials Committee

Adoption du premier rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs

Aprobación del primer Informe del Comité de Credenciales

Fotis G. POULIDES (Chairman, Credentials Committee): The Credentials Committee held its first meeting on 20 October 1995 at 12.00 hours, to examine the credentials of the delegation members to the Twentieth Session of the FAO Conference. The Committee elected the Ambassador of Cyprus as its Chairman.

In accordance with Rule III-2 of the General Rules of the Organization and the criteria established by previous committees, the Credentials Committee examined the credentials of 120 delegations and found them to be valid. The FAO members to which these delegations belong are shown in the attached list.

Several Member Nations have advised the Secretariat that they will not attend the Conference. They are Antigua, Bermuda, Bahamas, Belize, Cook Islands, Mali, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

To date, in addition to those mentioned above, 48 Member Nations have not presented credentials. Any credentials which are received from members, as well as credentials of representatives of the United Nations Specialized Agencies and related organizations, will be examined by the Committee at subsequent meetings.

Mr President, I will now read the list of members whose delegations have presented valid credentials: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, D.P.R. of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, European Community, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Guinea Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, Syria, Tanzania, Thailand, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Republic of Georgia; a total of 120 members.

INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD  
AND AGRICULTURE (continued)

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

INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE  
LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)

6. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture

6. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture

6. Examen del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS

- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION

- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES

CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your presentation. We now proceed to review the State of Food and Agriculture and I will give the floor to the Heads of Delegations who have requested speaking time in advance. Delegates are aware that the last Conference requested that the duration of sessions be shortened and that the Council review the working methods of the Conference. One concrete result of that review was the proposal that the Heads of Delegations address item 6 of the Agenda, the State of Food and Agriculture in the world. This means that honourable Ministers are expected to speak on this subject rather than report on the situation of their national agriculture. I very much hope that we will all be able to follow this new direction. You will recall that yesterday the Conference agreed to the council suggestion that Heads of Delegations limit their statements to a maximum of ten minutes. We have many requests for speaking time and this is the only way for us to proceed. I will refer the honourable delegates to paragraphs 7 and 38 of document C 95/LIM/6, which we approved yesterday. In order to help the speakers, there are two lights on the lectern. I would ask

the Secretary-General to switch on the white light when a speaker reaches 8 minutes and the red light at the agreed 10-minute limit. In view of the large number of speakers and the limited time at our disposal may I appeal to you to limit yourselves to ten minutes.

I shall now call upon the first speaker, the Head of Delegation of the Philippines.

Roberto S. SEBASTIAN (Philippines): Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, at the outset I would like to convey the condolences of the Philippine delegation to the delegation of Iraq on the untimely demise of His Excellency Khalid Abdul Muneem Rasheed, the Minister for Agriculture of Iraq.

On behalf of our delegation and the Government of the Philippines, allow me to reaffirm our commitment to the goals of FAO, as it marks its fiftieth year in its effort to help ensure enough food for all. Indeed, the problem of hunger and food insecurity comes to the fore, confronted as we are with the near term prospect of reduced cereal production worldwide in 1995. Global carry-over stocks at the close of the 1995-96 seasons are expected to drop sharply to some 260 million tons, the lowest since 1981 and well below the minimum level considered necessary to safeguard world food security.

The outlook is particularly disturbing for low income food-deficit countries facing rising world cereal prices and higher import costs estimated at about US\$2.3 billion in 1995-96. Larger import bills will lead to increased foreign borrowings and worsening balance of payments for these countries.

In Asia, food security for the region's largely rice-consuming populace continues to be tenuous. In the midst of tightening world rice supplies and sharply rising prices, Asian imports of the staple are expected to hit 10 million tons in 1995, with the region facing a likely decline in the rice output brought about by generally poor weather conditions.

We in the Philippines have been facing a tight rice supply situation and rising prices due to a drought that hit our dry season crop and delayed planting of the wet season crop. To alleviate the supply problem and contain price increases, we had to import rice this year. Steeply rising prices and dwindling export availabilities from nearby suppliers, particularly Thailand and Vietnam, made it difficult for us to bring in enough rice at a time when we most needed it. Once again, this brought home to us the lack of security in global rice supplies, given a thin and very volatile world market. We know that only about 4% of world rice production is traded. Each time drought or floods hit a large consuming country, a substantial chunk of the world rice trade is cornered, tightening the market and causing a steep rise in prices. Indeed, there has been a scramble for limited export availabilities following reported large purchases by rice-deficit Asian countries this year. In sum, the vulnerability of the global rice market to periodic disturbances makes our dependence on it for timely emergency supplies a risky proposition.

Our recent experience has underscored the imperative of pressing on with our drive for sustainable self-sufficiency in rice, and the wisdom of maintaining a strategic buffer stock in government hands to meet emergencies.

Now in its third year, our rice self-sufficiency programme aims to boost farm productivity and incomes in key grain areas best suited for rice growing. The programme focuses the provision of irrigation, farm-to-market roads, post-harvest facilities, and credit support in these key grain areas to enable farmers to get the best returns from their investments. Along with this, macro-economic policy reforms continue to be implemented to remove structural impediments to agricultural development in general and improve the terms of trade for producers and processors of agricultural products.

Under the GATT and the WTO, developed countries have committed themselves to reduce their domestic support and price subsidies over the next six years. This move will facilitate market access of food and agricultural products of developing countries by levelling out the playing field. We, however, share FAO's concern that developed countries, while formulating and implementing domestic agricultural policies, should exert efforts to avoid adverse effects on the economies of developing countries.

On the other hand, it is imperative for developing countries to invest in basic infrastructures and institutional frameworks to ensure sustainable agricultural development within their own borders. Farmers and fisherfolk



should have equitable access to these infrastructures and improved technologies, lest we fall into the trap of creating local monopolies in the process of globalizing our own agriculture. To ensure success, we must harness the political will of our respective governments.

At the forefront of our effort to attain sustainable development in the countryside is our National Integrated Pest Management Programme, which we implement with technical assistance from FAO's regional inter-country programme for integrated pest management in Asia.

With the success of IPM training programmes among rice and vegetable farmers in the Philippines and the enthusiastic participation of local governments in this endeavour, we are now developing training methodologies for other crops. At the same time, we are realigning policies governing pesticide distribution and uses along IPM principles.

We are pleased to note how FAO's efforts in IPM is forging a lasting foundation for farmer empowerment in Asia, even as it broadens the use of environmentally sound farming practices.

Recognizing the important contribution of fisheries to world food security, we also commend the continuing efforts of FAO in elaborating the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. Against the backdrop of environmental degradation, malnutrition, the displacement of artisanal and small-scale fisherfolk, and increasing incidents of human rights violation against fishworkers, there is a very pressing need to ensure that fisheries is conducted in a responsible manner. With FAO assistance, we have prepared an action plan known as the Fisheries Code of the Philippines, which aims to implement compatible fisheries conservation and management measures.

Also on the sustainable development front, we strongly support the broadening of the mandate of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources to cover all genetic resources relevant to food and agriculture.

Turning back to the global food security issue, the principal challenge FAO now faces is how best to employ its catalytic and facilitative role to induce greater investments and technological flows to food production in the countries most in need of these resources. This the Organization must do in the face of declining investments in agriculture, rapid population growth, and increasing pressure on the earth's resources.

We are pleased to see how the Organization is rising to this challenge through its Special Programme on Food Security in Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries. Moreover, the Director-General's initiative of convening a World Food Summit in November 1996 is indeed welcome and timely. The Summit would serve to renew political commitment by the world's leaders and multilateral development agencies to the abolition of hunger and food insecurity at a time when agricultural investments are waning, global cereal stocks are declining, and food availability is worsening in low-income food-deficit countries.

Finally, the Philippines reiterates its support for the Director-General's proposed zero growth Programme of Work and Budget for the 1996-97 biennium, which we believe reflects the priorities and level of effort developing countries would like FAO to pursue given the budgetary squeeze it continues to face.

In the light of resource constraints, we encourage FAO to pursue with vigour its restructuring programme to make it better able to deliver its mandate as a catalyst of agricultural and rural development in the developing world.

Emmanuel ONDO-METHOGO (Gabon): Monsieur le Directeur général, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres et Chefs de délégation, Mesdames, Messieurs, je voudrais avant toute chose présenter nos condoléances à la délégation iraquienne, et adresser à vous-même, Monsieur le Président, et à l'ensemble des membres du bureau, les plus vives félicitations à la suite de votre élection pour conduire nos délibérations.

Mon pays assurant la présidence en exercice du Groupe Africain d'Europe, j'ai été chargé par mes collègues d'exprimer à la Conférence les opinions de notre Groupe sur les principaux points de l'ordre du jour. Naturellement, chaque délégation du Groupe qui le souhaite pourra insister sur une ou plusieurs questions d'importance.

Il est nécessaire de rappeler que la présente session s'ouvre quelques jours seulement après les festivités qui ont marqué à Québec le Centenaire de notre Organisation. Cette manifestation a permis de juger à quel point le mandat conféré il y a 50 ans à notre Organisation par ses pères fondateurs garde toute son actualité aujourd'hui. En effet, une grande partie de l'Humanité souffre de la faim et de la malnutrition. Comme à l'origine, le défi à relever par la FAO consiste toujours à aider ses Etats Membres à vaincre la faim et la malnutrition. Mais de nos jours, ceci est accentué par le paradoxe de la faim subsistant dans un monde où règne pourtant globalement l'abondance grâce aux progrès fulgurants accomplis par la Science et la Technologie.

C'est pourquoi à notre point de vue la mission de la FAO revêt un caractère essentiel, particulièrement pour l'Afrique où se conjuguent les effets effroyables des calamités naturelles et des guerres civiles. L'Afrique, comme en effet le plus grand nombre de pays à déficit vivrier, fait face à une croissance démographique mal maîtrisée, dans un climat international troublé.

C'est dire combien les pays africains apprécient le rappel solennel des principes fondamentaux de la Charte de la FAO et la réaffirmation de la Déclaration de Québec qui sera soumise pour adoption à notre Conférence. Pour nous, l'adoption de ce document ne doit pas être une simple formalité. Elle doit être perçue comme un acte de foi dans la détermination de l'Humanité à franchir le prochain millénaire en garantissant à chacun ce qui, à juste titre, constitue un droit élémentaire: l'accès à une nourriture suffisante et équilibrée.

Dans cet esprit, nous saluons la convocation par le Directeur général, en novembre 1996, ici à Rome, du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation pour lequel notre rencontre à Québec a constitué une première étape déterminante. Nous estimons avec d'autres que si l'on veut parvenir à un engagement résolu de la Communauté internationale en faveur de la sécurité alimentaire pour tous, il est indispensable de rallier à cet objectif les responsables politiques au plus haut niveau.

Pour ce qui est de l'Afrique, les Chefs d'Etats et des Gouvernements des pays membres de l'OUA ont, comme vous le savez, appuyé dès l'origine le projet de ce forum et c'est avec une attention soutenue que nous suivons ses préparatifs, dont nous apprécions par ailleurs le rythme, la qualité et l'état d'avancement.

Si la réalisation des objectifs, qui sous-tendent la sécurité d'aide alimentaire pour tous, exige un engagement plus marqué des Gouvernements, elle suppose aussi une FAO plus efficiente dans son organisation, à laquelle des orientations claires doivent être fixées, et dotée de moyens humains et financiers appropriés. Nous considérons de ce point de vue que les réformes organisationnelles engagées par le Directeur général vont dans le bon sens, car elles comportent une rationalisation de la structure du Secrétariat, et la volonté d'améliorer ses méthodes de gestion et de travail.

Un autre élément positif réside dans les mesures de décentralisation mises en oeuvre qui visent à rapprocher davantage l'organisation des pays bénéficiaires et qui consistent dans le renforcement des compétences des bureaux régionaux, sous-régionaux et nationaux, ainsi que la mise en place de correspondants nationaux dans les pays où n'existent pas de représentations de la FAO.

Il en est de même des initiatives prises en vue du développement du partenariat avec les Etats Membres au moyen d'instruments novateurs permettant aux Etats de renforcer leur coopération mutuelle.

De la même façon, nous encourageons la décision prise par le Directeur général dès son entrée en fonctions de se rendre sur les lieux des projets. Nous l'exhortons à poursuivre ses visites de terrain car elles lui permettent de mieux appréhender la diversité des réalités locales au regard des objectifs qu'il poursuit.

Nous devons également marquer ici toute notre satisfaction en ce qui concerne l'exécution du programme d'activités de la précédente période biennale. Nous sommes particulièrement sensibles aux résultats remarquables obtenus malgré des ressources limitées.

Ces succès ne doivent cependant pas masquer les difficultés rencontrées par le Secrétariat qui est obligé de recourir à des mesures drastiques d'austérité, notamment le gel des postes de travail indispensables. Nous estimons que cette situation doit demeurer exceptionnelle si l'on veut préserver l'efficacité de l'Organisation.

En ce qui concerne le biennium à venir pour lequel nous examinerons le Programme de travail et budget, nous tenons à exprimer globalement notre appui aux propositions du Directeur général. Les programmes spéciaux qu'il définit montrent notre totale adhésion dans la mesure où ils visent d'une part à aider les pays à déficit vivrier et d'autre part à faire face dans les meilleurs délais aux fléaux qui frappent les animaux et les plantes. Nous regrettons néanmoins les réductions envisagées sur certains sous-programmes tels que les opérations après récolte, la distribution des semences et des matériels de plantation. S'agissant du budget proprement dit, nous sommes d'avis qu'il faut doter l'Organisation des ressources financières adéquates pour lui permettre d'exécuter entièrement le Programme de travail qui lui est assigné. A cet égard, le niveau proposé par le Directeur général qui prend pour base un budget de croissance réel nul et dont le principe est unanimement admis, nous paraît approprié. Toutefois, le budget auquel la Conférence parviendra ne doit pas se traduire par une réduction ultérieure des programmes. Nous tenons à réaffirmer la disponibilité du Groupe africain à rechercher le consensus le plus large possible sur cette question.

Nous sommes conscients que nos pays sont encore redevables à l'Organisation d'arriérés parfois notables. Ils n'ont pas pour autant, et ce, en dépit des difficultés économiques réelles, renoncé à leur engagement et tout est mis en oeuvre pour assimiler dans les meilleurs délais cette situation dans l'intérêt bien compris de nos pays qui comptent beaucoup sur la FAO. Nous souhaitons que cette Conférence se termine avec un plein succès et pour conclure, je voudrais vous renouveler l'attachement de nos pays aux nobles idéaux de la FAO.

Assad MUSTAFA (Syria) (Original language Arabic): Mr Chairman of the Conference, allow me, Sir, first of all to express my deepest sympathies and condolences to the delegation of Iraq. That is God's will and to it we all submit.

Allow me now, Sir, to congratulate you, on the confidence placed in you by the Conference due to your experience and wide knowledge. I would also like to express my appreciation to the Independent Chairman of the Council and to FAO for the very constructive role that the Organization has played. The world has witnessed the result of this role over the past 50 years.

I would like to express a special word of appreciation to the Director-General of this Organization for his persistent and continuous search to achieve higher efficiency in this Organization. He has submitted several new programmes for implementation such as the Food Security Programme and the EMPRES Programme. It is quite clear from all the international conferences and meetings convened to discuss food security and the environment, the latest of which was the Quebec Meeting, that there is a consensus as to the need to join efforts and establish effective programmes as well as provide appropriate funds, attention and time to limit the effects of increasing hunger. Despite the great developments in the field of food production and the existence of surpluses in certain parts of the world, we still find that there are foci of hunger in the world. We therefore believe that the remedial measures suggested in the area of food production require us to take into account the following items: first of all, the allocation of sufficient funds for investment in agriculture, by international organizations and lending institutions as well as donor countries. Private investments could help also. This would lead to a progressive increase in the provision of food as well as endow people with the ability to become self-sufficient.

The second point is that the developing countries themselves have to give priority to the policies that are most conducive to creating the appropriate atmosphere for agricultural investment in its various forms. Thirdly, developing countries themselves should provide the necessary infrastructure, though this can only be achieved by support programmes, assistance and investments. The increase of food production requires us to strike a balance between our needs and the limits on our natural resources and to protect them from degradation. This is the responsibility of all the countries and regions of the world. Fourthly, we must concentrate on providing adequate support for international research programmes in the poorer countries, and provide adequate backstopping to research institutions so they can play their role on the domestic level and thus help develop local training, agricultural extension and the ability to use modern techniques. The fifth point is the implementation of the Uruguay Round of Agreements, especially in the field of agriculture, requires compensatory measures to be allocated to the poorer and developing countries so may adapt and change their situations in a manner most conducive to the implementation of technology, research and investments concentrated in the richer countries, while developing countries suffer from shortages in these fields. FAO must continue its evaluation process and cycle of meetings.

Mr Chairman, all these situations require us to develop the role played by the Organization as well as other institutions in the field such as the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the World Food Programme. It requires us to increase the support to and abilities of these organizations. Evidence of this is the immediate and extensive success encountered by these organizations in the projects they have implemented. It also requires us to support the Director-General's programme for the Organization. We must enable him to increase efficiency and to maintain those productive and effective programmes.

We support the zero real growth level of the budget submitted by the Director-General for the forthcoming biennium is a sound basis, we, in fact, supported the measures undertaken by the Director-General and the savings achieved which amount to US\$38 million. We believe that the efforts made by the Director-General to absorb cost increases is a sufficient measure. In fact if we exceed such levels we could endanger and jeopardize the implementation of programmes and in fact suspend the application of others. We hope that the sense of responsibility and the consensus shall lead us to adopt the appropriate budget in the form submitted by the Director-General so that in fact we may be effective in our joint endeavours.

Mr Chairman, Syria has given priority to the question of agriculture. We have implemented those effective policies and have stressed integrated and comprehensive development in rural areas, sought to involve women in development, to encourage investment in the agricultural sector. We have enacted legislation for agriculture such as the General Decree of 1990, yet we still encounter problems in the field of agricultural development and because agriculture has remained a mainly rain-fed one and this introduces a factor of uncertainty in our production levels. We also are trying to prevent the degradation of the environment and to combat desertification. We are seeking to establish a basis of scientific agricultural research to provide the necessary input to protect forests, combat deforestation and establish nature reserves. We are building up our capacity to provide transfer of technology services, and train technicians and farmers in the use of such technologies. The efforts of Syria to achieve development in cooperation with other Arab as well as friendly countries and Arab international organizations is fully consistent with Syria's efforts to achieve fair and just peace according to Security Council Resolutions and principles of international legality to liberate all occupied Arab territories and defend our dignity.

Kari NORDHEIM-LARSEN (Norway): Mr Chairman, on behalf of the Norwegian Government I would like to congratulate you and your Vice-Chairmen upon your elections.

I also want to congratulate the Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf, for the preparations made for this Conference, his first as Director-General.

It is with great pleasure I welcome the new members of FAO, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. This marks another important step towards making FAO a fully universal organization.

Mr Chairman, the celebration of FAO's 50th Anniversary in Quebec last week helped us draw the attention of the world community to a grim fact confronting us all. While some parts of the world struggle with overproduction, large parts of the world are hampered by hunger, malnutrition and lack of food security. This situation poses immense challenges to the international community, and FAO has a major role to play in the struggle for a world without hunger. We therefore fully endorse the Director-General's efforts to put food security at the top of the international agenda.

Mr Chairman, food security is far more than food production and food supply. It includes sustainable management of natural resources, nutritional level, distribution and access of resources. We therefore need to take a broad approach to food security. However, the key problem is poverty. I therefore believe that when we prepare for the World Food Summit, social and political aspects must be fully included.

My Government strongly believes that better distribution of incomes is indispensable for achieving food security. More equal distribution of resources among a country's citizens is first of all the responsibility of national governments. Greater efforts to improve the situation for the poorest segments of the population is now called for. The poor should be given increased access to land, technology and credit. Governments must also give higher priority to agriculture and food production in their general development policies. Emphasis needs to be put on agricultural education and on the development of human resources for girls and women in particular.

The contribution of the international community is also vital. It is indeed regrettable that about half of the Member Nations of this organization are not able, or willing, to keep up to date with their assessed contribution. It is also sad to see the decline in extra budgetary funding and in overall development aid. "Donor fatigue" is generally attributed to budgetary constraints in the industrialized world. However, the OECD average of Official Development Aid is only about 0.34 percent of GNP, therefore one should rather talk of budgetary priorities.

Mr Chairman, the role of women in achieving food security cannot be overestimated. Women are often the principal agricultural producers and have often the best knowledge of food systems and agriculture. In many parts of the world women farmers are suffering from lack of access to land and insecure land tenure. This obstacle to food security must be eliminated. The Food Summit will be instrumental in promoting the necessary shifts in policy.

It is essential that the Plan of Action we approve at the World Food Summit does not only become a short-term plan for increased production. What is needed is a long-term action plan reflecting all the various environmental, economical, social and political aspects of Food Security. The success of the Summit will be measured upon the extent to which all the concerned actors at the national and the international level take the necessary actions. Obviously, FAO cannot alone ensure the entire follow-up of the World Food Summit. FAO must involve the whole international community, including the UN organizations concerned, the international financial institutions and all national governments, in all the steps leading up to the World Food Summit and, which is important, in its follow-up.

Mr Chairman, Norway has for a long time supported FAO's work in the field of sustainable development. In our view, food security cannot be separated from a sustainable system of production and distribution. One of the greatest challenges FAO is facing is to demonstrate how the agreements reached in Rio can be translated into action. This will be to the benefit of its member countries in all regions, but in particular to developing countries. FAO must fully integrate environmental concerns into the Organization's traditional activities. This is not only a question of harmonizing development needs and environmental goals. Sustainable development, according to Agenda 21, also entails secured access to productive resources, increased equity in sharing outputs, increased self-reliance and improved organization of the society.

Without a clear emphasis on safeguarding the natural resource base by forward-looking environmental policies, development in the agricultural sector will not be sustainable and long-term food security will remain a distant dream.

FAO is currently undertaking important tasks in relation to biodiversity. Next year we will have the Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in Germany. It will lead to the adaptation of a Global Plan of Action which could become an extremely important instrument in maintaining the variety of cultivated crops. A successful outcome of the ongoing work on the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources is vital for the continued progress in plant breeding and for securing the future genetic base for the food production we all, in the future, will depend on. Norway strongly supports FAO in these assignments.

Mr Chairman, FAO has a main role to play as a leading international organization for the utilization and conservation of living aquatic resources. Fisheries and aquaculture contribute to a balanced diet and are becoming increasingly important in satisfying global nutritional needs. We therefore welcome the initiative taken jointly by FAO and the Government of Japan to organize a conference later this year.

We have actively supported FAO's work on drafting a Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and welcome the draft Code as submitted to this Conference.

Norway has for a number of years put great effort into establishing joint management regimes in order to protect the marine resources from overexploitation and promoting a long-term sustainability on an optimal level. Based on our own experiences, Norway has for two decades supported a number of developing countries in marine research and fisheries management, often in close cooperation with FAO.

There is a strengthened atmosphere of partnership in trade and development as a result of the Uruguay Round. We must, however, not forget the challenges facing the poorest countries before they can benefit from the liberalization of trade.

The recent Mid-term Review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least-Developed Countries demonstrated clearly that the world community today stands at a crossroad. There is a grave danger that the way may lead to a widened global poverty gap. If this gap is to shrink, the least-developed countries themselves must strengthen their national policies. At the same time the international measures in favour of these countries must be improved. The notion of partnership between recipients and donors in the Programme of Action must also include the multilateral institutions. In this context, I have appreciated that the Director-General has stressed the importance for FAO to focus its attention on the countries where the need is greatest.

This FAO Conference takes place at a time when the United Nations as a whole is facing new challenges and is entrusted with an enlarged range of activities. FAO will have to play its vital part. In my view there is a need to strengthen further the role of the UN Coordinators. FAO and the other specialized agencies must find their roles as partners in the system. The work of FAO is dependent on the participation of all countries for achieving common goals and for the formulation of common guidelines on policies, laws and strategies. To conclude, let me therefore stress the importance of reaching a consensus during this Conference on an appropriate Programme of Work and Budget for this important Organization.

Timera BOUBOU (Mauritanie): Monsieur le Président, à l'instar des orateurs qui m'ont précédé, je voudrais tout d'abord présenter mes condoléances les plus attristées, au nom du Gouvernement mauritanien, de ma délégation et en mon nom personnel, à la délégation irakienne ainsi qu'à la famille du défunt à l'occasion du décès de Monsieur Khalid Abdul Moneem Rasheed, Ministre irakien de l'agriculture, survenu à Rome, le 20 octobre 1995.

Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi tout d'abord de vous exprimer, au nom de ma délégation comme en mon nom propre, mes chaleureuses félicitations à l'occasion de votre brillante élection à la présidence de notre Conférence. Je suis persuadé que votre riche expérience est un gage du succès des travaux de cette session de la Conférence.

La tenue de notre Conférence générale coïncide, cette année, avec un événement d'une grande portée pour la communauté internationale. Il s'agit du Cinquantième anniversaire de la FAO que nous avons célébré, il y a quelques jours, au Québec, berceau de cette Organisation.

Le constat général que l'on puisse faire aujourd'hui de la situation alimentaire mondiale est que celle-ci demeure préoccupante, en dépit des efforts intenses que n'a cessés de déployer la FAO, cinq décennies durant, au cours desquelles l'Organisation a apporté son concours et son soutien aux Pays membres afin de les aider à juguler la famine et la malnutrition.

Il est regrettable de constater aujourd'hui que près de 800 millions d'êtres humains sont encore victimes de la malnutrition chronique dans les pays en développement et que, parmi eux, 192 millions d'enfants âgés de 5 ans sont frappés de manière aiguë et chronique de carences en vitamines.

On remarque en même temps que 88 pays à revenu faible souffrent de déficit alimentaire. De ce chiffre, la proportion réservée à l'Afrique est malheureusement la plus importante puisque la moitié de ces pays se trouvent dans le continent africain, alors que l'Asie et le Pacifique en abritent 23, l'Amérique latine 9, l'Europe et la Communauté des Etats indépendants 12.

Parallèlement à cette situation on ne peut plus préoccupante, l'aide bilatérale et multilatérale destinée à l'agriculture dans les pays en développement a été révisée à la baisse. En 1982, elle était de 10 milliards de dollars. Une décennie plus tard, cette aide n'était plus que de 7,2 milliards. A cela s'ajoute la surexploitation des ressources de la mer, la dégradation des forêts, la diminution des terres cultivables dont la part moyenne qui revient à l'individu à travers le monde ne dépasse guère 0,25 hectare.

Plus grave est la démographie galopante, car la population du globe, de 5,7 milliards aujourd'hui, devrait dépasser les 8,7 milliards de personnes en l'an 2030.

Devant un tableau aussi sombre de la situation alimentaire de notre planète, vous convenez avec moi de la nécessité pour la communauté internationale de prendre des dispositions urgentes pour intensifier la production agricole et assurer l'exploitation rationnelle des ressources naturelles, afin que les dysfonctionnements

alimentaires que connaît le monde aujourd'hui puissent trouver des solutions appropriées et satisfaisantes. Pour ce faire, il importe de prendre d'urgence des mesures aux plans national et international dont l'objectif soit d'enrayer les causes profondes de l'insécurité alimentaire qui frappe d'importantes catégories de la population à travers le monde. Or cela ne pourra se réaliser que lorsque les pays nantis auront accru l'aide et l'assistance aux programmes de développement de l'agriculture dans les pays pauvres.

Notre pays, à l'image des autres pays du CILSS longtemps frappés de plein fouet par la sécheresse et ses effets dévastateurs, a initié depuis 1985, conformément aux orientations de S.E. M. Maaouya Ould Sid'ahmed Taya, Président de la République, une politique de réforme agraire de vaste envergure ayant pour objectifs:

- l'augmentation du taux d'autosuffisance dans le secteur rural;
- l'amélioration des conditions de vie des populations et l'augmentation de leurs revenus;
- la préservation de l'environnement et des ressources naturelles;
- la fixation des populations dans leur terroir;
- la promotion de l'emploi en milieu rural.

Cette politique a donné des résultats importants parmi lesquels je citerai:

- la réalisation d'une production agricole toutes céréales confondues de 181 763 tonnes au cours de la campagne agricole 1994-1995 alors qu'elle ne dépassait guère 44 095 tonnes en 1984, soit une augmentation de 312,21 pour cent;
- la mise en valeur d'une superficie de 30 853 ha en irrigué au cours de la même campagne. Le secteur privé en a exploité 12 874;
- la construction de 184 barrages entre 1985 et 1995 qui ont permis de sécuriser 20 154 ha superficie cultivable.

Dans le domaine des ressources animales, la politique menée par le Gouvernement du Premier Ministre, M. Sidi Mohamed Ould Boubacar, a permis de limiter les dégâts occasionnés par les épidémies animales et ce grâce à l'amélioration de la couverture sanitaire du cheptel. Cette politique a également permis, en matière de préservation de l'environnement, le reboisement de 44 896 ha entre 1984 et 1995.

Aujourd'hui, l'espoir est permis, après une bonne saison des pluies enregistrée cette année, de réaliser une augmentation sensible de la production sous réserve d'une maîtrise effective de la situation des acridiens et des sauteriaux qui constituent une menace réelle pour notre production alimentaire. L'activité actuelle intense de ces prédateurs au niveau de certaines de nos wilayas est de nature à faire disparaître l'espoir né de la bonne pluviométrie chez des milliers d'agriculteurs et d'éleveurs qui ont souffert d'une longue période de sécheresse aiguë et implacable.

La délégation de mon pays tient à rendre hommage à l'effort intense que n'a cessé de déployer notre frère, le Docteur Jacques Diouf, depuis son accession à la tête de l'Organisation pour assainir sa situation, la rendre plus proche des pays membres et mieux outillée à assister ces Etats.

C'est le lieu de se féliciter de l'initiative relative à la mise en oeuvre d'un programme spécial sur la sécurité alimentaire qui profite actuellement à de nombreux pays souffrant d'un important déficit alimentaire. J'exhorte l'Organisation à multiplier les initiatives aux objectifs similaires et à accorder des moyens supplémentaires à l'exécution des programmes de portée identique, en particulier lorsqu'il s'agit de lutter contre les prédateurs au premier rang desquels figurent les criquets pèlerins, de promouvoir les produits de base et de lutter contre la désertification. Ce combat est d'autant plus opportun qu'il intervient après l'adoption de la Convention internationale sur la lutte contre la désertification. Le rôle de la FAO dans l'application de cette convention est prépondérant.

Une autre initiative émanant, celle-là aussi, de M. le Directeur général mérite d'être saluée. Je veux parler de la convocation d'un sommet mondial sur l'alimentation qui sera une occasion pour les dirigeants de la planète de réaffirmer "leur engagement à vaincre la famine et la malnutrition, et leur détermination à oeuvrer à assurer la sécurité alimentaire pour tous. En effet, notre monde doit à mon avis attacher aux questions d'alimentation et de nourriture le même intérêt accordé à d'autres problèmes ayant fait l'objet de rencontres mondiales au plus haut niveau. Au demeurant, il n'est pas possible de trouver de solutions à ces problèmes en dehors de la

résolution de la question alimentaire, le lien étant étroit et évident entre l'alimentation et l'environnement, entre la population et l'alimentation et entre celle-ci et le développement social.

Je voudrais, Monsieur le Président, vous adresser à nouveau nos remerciements pour la compétence avec laquelle vous dirigez nos travaux.

Je souhaite plein succès à la Conférence. Vive la solidarité entre les peuples! Vive la coopération internationale!

Bakur GULUA (Georgia): I convey greetings to you all on behalf of the Head of State, the President of Parliament Mr Edward Shevardnadze and all the Georgian people. We would like to express our gratitude. I speak on behalf of a new Member State of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The timely assistance of international organizations and donor countries has helped Georgia to survive in very difficult times and our people, who are known the world over as friendly people, will never forget this support.

I would like to express our sincere condolences to the Government of Iraq on the death of their Minister.

You can imagine what a difficult situation the people of Georgia would have found themselves in during the last few years if they had not been able to count on the support of the United Nations organizations, in particular the World Food Programme which has successfully implemented the procedures for procurement and delivery of food commodities contributed by donor countries. In the period April to March 1995 emergency food assistance was provided to 480 000 beneficiaries and, during the period October 1995 to October 1996, this assistance will be provided to 330 000 beneficiaries.

As for the wheat, which was donated by the United States and the European Union, we are able to state that 80 percent of the needs of the population were satisfied through these resources.

For the time being the avenue for overcoming the major obstacles has been worked out and, in spite of the difficulties which still exist in the process of rehabilitation of the totality of the country's territory and the damage caused by war, the fact that Georgian people have chosen the path of building a democratic society gives us optimism for the future.

Our Parliament has adopted a new constitution based on the most progressive ideas and guarantee stable development for our country. With the assistance of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, the national currency the Lary, has been introduced.

The first results of economic reform have already been achieved. The process of preparation for elections according to the new constitution of the President and a new Parliament for Georgia will take place on 5 November 1995. Preparation is in the final stages.

As an agricultural country, further positive results in Georgia will depend on the development of the economy, especially on development in the field of agriculture. We believe that Georgia, now a Member of FAO, will be able to further develop the irreversible processes of on-going reforms, about which I would like very briefly to devote a few words.

We have now defined that the strategy for development of agriculture should be based on free market economy and the economic needs of the country.

Until recently, our agro-industrial sector produced 23 percent of the gross national product; 24 percent of fixed assets were in this sector, 20 percent of manpower was employed in this sector, and it produced 32 percent of consumer goods. Its share in exports represented 18 percent.

These figures make it clear that in spite of strict laws of market economy which will cause significant changes in the industrial structure of the country, agriculture will continue to be the priority and, taking into account its potential, it will make up a considerable share in the export potential of the country.



The ongoing agricultural reform is accelerating the processes of establishing different forms of ownership and farming in the villages and privatization of processing enterprises, which result in increasing the agricultural production of the non-State sector, including products mainly produced by the public sector previously. During last year this sector produced 60 percent of grain, 65 percent of sunflower, 79 percent of vegetables, 78 percent of potatoes, 50 percent of essential oils, 82 percent of meat, 90 percent of milk and 80 percent of eggs. These tendencies will be strengthened in the future and we intend to create favourable conditions for all forms of farming, including smallholders' farms in order to create a new type of rural entrepreneur.

From this point of view, it is worth mentioning the recent decision of FAO concerning the implementation of the project "Emergency Provision of Winter Wheat Seed" in Georgia. I would like to thank Mr Jacques Diouf for his personal support in this regard.

In accordance with the strategic policy of the sector, the following priorities have been defined: short-, medium-, and long-term action plans; investment policies; ways of improving management systems; improvement of house plots; principles of cooperation and integration and other important issues, with cooperation from the experts of the following international organizations: the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, Know How Fund UK, TACIS, European Bank of Reconstruction and Development. The creation of the above-mentioned environment has resulted in a planned meeting with the World Bank Representatives at the end of this month, at which the issue of allocating US\$32 million as a credit for Georgia will be decided.

The preparation process of the project by experts of FAO and the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development is in its final stage. It seeks to establish a wholesale market in Tblisi and provide the Tblisi population with fresh fruits and vegetables. An allocation of US\$13 million is envisaged. Ten tea processing enterprises were selected by the Know How Fund UK, on the basis of which joint ventures will be established.

A very important memorandum was signed by the European Union and Georgia concerning the creation of a Counterpart Fund with resources obtained from the sale of production received as humanitarian aid. It will mainly be used for the development of agriculture. The expertise of the most important units of agriculture are being carried out with the participation of TACIS specialists.

In view of all the above, from our point of view it would be appropriate to direct our cooperation with FAO towards allocating the targeted credits. The reason for this is that the process of drawing up concrete projects is aimed at the development of the fields of priority areas. The technical and resource aspects have been examined with the assistance of foreign experts and are an ongoing activity in Georgia.

Unfortunately, because of lack of time, it is not possible to discuss the problems in detail. Nevertheless, I hope that joint working groups will be created in order to study the possibility of our further collaboration.

I want to assure you that our mutual work will be productive and that Georgia possesses an appropriate natural climate, resources and, most important of all, human resources.

CHAIRMAN: I would like to call upon Ms Maria Kadlecikova, from Slovakia to replace me for a while.

Ms María Kadlecikova, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, took the Chair. Mme Maria Kadlecikova, Vice-Présidente de la Conférence, assume la présidence. Ocupa la presidencia la Sra. Maria Kadlecikova, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia.

NOUREDDINE BAHBOUH (Algérie) (Langue originale arabe): Je voudrais exprimer notre tristesse lorsque nous avons appris le décès de notre collègue Khalid Abdul Moneem Rasheed, Ministre de l'Agriculture de l'Iraq, alors qu'il venait de s'acquitter de ses fonctions. Je voudrais, à cette occasion, demander à la délégation de l'Iraq de transmettre nos sincères condoléances à la famille du défunt.

J'ai ainsi l'honneur, au nom de la délégation algérienne et en mon nom personnel, de vous adresser nos félicitations, Monsieur le Président, pour votre accession à la présidence de la vingt-huitième Conférence de la FAO. Votre longue expérience et vos qualités personnelles constituent un gage de succès pour nos travaux.

Qu'il me soit permis également de rendre un hommage appuyé à M. Jacques Diouf, Directeur général de la FAO, pour les efforts inlassables qu'il déploie afin de mettre cette institution au service des nobles objectifs de lutte contre la faim et la pauvreté à travers le monde.

Il y a quelques jours, nous avons célébré à Québec le cinquantième anniversaire de la FAO. En cette circonstance, mon pays a renouvelé sa foi en notre Organisation et à apporté un appui prononcé à notre Organisation et à la Déclaration de Québec, laquelle une fois adoptée restera pour le futur un jalon important de la poursuite des actions de lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition dans le monde.

Nos présentes délibérations se déroulent dans un contexte plus défavorable encore que celui qui a marqué nos précédentes assises. Dans son intervention, le Directeur général a mis à juste titre l'accent sur la crise financière actuelle de l'Organisation et ses effets induits sur le Programme de travail et budget.

Nous partageons, pleinement, ses préoccupations devant les contraintes qui pèsent sur la conduite de la restructuration et des changements déjà engagés dans notre Organisation, ainsi que sur le financement des activités de son prochain Programme de travail.

En cette phase cruciale de processus de réformes, pour lequel les pays en développement ont plus que jamais besoin de soutien, l'Algérie n'a pas ménagé son appui aux propositions du Directeur général, bien qu'elle fut de l'avis d'un budget en accroissement.

La solidarité la plus agissante que les Etats Membres puissent manifester à la FAO en ce moment, est d'assumer leurs responsabilités en souscrivant pleinement à leurs obligations qui découlent de l'Acte constitutif.

L'analyse de la question agricole dans mon pays est marquée essentiellement par la limitation et la fragilité des ressources naturelles. Il résulte de ces éléments que la stratégie mise en oeuvre tend à favoriser la lutte contre la dégradation des sols, l'optimisation de l'utilisation de la surface agricole utile et une gestion rationnelle et intégrée des ressources en eau.

Il faut également signaler les effets néfastes de la sécheresse et de la désertification qui sévissent sur une bonne partie du pays, auxquels s'ajoutent encore la menace du fléau acridien, ces phénomènes constituant une entrave persistante au développement de notre région.

A cet égard, les 23 et 24 août 1995 les Ministres des Affaires étrangères des pays Sahélo-sahariens ont tenu à Alger une réunion au cours de laquelle ils ont notamment exprimé leur vive préoccupation vis-à-vis du fléau acridien, des conséquences néfastes de la sécheresse et de la désertification. Ils ont également convenu de convoquer deux réunions d'experts sur la lutte contre le criquet pèlerin et la désertification, respectivement en Mauritanie et au Niger, qui précèderaient un Sommet qui se tiendra au cours du premier trimestre de l'année prochaine.

En outre, la mondialisation de l'économie tend à opérer une restructuration des règles qui régissent les échanges internationaux dans un sens plutôt défavorable aux pays importateurs nets de produits alimentaires. Ce constat est d'autant plus préoccupant que le niveau de nos importations alimentaires, déjà très important, aura tendance à augmenter du seul fait de ces nouvelles règles.

Compte tenu de l'aggravation continue du déficit alimentaire, de l'évolution du régime alimentaire caractérisée par l'abandon des produits traditionnels en faveur des produits importés, en Algérie les pouvoirs publics ont toujours cherché à mettre en place des stratégies qui visent à concilier deux objectifs principaux: la satisfaction des besoins alimentaires et nutritionnels de la population et l'atténuation de la dépendance alimentaire.

Pour atteindre ces objectifs, il faudra résoudre les problèmes que posent l'augmentation continue de la demande alimentaire eu égard à une poussée démographique très élevée et à une croissance irrégulière de la production agricole.

En continuation des réformes entamées depuis le début des années 80, l'Algérie a, depuis 1994, approfondi et intensifié le programme de réformes structurelles. C'est ainsi qu'elle a adopté un nouveau cadre juridique et institutionnel mieux adapté aux exigences de la relance de la production agricole, et plus incitatif au profit des exploitants agricoles.

Ce programme d'action, qui contribuera à renforcer la sécurité alimentaire dans notre pays, nécessite des moyens considérables. Il exige d'abord des pouvoirs publics la mise en oeuvre d'initiatives appropriées, compte tenu de l'effort important d'investissement matériel et humain à consentir dans les secteurs des biens et services publics.

Il dépend de notre capacité à mettre en oeuvre les potentialités internes dont nous disposons, car il faut désormais permettre aux populations de réaliser elles-mêmes leur développement en mobilisant leur propre épargne.

La FAO à cet égard, de par sa vocation, devra être étroitement associée dans la recherche et l'application des mécanismes destinés à atténuer le coût de ces nouvelles réformes.

Une attention particulière devra être accordée aux problèmes posés par la désertification et le fléau acridien dans certains pays.

Dans ce cadre, notre Organisation devra apporter un soutien au programme d'action au niveau national, sous-régional et régional, en vue de favoriser un véritable transfert de technologies au profit de ces pays, pour conforter leurs efforts dans la lutte contre ces phénomènes.

La Convention sur la désertification offre un cadre propice à l'intervention de ces programmes.

En ce qui concerne le fléau acridien, la FAO a engagé des efforts méritoires dans le cadre du programme EMPRES, qu'il est souhaitable d'élargir à la région occidentale de l'Afrique.

Par ailleurs, l'opportunité de la constitution de groupements économiques régionaux s'inscrit dans les tendances actuelles de la globalisation du commerce international. A cet égard, l'Algérie qui a libéralisé son économie et son commerce extérieur n'est pas resté en dehors de ce processus. Elle active, dans ce sens, pour son intégration dans les regroupements de la région.

Mais c'est à travers un réel partenariat économique et financier que l'intégration envisagée dans ce cadre, pourra garantir un développement durable à notre économie agricole. Ainsi, l'appel à l'aide pour l'orientation des investissements vers les secteurs agro-alimentaires pour une meilleure valorisation des produits agricoles devient une exigence.

Le 15 avril de l'année précédente a été signé à Marrakech l'acte final de l'Uruguay Round, mettant ainsi un terme à plus de 7 années de longues et laborieuses négociations. Il s'est agi de toute évidence d'un acte de haute portée dont il est à espérer qu'il aura pour effet d'ouvrir la voie à l'instauration d'un système commercial international réellement libre, équitable, transparent et prévisible.

Nous nous félicitons du fait que la FAO ait entrepris un travail de fond sur les résultats de l'Uruguay Round et ses effets sur la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Ceci reflète l'intérêt qu'accorde l'Organisation pour la mise en oeuvre rapide de la décision ministérielle sur les mesures concernant les effets négatifs possibles du programme de réforme sur les pays les moins avancés et les pays en développement importateurs nets de produits alimentaires.

Bien que l'évaluation exhaustive et systématique des implications des accords de l'Uruguay Round demeure ouverte, les premières études et analyses prospectives réalisées par la FAO laissent apparaître des effets négatifs au détriment des pays en développement.

Ces pays qui ont contribué d'une manière significative au plein succès de ces négociations, s'attendent en retour à une application intégrale des dispositions de l'acte final de l'Uruguay Round notamment pour ce qui est des mécanismes compensatoires.

La communauté internationale se retrouve aujourd'hui confrontée à la souffrance dans les pays en développement de près de 800 millions de personnes, en raison d'une sous-alimentation protéinique et énergétique chronique.

C'est dire combien la proposition du Directeur général de convoquer un sommet mondial de l'alimentation gagne aujourd'hui en actualité. Un tel Sommet, qui doit être orienté vers l'action, doit pouvoir offrir l'opportunité de procéder à un inventaire exhaustif des réalisations.

Il doit, par-delà l'analyse des causes structurelles des phénomènes de la pauvreté et de la faim, s'attacher à la recherche d'une solution globale à l'ensemble de ce problème, par l'adaptation notamment d'une démarche fondée sur l'instauration d'un nouveau et réel débat autour de la question de la sécurité alimentaire dans un esprit de coopération et d'avantages mutuels entre les pays développés et ceux en développement.

Une telle approche ne manquera pas de réduire les causes profondes qui sont à la source de la pauvreté et de la malnutrition dans le monde et de préparer les conditions d'un développement durable et partagé.

La mise en oeuvre des plans d'action qui en découleront incombera d'abord aux pays eux-mêmes. Cependant, la communauté internationale devra manifester encore davantage sa solidarité au profit de ceux qui souffrent encore d'insécurité alimentaire.

A cet égard, notre Organisation devra continuer à apporter une contribution essentielle pour la poursuite de l'objectif qu'elle s'est assignée, à savoir nourrir le monde.

Luis ATIENZA SERNA (España): Señor Presidente, tengo el honor de tomar la palabra en nombre de la Unión Europea, en calidad de Presidente de su Consejo de Ministros de Agricultura.

Ante todo, quisiera expresarle mis mejores deseos de que bajo su dirección la Conferencia resulte un éxito, así como darle todo mi aliento puesto que en los próximos días tendremos que enfrentarnos a una serie de problemas difíciles, principalmente a cuestiones presupuestarias y financieras. Espero que pueda usted contar con la comprensión y el esfuerzo de todos nosotros para resolverlos.

Aprovecho también la ocasión para felicitar al Director General, señor Diouf, por su dedicación y por los esfuerzos que despliega desde que fue nombrado hace dos años.

Asimismo, deseo dar la bienvenida a los países que acaban de incorporarse a la Organización.

Nos encontramos aquí, en Roma, tan sólo unos días después de nuestra reunión en Canadá, donde hemos celebrado el cincuentenario de la FAO y donde hemos reafirmado unánimemente los principios fundamentales de la Organización. El balance de estos cincuenta años resulta muy positivo para la FAO, si bien, como hemos reconocido en Quebec, la misión de la Organización dista mucho de haberse completado. No debemos, pues, dormirmos en los laureles. Nuestro reto cotidiano consiste en contribuir a que las poblaciones de las diferentes regiones del mundo alcancen una alimentación suficiente y equilibrada. En efecto, a pesar de los esfuerzos desplegados durante los últimos cincuenta años, es aún muy alto el número de personas sin suficiente acceso a los productos alimentarios, en gran parte debido a situaciones de emergencia en muchas regiones del globo y, en particular, en el Africa Subsahariana, así como a la situación de numerosos grupos vulnerables sin recursos suficientes. En noviembre de 1996 se celebrará aquí, en Roma, la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación, en cuyo marco de preparación se incluye nuestra Conferencia; esperamos que alcance resultados positivos a largo plazo en beneficio de los países en vías de desarrollo. En algunos de ellos, la producción alimentaria nacional aumenta a un ritmo más lento que la población y gran parte de tales países, particularmente los menos avanzados, no pueden incrementar la importación de productos alimentarios.

El reto está muy claro, las necesidades son cada vez mayores. Las previsiones de la FAO para el continente africano son, por ejemplo, elocuentes. Tales previsiones dejan entender que, a menos que se invierta la

tendencia actual, de los 25 millones de toneladas de cereales importados actualmente, se pasará a 50 millones de toneladas antes del año 2010.

Hay que reconocer que la ayuda alimentaria, que se ha convertido en la principal respuesta a la inseguridad alimentaria, únicamente puede aportar una solución parcial y puntual a los problemas. Cabe recordar, a este respecto, el importante esfuerzo que, en lo que a recursos financieros se refiere, realiza cada año la Unión Europea; en efecto, en 1994, la Unión dedicó a acciones de ayuda alimentaria un importe global de 1 500 millones de ECU, es decir, 2 000 millones de dólares.

Por lo tanto, es necesario, señor Presidente, destacar la gran prioridad que debería darse a las políticas y programas destinados a mejorar la seguridad alimentaria, y es también por esto por lo que concedemos una atención especial al "Plan a Medio Plazo 1996-2001".

Como indicamos en nuestra reunión de Quebec, la Unión Europea se ha comprometido a volver a hacer hincapié sobre los objetivos de seguridad alimentaria en nuestras políticas de desarrollo respectivas y a mejorar la coordinación entre los programas de los Estados Miembros y de la Comunidad en este sector.

En este contexto, permítame recordarle, señor Presidente, que en noviembre de 1994, el Consejo de la Unión Europea adoptó una Resolución que da especial importancia a la seguridad alimentaria como instrumento a largo plazo, a escala nacional, regional y familiar, en la lucha contra la pobreza en el mundo.

Resulta sin duda útil, señor Presidente, informarle también de que los órganos comunitarios están examinando la posibilidad de integrar y presentar de la forma más coherente posible, y bajo el prisma de la seguridad alimentaria, todos los medios de intervención comunitaria en beneficio de las poblaciones que padecen una crisis alimentaria grave o un déficit alimentario estructural. Siempre desde este ángulo, se está estudiando también la posibilidad de sustituir, en determinadas circunstancias, acciones de ayuda alimentaria por un apoyo financiero en favor de acciones relativas a la seguridad alimentaria y, en particular, al desarrollo agrícola y la producción de plantas comestibles. La Unión Europea favorece el recurso a acciones triangulares siempre que esto sea posible.

Consideramos que es particularmente importante reforzar la dimensión regional de la Seguridad Alimentaria aprovechando las ayudas complementarias de los países de una misma región, y estimulando el comercio de productos agrícolas y la integración.

El deseo de garantizar la seguridad alimentaria a escala europea fue uno de los elementos que se tuvieron en cuenta al elaborar nuestra Política Agrícola Común hace 35 años. Pero la Unión Europea no vive encerrada en sí misma. Ha tomado iniciativas que se han llevado a cabo con voluntad de apertura y pueden considerarse destinadas a alcanzar el objetivo de una seguridad alimentaria mayor y de una participación más activa de los países en vías de desarrollo en el comercio mundial.

Citaré en este contexto varios ejemplos: en primer lugar, la reforma de la Política Agrícola Común, decidida en 1992; en segundo lugar, los especiales vínculos entre la Comunidad y determinados países de África, del Caribe, del Océano Pacífico, de la cuenca mediterránea y de América Latina, así como los acuerdos que acaban de consolidarse con los países de Europa Central y Oriental; en tercer y último lugar, citaré la aplicación del acuerdo resultante de las negociaciones de la Ronda Uruguay.

Sobre el tercer elemento, la aplicación del Acuerdo sobre Agricultura de la Ronda Uruguay, no deja de presentar riesgos para determinados países, como han señalado ustedes en sus documentos sobre la situación de la Alimentación y de la Agricultura en 1995. Quisiera recordar a ese respecto que la Unión Europea y sus Estados Miembros han indicado ya que están dispuestos a considerar prioritariamente una ayuda alimentaria especial para aquellos países con rentas bajas y déficit alimentario en los cuales el impacto de la Ronda Uruguay pudiera tener graves repercusiones negativas.

Por otra parte, para responder a otra inquietud recogida en el documento, la tensa situación de la oferta en el mercado de los cereales, quisiera indicarles que la Comunidad acaba de tomar las medidas pertinentes para aumentar la disponibilidad de cereales evitando perturbaciones del mercado.

Nuestro objetivo consiste en garantizar la seguridad alimentaria a largo plazo. Consideramos que para alcanzar este objetivo deben coordinarse tanto las medidas destinadas a reducir la pobreza como las políticas sectoriales relativas a la agricultura, al medio ambiente, a la sanidad, a la planificación familiar y la educación. Es particularmente importante asegurar la coherencia de estas políticas con el marco macroeconómico en que se desarrollan. Por otra parte, deberá tenerse en cuenta el papel del comercio agrícola y la participación en el mismo de los pequeños agricultores.

Aunque quizás no sería necesario mencionarlo, la condición primera para alcanzar este objetivo es la estabilidad política en un marco democrático y abierto.

La Unión Europea está dispuesta a contribuir a este objetivo a través de un diálogo para definir la estrategia apropiada a largo plazo. Con esta finalidad los países de la Unión se han comprometido a coordinar sus políticas en este campo no sólo internamente, como antes señalé, sino también con otros donantes, agencias multilaterales y organizaciones no gubernamentales.

Las estadísticas y las previsiones nos demuestran claramente que no hay tiempo que perder; creo que debemos dotarnos rápidamente de los instrumentos adecuados para garantizar la seguridad alimentaria y el incremento del desarrollo sostenible en el mundo. Señor Presidente, en la búsqueda de esa mayor seguridad alimentaria, la FAO puede y debe jugar un papel importante. Así lo atestiguan los últimos cincuenta años. Con miras al futuro abrigamos la esperanza de que la Organización sea una fuerza dinámica de actualidad y puedo garantizarle nuestra plena cooperación y nuestro firme apoyo.

Hasta aquí, señor Presidente, como repetidamente he indicado, he realizado esta intervención en nombre de la Comunidad Europea y de sus Estados Miembros. Permítame, a continuación, tomar la palabra por muy breves minutos en nombre de mi propio país, España.

Está claro que como miembro de la Unión Europea suscribimos todo lo hasta ahora dicho en su nombre en relación con la situación mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación.

Pero, señor Presidente, la sensibilidad de mi país para los temas relacionados con la pesca me hace poner un énfasis especial en este aspecto y su relación con la alimentación. En el punto 11 del orden del día de esta Conferencia, se aborda el Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable, negociado por vía de urgencia mientras España ostentaba la Presidencia del Comité de Pesca y, por cuya aprobación, hacemos votos.

No nos cabe duda de que la pesca es un recurso más para aplacar el hambre en el mundo, pero es un recurso muy sensible que debe ser protegido para que su utilización sea eficaz en lo que queda de este siglo y en los venideros. La FAO ha realizado un trabajo excelente en los últimos años en este sentido, trabajo en el que ha contado permanentemente con la contribución de España. Animamos a que este trabajo continúe y anunciamos que España seguirá en la misma línea de compromiso que ha venido manteniendo hasta el momento.

La posición española en relación con el tema de los Recursos Genéticos se encuentra igualmente en la misma línea de compromiso y cooperación.

Hemos colaborado estrechamente con la FAO en este tema y estamos convencidos de que la agricultura del futuro y, en consecuencia, la alimentación de la humanidad se basará, además de en otras soluciones, en el mejor aprovechamiento de las capacidades de producción y resistencia que muchas plantas, que hoy en día no son utilizadas, llevan en su dotación genotípica. Es, por tanto, función de todos conservarlas, conocerlas y utilizarlas. Aprovecho la ocasión para resaltar que España es el país de Europa que cuenta con una mayor diversidad fitogenética. Como se ha venido haciendo en los últimos años, los bancos de germoplasma de la administración española están abiertos a esta colaboración que, estamos convencidos, es básica para el futuro de una agricultura más productiva a la vez que más respetuosa con el medio ambiente.

En nombre de la Unión Europea, deseo el mayor éxito al desarrollo de la Conferencia, así como a la realización de todas las acciones de la FAO previstas para los dos próximos años.

Franz FISCHLER (European Community): Mr Chairman, Director-General, Ministers, Your Excellencies, delegates and observers, ladies and gentlemen, I am deeply honoured to be present for the first time as

Commissioner of the European Union at this highly important meeting and to be able to address such a prestigious gathering. At the end of 1991, the European Community became member of the FAO and it is gratifying to note that since then it has played a fully fledged role both institutionally by participating actively in FAO in discussions, and operationally by cooperating with FAO on the ground. So far, we have funded 31 projects worth some US\$33 000 000.

Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, the European Community's agricultural sector in 1995-96 has embarked on the 3rd and final year of a transition period towards the achievement of the CAP reform set in train in 1992. This transitional period has seen a readjustment of agricultural markets and a drawing up of new rules designed to avoid a resurgence of structure surpluses. This has led to improvement in agricultural incomes and has kept at bay the risk of a budget crisis. I expect the European farmer to become much more market orientated as a result of the reform. In doing so he will increasingly focus on the quality the consumer expects from the daily offer of food. The Community is keenly aware of its international commitments and understands the signals from the global market. Policies such as the CAP must evolve and be adapted according to changing circumstances if their objectives are to be met consistently over time.

What I have in mind is not reform of CAP reform for that is neither appropriate nor necessary, not even after the Union's next enlargement, but its continuing evolution which would adapt the CAP to changing realities so as better to reach the objectives that the EU has set for itself. The realities, ladies and gentlemen, include the overexploitation of the soil in many areas, the competition between agriculture industry and consumers for water resources, diminishing per capita consumption for certain agricultural products in the industrialized world, the inability of many rural areas to sustain the level of economic activity which is needed to support dynamic local communities and last (but not least) the complexity of certain agricultural regulations that make them difficult to understand and apply.

For CAP adapting their changing circumstances means completing their reform in areas such as fruits and vegetables and wine, simplifying the regulations so that they become easier to understand and implement and responding in an optimal fashion to the requirements of consumers, farmers, the environment, and of course, budgetary constraints.

Let me, however, state loud and clear that simplification does not and will not mean deregulation because food is too vital a commodity not to be submitted to special rules regarding production, quality standards and even production methods. For producers and governments that do not understand, as world trade expands and opens up, competitiveness, value added, product specialization, market functionality and environmental friendliness, market access and market preference become code words. The 1992 CAP reform has made a substantial step in this direction. Policy continuity will lead to further steps. Full competitiveness is not everybody's business. Our policy will continue to provide the possibility for our less competitive farmers to earn a livelihood from farming in its broadest sense for they are also the guardians of the countryside and they are the providers of services which society wants and enjoy a way of life that is deeply engrained in the collective psyche of humanity.

I believe we need to redesign our rural development policy so to make the countryside more attractive to farmers and non-farmers alike. This would contribute to slowing down the very worrying urbanization movement that does so much to ruin our environment. The final act of the Uruguay Round negotiations contains the most extensive liberalization methods ever. Liberalization is particularly important for developing countries which have in recent years courageously and unilaterally embarked on programmes to open up their economies to the outside world but some of these countries suffer.

The Community is prepared to examine, together with its main trading partners, what special aid may be required for those countries where the outcome of the GATT negotiations is liable to upset their agricultural market balance and jeopardize their food structure. European agriculture must of course ultimately bear in mind the future integration into the European Union of the countries of central and eastern Europe. The fight against poverty and assistance for sustainable economic and social development are two of the main planks of the European Union's development policy. In 1994 the European Community as such dispensed US\$4.8 billion ECUs in development aid. The sums earmarked for development aid over the next five years are US\$14.6 billion under the Lomé Convention and US\$4.7 billion for the Mediterranean countries and US\$6.7 billion for Russia and Eastern European countries, making the transition to a market economy. For Latin America and Asia, our annual commitments will top 1 billion ECUs. That makes some US\$45 billion

over the next five years. Around half the Community funding goes to rural development and food security. We shall continue to supply food aid as this is a crucial factor in dealing with emergencies. As Minister Assiensa said, last year, assistance from the Community and its Member States rose to 1.5 billion ECUs with the lion's share taken by cereals. Food security is complex issue with no ready made solution. As we watch continuing reduction in the world's cropland as population figures skyrocket and major cities expand exponentially, we must ask ourselves how we can at one and the same time pursue partly contradictory objectives regarding agriculture and food such as greater market orientation, notably stock reduction, extensification of agriculture and more organic and quality farming, keeping as many people as possible on the land, reducing internal food prices to consumers foremost in much of the developed world, reducing taxes and most important helping to address the needs of the 8 million chronically undernourished people in the world.

Let me come to the end. Sustainable development, ladies and gentlemen, also means conservation of resources. Fisheries and forest are two areas in which the combined efforts of the FAO and the European Community are bearing fruit. In fisheries, I should like to say how pleased I am at the swift conclusion of negotiations on the code of conduct for responsible fishing reflecting demand issued at the 27th Session of the Conference. The European Community and its Member States have, from the outset, attached the utmost importance to the drawing up of a code of conduct as an instrument which was voluntary and non-binding, and which, by means of its all-embracing scope, has a not inconsiderable impact on the future of the world fishing. Where forests are concerned the Community has great interest in Tropical Forestry Action Plan that the FAO is drawing up in a number of countries notably in Africa. The landmark ministerial meeting in May adopted a declaration which constitutes an important step towards translating into action the real consensus on the management, conservation and sustainable development of forests and towards mapping out the future. In the light of challenges we face in the area of food, agriculture, forestry and environment we must be at all times aware of the fundamental role of FAO as a centre of excellence in the fields it encompasses, not only because of its expertise but also because of the forum for debate it offers.

President, Director-General, ladies and gentlemen thank you for your attention.

CHAIRMAN: Before I adjourn I would like to remind you that our next meeting will be at 2.30 this afternoon. The first speaker will be the Head of the Delegation of Nigeria, followed by the Head of the Delegation of Austria. Thereafter we will follow the list that is stated on page 2 in C 95/DJ/2.

The meeting is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 13.20 hours.

La séance est levée à 13 h 20.

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.20 horas.



21 October 1995



منظمة الاغذية  
والزراعة  
للالام المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

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

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

# CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Twenty-eighth Session • Vingt-huitième session • 28° período de sesiones

**FOURTH PLENARY MEETING  
QUATRIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
CUARTA SESION PLENARIA**

21 October 1995

**The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.50 hours**

**Mr Costas Petrides,**

**Chairman of the Conference, presiding**

**La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 50**

**sous la présidence de M. Costas Petrides,**

**Président de la Conférence**

**Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 14.50 horas**

**bajo la presidencia del Sr. Costas Petrides,**

**Presidente de la Conferencia**

INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)

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

INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)

6. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (continued)

6. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)

6. Examen del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS

- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION

- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES

CHAIRMAN: Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the Fourth Plenary Meeting. I call upon the Head of Delegation of Nigeria.

Al Haji Mohamed GAMBO JIMETA (Nigeria): Thank you, Mr Chairman, for giving me the floor. Before I proceed, please allow me to join the previous speakers in adding my delegation's deepest sympathy and condolences to the delegation, government and people of Iraq over the sad loss of the leader of their delegation. Also allow me to congratulate you and the three Vice-Chairmen on your election. The Nigerian delegation is confident that under your able leadership the Conference during this session will, as in the past, be able to hold useful deliberations on ways and means of improving the global state of food and agriculture for the benefit of all humanity. I wish also to thank the Director-General and his able staff for the excellent documents they have made available to us in order to facilitate our deliberations. Our sympathies remain with the various member countries for the untold hardship inflicted on lives and properties by natural disasters since our last Conference. This dimension is, therefore, an additional task which requires our urgent attention.

Mr Chairman, the issue of food security is crucial, especially to developing countries as it is the key to political stability without which economic and social development would be difficult to attain. Food security entails an adequate aggregate food supply at all times and sustainable policies on food production, storage, processing, research and technology, transportation, environmental issues and marketing systems. It also entails enhanced household income to enable them to have access to food, provision of nutrition, education and population stabilization. It is heartening to note that the problem of food insecurity has been overcome in the developed and industrialized countries which continue to register food surpluses. Regrettably, the problem of food insecurity is still very much with our countries in the developing world. Mr Chairman, millions of families in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and Latin America cannot afford three square meals a day and are thus vulnerable to debilitating diseases like kwashiorkor and malaria. If we are indeed committed to the goal of global food security, then we must in our deeds and actions learn to be our brothers' keepers.

Consequently, it is imperative that we collaborate in the areas of technology and research to combat this nagging problem, as we hold the unshakable view that food security can only be achieved if there is understanding and cooperation between the north and south in finding solutions to the problems of inequality, protectionism in agricultural trade, the debt burden, environmental degradation, inadequate capital inflow and political instability. This Conference has provided the unique opportunity by seriously addressing this problem.

Mr Chairman, I would like in this regard to commend the efforts of FAO in coming up with the Special Programme on Food Production in support of Food Security in Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries. The Director-General has already embarked upon restructuring the Organization with the ultimate aim of preserving and invigorating this noble objective. This is a good initiative which deserves our full support.

Mr Chairman, poor harvest, deteriorating prices of primary commodities of developing countries and international market and environmental degradation have constituted obstacles to economic development, but the issue of well-known crushing debt burden has been much more pronounced and devastating on the economy. Efforts made so far, though commendable, have not met the yearning and aspirations of those of us concerned. The servicing of debt has meant that a substantial portion of our foreign exchange earnings are devoted to it, leaving a paltry portion for importation of spare parts, machinery and other inputs. The cherished concept of sustainable development would become a mirage if our development partners, especially G7, do not make greater efforts to reduce the debt burden. Indeed we feel that the celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Founding of FAO should serve as the beginning of a new chapter in the economic development of low-income food-deficit countries if their debts are graciously written off. This laudable gesture would provide a conducive environment for economic development.

Mr Chairman, it is our conviction that the solution to the food insecurity problem must start at the national level. In cognizance of this fact, the Federal Government has continued to accord priority to sustainable agricultural development in terms of employment creation and diversification of the economy. In order to enhance the attainment of food security, various programmes which include integrated rural development, research and extension, provision of irrigation facilities, development of national strategic grain storage, women in agriculture, afforestation, environmental sustainability, Sahelian incursion, erosion and promotion of food and export production are being implemented. It should be stressed that we need assistance if we are to succeed. It would be encouraging if international efforts were obtained in harnessing our untapped abundant resources that permeate five agro-ecological zones already demarcated for the cultivation of various varieties of food and cash crops, the raising of livestock and fish production. In view of this, I have the singular honour to extend an invitation to the international community to take advantage of the enormous investment opportunities which exist in the agricultural sector in Nigeria.

We now have in place a new investment order which embodies a completely deregulated investment and export processing zone. Distorted information orchestrated by foreign media about an unproven charge of human rights' violation in Nigeria has not been helpful. We therefore crave the understanding of the international community as we believe that Nigeria is in a better position to solve her domestic problems. I wish to assure you that Nigeria is poised to evolve a stable democratic political policy which is a prelude to food security. We now have in place a new political structure conscientiously designed by Nigerians and for Nigerians.

Mr Chairman, let me commend the Director-General for the increased responsibilities in the establishment of activities for the control of transboundary plant and animal pests and diseases and the provision of policy advice to Member Governments to assist in the establishment of a food security framework especially in the low-income food-deficit countries. We also commend the Director-General and his able staff for the comprehensive and in-depth Programme Evaluation Report of the selected programmes and operations under the Regular and Field Programmes executed by FAO during the period 1994-95. The report has highlighted the relevance and achievement as well as the performance in the programme priority areas which were endorsed by the Council.

Mr Chairman, we are well aware of the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) for the biennium 1996-97 which has been exhaustively considered by the Programme and Finance Committees as well as by other groups. The Nigerian Delegation wholeheartedly supports the Budget level. The proposed Budget is calling for a full agenda of action to confront the challenges facing the world food and agriculture situation. We therefore call on the Member Nations of this important Organization, especially the larger contributors, to endeavour to pay their assessed contributions and arrears so as to make available sufficient resources for strengthening the Organization's capability to better serve its Member Nations thus arming them with the weapons to confront the challenges facing the World Food Security.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplauso

Wilhelm MOLTERER (Austria): Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, ladies and gentlemen, allow me to begin by saying on behalf of my delegation that we have the greatest sympathy with the Iraqi delegation and that we feel with them on this sad occasion in the loss of the leader of their delegation. This is indeed a moment of trial for them.

First of all I should like to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on your election to this very responsible function. I should, of course, also like to congratulate the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Commissions of the Conference, and I would also like to express our good wishes for the greater success of this Twenty-eighth Session of the FAO Conference particularly this year because 1995 is a special year for FAO.

This is the year when we celebrate the 50th birthday of FAO. In 1995 Austria celebrates the 50th anniversary of our Second Republic, so we feel particularly linked to FAO on this occasion. Fifty years ago this important Specialized Agency of the United Nations was founded in Quebec, a historic place, where a few days ago the anniversary was solemnly celebrated and the climax of this universal celebration was the adoption of the Quebec Declaration by the Member Nations of the Organization. This declaration underlines the joint will of FAO and its Member Nations not to cease in their worldwide endeavours to overcome hunger and malnutrition.

The year to come, 1996, will again be a year when FAO will be in the focus of public attention because in November 1996 it is expected that the World Food Summit will take place here in Rome and it is expected that from that Summit, through a political declaration which is to be signed by heads of Government and through an action plan, a contribution will be made to the struggle against poverty, a contribution to rational population policies and to good leadership by national governments and to sustainable development. Austria has noted with great interest that FAO intends to hold this Summit in order to discuss problems of global food security just at a time when it can be foreseen that food supplies globally will have reached such a level that neither food security nor appropriate food reserves can in fact be guaranteed. This situation is particularly serious for low-income food-deficit developing countries. Obviously, this requires even greater solidarity from all governments, from the community of nations, in order to be able to overcome the difficulties which we are moving towards.

Ladies and gentlemen, in all western industrialized countries we find that a good part of the population lives in rural regions or regions which have largely rural structures. For instance, in Austria almost 43 percent of our population lives in rural areas. Agriculture and forestry is essential therefore to the well-being and development of these areas. This is why we feel that agriculture has a double role to play. On the one hand it has to produce agricultural commodities, in particular food, and it is becoming increasingly clear that the question of the quality of the food that is produced and of the protection of the environment while producing it is a matter of decisive importance for the future. Agriculture has additional functions to perform which are closely linked to the production function. Agriculture is responsible for the continued health of our soils. Agriculture is responsible for keeping our water clean, water which is one of the most precious things that we have to preserve for the future. Agriculture also makes a great contribution to the stability of certain areas, in particular rural areas. Many of these functions of agriculture were not given due recognition in the past. We must now recognize this multi-function aspect of agriculture in order to ensure sustainable development. For this reason we must also give due recognition, including economic recognition, to these various functions of agriculture, especially in a country like Austria, where agriculture is labouring under difficult conditions, in particular in mountain areas. This is a matter of particular importance.

Another matter which is just as important is that we must have ever closer cooperation between agricultural production and marketing. These two are closely interrelated. Like the connection between agriculture and the economy, this is also a matter of central importance in countries such as Austria. In Austria what is also very important, and even more so for the future, is preservation of the ecology, and we want to strengthen our ecological awareness in developing our sustainable agriculture. We are a new member of the European Union and we want to make it clear that this ecological viewpoint is something that is being massively supported by the European Union and by all Member States thereof. In this connection, we must not forget that in Austria there are more and more farmers who are changing over to organic agriculture. This is of course the most radical form of sustainable agriculture. The number of organic farms in Austria has been growing by leaps and bounds. Over 23 000 farms, that is, over 10 percent of all our farms in Austria, are already organic, and this means we have the highest proportion of organic farming in Europe. One of the basic reasons for this

tremendous development lies simply in the demand from consumers and on the willingness of consumers to pay more for these more valuable and healthier foodstuffs.

Allow me now, Mr Chairman, to offer a few comments about the future Programme of Work of the Organization. Austria welcomes the priorities set out in the Programme of Work and Budget of FAO. We give our agreement to these priorities and to the work of FAO but this also means that all Member Nations must honour their commitments as laid down in the statutes of the Organization. The medium-term planning put forward by the Director-General of FAO for 1996-97 seems to us to be the most appropriate approach for dealing with the problems that FAO has to encounter, although, of course, we have to make sure that we are constantly updating those plans to take account of the resources available. The new concept of programme budgeting has proved its worth. It gives a clear division of labour, but we have to adapt our management to this. In Europe too we must have the closest cooperation with the ECE and, on a world-wide level, with OECD. Political changes which have been taking place, especially in Europe, mean that FAO has to take into account the new context in which its work will have to develop.

Ladies and gentlemen, as on previous occasions, the Austrian Committee for Freedom from Hunger Campaign gives its support to specific FAO projects in areas such as seed production, training and extension work, and these projects are financed exclusively by donations from the Austrian people. Austria will go on supporting the activities of FAO on a regional as well as on a global level to the greatest possible extent. This is true not only for agriculture, but also for forestry, which is another area of particular interest to us.

Ladies and gentlemen, we hope that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in its future activities and with the full support of all Member Nations, will be able to make a unique and a most valuable contribution to the future good of humankind.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Philippe VASSEUR (France): Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués, chers collègues, permettez-moi à mon tour de présenter mes condoléances à l'Iraq et permettez-moi, dans un registre moins grave, de saluer les cinq nouveaux Membres qui ont rejoint notre Organisation.

Je suis à la fois heureux et honoré de participer à cette 28ème session de la Conférence, qui fait suite à la célébration du 50ème anniversaire de notre Organisation et prépare le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation de 1996. Cela situe toute l'importance des débats qui se déroulent dans cette enceinte.

Il y a peu d'années encore, les Etats Membres de cette Organisation pouvaient se réjouir de perspectives de récoltes abondantes et de stocks mondiaux de céréales suffisantes. J'aurais souhaité me trouver parmi vous dans les mêmes circonstances mais, aujourd'hui, les perspectives sont plus sombres et il est de notre devoir de les évoquer.

Les prévisions de l'évolution de la production agricole mondiale au regard des besoins alimentaires globaux sont peu optimistes et la dépendance croissante de nombreux pays en développement à l'égard des importations de produits céréaliers dans le premier quart de siècle prochain nous oblige à davantage de concertation. Cette Organisation est l'enceinte la plus appropriée pour que s'améliore et s'amplifie cette concertation.

La permanence du nombre de 800 millions de malnutris chroniques évoqué depuis plusieurs années souligne les insuffisances du dispositif international actuel de l'aide au développement et de l'aide alimentaire. La précarité des approvisionnements céréaliers dans le monde et la hausse des cours constatées en 1995 sur les marchés mondiaux vont handicaper davantage encore le soutien à cette population et aux Etats qui ont en la charge.

C'est une situation que l'on pouvait anticiper et sur laquelle mon pays avait attiré l'attention de la communauté internationale tout au long des Négociations d'Uruguay. Cette préoccupation avait alors pu être

formalisée dans le cadre d'une décision des ministres sur les mesures concernant les effets négatifs possibles du programme de réformes pour les pays les moins avancés et les pays en développement importateurs nets. Il est en effet essentiel que cette décision puisse rapidement être mise en oeuvre dans les meilleures conditions possibles.

La sécurité alimentaire est l'un des principaux - sinon le principal - défis stratégiques des pays. Nous disposons d'atouts dont deux au moins sont majeurs: le premier atout est la prise de conscience de la mondialisation des problèmes et de l'intérêt de tous à une participation accrue des pays en difficulté dans les échanges commerciaux internationaux; le deuxième atout est la mise à la disposition, notamment par cette Organisation, de données de plus en plus fiables sur lesquelles peuvent s'appuyer les politiques agricoles nationales et les grands débats internationaux.

Je relèverai, dans la masse de données prospectives qui sont à notre disposition, une indication particulièrement inquiétante. Selon plusieurs scénarios, à l'horizon 2025, l'écart entre la production et les besoins devrait s'accroître de manière sensible. Dans cette perspective, deux attitudes sont possibles: ou le repli des pays sur eux-mêmes, ou la solidarité manifestée par une participation active à tout ce qui peut concourir à l'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire régionale et mondiale ainsi qu'au développement durable si étroitement liés.

L'amélioration de la situation des uns ne suppose pas la dégradation des conditions des autres. Il est nécessaire que les pays dont le climat et la qualité des terres sont favorables à la production agricole maintiennent sur leur sol des exploitations en équilibre, avec pour objectif une offre de produits de qualité en quantité suffisante et donc à des cours raisonnables. A l'heure où je m'exprime, les stocks céréaliers mondiaux sont tombés aux niveaux le plus bas depuis des décennies. Ils couvrent à peine aujourd'hui deux mois de la consommation mondiale. Les dernières récoltes ont été en deçà des niveaux espérés; l'offre est limitée et la demande est forte. La première conséquence est évidemment une flambée des prix préjudiciables en premier lieu aux pays importateurs nets les plus démunis. La deuxième conséquence, c'est que nous prenons un risque démesuré en plaçant la sécurité alimentaire mondiale à la merci du moindre accident climatique. C'est pourquoi je tiens à ce que les mécanismes de régulation régionale ou internationale de la production soient dotés d'une souplesse suffisante pour mieux adapter l'offre à la demande et atténuer le paradoxe actuel qui veut que l'on empêche la terre de produire alors que le monde a faim.

C'est également mon voeu que tout le soutien possible soit apporté au développement de la production vivrière dans les pays à dominante rurale forte partout où un minimum d'auto-provisionnement est réalisable. Nous avons l'exemple de la Région Asie dans laquelle certains pays qui disposent de superficies arables limitées ont su privilégier une production agricole, socle du développement économique ultérieur. Cet exemple doit nous encourager dans cette voie. Je souligne, dans un tel contexte, l'intérêt de l'initiative du Directeur général de développer des programmes d'intensification agricole dans les pays à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier. Cette initiative doit nous conduire à améliorer conjointement nos approches de ce problème. Les services français spécialistes du développement sont disposés à l'aider dans cette tâche.

La participation financière et technique des Etats pour prévenir les graves crises alimentaires et les déséquilibres environnementaux qui nous sont annoncés peut être directe; et l'Union européenne, outre les engagements bilatéraux de ses Etats Membres, y consacre déjà de larges efforts. Cette participation peut être également indirecte en passant par des organisations comme celle qui nous réunit aujourd'hui. C'est pourquoi notre Organisation doit avoir les moyens d'agir. La discussion que nous aurons à cet égard sur le projet du budget est essentielle. La France, comme bien d'autres, est soumise à de fortes contraintes budgétaires. Mais nous estimons que l'Organisation pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, au même titre que toutes les institutions des Nations Unies, doit limiter ses dépenses par une gestion rigoureuse. Il n'en demeure pas moins que les tâches que nous avons reconnues comme prioritaires doivent pouvoir être poursuivies. Des mesures d'économies peuvent nous donner une marge de manoeuvre et des efforts ont déjà été faits dans ce sens. Aller au-delà entraverait l'accomplissement par l'Organisation de ses responsabilités internationales.

Vous me permettrez, par ailleurs, de souligner le péril grave que les arriérés de paiement font peser sur notre Organisation. Il n'est pas normal qu'un tiers seulement des Etats Membres s'acquitte régulièrement de ses contributions. Il n'est pas normal que le principal contributeur à l'Organisation pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture ait laissé s'accumuler un tel montant d'arriérés et soit redevable, à lui seul, des trois quarts des sommes dues à l'Organisation. Il s'agit - et la France s'y attache particulièrement - de maintenir une

contribution de bon niveau à cette Organisation tout en l'aidant à bien contrôler son budget et à remplir efficacement ses tâches. C'est le rôle de la Conférence d'y veiller et de faire les recommandations nécessaires.

Pour justifier cet attachement, je mentionnerai particulièrement certaines des activités normatives de l'Organisation où celle-ci peut pleinement jouer son rôle de forum de discussion essentiel à la mise au point d'accords internationaux techniques entre les Etats Membres. Ces règles du jeu deviennent de plus en plus nécessaires, nous le savons, au fur et à mesure de la libéralisation croissante des échanges. Dans le cadre de cette Conférence, nous espérons être ainsi en mesure d'adopter le code de bonne conduite pour une pêche responsable après l'inclusion des résultats de la Conférence de New York sur les stocks chevauchants et les espèces hautement migratoires.

Notre intérêt se tourne également vers l'établissement de normes de gestion durable des forêts internationalement reconnues.

S'il n'est pas dans la vocation de l'Organisation de jouer, au sens strict du terme, le rôle d'une agence de développement, je souhaite rappeler cependant à quel point ses missions de conseil en matière de politique agricole nationale, de vulgarisation et de formation, ainsi que de mobilisation des systèmes, sont essentielles.

Pour conclure, je voudrais féliciter le Directeur général de l'Organisation d'avoir prévu pour novembre 1996 un Sommet mondial de l'alimentation. Je tiens à vous dire que, pour nous, ce sommet est essentiel. La France, dès le début, a soutenu cette initiative, et j'ai le plaisir, aujourd'hui, de vous annoncer que le Président de la République française a accepté de faire partie du Comité international de parrainage du sommet. C'est la preuve de l'importance que mon pays attache à ce rendez-vous.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Balram JAKHAR (India): Mr Chairman, my dear colleagues, honourable Ministers, ladies and gentlemen, today we had some mishap and I am sorry to say we lost a friend and had the demise of an esteemed friend, the Minister for Iraq, Mr Rasheed, and my heart goes to his family members with all of yours but as with nature we cannot do anything except feel sorry.

Mr Chairman and Delegates, you are and have been a very good friend and a successful man wherever you have worked and I hope in this position you will conduct these proceedings in a way which proves beneficial to all of us. I hope the results will be very encouraging to all of us.

Recently we met in Quebec, all of us and it was a very productive conference. We enjoyed those deliberations and it reminded us of the tasks ahead. It was just not an ordinary thing. Fifty years have passed and we are still far away from the goal we set ourselves. It was just a reminder to all of us of the responsibilities which we have to face. Quebec reminded us that the population has increased. There is virtually a population explosion all over the world and the goal we set at that time has become greater. The Governor General of Canada at that time said: "Gentlemen it is our moral responsibility to feed those hungry millions". There are 192 million children about and when we see everywhere those kids and those suffering human beings our hearts go to them and bleed for them and it is on our shoulders to share with them whatever we have. That is why this FAO is working towards that.

I must congratulate the Director-General who took this initiative to call this conference and the next one here and on the steps FAO has taken. I remember the days when the first Food Summit was held and when my own man, Mr B.R. Sen, who was then the Director-General here took the initiative along with my President, and the late President of the United States, Mr Kennedy, and had the first Freedom from Hunger Campaign and that was followed by the World Food Programme which is being pursued by us. Naturally it is that we have to devise ways and means; we have the know-how, we have the means at our command if we can get together and realize that the responsibility lies on our shoulder to carry out the onerous burden with faces us.

Gentlemen, I come from India - a country which is one of the most populated after China. We have a population of 925 million today - about 50 years back (nearly as old as this Organization) we had a population of 350 million and we were asking for food grains to feed ourselves. The willpower of the people of India, however, the scientists, the government and the farmers has come to stand us in good stead. They have done a remarkable job and I am proud to say on the floor of this Conference today that not only are we self-sufficient in food but we have something to spare for our friends, wherever they may be.

We have marched towards a goal which is quite commendable and I am proud to say that my farmers did their utmost towards that. We have raised the food grain production figure from 51 million tonnes in 1950 to 1951 up to 192 million tonnes in 1994 to 1995. Similarly we have increased our oil seed production which we used to import from 1 million tonnes to 23 million tonnes to sustain ourselves. The same goes for dairy. Dairy gives us more employment than before and from 17 million tonnes this year it now stands in second place in the whole world in food milk production at 63.5 million tonnes next only to the United States. I stand first today in food production according to FAO statistics.

Not only that, but we have created some environment for fruit, vegetables, spices and fisheries. The Minister for Canada predicted and said that we were overexploiting whatever resources there were; we were overstretching ourselves and that we did not realize what we were doing and nature will not forgive us and he said that food was lying idle. It was the same at the Fisheries Conference, the Minister from Spain and Denmark told me that half the food was lying idle. If we are to sustain ourselves however, we have to look towards the existence of natural resources as well, and we have tried to do that and I am looking at agriculture and inland fisheries and their source of income. As a matter of fact, I have mentioned several times before there have been several revolutions sweeping India. First there was the Green Revolution which was the grain revolution, second there was the White Revolution which produced the milk, and third was the Blue Revolution sweeping our fisheries sector in India.

We have raised the poultry production by 200 times. That was quite a thing but what I want to do is share this thing with my brothers all over the world. We have to relate in such a small world today. My ancient people said that this whole world is only one nest so we have to share whatever advantages we have. Land was created great, almighty but only once. We cannot create any more but we are creating daily problems for ourselves. We are not looking towards environmental issues but I have started and India has started to look at the Universe because nature is the mother. If you cannot care and respect nature it would have disastrous effects on our existence so it is natural that we must see the desire to see that fertility is maintained, ecological benefits are maintained environmentally whole products are maintained. We have to see that insecticides, pesticides and fertilizers are all in a very modulated manner. Today we are giving incentives to people to use our bio-fertilizers, bio insecticides and natural resources. Our ancient culture says we have to work from our scriptures - that will do it. But I am worried about one thing, my predecessor, the Honourable Minister for France, was just saying that we must look at the prices also, the prices of work and foodstuff, but if you give high prices how can we expect food grain prices to be low. That is what the problem is. You see what has happened to us, Mr Chairman. In the past year prices have not gone up but prices on fertilizers they are selling to us has gone up. How are we going to do this. Is it something of manipulation. I do not know how to do all this but we have to create something in the environment so that we can coexist. We cannot have this. It is something abominable to see that half the population of some populations we are working with are producing much more than they can consume. It is a question of sharing it. If our neighbour is hungry how can you just allow yourself to over feed yourself. That's what it is, Sir and we have the expertise. We have developed our expertise, I assure you, Sir, that there is expertise available in underdeveloped countries and there are developed countries that are capable of doing it. They must share technology. I think we can do something very positive with others.

Director-General we are at your disposal. We commend your efforts and we have done our best in the technical development cooperation scheme. Please accept my help. Accept my services and my people. We will do whatever you like in any aspect in our fisheries, our agriculture and sciences whatever it is. Here we are, we want to broaden it. We can do it in agriculture development programmes, we can do it in the seeds, fertilizers, bio-fertilizers, macro-nutrients, mechanization, marketing, processing, etc. Everything can be done but it is only a question of where we have to look inside ourselves and see that we must share. My predecessors would have increased investment and agriculture. Investment is not going up, it is going down. We are trying to look inside ourselves, this Nation has given this land to us with a beautiful world. We cannot allow it to be destroyed. We have to see that we are the protectors of it, not the destroyers of it. We must put



all resources together and share it with others. God has provided developed countries something much more than what we have, if only they can share what they have. We started agriculture in India with the help of the United States and I've got now 28 universities, I have about 68 Research Stations, I have subsidiary stations, I have everybody working, I am putting everybody in one district, you see. The cooperation we have received before is now missing. Why? I want them all to share it. Sharing is knowledge, it will encourage our resources, it will encourage us to do something positive in this world. The investments we wanted are both public and private. I have complained to the Cabinet why we are going down on this point. Investment must come up because it is the most real issue existing on agriculture. It provides about 30 percent GDP of this country.

Mr Chairman, one other thing. Your own necessity has also been increasing in our discussions; the question of subsidies. You must realize that among other governing countries food subsidies are a necessity in order to protect certain sections of the population. In India we have many private subsidies with the intention to protect the interest of the international community which is very aware of the difficulties that could and would arise. Problems on unemployment, economic and social security and starvation could be witnessed with an abrupt turn around of macro economy quality.

Mr Chairman, it is essential that you know the arguments of such a situation. Certain times I have said it that I provide some subsidies for irrigation purposes. If I provide farmers with 50 percent subsidies it is the farmer who complains so these are not subsidies. I can do much more in the world trade situation also but I cannot give more than that as subsidies to my farmer. The conclusion of the Uruguay Round of Trade Negotiations, with the problems that developing countries would face and the policies they would need to mitigate these difficulties. There are still pitfalls ahead and we must remember that, hardly had the ink dried at Marrakesh, when many trade disputes broke out. There is talk of quotas and "managed trade" even today. While we agree that international trade, including that in agricultural commodities, should be liberalized, we must ensure that there is equity and justice in trade. Again, our objective should be to ensure the protection and progress of the vulnerable sections of our population, so that their conditions are not adversely affected. In this connection, I would like to point out that there has been considerable concern about the level of food production, growing population and poor living standards of small and marginal farmers in all parts of the world, who may not be able to compete in a completely open global economy. I would like to inform FAO, the Director-General and all you members here that we are holding a Small Farmers Food Convention in Delhi. It is a Food Convention for the small and marginal farmers, who constitute 70 percent of India's total population. One of the major difficulties facing not only the Food and Agriculture Organization but also the UN system in general is the lack of adequate resources to carry out their activities. Cut-backs in resource allocations to the FAO would evidently have a deleterious impact on the Organization's programmes, especially for the developing world. The international community must act in concert and try to augment the resource base of the Organization.

Mr Chairman, I have tried to acquaint you, briefly, with some of the developments regarding agriculture in our country and have also attempted to highlight certain issues, which we feel require greater attention and effort. It is my earnest hope that the deliberations of this Conference will assist the international community in finding suitable and just solutions to the problems of the agriculture sector all over the world and in the future nobody will go hungry and everybody will share whatever boundaries we have.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Augustin Frédéric KODOCK (Cameroun): Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi au nom de la délégation camerounaise d'adresser mes condoléances à la délégation irakienne pour le décès de Son Excellence le Ministre de l'Agriculture d'Iraq, Khalil Abdul Moneem Rasheed.

Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, permettez-moi tout d'abord de m'associer aux précédents orateurs pour vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président, pour votre brillante élection à la présidence de notre auguste assemblée.

Ces félicitations s'adressent aussi aux membres de votre Bureau qui, j'en suis persuadé, vous assisteront efficacement dans l'accomplissement heureux de votre haute et noble mission.

Je voudrais également saisir cette opportunité pour renouveler les remerciements et la profonde gratitude du Peuple et du Gouvernement de la République du Cameroun à vous, Monsieur le Directeur général de la FAO, pour votre récente visite au Cameroun, lors de votre dernier périple en Afrique centrale. Cette visite constitue pour nous un témoignage de plus de la sollicitude constante et multiforme dont le Cameroun a toujours été l'objet de la part de la FAO.

Je voudrais enfin apporter l'appui de mon pays à la déclaration faite au nom des Pays africains par mon collègue et frère chargé de l'agriculture, de l'élevage et du développement rural du Gabon.

La situation générale de l'alimentation et de la nutrition, globalement satisfaisante, cache en réalité des disparités profondes et insupportables. Le quart de la population des pays en développement, soit environ 800 millions de personnes, parmi lesquelles près de 200 millions d'enfants, souffrent de malnutrition chronique.

En effet de nombreux pays contiennent encore des poches de famine et de malnutrition, notamment à cause des caprices des saisons, des instabilités sociales de diverses origines et du manque d'infrastructures en milieu rural. Dans ce tableau sombre, l'Afrique, en dépit d'énormes richesses et potentialités qu'elle renferme, se distingue malheureusement par des performances désastreuses et des perspectives alarmantes. Plus de la moitié des pays les moins avancés se trouve dans notre région.

Dans ces pays à faibles revenus, où par ailleurs la population croît plus vite que la production agricole, le déficit vivrier se creuse davantage chaque jour, se traduisant ainsi par une aggravation de la situation alimentaire qui interpelle la communauté internationale en général, et notre Organisation en particulier. Cet état de chose, qui constitue une menace permanente pour la sécurité de notre village planétaire, est inacceptable.

En outre, améliorer la qualité de la nutrition et les conditions de vie des populations, libérer l'humanité de la faim, bref, nourrir et mieux nourrir le monde, constituent un grand défi à relever rapidement, au risque de rentrer dans le 3ème millénaire avec des stigmates physiques et moraux de la faim.

La communauté internationale, au nom de la solidarité humaine, a le devoir de veiller que chaque homme, chaque femme et chaque enfant mange et boive à sa faim.

Au moment où la FAO fête son 50ème anniversaire, malgré de nombreux progrès accomplis, force est de constater qu'il reste encore beaucoup à faire pour relever ce défi à l'aube du 21ème siècle et surtout pour garantir de manière permanente la sécurité alimentaire pour tous.

Notre Organisation a largement prouvé qu'elle était à la hauteur des espoirs placés en elle, pour peu que les Etats Membres lui accordent leur soutien politique, moral et financier. A cet égard, je voudrais apporter notre plein appui au Programme de travail et budget 1996-97 proposé à l'examen de notre instance. Par ailleurs, le Cameroun salue et félicite le Directeur général pour les mesures courageuses et novatrices qu'il a mises en oeuvre pour rapprocher l'Organisation de ses membres et pour accroître l'action de la FAO. Nous l'encourageons à continuer sur cette voie, certes difficile, mais bénéfique.

La préoccupation de mon Gouvernement depuis 1990, grâce au dynamisme et à l'enthousiasme de ses populations, est de mettre en oeuvre la nouvelle politique agricole qui a reçu l'approbation et le soutien manifeste de la communauté internationale.

Les buts poursuivis par cette nouvelle politique agricole sont: former et responsabiliser les producteurs ruraux, améliorer l'outil de travail de la terre et des produits des champs, augmenter et diversifier la production vivrière, promouvoir les exportations agricoles, rendre accessibles pour tous les nourritures de bonne qualité, en un mot, réduire la pauvreté au niveau de tous les ménages et surtout des ménages ruraux.

Au niveau de la production agricole proprement dite, de grands efforts sont déployés dans tous les domaines complémentaires, en vue d'une synergie performante des activités qui concourent à l'éloignement du spectre de la faim dans notre pays et ce au travers de la promotion de l'exploitation et de l'utilisation rationnelle des

déchets organiques des ménages et des élevages dans les plantations; la recherche et la vulgarisation des technologies performantes et adaptées aux contextes locaux dans l'optique d'une meilleure valorisation des récoltes et d'une réduction sensible de la pénibilité du travail; la mise en place d'un Plan semencier national, en vue de l'approvisionnement de toutes les zones agroécologiques en semences à hauts rendements; l'organisation de la filière fruits et légumes; contrôle de qualité, industrialisation, petite transformation artisanale amorcée dans le cadre du projet de diversification des exportations agricoles avec le concours financier apprécié des bailleurs de fonds (la Banque mondiale, l'Agence canadienne pour le développement industriel, l'Union européenne et la Caisse française de développement); en ce qui concerne la maîtrise et la gestion de l'eau pour l'agriculture, initialement limitée à la riziculture dans le cadre de grands projets de cette filière, mon pays est déterminé à étendre l'irrigation sur une gamme variée de produits vivriers au niveau des paysans.

A cet égard, c'est avec un grand intérêt que mon pays suivra le renforcement et l'exécution du Programme d'action spécial sur la mise en valeur des ressources hydriques rurales. Des prospections en vue d'une coopération effective et soutenue avec les pays du Moyen-Orient et de l'Afrique du Nord sont en cours dans le cadre de la coopération technique entre les pays en développement (CTP). Une ONG internationale réalise avec les populations de l'Extrême-Nord des petits périmètres irrigués qui contribuent à la multiplication des cycles de certaines cultures, à la réduction des effets de la sécheresse, et en fin de compte à l'augmentation de la productivité des sols et des cultures.

Dans le cadre de la sécurité alimentaire, nous élaborons un programme d'appui spécifique en direction des femmes rurales intitulé "Femmes rurales et développement de l'agriculture: une approche axée sur le genre". Les appuis définis dans ce programme portent d'une part, sur l'élargissement de l'accès des femmes aux ressources productives, et d'autre part, sur l'amélioration de l'environnement productif des femmes par la maîtrise de l'eau, la promotion des infrastructures rurales de base et particulièrement de soutien à la production végétale et animale.

Nous comptons, pour la réalisation de ces objectifs, pouvoir tirer avantage de l'exécution du Programme "Femme et agriculture" contenu dans le Programme de travail et budget 1996-97 et pour lequel nous sommes convaincus que les activités de transformation et de commercialisation des produits agricoles qui constituent des débouchés appréciables de la production rurale et des ressources non négligeables de revenus, gagneront en tonus et consolideront davantage le partenariat femme rurale et femme urbaine.

Dans le secteur de la production animale nous pensons que sa contribution vitale à la sécurité alimentaire ne peut être effective qu'avec la mise en place des infrastructures adéquates de stockage et de transport de la viande et des produits halieutiques dans notre sous-région et l'accès aux protéines animales de qualité à la majorité des populations.

Pour ce faire nous entendons étendre et réhabiliter les abattoirs modernes; mettre en place des chaînes de froid; encourager l'exportation de la viande et la production des cuirs et peaux dans la sous-région Afrique centrale; promouvoir la consommation des aliments traditionnels non conventionnels (ATNC) dans le but de multiplier les sources de protéines d'origine animale.

Dans le secteur de la recherche, avec l'appui de la FAO, nous avons élaboré un plan à long terme de la recherche englobant l'agriculture, l'élevage et les forêts. Dans le cadre de ce plan, le Cameroun compte une fois de plus sur la coopération de la FAO dans les domaines communs prioritaires ci-après:

- Développement d'un pôle régional de conservation des ressources génétiques forestières. Le Cameroun, "condensé" de la diversité biologique des Afriques sahéliennes, forestières et des plateaux offre des atouts exceptionnels pour une conservation in-situ de certaines essences particulièrement menacées. Les résultats obtenus au Cameroun peuvent être facilement transférables dans l'ensemble de la région.

Dans le domaine forestier, le Cameroun vient de boucler la réélaboration de son programme d'action forestier national qui met l'accent sur la gestion durable des ressources forestières et envisage dans les tous prochains mois une table ronde internationale dans le cadre de la recherche de financements pour la mise en oeuvre de ce programme.

Un tel programme, vous vous en doutez, nécessite d'importants financements aussi bien au niveau des ménages d'agriculteurs qu'à celui de l'Etat.

Je ne saurais terminer mon propos sans saisir une nouvelle fois l'occasion qui m'est offerte pour renouveler l'expression de profonde gratitude du peuple et du Gouvernement camerounais à l'égard de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture ainsi qu'aux autres agences soeurs du système des Nations Unies, notamment le Programme alimentaire mondial et le Fonds international de développement agricole pour le soutien appréciable qu'elles n'ont cessé d'apporter au développement agricole et rural du Cameroun.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Lui JIANG (China) (Original language Chinese): First, on behalf of the Chinese delegation, we wish to offer our condolences to the Iraqi Government on the loss of a distinguished leader. I would like to ask the Iraqi delegation to convey our sympathy to their delegate's family.

Mr Chairman, after the successful conclusion of the Ministerial Meeting on World Food Security, we are now gathering in the headquarters of FAO for the Conference. I wish this session an equal success. At the same time, I express my appreciation to FAO's Secretariat for all the preparatory work it has done.

China is a large agricultural country with a huge population. Therefore, China's agricultural production and food security have an important bearing on the whole world. I would like to take this opportunity to brief the distinguished delegates on China's agricultural development.

The Chinese Government has made it clear that the objective of economic reforms is to establish a system of socialist market economy. In order to ensure the smooth implementation of reform and development, the Chinese Government attaches great importance to agriculture and work in the rural areas, emphasizing that top priority should be given to agriculture in economic activities with a view to consolidating the status of agriculture as the foundation. Over the past two years, agriculture in the rural economy has maintained its momentum of sustained and healthy development.

In 1994, although hampered by serious natural calamities, China's agricultural production still achieved a fairly good harvest, with the total grain output reaching 445 million tons. Major livestock products also registered increases by a large margin. The annual meat production reached 44.993 million tons, up by 17.1 percent over the previous year; the output of eggs and milk respectively reached 14.79 million and 6 089 million tons, an increase of 25.4 percent and 8.2 percent as compared with 1993. The total production of aquatic products reached 21.43 million tons, a rise of 17.6 percent as against the previous year. The current situation augurs well that our country's agriculture will achieve further progress this year.

1995 is the last year of China's 8th "Five-Year Plan" for national economic and social development. At present, the Chinese Government is in the process of formulating the 9th "Five-Year Plan", in which an important element is earnest to strengthen agriculture as well as develop and make prosperous the rural economy in an all-round way. During the 9th "Five-Year Plan" the principal task is to ensure the steady increase of basic farm products, such as grains, cotton and oil-bearing crops, and the attainment of reaching a new level of food-producing capacity. Our goal is, by the year 2000, to increase food production by 50 million tons, making the gross output reach 500 million tons, that of meat and aquatic products reach 48 million and 18.5 million tons respectively, so as to meet the basic consumption needs of the population for a better-off livelihood.

China has adopted the following main measures to develop agriculture further: first, speeding up the advancement of agricultural science and technology to improve the conversion rate of technological achievements; second, increasing agricultural input, strengthening construction of the agricultural infrastructure, improving conditions for agricultural production and the ecological environment and increasing yields; third, further improving policies for agriculture and rural areas. I believe that, through implementing

these measures, the goals for agricultural development set up by the Chinese Government will surely be reached.

We have noted that, since the last Conference, the global food and agricultural situation has become more and more severe. In respect to grain production, although the world food output achieved increases in 1994 after reductions in 1993 and approached the level of the long-term trend, the world's per capita food production remains at 382 kg, which still has not reached the level of 1991 and 1992, and is still lower than the average level of the 1980s. What merits particular attention is that the global food production in 1995 is predicted to drop by 1 percent as compared with last year, thus well below the long-term trend level for the second consecutive year. With decreasing production but continuous high demand, the prices for cereals in the international market have gone up by large margins. This will further add to the financial burden of low-income, food-deficit countries and the amount they spend on food imports.

We have also noted with concern that, the carry-over stock of cereals at the end of the 1994-95 biennium went down by 4.5 percent to 304 million tons from 318 million the previous biennium, accounting for 17 percent of the trend consumption of 1995-96, dropping to the minimum lowest percentage established by FAO to ensure world food security. Moreover, it is estimated that, at the end of the 1995-96 period, the carry-over stocks of cereals will continue to decrease and the percentage against the 1996-97 trend consumption level will drop to 14 percent, thus significantly lower than the minimum level required for food security. At the same time, global food assistance has suffered a dramatic decrease to 9.8 million tons in 1994-95 from 13.3 million in 1993-94, reaching the lowest level over the past ten years.

We are deeply concerned about the current state of world food security. With the increasingly grave situation of world food security, a vast number of developing countries are thrown into a very unfavourable position. The rising prices for food, growing volumes of food imports and significantly reduced international food aid have constituted severe threats to developing countries. National governments and international organizations must attach high importance to the current grave situation and adopt timely and effective measures to promote agricultural development and food production.

We wish to appeal again to the international community and to developed countries in particular earnest to increase their economic and technical assistance to developing countries in order to help them improve their food security.

We have noted that the Special Programme for Food Security initiated by the Director-General aimed at improving food security in low-income food-deficit countries has begun to be implemented in 15 countries and has achieved some results. The Chinese Government thinks highly of this programme. As a participating country in this programme, the local governments at various levels in China attach great importance to its implementation. At present, projects have been carried out in accordance with the plan proposed by FAO and some activities have been completed ahead of schedule. It is my belief that with the joint efforts in China and FAO, this programme will no doubt achieve satisfactory results, thus playing a leading and demonstrative role in realizing food security in developing countries.

The Chinese Government has always attached great importance to technical cooperation among developing countries and considers this a key measure for the developing countries to fully utilize their human and resource advantages, increase agricultural productivity and improve food security. Back in the 1960s and 1970s, China started to actively involve itself in these TCDC activities and provided economic and technical assistance to Africa. In the future, China will continue to actively support and involve itself in TCDC. Since China is a large developing agricultural country and a low-income, food-deficit country, we are willing to learn from other countries' advanced technology and experiences suited to our national conditions. We also hope that more technical cooperation programmes can be executed in China. Meanwhile China has some practical technology applicable to other developing countries and we are ready to contribute to the TCDC programme. Presently we have provided dozens of experts and specialists to FAO and hope that more will join these programmes executed by FAO.

The Chinese Government is of the opinion that FAO must maintain its current scale and capacity of operations and guarantee the necessary funds in order to better fulfil its mandate and functions. This is not only in response to the resolution adopted at the 27th FAO Conference, but also takes into account the difficulties faced by the poorest member countries and public expenditure reduction in many countries. At the same time,

China encourages FAO to streamline its structure, decentralize, reduce the number of meetings and unnecessary publications, recruit more local experts, improve management level and efficiency to make savings. FAO should also expand its collaboration with other UN agencies and non-governmental organizations so as to increase the sources of financial resources and alleviate the burden on its Member Nations.

The Chinese Government always considers the role played by FAO as instrumental and has maintained a good cooperative relationship with FAO. We commend and support the Director-General's restructuring initiatives to improve the Organization's efficiency. The Chinese Government will continue to support FAO activities as before and we are ready to join other Member Nations in contributing to the development of world agriculture and improvement of world food security.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Henrik Dam KRISTENSEN (Denmark): I am honoured to have the opportunity to speak to you but, before doing so, I would like to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on your election.

In 1945 the founders of this Organization made it their goal to ensure humanity's freedom from hunger. Today, fifty years later, we can look back on major improvements in agricultural output. World grain production has more than tripled and the global amount of food per head has increased, despite population growth. The FAO should be given credit for its contribution for this.

However, food is not reaching everyone. Despite the increase in production, 800 million people in this world still suffer from lack of food. Every year millions of people die from hunger, most of them children. Certainly the international community has a long way to go in the fight against hunger, so we must give food production and food security priority in development and we must find ways to stop the relative decline in development aid given to agriculture.

With this in mind, I find it appropriate to hold a World Food Summit. However, the Summit must come up with concrete decisions on action to be taken and we must agree on ways to follow up. The preparation will be demanding. I would like the Secretariat to make sure that it does not underestimate this process.

Denmark has a long-standing and firm commitment to support the poor and under-privileged people in the world. Last year Denmark spent more than 1 percent of its GNP on Official Development Aid. If more countries met this target, we could increase the volume of support for developing countries in a major way. In the new Danish Strategy for Development Policy, the main priorities are reduction of poverty, strengthening the role of women in development, protection of the environment and democracy and human rights. The equal division of Danish development aid between multilateral and bilateral aid will be kept, but multilateral aid will be concentrated on those organizations best qualified to give aid to the main priorities in our development policy. The result will be more variation in Danish contributions to individual organizations and programmes. It is too early to say how the new strategy will affect voluntary Danish contributions to the FAO, but let me make one point quite clear - the new strategy will not have any effect on our payment of assessed contributions, to any organization, on time and in full.

As I said earlier, the international community has a long way to go in the fight to ensure humanity's freedom from hunger. In addition, natural and man-made disasters continue to threaten world food security. Soils are being lost due to soil erosion and salinization. Deserts and towns are moving in on productive land and at the same time loss of biodiversity narrows the base for future food production. The challenge for the international community to ensure world food security is enormous. Certainly FAO should not try to deal with all aspects of this challenge. The FAO must, like any other organization, concentrate on the things that it does best. In my opinion, this means higher priority to strategy and policy setting at global level.

As examples, I would like to mention the follow up of UNCED and the Convention on Biodiversity. Let me also mention the new importance of the work of Codex Alimentarius and the work under the International

Plant Protection Convention. These tasks present an opportunity for the FAO to show that it can function as a global forum for policy setting.

Let me conclude by giving a more detailed example of the kind of work I find FAO should give priority to. The FAO has done tremendous work to ensure an effective follow up of UNCED in the fisheries sector. In 1993 FAO managed to conclude the important Compliance Agreement. This is a major step towards ensuring control of fishery activities on the high seas by Flag States. Recently FAO, after long and difficult negotiations, succeeded in concluding the very important Code of Conduct for responsible fisheries. The Code is voluntary but I am sure it will be politically important and will help to ensure the sustainable use and conservation of marine living resources. The FAO has also made a big contribution to the UN Conference on the Conservation and Management of Straddling and Migrating Fish stocks. This work has confirmed that FAO is the leading specialized body within the UN to deal with fisheries. This kind of work sets a good example for future work by FAO in other areas of its mandate.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Lieutenant-General MYINT AUNG (Myanmar): On behalf of the Delegation of the Union of Myanmar and on my own behalf, I wish to congratulate you warmly on your election as the Chairman to guide this august assembly.

FAO is now celebrating the fifty years of its founding. During the fifty years of its existence, FAO has, with the tireless efforts and support of all the Member Nations, made remarkable progress towards bringing food for all within reach. But it will take some time to accomplish the mission set forth in FAO's Constitution of 'ensuring humanity's freedom from hunger'.

One of the most basic of all human rights, as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948, is 'the right to food'. In fact, the world today has the technology to produce enough food to feed its population. But the problem is the lack of political commitment. A strong political will to produce and provide sufficient food and assure access by the poor to food should, therefore, be the key element in formulating investment policy for all the nations, rich or poor.

Myanmar's economy is still dependent on agriculture and rice is the main artery of the sector due to the country's prevailing geographical conditions. Accordingly rice is designated as the national crop and efforts are being made to increase its production year by year. Myanmar's total paddy production has increased from 14.8 million metric tons in 1992-93 to 16.7 million metric tons and to 18.3 million metric tons in 1993-94 and 1994-1995 respectively. The production of paddy in 1995-96 is targeted at 20 million metric tons. This production increase has enabled Myanmar to become a major rice exporter again, with the total export of rice reaching over one million metric tons in 1994-95, for the first time in 30 years. Rice is the main staple food for Myanmar people and the assurance of accessibility and sufficiency of rice to people from all walks of life in our country and the support given towards the world food security by exporting the surplus to other needy countries is our noble objective behind our exertion to increase rice production.

At present agriculture plays a dominant role in our economy and priority is given to this sector to turn it into a prime mover or a powerful engine of growth for the whole economy. This strategy is aimed at attaining an enhanced economic well-being distributed equitably among all national races and over all regions as well as at making this well-being sustainable and environmentally friendly. The ultimate objective is to substantially reduce and eventually remove the disparity of incomes among the different races and regions, contributing thus to the creation of a country where a strong and enduring unity among people prevails and where the most fundamental human rights, the right to the freedom from poverty, the right to peace and stability and also the right to pre-eminence of law and order are palpably inexistence.

Most developing countries, like Myanmar, are agriculture countries and accordingly the majority of the people in each country are farmers engaged as such in the exercise of guaranteeing food sufficiency and generating income not only for themselves but also for the whole country. The rest of the population is manifestly very

much indebted to them and it is therefore only fitting that the governments concerned should cause increased investment to be channelled into the agricultural sector with a view to procuring food security, improved nutrition and poverty elimination, inducing a higher standard of living for all. For the endeavours for these areas of the developing countries to gain momentum, it also depends upon assistance from the developed countries extended with justified political orientation and based primarily on economic criteria.

Mr Chairman, it has been 50 years since FAO was founded and on this occasion of commemorating its 50th birthday all members have unanimously endorsed a declaration on food and agriculture that will go down in history as the Quebec declaration, signifying the centre stage the Organization will continue to occupy in promoting increasing progress in the field. In charting out an effective programme for the future, studies like "Agriculture Towards 2010" will clearly be of great help and can contribute tremendously towards sustainability of agricultural and rural development leading to assured adequacy in food and nutrition. I would like to urge that the study also emphasize the agriculture potential of the land resources of the developing countries through agro-ecological zones.

It will, of course, be some time before we can fully achieve FAO's basic objective of ensuring humanity's freedom from hunger. In 1996 at the World Food Summit we shall again be reviewing our accomplishments since the World Food Conference in 1974. In any case, we sincerely believe that our efforts in this 28th Conference will constitute a decidedly significant step towards the constitutional goals of the Organization.

In conclusion, our delegation would like in this regard to earnestly call for joining forces and consolidating our efforts in the coming years to realize these noble goals in the shortest possible time.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Gregory Frank TAYLOR (Australia): Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, the Australian delegation extends its deepest sympathy to the Iraqi delegation on this sad day. Mr Chairman, I add my congratulations on your election to the chair of this 28th Session of the FAO Conference. We wish you every success in guiding our deliberations to a successful conclusion over the next two weeks.

Since FAO's establishment in 1945 Australia has continued to maintain a strong commitment to the Organization. We have actively participated in the work of its Governing Bodies and many committees. In much of this work we have the honour of representing the nine Member Nations of the Southwest Pacific Region. On behalf of the Australian Minister for Primary Industries and Energy, Senator Collins, whom I represent here today, I would like to reaffirm that Australia wants FAO to continue as the leading international organization addressing food and agricultural issues. On the occasion of our 50th anniversary it is worth thinking about what is needed to keep FAO in this pre-eminent position into the future. I suggest three particular things are needed: a clear vision, a coherent plan, and funding and accountability. Our Director-General, Dr Diouf, has articulated for us a vision, the vision of food security for all. This has captured the imagination of all and the support of the membership, as it must.

In moving from the vision to a coherent plan, some hard analysis is needed. FAO cannot, of course, deliver food security on its own. Some things it can advocate, other things it can determine more directly. For example, FAO can advocate to members and to other organizations the stable economic conditions and the liberal international trading regime needed over time to encourage individual endeavour and commercial investment in agriculture. However, FAO can itself make a major direct scientific and policy contribution to sustainable utilization of the world's natural resources.

Mr Chairman, in moving towards the World Food Summit in November 1996, Australia looks forward to the opportunity to participate in developing an effective plan to realize the vision of food security for all and subsequently in discussing how the FAO can make an effective contribution towards implementing this plan within its area of special competence. At this stage, of course, we have the proposed Medium-term Plan. In the main Australia is comfortable with most of this plan's orientation and emphasis. I would comment briefly on those aspects which we consider to be the most important.



The Medium-term Plan states that food security demands good quality and safe food and that these are important elements in the promotion of food trade at national, regional and international levels. The FAO has recognized the importance of improving food security and quality by giving it priority in its work programme for both short and medium terms. Australia greatly values the important work carried out by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and fully supports this approach. Indeed, further strengthening of Codex and allied standard setting work related to international food trade is required to ensure implementation of the WTO Uruguay Round agreements on food standards and sanitary and phytosanitary matters. Australia concurs with the views expressed in the plan that trade, internal or international, provides the opportunity for countries to exploit their comparative advantage. The plan notes that higher incomes from trade contribute significantly to improve food security and living standards and a better economic environment. Trade liberalization, as exemplified by the Uruguay Agreement will be one of the main concerns of agricultural trade policy in the years ahead. Australia remains convinced of the positive impact on world food security of unfettered access to international markets for the benefit of all countries. For the immediate future, we are pleased to be able to report that Australia is better placed to contribute to world food supplies. After last year's devastating drought, Australian wheat plantings are estimated to be the highest for a decade and export availability is expected to double. We understand the concern at the decline in food aid in cereals which has taken place since 1992-93 and the implications this can have for low-income food-deficit countries. We are pleased to be able to report that Australia has maintained its level of assistance through its pledge to the Food Aid Convention of 300 000 tonnes a year.

Research has a fundamental role in the development of global agriculture and the elimination of hunger. The results of research benefit every agricultural producing member of FAO, whether they be from developed or developing countries. FAO's contribution is small but well targeted and remains a priority. The high priority and increased resources now being allocated by FAO to the environment in sustainable development is strongly supported by Australia. There is a clear recognition now that we must all work individually and collectively to protect the environment and conserve our resources if our planet is to survive and be food secure in the future. In recent years governments all around the world have focused their attention on the concept of sustainable development and the need to better integrate our environmental, social and economic objectives. FAO has a clear and growing role in this complex task.

Fishing and forestry industries are extremely important to the economies of countries in the Southwest Pacific Region and must be developed in an economically sustainable and environmentally sound way. Resources should be made available for these purposes. The Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries to be considered at this Conference is one of the major fisheries initiatives undertaken by FAO in recent years and is likely to have a significant effect on global fisheries management.

The FAO report this year on the state of world fisheries and agriculture highlights that the world fleet incurs enormous losses, presumably supported by government subsidies. Australia considers that greater priority should be given in FAO's work to eliminating over-fishing and reducing the size of the world fleet. This should be a priority for all members.

Australia's policy on women in development aims to ensure that women are involved in decision making and participate in the implementation of all Australian funded aid activities. Therefore, we are pleased to see that FAO will be reporting to this Conference on this revised FAO plan of action for women in development. We endorse that plan. There are other areas of FAO work which Australia regards as important, including the excellent work being carried out by FAO on the implementation of the International Plant Protection Convention, the Organization's involvement in the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and its work on integrated pest management, in which Australia is pleased to have been closely involved.

Mr Chairman, how much of this can be accomplished and how quickly will depend on the availability of funding and the efficiency with which these funds can be used. In this respect, I want to recognize the efforts that the Director-General has made since coming to office to cut costs and to improve efficiency by restructuring the Organization and streamlining its administration. We applaud him for this and, in urging that further efforts be made in this direction, we acknowledge that time is needed and that everything cannot be done at once. We know that at the moment the Organization faces significant funding uncertainty. We should also, however, keep an eye to the medium term. In the past several years Australia and many other member countries have faced unprecedented fiscal stringency in central government. All expenditure proposals have required close justification and, in due course, transparent evaluation against clearly-stated objectives. In

returning to our country's fiscal authorities to seek funding for our Organization here, we need to be able to demonstrate that FAO has been no less stringent and rigorous and is using its resources efficiently and effectively. If, and only if FAO administration can help us in this way, then FAO will indeed remain the leading international organization addressing food and agricultural issues and succeed in realizing its vision: food security for all.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Joze OSTERC (Slovenia): Mr Chairman, distinguished Ministers and Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, the state of agriculture and food in Slovenia.

In the period following the Second World War coercion predominated in the agricultural policies of Slovenia, as in the rest of Yugoslavia, and the trend was established to industrialize farming and to change farmers into workers. After 1970 this attitude to farmers took a turn for the better. The Yugoslav state began to actually support small-scale farm production, as well. But the Law on the Agrarian Maximum still applied, preventing farms from increasing in size until the elections in 1990. The state promoted such a form of farm association that prevented farmers from actively participating in the processing industry and in the marketing of farm and foodstuff products.

At the time of the free elections in 1990 and the creation of the Slovenian state in 1991 Slovenian agriculture was very dispersed and poorly organized. Because farmers did not cooperate in the organization and management of the processing industry, nor in marketing, they have no sense of responsibility and feel that the state is obligated to take care of them.

More of the farmland (near 90 percent) in Slovenia is cultivated by farmers. The farms are small, averaging 4.1 ha. of farmland. Since farms were prevented from increasing size, the result was a greater transformation to part-time and supplementary farms. This is why only 21 percent of holding are full-time farms, and why they cultivate less than 30 percent of agricultural land.

In 1993 the Slovenian parliament adopted an important document entitled the "Strategy of Development of Slovenian Agriculture". With this document Slovenia decided to develop family farms and that family farms were to be at the heart of agricultural production in Slovenia. The agricultural policy strategy's permanent objective would be to increase holdings and farms. It is the bigger full-time farm that can noticeably raise production, achieve lower production costs and make Slovenian agriculture more competitive. Increasing holdings and farms will be a slow process. People are emotionally linked to their land, because in the past it provided an opportunity for many to survive, especially after the Second World War and it also allowed part-time farmers a better life and a higher standard of living. Due to the inappropriate agricultural policies and the poorly organized Yugoslav state, Slovenia has a completely disorganized land register. It urgently needs to be drawn up, to promote commassation and, through this, allow farmers cheaper production. Here the assistance of FAO experts would be welcome. Proper organization of this sector would also accelerate trading in land, which would then contribute to the concentration of farmland. We will also ask the FAO for support in the preparation of an integrated agricultural sector review to be undertaken during 1996.

The cheapest and fastest way to raise productivity and reduce production costs is by applying know-how in a better way and by introducing new technology. For this reason we are putting more effort into improving the operation of the agricultural extension service, giving advice to all who process food, and full-time, part-time and supplementary farms. The government pays about 300 extension workers to give advice to Slovenian farmers directly, through newspapers, radio, TV and by telephone. The results of this service are assessed as favourable, for production is increasing and the quality of farm product is improving.

We are also trying to improve vocational training and studies at the Higher Agricultural College in Maribor and at the Biotechnical Faculty in Ljubljana. We have met with many problems in the modernization of programmes and their implementation, some of which are of a psychological nature. Despite help through the PHARE programme, the assistance of FAO experts would be welcome here.

In the former Yugoslavia we had a relatively closed and protected market of agricultural and food products. The organization and operation of food processing, and marketing agricultural and food product was managed by the State. Hence there was no proper competition. This is the reason why, with the opening up of Slovenia, we have certain difficulties in the food processing industry, especially in the area of marketing. Nor do we know how to sell products from Slovenia that have had their quality recognized in various different evaluations (e.g. wine, hops, fruit). Despite the new law on cooperatives, which permits a more intensive link and cooperation of farmers with the processing industry and marketing, farmers are only slowly integrating into these processes. The improvement of marketing is an important project which represents a problematic task for us, and the assistance of FAO experts would be welcome.

Slovenia has poor conditions for farming. Two-thirds of its farmlands are in regions with difficult conditions for farming. This is why the level of self-sufficiency in food is only near 85 percent. If we deduct imported fodder for livestock from this, then the level of self-sufficiency is only 72 percent. We will try to raise the level of self-sufficiency in the coming years, but we will probably remain net importers forever. The fact that our farm production is very unbalanced also needs attention. We are seriously deficient in cereals, oil and industrial plants, while in milk, potatoes, hops, fruit and some other commodities we have and always will have enough for export. For this reason we will always be intensively involved in trade in agricultural and food products. The quality of our products is therefore very important. We are attempting to rapidly meet the required quality standards of the advanced nations in cultivation and processing. We have succeeded in doing this in many areas.

Despite the difficulties that our agriculture is going through in this transition period, we have succeeded in some specific approaches which contributed to the fact that farm production in Slovenia has regressed less than in some other eastern European countries since 1990, and is now increasing even more. This is also visible from the EU analysis published in Brussels in the summer of this year. Possibly our solutions in the fields of organization and operation of the farm extension service, in the areas of organizing farmers, the operation of plant and animal breeding and control services and other things might also be interesting to the other nations with a similar development of agriculture after the Second World War. Of course we, too, would be willing to pass on these experiences to others through FAO.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: I call the Vice-Chairman, Mr Juan Nuiry Sanchez, to take over the Chair for a while.

Juan Nuiry Sanchez, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, took the chair

Juan Nuiry Sanchez, Vice-Président de la Conférence, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia Juan Nuiry Sánchez, Vice-Presidente de la Conferencia

Karel PINXTEN (Belgique): Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, mes chers Collègues, Mesdames et Messieurs. Il y a quelques jours, nous renouvelions à Québec, avec une intime conviction politique, la Déclaration dite de Québec, vieille déjà de cinquante années, mais dont l'actualité ne peut être démentie.

Aujourd'hui, je m'adresse à cette 28ème Conférence biennale de la FAO, prélude au Sommet mondial de l'alimentation qui se tiendra fin de l'année prochaine.

Dans cette perspective, il me paraît intéressant de brosser rapidement un tableau de la situation agricole mondiale.

Monsieur Jacques Diouf, Directeur général, la resitue dans son contexte en nous rappelant les chiffres de la faim dans le monde. Que pouvons-nous faire alors pour changer cette situation quand on sait que la population

mondiale passera de 5,7 milliards de personnes à 8,7 milliards d'ici 2030? ce qui nécessitera au-delà du déficit alimentaire existant une augmentation de la production de 50 pour cent en 35 ans.

Que faire alors quand, dans le même temps, la disponibilité en terres arables par habitant diminue à due concurrence?

Le défi est donc énorme. Mais nous devons avoir l'ambition de le relever! Comme je l'ai souligné dans mon intervention à Québec, nous devons examiner cette problématique complexe dans son ensemble. Faute de quoi la croissance démographique, en particulier dans les mégapoles, nous entraînera dans une spirale infernale.

Si je prends à titre d'exemple le secteur clé des céréales, je constate que pour 1995 la production de blé est estimée à 529 millions de tonnes, la consommation à 539. Les stocks sont de 93 millions de tonnes. Jamais les niveaux de stocks n'ont été aussi faibles. Si l'on en croit de plus les prévisionnistes (de l'OCDE, de la FAO), la situation en 2000 ne montrera pas de modifications significatives à cet égard. Dans une économie en voie de mondialisation, comment allons-nous alors résoudre dans l'immédiat la question de la faim qui nous préoccupe tous?

D'aucuns voient la résolution de la plupart des problèmes dans une libéralisation totale du secteur agricole. Mais peut-on appliquer à ce secteur socio-économique une politique aussi drastique, sans que la sécurité alimentaire n'en soit affectée? La libéralisation doit s'opérer de manière raisonnée et raisonnable, donc par étapes et certainement pas en une fois. A l'encontre des marchés financiers, le marché agricole se caractérise par une basse élasticité de l'offre, parce qu'une augmentation substantielle de la production nécessite par définition plusieurs années. En plus, la production alimentaire est hautement dépendante des aléas climatiques et naturels incontrôlables.

C'est pour cela que les résultats de l'Uruguay Round ne peuvent réellement s'apprécier que dans leur contexte dynamique. Les négociateurs l'avaient voulu en y associant l'aspect multidimensionnel de l'agriculture par le biais du Comité du commerce et de l'environnement. Ceci est d'ailleurs tout à fait dans la ligne de la notion de développement durable qui doit s'appliquer à l'ensemble de l'économie mais plus spécialement à l'agriculture, aux forêts et aux pêcheries.

Dans l'ajustement agricole international, les pays développés ont certes un rôle à jouer. Je ne pense pas toutefois qu'un démantèlement de la politique agricole européenne serait profitable aux pays en développement. C'est plutôt vers une politique de partenariat qu'il faut aller.

Au sein de l'Union, outre l'indispensable filet de protection, je pense qu'une certaine flexibilité au niveau de la production pourrait être introduite, notamment via le système de gel des terres. Ceci permettra une adaptation rapide à la situation de la demande mondiale. Il est d'ailleurs prévu de tenir compte de l'évolution des marchés et notamment de leur croissance dans l'accord de l'Uruguay Round.

On a également souvent dit que les politiques suivies par les pays développés, notamment par l'Union européenne, étaient la cause de distorsions au niveau des marchés mondiaux. Pourtant, le problème me paraît beaucoup plus complexe. A titre illustratif, je prendrai comme exemple le marché du thé dans lequel les pays développés, dont l'Union européenne, ne jouent pas un rôle au niveau de la production. Néanmoins, sur une période assez longue, on y observe des fluctuations de prix similaires à ce qui se passe au niveau des marchés, des produits sous climat tempéré, comme les céréales, la viande, etc.

C'est pourquoi je préconise la prudence à ceux qui veulent appliquer des solutions radicales en vue de résoudre définitivement les problèmes qui persistent dans l'agriculture.

Je persiste plutôt à penser que nous devons rechercher des formules alliant les leçons du passé et les résultats des progrès techniques et scientifiques. Comme je l'ai déjà exprimé à Québec, je crois qu'il faut opter d'une façon résolue pour une stratégie de développement basée sur le secteur rural, sur un rôle approprié pour les femmes et sur les atouts des pauvres, à savoir leur travail et leurs ressources. C'est ce message que nous voulons promouvoir à travers les actions du groupe de travail sur les femmes et la famille agricole dans le développement rural qui bénéficie d'un appui personnel de la Reine Fabiola.

Sur le plan des échanges et lors des futures négociations concernant l'agriculture, qui se tiendront dans le cadre de l'Organisation mondiale du commerce, la FAO aura un rôle à jouer. L'Organisation sera en effet le conseiller des pays en développement.

Quant aux travaux du Comité sanitaire et phytosanitaire de l'OMC, qui sont d'une grande importance, la FAO doit également y apporter sa pierre. En cas de différends entre parties notamment, le Groupe spécial créé afin d'instruire le litige pourra, s'il le juge approprié, consulter les organisations internationales compétentes.

Ce serait le cas par exemple du Codex Alimentarius ou d'autres comités qui sont sous la compétence de l'Organisation. Eu égard à ces derniers, il me paraît nécessaire et opportun de redéfinir les règles qui président à leur composition et à la prise de décision, étant donné que les matières à traiter sont importantes et d'une sensibilité extrême, notamment sur le plan de la protection des consommateurs. C'est pourquoi une procédure consensuelle serait, à mon sens, la mieux appropriée.

L'Organisation se présente à nous comme un outil au service de tous ses membres mais aussi d'une cause commune à l'humanité entière: la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition. Parlant d'outil, donc d'efficacité, de performance, le Gouvernement belge a toujours été partisan d'un développement harmonieux et équilibré des deux grands rouages de l'Organisation: le secteur normatif d'une part, l'opérationnel de l'autre.

Nous voulons que l'Organisation puisse atteindre ses objectifs. C'est pourquoi malgré l'austérité budgétaire imposée notamment par les normes d'adhésion à l'Union économique et monétaire, la Belgique fera un effort pour renverser la tendance négative en termes de contribution à l'aide au développement.

Comme pour les autres Organisations du système des Nations Unies, la Belgique défend, pour la FAO, une politique de stabilité des ressources.

Nous félicitons à cet égard le Directeur général pour l'effort accompli en nous présentant un budget qui respecte le principe de croissance zéro en termes réels et pour avoir engagé un processus dont devraient résulter des économies supplémentaires. La Belgique favorise un niveau budgétaire qui respecte le principe de croissance zéro en termes réels, avec absorption maximale de coûts. La Belgique adoptera une attitude souple et responsable pour fixer le niveau du budget. Cependant, il y a une masse critique en dessous de laquelle il ne faut pas tomber sans compromettre l'output de l'Organisation. Il faudra certainement de l'imagination et de nouvelles idées pour résoudre la quadrature du cercle.

La Belgique note une contradiction dans les positions d'un Etat membre important qui exige de la FAO une diminution significative du niveau de son budget, tandis qu'hier, à New York, ce même Etat membre se limitait à demander une réduction symbolique du budget des Nations Unies.

Il nous semble dangereux d'insister sur des amputations budgétaires qui ne guérissent pas le malade: la maladie étant les arriérés croissants. A cet égard, je félicite les pays en développement d'avoir fait un effort pour s'acquitter de leurs obligations vis-à-vis de la FAO, avant cette Conférence.

Nous ne pouvons, par contre, pas accepter, ni tolérer que le système des Nations Unies se voie déstabilisé par le refus de certains Etats Membres d'honorer leurs obligations, refus qui témoigne d'un repli sur soi-même, qui mène à l'isolationnisme ou au bilatéralisme polarisant, et finalement à l'exclusion de soi-même de la communauté internationale.

Il serait d'ailleurs contradictoire que dans un monde qui s'intègre de plus en plus, le système multilatéral comme incorporation de la solidarité globale, ne soit plus à la hauteur de sa tâche. En effet, aujourd'hui le système multilatéral subit des tentatives de démantèlement par une réduction des moyens; il semble atrophié par manque de vision, et paralysé par manque de clarté d'objectifs. Le système des Nations Unies doit être rajeuni, redynamisé et sa sclérose et son excès de bureaucratie combattus.

La FAO, de son côté, a fait cet effort de rajeunissement et de restructuration: nous en attendons beaucoup en termes d'augmentation d'efficacité et de dynamisme. Pour cela, il sera toutefois nécessaire de responsabiliser davantage chaque fonctionnaire de l'Organisation par une plus grande délégation de pouvoir et de raccourcir la chaîne hiérarchique.

La décentralisation en cours est cohérente avec sa mission de fournisseur d'assistance technique à ses Etats Membres. Toutefois, elle doit être accompagnée d'une diminution en parallèle des tâches exécutées par le Siège de Rome.

Il est même important que la FAO garde le contact avec ses membres: à cet égard, je me félicite de pouvoir mettre à la disposition de la FAO des locaux à Bruxelles lui permettant d'ouvrir ainsi un bureau de liaison au coeur de l'Union européenne.

En conclusion, nous nous trouvons actuellement en possession de toute une série d'éléments très utiles, je pense aux résolutions contenues dans la Déclaration de Québec 1995, celles prises lors de la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition et de la Conférence de Rio. Mettre ensemble les pièces d'un puzzle compliqué, telle sera notre tâche commune dans les années à venir. Ce travail n'est pas simple, j'en conviens. Mais je suis persuadé qu'avec plus d'imagination, une bonne intelligence des choses et un savoir-faire qui ne nous fait pas défaut, nous pourrions réduire la pauvreté et l'insécurité alimentaire au niveau du monde.

Enfin, il est indispensable que les objectifs précis de la FAO soient bien perçus par l'opinion publique et plus spécialement par notre jeunesse, très sensible à la situation prévalant dans les pays en développement. C'est pourquoi, il entre dans mes intentions d'associer les jeunes de mon pays à la préparation du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation de novembre 1996. Et je voudrais proposer que notre Organisation elle aussi y prête une oreille attentive. Ainsi, une présence significative de jeunes du monde entier au Sommet mondial de 1996 me paraît essentielle pour renforcer la solidarité entre ceux qui porteront les responsabilités que notre génération assume aujourd'hui. Je crois que ce serait un gage d'encouragement pour tous et le signe d'un nouveau dynamisme de la FAO.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

EL VICEPRESIDENTE: Ha querido la coincidencia que el primer orador a quien voy a ofrecer el uso de la palabra sea nuestro fraternal México, deber que hago a plena satisfacción.

Mario MOYA PALENCIA (México): Señores de la Presidencia, quiero en primer lugar felicitar al Señor Ministro de Agricultura de Chipre, señor Costas Petrides, por su elección como Presidente de esta Conferencia y extender estos votos a los distinguidos representantes de Túnez, Cuba y Eslovaquia, por haber sido electos como Vicepresidentes de la misma. Les ha sido encomendada sin duda una importante responsabilidad en la conducción de nuestras sesiones. De la misma manera, me congratulo por el hecho de que contamos ahora con la participación de nuevos miembros en el seno de nuestra Organización y, en nombre de mi país, me uno a los demás para dar la bienvenida a las repúblicas de Azerbaiyán, Georgia, Moldova, Tayikistán y Turkmenistán. Asimismo, mi delegación se suma al pesar de todos por el sensible fallecimiento del Jefe de la delegación de Iraq, el señor Rasheed, Ministro de Agricultura de ese país.

Al coincidir con el quincuagésimo aniversario de la FAO, esta Conferencia reviste un particular significado y nos obliga a reflexionar sobre el estado actual de la situación alimentaria y de la nutrición en el mundo. Vemos con gran satisfacción que, desde su fundación, la FAO ha constituido una gran promotora de la producción y distribución de alimentos, al mismo tiempo que ha impulsado una cooperación esencial entre los países miembros en el desarrollo de los ámbitos agropecuario, forestal y pesquero.

Nos enfrentamos, sin embargo, a una realidad contundente en cuanto a la creciente magnitud de los problemas del hambre y la pobreza en un gran número de países. Estamos obligados a ponderar todo el peso de algunas cifras y constatar que en 1995 la población mundial asciende a más de 5 300 millones de habitantes, al tiempo que la FAO cuenta con recursos proporcionalmente inferiores a los que disponía hace veinte años. Se enfrenta por otra parte a muy inquietantes perspectivas por lo que hace a su estabilidad financiera y, por ende, a sus posibilidades de mantener la cooperación y la asistencia a los Estados Miembros, en particular a aquellos países de Africa, Asia y América Latina y el Caribe que requieren en forma imperativa de ella. A este

respecto, apoyamos plenamente el discurso que pronunció esta mañana el Director General, señor Jacques Diouf, y el llamado hecho por el Presidente Independiente del Consejo, señor José Ramón López Portillo.

Por eso, las primeras palabras de nuestra delegación se encaminan a exhortar a todos los Estados Miembros para que cumplan a la brevedad posible con el pago íntegro de sus contribuciones, lo que constituye una obligación internacional ineludible que no puede cancelarse. Si muchas naciones en desarrollo que enfrentan graves problemas económicos y financieros se han puesto al corriente de sus pagos, con más razón deben hacerlo algunos países desarrollados morosos, cuyos altos niveles de vida y amplios presupuestos fiscales facilitan el cumplimiento de esa obligación.

De acuerdo con el mandato de su Constitución, el Gobierno de México elaboró, en consulta con los diversos sectores sociales y fuerzas políticas, el Plan Nacional de Desarrollo 1995-2000, que tiene como objetivos afianzar la soberanía de la nación, fortalecer el estado de derecho e impulsar el desarrollo democrático, el desarrollo social y el crecimiento económico. El Plan afirma que el problema social de atención más urgente es la pobreza extrema, que está íntimamente vinculado a la seguridad alimentaria del país. Cerca de 14 millones de mexicanos no pueden satisfacer sus necesidades más elementales. El sector rural concentra tres cuartas partes de la población con pobreza más aguda. Los pobladores rurales del semidesierto y de las zonas de baja productividad padecen los efectos de la exclusión social. Gran parte de quienes emigran del campo constituyen o engrosan colonias urbanas populares que aumentan las presiones sobre los servicios públicos y la vivienda.

El Plan considera a la población como el sujeto primordial y el agente fundamental del desarrollo, que en lo social ha sido heterogéneo en las diversas regiones del país. Para equilibrarlo y promover el bienestar de los grupos rurales, el Plan persigue la consolidación de una reforma agraria que les ofrezca certeza jurídica sobre sus tierras y les brinde, al mismo tiempo, la oportunidad de incrementar su productividad a través de políticas regionales de apoyo al sector agrícola. En el ámbito rural vive el 27 por ciento de la población nacional del país, y desde 1965 el crecimiento del valor de la producción agropecuaria ha sido en promedio inferior al crecimiento de la población total. Al respecto debo señalar que, mientras la población ha crecido últimamente a una tasa del 2 por ciento anual, la producción agropecuaria lo ha hecho a un ritmo de apenas el 1,5 por ciento.

Para incrementar la productividad y superar la pobreza extrema que afecta al sector rural, el Plan prevé tres estrategias: primera, con la participación de campesinos y productores, redefinir las instituciones, políticas y programas de apoyo al campo, concluir el reparto agrario y dar paso a nuevas políticas dirigidas a impulsar dicha productividad; segunda, promover las condiciones necesarias para atraer un flujo significativo y permanente de inversión al medio rural, y tercera, apoyar la organización rural como eje de la transformación productiva del sector agropecuario y punto de partida para hacer de la igualdad de oportunidades una realidad en las áreas rurales, prestando especial interés a los pueblos indígenas y a las mujeres campesinas.

Entre los objetivos del crecimiento económico de México está el de asegurar el uso amplio y eficiente de los recursos naturales y humanos del país, generar más empleos productivos, actualizar la tecnología y fomentar la competitividad.

La estrategia nacional, junto con las acciones para frenar las tendencias del deterioro ecológico y transitar hacia un desarrollo sustentable, incluye el saneamiento de las principales cuencas hidrológicas y la restauración de las áreas críticas para la protección de la biodiversidad. Este criterio ecológico implica cambios fundamentales en los sistemas productivos de tipo agropecuario y en el fomento de la producción sustentable de los sectores forestal y pesquero. Para México los temas de medio ambiente y el desarrollo sostenible de todos los sectores productivos son un hecho de conciencia general e inspiran las acciones que realizamos.

El Plan reconoce y lamenta, por otra parte, que la actividad agropecuaria a nivel mundial sea la que aún tiene una mayor intervención estatal, caracterizada por altos niveles de subsidio, imposición de barreras comerciales y otorgamiento de apoyos dirigidos a remediar condiciones de baja productividad. El objetivo central de nuestra política agropecuaria consiste en incrementar el ingreso neto de los productores como medio de promover la seguridad alimentaria del país y reducir la pobreza extrema, sobre todo en el medio rural, haciendo uso racional de todos los elementos y recursos naturales, humanos y económicos, y aprovechando los instrumentos de intercambio que México ha convenido últimamente, como el TLC de Norteamérica,

suscrito con Estados Unidos y Canada, así como acuerdos semejantes celebrados con Chile, Colombia, Venezuela, Costa Rica y otros países latinoamericanos, y buscando un mayor acercamiento con la Unión Europea y con la Cuenca del Pacífico.

Para México resulta esencial promover decididamente y elevar la condición de la mujer. Su aportación es estratégica en ámbitos tan diversos como la alimentación, la protección del medio ambiente y las nuevas pautas de desarrollo familiar y social. Estimamos que a este respecto nuestra organización debe tomar muy en cuenta las recomendaciones emanadas de las cumbres y conferencias de las Naciones Unidas sobre la población, el desarrollo social y la mujer.

A mi país satisface de manera especial que el Consejo de nuestra Organización haya ratificado a principios de esta semana el Código de Conducta de Pesca Responsable, y recomendado a esta Conferencia, mediante un proyecto de resolución, que sea aprobado por los Estados Miembros y aplicado en sus términos. Este instrumento fue concebido con la participación decidida de mi país a partir de la Conferencia sobre Pesca Responsable celebrada en Cancún en 1992, y en su elaboración y negociación posterior participaron todos los Estados que se interesan en tan importante actividad. No cabe duda que la ordenación y el desarrollo de la pesca costera y de alta mar contribuirá a lograr una mejor seguridad alimentaria para el mundo. Confiamos que el nuevo Código sea particularmente útil para los países en desarrollo. El documento, por otra parte, refleja el interés que el gobierno de México otorga a su importante sector pesquero.

Por último, reconocemos que las acciones nacionales son insustituibles en la solución de los problemas que afectan la agricultura y la alimentación, pero dada la inequitativa distribución mundial del ingreso la cooperación internacional se impone como un complemento necesario. La reducción de los recursos en esta materia, que se viene advirtiendo desde hace unos años, es francamente ominosa y va en sentido contrario a los esfuerzos que una humanidad en crecimiento tiene que desplegar para obtener cada vez más alimentos y un adecuado nivel nutricional para todos.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

J.J. VAN AARTSEN (Netherlands): In Quebec last Monday the 50th Anniversary of the Food and Agriculture Organization was commemorated. The FAO was established with the objective of eliminating hunger and improving nutrition.

One of the founding fathers of FAO and former Dutch Minister of Agriculture, the remarkable Sicco Mansholt, passed away a few months ago. In Quebec 50 years ago he delivered a striking speech in which he said the work which FAO takes on its shoulders can be decisive for the future of the world. Fifty years later I want to underline both Mr Mansholt's statement and its purport.

The FAO has transferred a great deal of knowledge and infrastructure to the developing countries and the industrialized nations have learnt a lot from the approach to agricultural problems in the developing countries.

Over the years FAO has stepped up cooperation with other organizations. From the very start the Netherlands, a nation of farmers with a deep-rooted tradition of development cooperation, has felt committed to the FAO and we have been active donors and partners. Since then, a lot of water has flowed under the bridge. Many things have changed since Quebec. Developments have accelerated, particularly in the past six years. The world has become more complex.

These days international relations are less transparent and less predictable and there are new super-fast methods to communicate and to disseminate information. All this makes new and high demands on international organizations such as the FAO. Moreover, international dynamics are reinforced because these modern technologies also have an influence on the world economy. These developments are a challenge to FAO; they require a strong and stable organization. I am therefore in favour of the recently started restructuring of FAO. I would like to stress the importance of it. The restructuring should include the Governing Bodies of FAO. The Council, for example should represent member countries democratically. I



think that in the coming period we have to consider whether the organization of Governing Bodies is still up to date.

Looking at the field the FAO is active in at present, we see that the whole world has undergone tremendous changes in the past fifty years. In many countries the agricultural sector is the heart of economic activity and the driving force for development. Therefore, the Dutch policy focuses on intensive international cooperation in agricultural research and agricultural education because we consider agriculture vital to the world's economy and to stability. For the same reason food security must remain high on the FAO agenda because, without food security, economic development and political stability are nothing but illusions.

Food security requires all countries to work closely together and it calls for an integrated approach. Hunger is not solved by time and shifting food surpluses from one country to another. Food security and agriculture rely on sustainable development and a wise use and management of natural resources. Agenda 21, and Chapter 14 on sustainable agriculture in particular, provides us with the context and clear guidelines. Therefore, Agenda 21 should be given more priority within the FAO's activities at a level of both policy-making and implementation.

The Netherlands wants FAO to play a leading role, particularly in the implementation of the sector chapters of Agenda 21 which deal with sustainable agriculture, integrated land management, sustainable forestry management and biodiversity. This means a close link between agricultural development and international nature policies. Sustainable development requires intensive international cooperation in the field of nature and biodiversity.

I was very pleased, may I say, at the content of the McDougall lecture yesterday. FAO should also play a prominent part in the planning and management of land resources which can be considered the stepping stone towards the sustainable use of natural resources. The Netherlands will back this. We are cooperating with FAO now, for example, in the follow-up to the international workshop on integrated land management which was held in the Netherlands last February. This follow-up will focus in the implementation of integrated land management and the instruments required for this purpose. The context of sustainable agricultural liberalization of world trade is another important theme. Policy should promote innovations and structural improvement and encourage products with a higher added value which contribute to higher incomes, particularly in developing countries. To support these objectives a greater liberalization of international agricultural trade is called for. Agricultural and trade policies should aim to improve market access and promote fair trading conditions on international markets. That is why the implementation of the final act of the Uruguay Round is so important. It sets the stage for actions which should lead to a further liberalization of world trade. In this, FAO has an important advisory role. An important foundation for this necessary liberalization is played by internationally accepted standards on the quality of agricultural products and foodstuffs and standards for food safety and fair trade to prevent non-tariff barriers being erected. Both nationally and internationally such tenders are of paramount importance.

FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission, will be a major frame of reference and advisory body to the World Trade Organization if there are problems in international trade in foodstuffs and agricultural products.

For many years the Netherlands has been hosting the important Codex Alimentarius Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants and that on Pesticide Residues. However, I think other countries should also have the opportunity to host Codex committees. With the Philippines Government I have therefore arranged that the 1996 session of this Codex committee will be held in Manila.

In the Netherlands a 50th birthday is an important event. FAO cannot be excepted from this golden Dutch rule. Therefore, the Netherlands has offered to renovate completely and enlarge the Queen Juliana Room. We thought this a suitable present for a 50 year old. Moreover, it will be a lasting reminder of a Queen who has always sought to improve the circumstances of the deprived in this world.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Abdul Mannan BHUIYAN (Bangladesh): It is a great pleasure and honour for me to address the Twenty-eighth Session of the FAO Conference. On behalf of the Bangladesh delegation and on my own behalf, I extend to you, Mr Chairman, our warmest felicitations on your election as Chairman of this important session of the Conference.

I would like to express our shock at the sad demise of the Minister of Agriculture of Iraq, Mr Khalil Abdul Moneem Rasheed, and join others in expressing our heartfelt condolences to his grieving family.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Georgia, Moldova and Turkmenistan as new Members of FAO and hope that they would bring their valuable experience and expertise to enrich the work of our Organization.

I would particularly like to thank the Director-General, Dr Jacques Diouf, for his comprehensive and very substantive statement highlighting the priorities that the Organization must address in order to be truly responsive to the needs of the Member Nations.

We have been informed about the new orientations that have been brought in the programmes, structures and policies of the Organization since Dr Diouf's taking up the office as of Director-General in January 1993. I would like to express my appreciation to the Director-General for the pragmatic initiatives that he has undertaken over the last two years in bringing qualitative changes to the work of FAO. The Director-General's efforts have marked a significant step forward in making the Organization more efficient and cost-effective.

We are pleased to note that some good progress has been achieved in the decentralization of FAO activities, the cost-effective delivery of services and the strengthening of the national capacities of Member Nations. A sharpened focus on food security in the low-income food-deficit countries, including launching a Special Programme on Food Production in Support of Food Security in LIFDCs, is particularly important in the context of the present unfavourable global state of food and agriculture.

The current global food and agricultural scenario is disquieting. While there has been an overall increase in cereal production in the low-income food-deficit countries, it has failed to keep pace with population growth. Low income importing countries are now particularly vulnerable to the increased cereal price in the international market. A large number of food emergencies due to civil strife, large-scale influx of refugees, drought and floods have aggravated the acute food insecurity condition in several countries. In Bangladesh, drought and floods during the last two consecutive years caused much damage to standing crops. As a result our hard-earned self-sufficiency in cereals has been reduced to a deficit of about 5 million tons of cereals.

Mr Chairman, it is heartening that some densely populated countries have success stories in food production, but in spite of the regional variations, including a more positive picture in several densely populated countries, the global per capita production scenario is not encouraging.

We cannot but regret the continuing decline in multilateral commitments of assistance to the agriculture sector as well as the decreasing level of cereal food aid. We note with concern that the latest estimate of cereal food aid for 1994-95 stands at 9.8 million tons with only 7 million tons for the LIFDCs compared to 11.1 million tons provided in 1992-93 to low-income food-deficit countries. We would like to stress that food aid has a vital role to play in stabilizing food supplies in many low-income food-deficit countries having low and critical levels of food security and urge donor countries to increase their budgetary allocations in food aid. The declining share of food aid for development activities due to an increased response to emergencies is also regrettable.

Pervasive food insecurity which is still afflicting millions in the developing world calls for devising appropriate strategies to address this acute problem. For the majority of the developing countries, chronic food insecurity cannot be alleviated effectively without strengthening the capacity to raise agricultural productivity. A major effort must be made for developing technologies for increasing food output. FAO can play an important role by advising Member Governments in assessing what technologies are available but insufficiently exploited and in identifying technologies suitable for dissemination. Food insecurity is a complex problem for which sustainable solutions need to be found to ensure that the world has enough to feed 9 billion in the year 2030. Increasing production in the developing countries must, therefore, be a vital strategy for us.

FAO's Special Programme in support of food security in LIFDCs would significantly contribute to the realization of the objectives of this strategy.

In the context of Bangladesh, the task of national-building is rather tough. Our population is over 110 million now and is growing at a rate of 2.2 percent per year. This amounts to nearly 2.5 million additional mouths to be fed every year. This is a tremendous challenge for us. Furthermore, since our economy is only just developing, the vast majority of our population rely on agriculture for its employment. The result is that agriculture in Bangladesh has a dual burden, to feed the nation and to generate employment opportunities for its people. The economy of Bangladesh is thus based on agriculture which accounts for nearly 37 percent of the GDP. Of the entire labour force, 62 percent is engaged in this sector. The average farm size is close to one hectare. The crop sub-sector represents about 79 percent of the agricultural GDP. In Bangladesh rice is the most important crop. With the expansion of the minor irrigation for HYV Boro rice cultivation, the production has lately been remarkable.

I would like to indicate that we in Bangladesh have a great opportunity for using our land with a much greater intensity than we did in the past. This means obtaining higher yields from the crops we grow, and also by growing additional crops each year. Unfortunately, intensification of production can often result in increased pollution and problems of waste disposal. However, with diversification of production it is possible to increase crop production intensity. It is also possible to achieve the twin objectives of increasing production and reducing environmental degradation.

We welcome the initiative of the Director-General to convene a World Food Summit in November 1996 in Rome. The Summit to be held at the highest political level would provide a very important forum to review the state of global food security and adopt realistic plans of action towards achievement of food security for all. The Government of Bangladesh has already set up a national preparatory committee for the Summit and is working in close collaboration with FAO to make the Summit a success.

In concluding, I would like to express my firm belief that in the course of our deliberations during the next few days we shall be able to agree on measures that would further strengthen the Organization's capacity to carry out its mandate more efficiently and effectively.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Ms Margareta WINBERG (Sweden): In my statement I will focus on a few issues that in the view of Sweden are of the utmost importance: the further empowerment of women in food security, conservation and access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, responsible fisheries and sustainable forest management.

Forceful measures to promote gender-based equality, equity and the empowerment of women are of strategic importance to efforts aimed at combatting hunger and famine, not only because of the shocking fact that 70 percent of the 780 billion people in the Third World suffering from chronic under-nutrition are women and children, especially girls, but also because of the fact that women play a major role concerning food supply in many countries. Women are often major contributors to food and agricultural production. They have extensive knowledge of food systems and of sustainable agriculture.

In order to fully mobilize the creativity of women and their great potential to contribute to food security, present inadequacies should be eliminated and women be given much broader access to land titles, membership in farmers' organizations, credits, extension services and inputs that can help enhance food production.

In this context I would call the attention of the Conference to action initiated in some countries to create a system for providing loans to poor female farmers without land tenure. The Grameen Bank in Bangladesh is a case in point. The loans are small, but the effects are often big, because the money is used by the women in a creative and wise way for strategic action to promote food security.

I urge FAO to further strengthen its advisory role to governments in this important field and, together with funds and programmes, in particular the Rome-based International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), to promote this innovative approach to lending.

I congratulate the FAO Secretariat for its excellent work in the revision of the Plan of Action for Women in Development. The new plan for the period 1996-2001 contains many creative proposals for action. It, however, is a plan developed by the Organization, primarily for the Organization. We must now prepare for the next steps in this important area.

In my view, a plan of action can only achieve sustained impact with governments if it is being prepared by governments through negotiations, sentence by sentence, word by word, of realistic recommendations for targeted and costed action. It must be a plan of the government for the government. Their true comments are vital. Active participation in the preparations on the part of the non-governmental organizations is also of great importance.

Against this background, I urge the FAO to set in train a process to negotiate a real inter-governmental targeted and costed global programme of action for Women in Development in the same way as Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development was designed and prepared.

Financial resources, technologies and technological cooperation should be available for developing countries in support of agricultural development based on long-term, realistic objectives. Sweden is, and will continue to be an active partner in international development cooperation, bilateral as well as multilateral, in support of world security.

I would like to commend FAO for its preparations for the international conference next year in Leipzig on action to halt the alarming erosion of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. These resources will help us develop sustainable agriculture. They contain the genes that are resistant to diseases, pests and drought. They help us increase yields. The plant breeding of the high-yielding seeds is the major factor behind the phenomenal growth of agriculture in the last 50 years.

Access to the right genetic resources of the developing countries has up to now been free. These resources are of fundamental importance for future plant breeding of the seeds of the second, sustainable, green revolution. The Rio Convention on Biological Diversity has ushered in a new era of fair and equitable sharing of the benefit from the use of the genetic resources of the Third World. I urge the FAO and governments to make all efforts to conclude the ongoing negotiations on harmonizing the FAO International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources with the Biodiversity Convention in time for the World Food Summit. The new Undertaking should, in the view of Sweden, be a binding legal instrument. It should include a multilateral agreement on the terms of access to the plant genetic resources.

World food production does not only depend on biophysical realities and available technologies. In every country the individual farmer must have economic incentives to produce for the market. When prices are too low for him or her to cover the costs, he or she will not produce.

International markets have a direct effect concerning decisions by the individual farmer on whether to produce or not. For the least developed countries it is often not possible to buy food at the price on the world market. In a longer term perspective, however, this may undermine their own national agriculture. Farmers will lack incentives to invest and produce.

World trade in food is a pre-condition for food supplies to all people on earth. The big actors in America and in Europe should act in a way that will not create obstacles for the development of agriculture in the Third World. This is an important perspective in the ongoing considerations within the European Union on how to develop the common agricultural policy.

The objectives of that policy were laid down in another time and for another European agriculture.

FAO is playing a key role in the development of action to halt the over-exploitation of marine living resources. For many years FAO has informed and warned the world community of the increasing threats to major fish stocks. This time we should adopt Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. It is the result of

constructive negotiations which took place in close interaction with the preparation in New York of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea relating to the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks.

The regional organizations will have to be strengthened in order to be able to carry out the new tasks assigned to them by the new international instruments. FAO should prepare to assist the regional organizations, in particular in developing country regions upon request to organize the necessary actions to carry out the new tasks. FAO should also carry out a comprehensive study on possible options for mobilizing the necessary resources for financing of the fixed and operating costs. All possible sources, including the ability of members to pay and benefits from the fisheries covered by the organizations, should be studied.

These tasks should be undertaken by FAO with a sense of urgency. Proposals for action and options for mobilizing the resources necessary for implementing the action should be prepared for consideration by the next session of the Committee on Fisheries.

Let me conclude, Mr Chairman, by stressing once more that the tasks before the FAO are formidable, challenging and growing. Nobody questions the enormous importance of world food security and of sustainability in world agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Montree PONGPANIT (Thailand): Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it is a pleasure for me on behalf of the Royal Thai Government and the people of Thailand to address this Conference today. Please allow me, Mr Chairman, to join previous speakers in congratulating you and the vice Chairmen upon their elections. I wish you every success in chairing this meeting. I also wish to extend the best wishes of the people of Thailand to the new FAO Member Nations.

The first part of my statement concerns food and nutrition. It is a well known fact that hunger and famine, whether caused by man made disaster, poverty or natural disaster, have caused widespread suffering to mankind. We fully support the FAO and its continuous efforts to assist Member Nations to achieve food security. Although Thailand is a major producer and exporter of food and food products, we still have nutritional problems. Experience in Thailand has shown that community-based nutritional intervention programmes, including nutrition education, have shown the possibility of achieving sustainability. Thailand is prepared to exchange its experience with other nations, non-governmental organizations, international agencies in supporting global goals for the alleviation of hunger and malnutrition.

Mr Chairman, as is equally well known, Thailand is currently the world's largest rice exporting country. Rice is the staple food for Asian countries, and approximately half the world's population lives in Asia. In this connection, I consider the rice issue as very important for the world community. I strongly encourage the FAO to monitor and inform Member Countries about world conditions for rice. The conclusion of the Uruguay Round in 1994 must be seen as only the beginning of a new chapter for world agricultural trade. We urge Member Nations to formulate their agricultural policies in a manner which is consistent with their commitments and obligations.

The second part of my statement concerns fisheries. Environmental issues are of the greatest concern for Thai fishers as well as my government. On this occasion I do not wish to go into the details of the measures that have been taken by my government. I simply wish to assure the world community that Thailand will do its best in accordance with international agreements. With regard to world trade on fish and fish products, Thailand believes that certain countries may consider imposing non tariff barriers to trade, in particular, those related to the environment. Frequently fish and fish products must be promoted and labeled as being environmentally friendly. Therefore, I believe it is necessary for the FAO to organize an international gathering to deal with environmental protection measures. I truly hope that the outcome will be fair to all parties concerned, including the non-governmental organizations.

Mr Chairman, please allow me to inform the distinguished delegates that Thailand will in 1996 be hosting the annual meeting of the World Aquaculture Society at the same time as Asia's annual exposition for seafood or "East Meets West" in Bangkok from January 29th to February 2nd 1996. Thailand will be most honoured if the distinguished delegates of the authorities concerned could participate at this conference.

Finally, with regard to forestry, world forests have been destroyed at an alarming rate including forests in the Asian Region. However, forestry resources and their conservation are a global issue and we feel that all Member Nations should take an active role in an effort to prevent further destruction and for a sustainable use of forestry resources. At this stage I would like to highlight the National Forestry Action Programme. We believe that the support of the donor countries and the FAO is urgently needed by developing countries. We firmly believe that the strengthening of international cooperation and improving efficiency and coordination of bilateral and multilateral assistance, including the mobilization of financial resources and the facilitation of transfer of environmentally sound technology are the means to ensure implementation of Agenda 21 of UNCED.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Josef LUX (Czech Republic): Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, first allow me to express my condolences to the delegation of Iraq.

Mr Chairman, a few days ago we celebrated the 50th anniversary of FAO. We evaluated its activities, methods, and effectiveness in its efforts towards solving one of the most pressing global problems, how to put an end to world hunger and famine. Now that celebrations and ceremonies have come to a close, we face a serious task: to prepare our Organization for the next millennium. It is a very important challenge for all Member Countries of the FAO since this Organization must adapt to rapidly changing conditions in the world. Our Republic is ready to actively participate in this work and supports all efforts towards the restructurization and decentralization of the FAO. Such changes should lead to a more effective and less bureaucratic functioning of the Organization. The FAO should function in a more efficient manner where better communication between Member States informs the Organization's agenda, therefore saving money, time and labour. The Czech Republic offers its support to a quite specific range of activities in the FAO. Our government has decided to organize important political and professional meetings of ministers of agriculture from the countries of central and eastern Europe. These meetings will take place in November of this year in Prague. The main issues on the agenda will be the transformation of agriculture to a market economy in those countries. The present restructuring of FAO's activities offers special possibilities for change to its current complicated structure and for eliminating bureaucracy. Each member country would therefore have an opportunity to use its highly skilled specialists.

Mr Chairman, I am aware of the sensitivity surrounding changes in the Organization. However, coming from a country which has accomplished a radical transformation in a historically short time, I am sure that the FAO is able to do the same. These are all the reasons for the candidature of the Czech Republic for the Committee on Legal and Constitutional Matters for the period 1996-97. Mr Chairman, concerning the World Food Summit, our Republic considers world food security as one of the cardinal tasks for the FAO and gives full support to its preparation. I would like to express quite openly that the Summit's returns will be directly proportionate to the concrete and specific nature of its programme. The Czech Republic offers the mediation of its unique experience acquired during its transformation process of agricultural liberalization. We are convinced that our assistance in agricultural policy formulation and technological know-how would be most efficient help we can offer.

Let me briefly mention some important trends in Czech agriculture. The agricultural sector is part of a national economy characterized by 10 percent inflation, 3 percent unemployment and a stabilized currency. Around 97 percent of the country's land is already in the hands of the private sector. Our restitution process has given back property stolen by the former regime to its original owners. Privatization of an estimated US \$100 million worth of property has been completed. Also a transformation of former agricultural cooperatives has been accomplished in the last three years.

Since every hectare of land belongs to a specific owner, labour productivity is growing. Approximately half of the agricultural workers have left the sector within the past five years and government subsidies have dropped to one-sixth their level in 1989. Food supply on the other hand, has increased markedly.

Czech farmers derive their competitiveness from large average production sizes (the average area of a farm in the Czech Republic is 140 ha.) The Government indirectly supports farming production through cheaper credits and credit guarantees and provides direct subsidies to farmers in mountain areas as a reimbursement for their by-productive function in agriculture. The Czech Republic is interested in liberalization of the agrarian market in areas of tariffs, phytosanitary as well as veterinary. We are making an effort so that competition is between agricultural producers and not between budgets, bureaucracy and stamps.

Mr Chairman, to conclude I am convinced that the problem of world food security has its solution in the principle "Give a fishing hook to the starving and not a fish". Let us support the creative activities of farmers around the world. The Czech Republic is ready to assist.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Ahmed Ali GENIEF (Sudan) (Original language Arabic): Mr Deputy Director-General, Excellencies, Ministers of Agriculture, delegates, ladies and gentlemen, first of all I would like to present my condolences and sympathy to the government and people of Iraq because we lost our brother Rasheed the Minister of Agriculture of Iraq. I would like also to present my condolences to his family. I hope that his soul will rest in peace.

I would like to deliver my statement on behalf of the Government and people of Sudan and I would like to congratulate you Mr Chairman on the trust bestowed upon you by this Conference by electing you Chairman. I am sure that thanks to your wise leadership, this Conference will be a resounding success I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to FAO which has just celebrated its 50th Anniversary, FAO is gearing up to face the challenges ahead. Knowing the many and deep transformations taking place in the world today, I cannot but commend the Management of FAO and its Director-General, Dr Jacques Diouf, for the outstanding ability of interacting with these changes and coping with and absorbing these challenges, thanks to its clear vision, sound planning and the emphasis it puts on the priorities with a view to optimizing the utilization of the available resources.

Mr Chairman, the Director-General has presented a programme of work for this Organization in this important period comprising restructuring measures, decentralization, doubling the technical cooperation among the developing countries, in addition to the importance given to pest control, animal and health diseases, the special programmes for food production and food security in the low income countries as well as the involvement of women in agricultural development.

In addition to the programmes currently implemented, we believe that this new direction is a true reflection of FAO's specific role at this juncture. Therefore we are calling on all members to enable FAO to play this role fully and to implement the programme by providing it with the necessary financial resources and political support.

We are in full agreement with the proposed budget submitted to this general Conference and prepared on the basis of real zero growth rate. The proposed budget is tailored to implement the strategic programmes proposed by the Director-General to support the developing countries in particular. These programmes will make possible the proposed changes in FAO's activities. We call on all the Member States to understand the circumstances that led to these changes and to continue their support for the proposed budget.

Mr Chairman, Sudan has seen during the last years serious changes in favour of development and the optimal utilization of the enormous agricultural resources of the country. Our economy has been restructured and we moved from a centrally planned to a freemarket economy thereby creating the appropriate environment for production and investment.

We also managed a qualitative transformation for farmers and breeders by directly and actively involving them in decision-making and production and they are no longer implementing policies in which they had no say. The result of this is that we are having a big increase in agricultural production which represents now 43 percent of our Gross Domestic Product. Accordingly, our growth rate jumped to 8 percent during the last 4 years. Our livestock also jumped from 60 million in 1989 to almost 130 million heads of cattle. This increase in agricultural production is reflected in a real increase of income for farmers and breeders. Today we are witnessing a positive phenomenon namely a real shift of resources from the urban centres to the rural areas and the accompanying improvement in living conditions.

In spite, however, of the many benefits stated above, of the privatization and price liberation policies adopted in the framework of the overall economic rehabilitation, some negative aspects are becoming apparent such as steep price increases of food stuffs thereby putting them out of reach of the poorer segments of our society. The government is intensifying its efforts in order to alleviate the suffering of the poor and to mitigate the negative effects by establishing a solidarity fund for the poor funded from the budget in addition to the ZAKAT fund which provides support to the poor and the needy as well as financing the productive activities of the poor families.

Ladies and gentlemen, this shifting policy based on self-reliance and the optimal utilization of our agricultural resources is concurrent with the historic change in governing Sudan. We have adopted the federal system and Sudan is divided now into 26 wilayas or provinces with a view to restoring political and economic power to the people. Each wilaya or province is free to manage its own affairs at all levels within the framework of the powers given to it. The executive bodies of these wilayas have been established already and recently elected bodies have also been established. We will complete the constitutional structure by establishing the National Assembly in 1996.

Mr Chairman, Sudan with its huge economic and agricultural potential, supports without any reservation the initiative taken by the Director-General for holding the World Food Summit. I think this will be an opportunity for world leaders to think and to find practical solutions for food security problems and to combat hunger and poverty..

Mr Chairman, in conclusion I would like to congratulate the countries which have joined the Organization recently thereby widening the base of support and this of course will enrich the activities of this Organization and help it achieve its noble objectives.

Thank you Mr Chairman, and I hope that our meeting will be a success and that FAO will continue its noble efforts in the service of mankind.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Valeriu V. BULGARI (Moldova): Mr Chairman, delegates, I thank you for your acceptance of the Republic of Moldova which now becomes a Member State of FAO.

With your permission, I will present some information about our agro-industrial sector. The agro-industrial sector is the nucleus of the economy of Moldova and produces 40 percent of the country's Gross National Product. Fifty-two percent of our fixed assets are concentrated in this sector and around 35 percent of the working population work in this sector.

Moldova is a country that has very fertile soils and is densely populated with 1,540,000 hectares of arable land. More than 400,000 hectares are planted with perennials. Twelve scientific research institutions within the agricultural sector of Moldova have made a great contribution to the creation of new species and hybrids of cereals and new kinds and hybrids of animals and poultry. Wine is the pride of Moldovans and has been considered a national symbol for centuries.



This sector is one of the basic branches of Moldovan industry. At present this branch produces 25 out of 100 percent of the DNP and is a source of income for the State. At present there are 140 enterprises. Today the wine-making industry produces a wide range of different types of wine, sparkling wines, brandies, original wines, natural wines, different types of alcoholic wines. Wineries in the Republic of Moldova produce 8-19 million decalitres of wine. Four hundred and fifty to five hundred and fifty thousand decalitres of brandy; 8-10 million bottles of sparkling wine; 2 to 2.5 million decalitres of strong drinks and 5-6 million decalitres of processed wine. Vegetable and fruit growing is one of tradition branches for the agro-industrial sector of the country. At present orchards of the Republic of Moldova occupy territory of 190.6 thousand hectares. Annually the average amount of fruit produced constitutes 500-530 thousand tonnes. Up to 42-45 thousand hectares of arable lands in the Republic are destined annually for planting and sowing of vegetables. The volume of vegetables produced is equal to 450-600 thousand tonnes. Out of the total amount of fruit and vegetables produced annually 390-450 thousand tonnes are processed at the cannery. Twenty five canneries operate within the limits of the canning industry and the capacity for the production of cans amounts to 2 billion conventional jars. The food industry in the Republic of Moldova is subdivided into the following branches: sugar production, tobacco and tobacco products, oil extraction, beer and soft drinks production, confectionary products, production of bread, treacle and starch manufacturing, production of food concentrates and production of yeast for bread baking.

Sugar production is one of the basic branches of the food industry. Sugar plantations cover the territory of 85-100 thousand hectares and harvest amounts of 1.7 to 2.3 million tonnes. Ten sugar processing factories process in the best years 300-350 thousand tonnes of sugar, average 200 thousand tonnes are destined for export.

Tobacco growing is another centuries old occupation of Moldovan farmers. Tobacco leaf processing has become the base for the whole industry that at present numbers eight factories of tobacco fermentation and Chisinau tobacco factory with the capacity of 8-10 billion cigarettes per year. The cultivation and export of tobacco of the best quality and utilization of the newest equipment for tobacco-leaf processing and cigarette production alone will make it possible to improve our present day difficult situation and promote for an investment.

Annual production capacity of our oil extracting enterprises constitute 450 thousand tonnes of sunflower oil. The livestock sector within the agro-industrial sector is the main supply of agricultural products for the population. It also provides intermediate products for food and light industries.

At present in the Republic there are 750 milk farms with 133 thousand cows, 18 fattening complexes where 20 thousand heifers and 33 thousand bulls are bred. Twenty nine complexes for pig breeding with the capacity to grow 338 thousand pigs yearly and 27 poultry farms. The process of integration between complexes for pork production and poultry farms on the one hand and enterprises producing mixed feed on the other, is taking place. Over the next few years both livestock and poultry production is expected in the private sector. As for breeding and selection, we have races, types and species and genetic potential which will allow us to achieve high productivity. The Agrarian Reform is a component of special influences within the structure of total economic new structuring. Land Reform development in farmers' rich land can depend on and is conditioned by legal aspects and mechanisms for reform implementation. The aligned code constitutes the nucleus of reform legislation. At the same time another set of 47 supplementary normative acts that are now approved by parliament and the Government of Moldova has been drafted to facilitate implementation of norms contained in the Land Code. Concerning the equivalent of land funds subject to privatization and those belonging to the State, the condition has been established to create enterprises for different business firms on the basis of private property and identification of the citizens having rights for equipment quota. According to the law on the normative price for land of December 2nd 1994 and the regulations adopted by the Government of the Republic of Moldova in 1995 the procedure for sale and purchase of agricultural land has been identified.

Excellencies, agriculture in our country has an excellent potential for economic growth and in this period of transition it is necessary to make tentative efforts to reach these goals. We believe that with the support of FAO Member States we will accelerate the development of our agro-industrial sector. We hope to solve our general problems in the agricultural and food sectors.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Mme Makalé Camara BANGOURA (Guinée): Permettez-moi à mon tour d'adresser mes condoléances les plus attristées au Gouvernement de l'Iraq, et à la famille éplorée de feu M. Rachid, le Ministre de l'agriculture de l'Iraq.

C'est la première fois que j'ai l'occasion de participer à vos travaux et je voudrais vous exprimer toute la satisfaction que j'en éprouve compte tenu de la qualité des échanges mais aussi de l'importance de l'ordre du jour de cette session. Le Gouvernement de la République de Guinée a tenu en effet à ce que l'un de ses membres le représente pour vous témoigner tout l'intérêt qu'il porte à l'Institution, à ses activités et à son évolution. Je voudrais à cet égard vous transmettre les salutations que son Excellence le Président de la République, le Général Lansana Conte, et son Gouvernement m'ont chargée de vous adresser à l'occasion de la présente session.

Je voudrais féliciter le Président de la Conférence pour son élection à ce poste et l'efficacité avec laquelle il dirige les débats. Je tiens également à féliciter et à remercier le Directeur général, le Dr Jacques Diouf et à travers lui l'Organisation qu'il dirige avec compétence et dévouement. Je voudrais par ailleurs féliciter les Républiques du Tajikistan, de l'Azerbaïdjan, de la Géorgie, de la Moldavie, du Turkménistan, nouveaux membres de la FAO et l'Organisation de libération de la Palestine pour son admission en qualité d'observateur à la Conférence. La Guinée a toujours soutenu la juste lutte de cette organisation et nous nous réjouissons qu'elle puisse avoir progressivement sa place dans le concert des nations.

La Guinée qui continue de donner la priorité au développement de son agriculture bénéficie de l'entière coopération de la FAO. Nous suivons avec beaucoup d'intérêt les initiatives qui ont été prises par le Directeur général pour donner une nouvelle impulsion à la problématique de la sécurité alimentaire. Ceci répond parfaitement à la mission de notre Organisation qui doit être en première ligne pour relever le défi de nourrir une population chaque année plus nombreuse sur une planète dont nous savons tous que les ressources ne sont pas illimitées. Notre ambition en Guinée est d'assurer une alimentation en quantité et en qualité suffisante à une population de près de 7 millions d'habitants qui croît au rythme de 2,8 pour cent par an.

Cet objectif est globalement atteint en ce qui concerne la couverture des besoins en calories et le marché mondial nous permet de subvenir à nos besoins dans des conditions relativement satisfaisantes. Mais il ne saurait être éternellement notre voie de recours car cette dépendance vis-à-vis des importations est en soi une source d'insécurité alimentaire qui pousse aux migrations des populations et à l'instabilité, le dysfonctionnement sur le marché mondial se répercutant immédiatement sur le panier de la ménagère.

Il faut donc que notre production vivrière augmente et, si possible, plus vite que nos besoins, si nous voulons assurer à nos concitoyens une sécurité alimentaire durable. Ce défi est à notre portée car la Guinée a été, à une certaine époque, le grenier de notre sous-région et nous ne désespérons pas de le redevenir. Nous savons que nous avons un potentiel important et c'est avec méthode et détermination que nous nous proposons de le mettre en valeur d'une manière durable.

Pour assurer cette sécurité alimentaire, nous sommes condamnés à renouer avec la croissance et, plus particulièrement, à intensifier la production - une intensification qui implique la sédentarisation de l'agriculture et donc l'abandon progressif du système défriche-brûlis qui est encore le système dominant et, dans une certaine mesure, un optimum économique.

Les cultures vivrières doivent devenir des cultures de rente profitables. Lorsque cette condition est remplie, la production se développe et l'initiative privée prend le relais. Pour satisfaire cette condition, cependant, et créer une dynamique de développement du secteur privé, il faut d'abord une plus grande technicité de nos producteurs, le désenclavement des zones de production, le développement des échanges intérieurs, la mise à disposition d'intrants à des prix compétitifs et l'évolution des comportements. Comme vous le voyez, il faudra encore, pendant longtemps, des dépenses publiques pour créer des conditions favorables à la production vivrière là où nous souhaitons que les populations puissent continuer à vivre de leurs activités agricoles.

Aussi nous semble-t-il prématuré, du moins en Afrique, de laisser croire que le secteur privé composé essentiellement de milliers de producteurs puisse jouer un rôle majeur dans le financement de la recherche, de la vulgarisation ou des infrastructures rurales. Bien sûr, nous encourageons la montée en puissance de leurs organisations professionnelles et nous incitons à la création d'un secteur privé moderne pour exploiter les opportunités de développement, notamment dans le domaine des cultures d'exportation. Néanmoins, les risques sont importants et la création d'un environnement favorable à l'investissement privé est une oeuvre de longue haleine qui implique la création d'une culture d'entreprise et des changements de comportement. C'est le travail d'au moins une génération.

C'est autour de ces préoccupations qui sont au coeur de la relance de l'agriculture guinéenne depuis une dizaine d'années et qui sont partagées, me semble-t-il, par de nombreux pays africains que je souhaiterais une contribution plus significative de la FAO et une prise de conscience internationale plus nette, notamment à l'occasion du prochain Sommet mondial de l'alimentation.

Nous souhaitons, par conséquent, que le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation mette davantage l'accent sur la nécessité de maintenir un volume important d'aide internationale pour accompagner les mutations qui sont encore nécessaires avant que ne soient créées les conditions d'un développement endogène fondé sur la seule initiative privée. Pour l'Afrique, l'alternative n'est pas "secteur public-secteur privé" mais comment mieux orienter les investissements publics au service d'une politique de sécurité alimentaire qui permette à terme le développement du secteur privé.

Nous sommes favorables à des interventions mieux ciblées de l'Etat et à un engagement de la communauté internationale sur des programmes de développement à long terme. Je crois que c'est à ce niveau que le sommet pourrait dégager, entre autres, les priorités suivantes:

Premièrement, l'appui à l'élaboration de politiques économiques permanentes. La libéralisation des économies est désormais considérée comme incontournable. Il convient cependant de s'interroger sur la compatibilité entre des objectifs contradictoires comme, d'une part, la division internationale du travail basée sur les avantages comparatifs et qui risque de marginaliser l'Afrique qui n'a pas encore terminé sa phase d'apprentissage et, d'autre part, la nécessité reconnue par tous de sauvegarder la base productive agricole des pays en voie de développement pour y fixer les populations. A cet égard, nous avons apprécié l'initiative du Directeur général de la FAO de lancer un programme spécial sur la sécurité alimentaire. La Guinée est partie prenante de la phase pilote qui nous permettra d'améliorer notre référentiel technique.

Deuxièmement, le soutien à la recherche agronomique. La contribution des centres internationaux de recherche agronomique financés par la communauté internationale à la mise au point d'innovations agronomiques est indéniable. Cet effort doit être soutenu par des études sur les conditions qui permettent de faire passer ces innovations dans les pratiques paysannes.

Troisièmement, la modernisation des infrastructures. Dans ce cadre, la Guinée s'est engagée dans un vaste programme de réhabilitation de sa voirie rurale. Ces programmes sont coûteux mais indispensables pour améliorer l'avantage comparatif des productions nationales.

Quatrièmement, le renforcement de la protection intégrée des cultures (IPM) et la réduction des pertes après récoltes pour améliorer la quantité et la qualité de la production végétale et pour protéger l'environnement.

Je voudrais, par ailleurs, rappeler que, quelques semaines après son entrée en fonction, le Directeur général a procédé à l'examen de programmes, des structures et des politiques de la FAO et a proposé au Conseil de l'Organisation, qui l'a adopté, un programme de réformes devant permettre de mieux répondre aux besoins, de travailler plus efficacement, et de trouver un nouvel élan, pour servir ses Etats Membres dans un contexte de partenariat élargi.

La Guinée a approuvé ces orientations et nous souhaitons que la dynamique qui a été créée puisse se concrétiser par un soutien de la communauté internationale dans un élan de solidarité vis-à-vis des pays les plus démunis qui vivent au quotidien l'insécurité alimentaire.

C'est pourquoi, au nom de la République de Guinée, je voudrais inviter tous les pays du monde soucieux de lutter contre la malnutrition, la faim et la pauvreté à appuyer sans réserve le budget proposé par le Directeur général de notre Organisation, la FAO.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

TAO-SENG-HUOR (Cambodge): Monsieur le Président, Excellences, Honorables délégués, Mesdames, Messieurs, qu'il me soit tout d'abord permis, au nom du Gouvernement royal du Cambodge, d'adresser mes chaleureuses félicitations à Monsieur le Président à l'occasion de son élection à la présidence de cette 28ème session de la Conférence de la FAO ainsi qu'à tous les membres du Bureau.

Je saisis cette occasion pour exprimer ma profonde gratitude, au nom du Gouvernement royal du Cambodge, au Gouvernement et au peuple italiens pour la chaleureuse hospitalité qu'ils m'ont réservée.

Je voudrais également souhaiter la bienvenue aux cinq nouveaux Membres qui ont été admis hier à la FAO.

La célébration du cinquantième anniversaire de la FAO vient de se terminer avec succès au Canada, dans la province de Québec. Le Royaume du Cambodge a suivi avec beaucoup d'attention toutes les déclarations faites par les Etats Membres de la FAO et en particulier celle de Son Excellence M. Jacques Diouf, Directeur général de la FAO. Il a présenté un bilan des activités passées et des plans d'action future. Les travaux de toutes ces années écoulées ont consisté à transférer le savoir-faire et les compétences aux différents pays et en particulier aux pays en développement.

La situation de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale est inquiétante. Il est à rappeler qu'il n'est pas possible de vivre dans un monde où, dans les pays en développement, 800 millions de personnes sont sous-alimentées parmi lesquelles 200 millions d'enfants de moins de 5 ans atteints de carences protéino-énergétiques. Cependant, le problème consiste à trouver le moyen de faire progresser rapidement et d'une façon soutenue le développement agricole durable pour le bien des générations présentes et futures et d'assurer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

A ce sujet, je tiens à exprimer la volonté du Gouvernement royal du Cambodge de coopérer sur une base constructive afin de poursuivre les actions de coopération et de développement agricole durable conformément à la résolution de la 27ème session de la Conférence de la FAO et à la préparation du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation de 1996 qui aura pour thème "Investir pour nourrir le monde".

Le Royaume du Cambodge vient de rejoindre la communauté des Etats Membres de la FAO après une vingtaine d'années d'absence de la scène internationale due à des circonstances pénibles. Le Gouvernement royal mis en place il y a seulement deux ans, après les élections générales de 1993, s'est fixé pour objectif de reconstruire le pays dans un cadre démocratique et d'économie de marché à un rythme accéléré afin d'améliorer les conditions de vie d'une population en forte expansion - plus de 2,8 pour cent par an - et dont le produit intérieur brut par personne n'atteignait que 227 dollars E.-U. en 1993.

Alors que le problème de la sécurité alimentaire au Cambodge s'avère primordial, face aux besoins alimentaires dépendant, d'une part, de l'évolution démographique et, d'autre part, de faibles revenus, une place importante est consacrée à l'agriculture comme base de développement économique et social. La réalisation de ce développement a pour priorité la valorisation des richesses fondamentales du pays que représente l'agriculture grâce à une grande diversité écologique.

L'agriculture verte représente un progrès majeur dans le domaine de la technologie agricole et constituera vraisemblablement l'un des facteurs essentiels de l'évolution économique au Cambodge. Les techniques reposent sur l'accroissement des rendements grâce à l'amélioration des semences, à l'apport d'engrais et à la lutte intégrée contre les ravageurs. Dans le domaine de l'agriculture aussi bien que dans celui de la recherche agricole, la formation des cadres a une place privilégiée dans le programme d'action nationale. Dans un autre domaine, celui de la politique de l'eau, des efforts ont été faits en vue de restaurer des réseaux d'irrigation.

En ce qui concerne les ressources forestières, le Gouvernement royal du Cambodge attache une importance considérable au problème de l'environnement qui est causé par la déforestation. Les conséquences en sont graves pour l'agriculture: inondations, sécheresse, érosion, désertification, sédimentation, etc.

Dans le domaine de la pêche, un appui a été apporté au Cambodge pour renforcer la politique et le développement de l'aquaculture. Dans cette perspective, au nom du Gouvernement royal du Cambodge, je voudrais rendre un sincère hommage à Son Excellence M. Jacques Diouf, Directeur général de la FAO, qui a apporté une assistance technique et financière à la population cambodgienne. Cette année encore, la FAO soutient particulièrement sa représentation au Cambodge pour faciliter le travail et préparer efficacement l'ensemble des projets dans le cadre de la réhabilitation et du développement agricole durable.

Le Gouvernement royal du Cambodge exprime également sa profonde reconnaissance à tous les pays et à toutes les organisations internationales donateurs - bilatéraux, multilatéraux, FAO, PNUD, Programme alimentaire mondial, Banque mondiale, Banque de développement pour l'Asie, Caisse française de développement, ONG, etc - pour le soutien si précieux qui lui a été accordé, soutien sans lequel tout projet ou tout programme de développement économique et social du pays n'aurait pas pu être réalisé.

Pour terminer, je tiens à préciser que le Gouvernement royal du Cambodge ne ménagera aucun effort pour apporter sa contribution à la réussite des travaux de la 28ème session et qu'il soutient fermement la Déclaration de Québec sur l'alimentation et l'agriculture adoptée à l'occasion du Cinquantième anniversaire de la FAO.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: If you have no objections, I propose to give the floor to the Secretary-General of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development who has asked to speak for a maximum of five minutes. I am advised he has to leave tonight.

Karrar A. ABB ADI (Arab Organization for Agricultural Development): At the outset I would like to express my condolences to the Government and people of Iraq on the loss of the Minister of Agriculture for Iraq. May his soul rest in peace.

Allow me at the beginning to extend my thanks and express my appreciation to FAO and its Director-General Dr Jacques Diouf for the kind invitation extended to the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development to participate in the deliberations of this important Conference. Allow me also to hail FAO on its 50th Anniversary and on its efforts in the field of TCDC in order to achieve agricultural and rural development on the basis of sustainable self-reliance with a view to increasing incomes in rural areas and improving the quality and quantity of food for the poorest.

The Arab nations realized a long time ago that Arab economic integration is the appropriate tool to achieve national goals and progress because this is the best way to attain comprehensive and integrated development.

Our organization since the very beginning has tried to establish and develop links amongst Arab countries and harmonize cooperation in various fields on a scientific basis. Since Arab food security was amongst the most important goals for which the organization was established, it was accorded due attention. We have noticed, in the light of very important studies, the food gap in value has increased from US\$802 million in 1970 to US\$11 billion in 1993. Cereals account for 46 percent; milk and dairy products for 19 percent; vegetable oils for 13 percent; meat for 12 percent; sugar for 11 percent and wheat for 20 percent. Because of this situation the Organization drew up an integrated strategy to achieve food security in the Arab world. Policies, programmes and plans were included to this end. Some of these plans were implemented but yet, because of certain developments on the international scene, this has not always been successful.

Mr President, over the last three years we have seen many developments, both international and regional, which have had an effect on the situation in the Arab countries.

This was worsened by the increased debt burden in some Arab countries as well as structural adjustment policies and the economic reform programmes. Another development was the peace march in the Arab world.

We think that we will be able to increase the potential of the Arab world and achieve sustainable agricultural development if we establish the necessary cooperation links with international organizations such as FAO, and I hope that we will be successful in our efforts.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: With the statement of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, we come to the end of this afternoon's meeting. Before I adjourn, I will give the floor to the Secretary-General for two announcements.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: The Africa Group has asked me to announce that it will have a meeting on Monday 23rd October at 0800 hours, in the Lebanon Room.

My other announcement is that delegates are reminded that on Monday morning all Conference meetings will adjourn at 10.45 hours, to facilitate delegates attending the Papal Audience. Accordingly the meetings of Plenary, Commission I and Commission II will start at 09.00 hours. We would therefore urge you to make a special effort to be on time.

The meeting rose at 18.30 hours.

La séance est levée à 18 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.30 horas.

23 October 1995



منظمة الاغذية  
والزراعة  
للالام المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

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

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

# CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Twenty-eighth Session • Vingt-huitième session • 28° período de sesiones

**FIFTH PLENARY MEETING**  
**CINQUIEME SEANCE PLENIERE**  
**QUINTA SESION PLENARIA**

23 October 1995

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.00 hours

Mr Juan Nuiry Sanchez,

Vice-Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 heures

sous la présidence de M. Juan Nuiry Sanchez,

Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 09.00 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Juan Nuiry Sanchez,

Vice-Presidente de la Conferencia

INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)

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

INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)

6. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (continued)

6. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)

6. Examen del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)

- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

EL PRESIDENTE: Estimados delegados, vamos a dar inicio a la Quinta Sesión Plenaria de hoy, en el entendido de que en el día de ayer, domingo, los delegados descansaron lo suficiente; Roma les proporcionó un día de sol, así que habrán reflexionado sobre todos los pormenores para venir hoy lunes, con nuevos bríos a estas reuniones.

Abdul Basit HAQQANI (Pakistan): I should like to begin by extending our heartfelt condolences to the Iraqi Delegation and family of H.E. Mr Khalid Abdul Moneem Rasheed, the honourable Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Iraq. We are all saddened by his untimely and tragic death. May his soul rest in peace.

On behalf of the Pakistan Delegation, the people and Government of Pakistan, I feel honoured in extending our good wishes to this august assembly. I would also like to convey my warm congratulations to you, Mr Chairman, on your unanimous election to preside over this important Session. May I also extend a special welcome to the new Member Nations of this Organization - Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. This Organization will certainly be enriched by their presence and we look forward to closely collaborating with our new colleagues.

This Conference is meeting at a crucial time when we are entering the twenty-first century and are faced with new challenges in economic, political, social and other sectors. It is also the time to review our weaknesses and strengths, to take stock of our accomplishments and shortcomings. This Conference also provides an excellent opportunity for an in-depth discussion on various issues confronting us in the food and agriculture sector.

Like other developing countries, we have to face a changing world and respond to emerging international trends. Simultaneously we have to lift ourselves to a higher level. It is as if we have a double competition -one with the world and the other with ourselves. But though we may be in a hurry, we must move carefully if we do not want the solutions of today to become problems of tomorrow. National endeavour is of vital importance but it must be tempered with internationally generated wisdom. That is why we believe that Organizations like FAO are indispensable and our relationship with it is symbiotic. The contribution that we can make to FAO's success will, in future, promote our own progress.

We are faced with daunting challenges. Rapid population growth, increasing indebtedness, growing gaps in balance of payments, high volatility of the international commodity markets and major price distortions have seriously jolted the development process in many countries. In this situation, the role of world bodies, like FAO, cannot be over-emphasized. Most of the agriculture-based economies, including Pakistan, have great potential to develop and transform the agriculture sector into an engine for economic growth. The need is to re-orient our strategy with a view to boosting food production in an environmentally sustainable manner.



Although our growth has been impressive in major areas, there are fears that we may be running out of momentum. No significant increase in total cultivable land or irrigation can be foreseen. Our future growth is, therefore, dependent on increasing productivity. This will require major changes in production systems in addition to institutional and structural reforms. We in Pakistan are not only meeting our own domestic requirements but also the needs of over a million Afghan refugees who are in Pakistan and many more who are inside Afghanistan. Our future goal is to accelerate the rate of growth of the agricultural economy so as to generate additional resources for public welfare.

The most threatening environmental problems in Pakistan are salinity, waterlogging and soil erosion. Natural vegetation has been stripped. Man-made reservoirs are being filled by sedimentation. Forests have been cut. Soil nutrients have been depleted and almost all the soil is low in organic matter and hence needs continuous replenishment through nitrogen and phosphatic fertilizer.

To respond to this environmental degradation, the Government of Pakistan has devised a "National Conservation Strategy" for the conservation of natural resource, sustainable development and improved efficiency in the use and management of resources. The successful implementation of the operational principles of this policy would help in management of water resources, reclamation of forests, range land, and livestock, and in preventing desertification and promoting bio-diversity.

We hope FAO will be able to provide assistance in overcoming such environmental and soil degradation problems. Pakistan exports rice and cotton, while seeds and other materials are imported. Every care is taken that no exotic pests or diseases pass from one country to the other. We have framed Plant Quarantine rules under which strict conditions have to be observed for import and export of plant and plant materials to guard against entry of exotic pests. Despite these precautions, we have faced various bottlenecks from time to time particularly in export of fruits like mango and citrus. It is, therefore, imperative that plant quarantine regulations on a uniform basis are formulated to remove any arbitrary barriers.

Mr Chairman, the integration of women in development is of vital significance for rapid growth of developing countries. Women have to be fully mobilized for their own as well as national development. Despite poverty and lack of resources, Pakistani women contribute very significantly to the economy; particularly in crop production, livestock, cottage industry and household activities. Their role in economic development is recognized and their participation in development efforts is ensured at all levels. We are planning to further improve their access to rural services and encourage their fuller participation in economic activities through greater empowerment.

Mr Chairman, we have noted with great interest the idea of convening a World Food Summit in November 1996. After 50 years of existence, during which Heads of States and governments have never had an opportunity to collectively declare their commitment to banish hunger and malnutrition, we think that the Summit will prove to be a most valuable event in this Organization's history. We are confident that the time and effort being devoted towards preparing for the Summit, will produce results befitting this historic occasion. We once again reiterate our support for the goals and objective of the Summit, and wish the Organization success in this endeavour.

We have also noted that FAO is taking new strides in the important realm of plant genetic resources. We are of the firm belief that FAO is most suitably equipped for the global management of not only plant, but also animal, forestry and fisheries genetic resources. We welcome the broadening of the mandate of the new Commission on Genetic Resources of Food and Agriculture. We would also like to express our appreciation for the efforts of this Organization to complete the monumental task of formulating a Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing. Though voluntary in nature, this Code will go a long way in ensuring sustainable use and conservation of fisheries resources.

Mr Chairman, we are also very appreciative of the several initiatives taken by the Director-General after assuming office. We would like to particularly mention the use of experts for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC), the use of experts for Technical Cooperation among Countries in Transition (TCCT), cooperation with academic research institutions and the use of retired national experts and FAO/UN retirees. Similarly, other measures taken to streamline FAO's operations to bring in efficiencies as well as cost savings are commendable. The decentralization of activities and strengthening of field offices is also

commended. We are certain that these various initiatives will make FAO an exemplary organization responsive to the needs of its Member Nations.

Mr Chairman, an important responsibility of this Conference is the approval of the Programme of Work and Budget for the years 1996-97. This is the first budget presented by the present Director-General. This is the Programme of Work which will usher in the fifth decade for FAO whose membership has risen to the impressive figure of 175. We therefore consider the proposals for the next biennium as of special significance which need deep reflection and great care. In passing judgement, let us be fully aware of FAO's mission and its onerous tasks, let us not shy away from our responsibility to hundreds of millions of chronically under-nourished and food-insecure people.

We cannot help but lament the fact that, as membership of this Organization expands, as we confront urgent new challenges, the resources available are shrinking. The inverse correlation between needs and resources can only damage the ability of the Organization to fulfil its mandate. It would be unfortunate if our decisions here were to undermine or erode the capacity of FAO to suitably deliver its programmes which are vital to so many of us.

The proposals before us have been presented in the framework of zero-real growth over the level of US\$673.1 million as approved at the last Conference. The acceptance of the principle of zero-real growth for many developing countries is a painful concession. But the pain does not end here. Ironically, we are required to defend this no-growth principle against moves to seek negative growth. We cannot support any proposal which would deprive the Organization of the absolute minimum resources required to at least maintain the present level of activity. We commend the Director-General for having demonstrated that working methods can be improved and savings can be effected which can be channelized to strengthen programmes. We would encourage management to continuously search for greater efficiencies and further rationalization of structures and procedures so that we can get maximum value for our resources. We have no doubt that management will strive towards this goal. On our part, it is the responsibility of the membership to ensure that necessary resources are made available. We must accept our responsibilities and live up to our obligations and commitments. We support the budget level and the programme priorities contained in the Director-General's proposals. We would appeal for a consensus decision on this matter so that the entire membership, who are all partners in this Organization, can work in close harmony.

Richard E. ROMINGER (United States of America): Mr Director General, fellow delegates,

Since our last Conference, our new Director-General, Jacques Diouf, has made an excellent start in one of the most difficult posts in the UN system. We already see his imprint on the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and will work with him to make next year's Summit on Food Security a success.

I will discuss three topics today: the current world food situation, the impact of the Uruguay Round, and the Proposed FAO Programme of Work and Budget.

#### I. The World Food Situation

While food supplies are tighter than they have been since the mid-1970's, we do not see a global food crisis looming on the horizon. We are all aware of the three percent decline in world cereal production FAO projects for this year and the drop in end-of-year stocks to roughly 14-15 percent of utilization. Because food demand has continued to expand, stocks have been drawn down markedly. While this tight market has pushed up prices, food supplies are available.

The United States continues to be a reliable supplier of food and agricultural commodities. Looking toward next year, an expansion of crop area and a more "normal" weather year should help replenish stocks. The current tight supply situation has caused some concerns about world food security and I would like to comment on how we in the US see world food security evolving in future years.

During the 1980's and early 1990's, world food security rested primarily on the substantial grain stocks of North America and Western Europe, stocks primarily owned or supported by governments. During the past few years, however, budgetary pressures have forced changes in government policies. Excess production and

publicly owned stocks have been greatly reduced. As a result, when demand outstrips production for a year or two, there are no major stocks to make up the difference.

The current tight market demonstrates clearly that food-importing nations need to maintain greater stocks. When food supplies become more abundant next year, importers will certainly consider replenishing their reserves.

For nations that lack the finances to maintain greater stocks we need to work towards an international solution for their food security problems. While the US is willing to bear its fair share of this effort, we see food security as a world problem, which must be solved with the support of all nations.

President Clinton has asked Secretary of Agriculture Glickman to be a forceful advocate for world food security. It is a high personal priority for the President, for the Secretary, and for me to work for programmes and policies that recognize and respond to the food security needs of all nations.

We need to monitor supplies closely this year and perhaps for several years to come. As we look ahead, another area that bears closer attention in meeting world food needs is the whole issue of how we can do a better job of curbing post-harvest losses and the waste of food. The current tight supplies are likely a short-term situation, which has been exacerbated by weather conditions. We should not let it distract us from the long-term structural changes that are needed in world agriculture if we are to achieve lasting food security for all.

## II. The Uruguay Round

Some of those structural changes will come as we implement the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture. We anticipate a tremendous boost in the global economy as a result of the Round. The annual increase in gross domestic product for the developing countries alone should be at least US\$35 billion and could be as much as US\$90 billion.

Recent studies on the impact of the Round on food prices have shown rather minimal effects. The World Bank has summarized these studies and projects changes in food prices caused by the Agriculture Agreement will range from a drop of one percent to an increase of four percent. This amount of change is noticeably smaller than the normal fluctuation in prices we see from season to season. To the extent prices do rise, they are likely to spur added investment in agriculture and this could help some developing countries lessen their food import bills over the long term.

The Uruguay Round is an important part of a nearly global trend to a more market-based system for agricultural production and trade. One aspect of this trend has been a drastic drop in surplus production which, in turn, has reduced the availability of stocks for food aid. Further reductions in food aid - in fact the larger part - stem from cutbacks in donor funding. At the same time, a recent USDA study on projected food aid needs and availability through the year 2005 forecasts a doubling of global food aid needs, with particularly rapid growth in sub-Saharan Africa.

The United States will meet its commitment under the new Food Aid Convention and remain the leading provider of food aid. While our overall food aid budget has been reduced, we have not reduced our programme to respond to humanitarian needs. Our strong support for the World Food Programme and its fine work in emergencies and development will continue. Though I wish we could provide more, rather than less, food aid in the next decade, political and economic realities make that difficult.

We all need to take a realistic look at food aid availability. Countries that cannot produce or buy enough food should not plan on massive food aid shipments as a solution for their food security problems. Instead, we hope that they will invest more in agriculture. This is the time to start. This is the time to plant the seeds for the future, both literally and figuratively. As Secretary Glickman noted at the FAO 50th Anniversary celebration in Quebec, the only sure way the developing world can increase food security is to find the political will to restructure their policies in favour of agriculture.

Developing countries that have taken the tough decisions to reform their economies are beginning to see returns on this investment. A recent World Bank study indicates that agricultural production grew at an annual rate of 3.7 percent in sub-Saharan African countries that adjusted intensively to structural reform. Countries adjusting their economies less intensively make little progress. This is the region where the problem of food security is most serious. The Bank's encouragement of policy reform and a free market approach is an important part of the equation and we hope FAO will support it fully.

### III. FAO Programme of Work and Budget

The United States continues to believe that much of what FAO does is extremely valuable:

- facilitating trade, especially through the Codex Alimentarius and International Plant Protection Convention;
- controlling the spread of plant and animal diseases and pests, like the superb work done in North Africa to control the screwworm;
- preserving the plant and animal genetic resources we must rely on for our future food supplies;
- promoting international forestry activities that help us both use and conserve our forest resources;
- supporting responsible fisheries practices through successful completion of the International Code of Conduct; and
- maintaining an Early Warning System that has helped save millions of lives by providing advance notice of impending food crises.

We are pleased by FAO's recent work to support the implementation of the Uruguay Round's Agreement on Agriculture and we welcome its future role in helping all nations take advantage of the new opportunities the Agreement presents. We are also looking forward to next year's conference in Leipzig on plant genetic resources. It is absolutely crucial that we all work together more successfully to preserve the genetic resources essential for long-term food security.

Despite FAO's contributions to building food security, abject poverty and hunger still plague the lives of hundreds of millions of people, and they are on the rise in much of Africa. For that reason, we support the Director General's initiatives to direct added attention to the poorest food-deficit countries. We believe this can be best accomplished through judicious use of the resources of FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme and extra-budgetary funds.

FAO must reach out even more to the rural poor, whose numbers are constantly growing. In a recent speech to the World Bank, US Treasury Secretary Rubin called on the international financial institutions to promote more joint private sector-development bank cooperation and to be catalysts for private sector activity in developing nations to foster new economic growth. We urge Director-General Diouf to continue to give high priority to the FAO Investment Centre, which is working with the international financial institutions to spur private investment in the rural economy of the developing world. We also applaud the Director General for his increased emphasis on the role of women in agricultural development.

In the United States we have been re-examining the structure of our institutions, public and private. We have been rethinking how we do business. Within the Federal Government we are reorganizing, reducing costs and sharply cutting our budgets in real terms. At the Department of Agriculture we have eliminated 14 agencies and will consolidate or close more than 1 100 field offices. We are struggling to match our budgets and our revenues. We can ask no less from FAO.

It is critical that FAO and the other international organizations plan their budgets in line with realistic revenue projections. We applaud and appreciate the Director-General's positive actions this year, which resulted in significant savings in personnel and other areas.

At the FAO Council and other meetings we have proposed concrete measures to help reduce the FAO budget responsibly. For example, we support a full and expedited merger with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in the Western Hemisphere, which was overwhelmingly endorsed by the hemisphere's ministers of agriculture last month. Also, substantially reducing the number of FAO country representations, depending on programme level, would go a long way toward reducing the proposed budget.

It is essential that FAO have a lower budget. It is also possible to have a consensus budget. The United States is here to work cooperatively and constructively toward both those aims. We want to give highest priority to FAO's core program where the Organization has demonstrated its comparative advantage.

We stand ready to collaborate closely with the Director-General and other Member States so that the Programme of Work and Budget for 1996-97 can be reduced to a level all of us can support, while ensuring that FAO carries on its valuable work.

#### IV. Conclusion

We have been pleased by the initiative the Director-General has brought to FAO. We are confident that he will work effectively with Member States to lead FAO into a new management era that strengthens the focus on the Organization's core mandate.

Over its 50-year history we have seen FAO move from what was primarily a data collection centre to an active global player in promoting development, technical cooperation, and trade in agriculture. As we prepare for next year's Summit we need to begin to shape the FAO of the future, to articulate clearly our vision for the decades ahead. Perhaps that vision will not be so different from the aspiration that led to the founding of FAO a half-century ago, a world free from want, in which the pain of hunger no longer scars the lives of the poor.

Costas PETRIDES (Cyprus): Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it is a great honour for me to represent my country in this 28th Session of the FAO Conference, which marks the 50th anniversary of the Food and Agriculture Organization. Fifty years ago, greatly disappointed by the devastating consequences of the Second World War, the world leaders decided to act in a spirit of cooperation and reconciliation so that one of the basic human rights, the right to food, could be secured.

As a result of this decision, the Food and Agriculture Organization was created with the basic mandate to act in such a way that every person on this planet could have physical access to the food they need for a normal and productive life.

For half a century this noble goal remained the major objective of this Organization. Through the provision of technical and investment assistance, the analysis and dissemination of information and the provision of policy and planning assistance, FAO has contributed to the improvement of the world food situation.

Despite the unprecedented population growth in recent decades, access to food by all people has improved in many regions, mainly due to the substantial progress in food production. Available statistics indicate that over the past 30 years world agricultural production has doubled and world agricultural trade has tripled. A further positive indicator is food consumption, which at the global level has increased from 2 300 calories per day per person in the early 1960's to about 2 700 calories per person today.

However, this positive development has not led to the elimination of hunger and malnutrition. Even though enough food is produced to feed the entire population of the planet, food is not reaching everyone. As many as 800 million people are still chronically undernourished, of which nearly 200 million children under the age of five suffer from acute or chronic protein and energy deficiencies.

The problem of hunger and malnutrition is not only technical. It is also political and social. It is a problem of distribution and access to food supplies. Above all, it is a problem of political will.

Alleviation of hunger today is a matter not only of augmenting food supplies but mainly of ensuring access to food by the poor through an increase in their purchasing power. Policies that sustain the momentum of growth in production should therefore go hand in hand with greater efforts to raise the incomes of the small and marginal farmers, and to expand employment opportunities for the landless. The problem therefore cannot be solved exclusively within agriculture. Agricultural development and industrialization are complementary and mutually reinforcing. In rural areas, there is great scope for the expansion of agro-industries. But industrialization must not be pursued through policies which depress incentives to farmers and deprive the sector of its input requirements.

Additionally, world trade conditions are very important for agriculture, both in the developed and developing countries. The creation of the World Trade Organization as a result of the Uruguay Round Negotiations and the anticipated liberalization of trade are expected to have positive effects on many developing countries whose major commodities have been negatively affected by the unfavourable conditions on international trade during the recent past.

Likewise, the widely desired conditions of peace and political stability should be considered as prerequisites for sustainable progress towards food for all, having in mind the dramatic conditions of food insecurity, as currently happens in many parts of the world under political instability and war. The problem of food security is a complex issue of national and international dimensions which cannot be effectively faced without the cooperation and the political will of all Member States.

Let me now briefly refer to the agricultural sector of Cyprus. The agricultural sector in my country continues to be one of the important sectors of the national economy, despite the rapid expansion of other sectors such as tourism and services.

This sector has made remarkable progress from 1960 to 1974. Unfortunately, its upward trend was brought to an abrupt end by the known events of 1974, which resulted in the loss of control of 38 percent of the country's territory, the displacement of almost half of the rural population and the loss of about 70 percent of the productive resources. Despite considerable efforts for recovery, which included the adoption and implementation of emergency action plans, the agricultural sector has since lost its leading position in the country's economy. Presently, its contribution to the Gross Domestic Product is around 6 percent.

I should, however, point out that we continue to ascribe a great deal of importance to agriculture, not only because it continues to be one of the important sectors of our economy, but also because we believe in its major role in other aspects of our life such as the social development of our people, the preservation of our cultural identity and civilization, the conservation and improvement of our natural environment and many others.

At this point I wish to express our deep appreciation of the really very useful assistance we received from FAO on policy advice for agricultural development projects and training.

Our agricultural sector can best be described as depending on small-scale farming, carried out by part-time farmers, producing predominantly for the market. The sector accounts for as much as 30-35 percent of total domestic exports, of which 75 percent are destined for the European Community markets.

Given the importance of these markets for the agricultural economy of Cyprus, an Association Agreement between Cyprus and the European Community was put into effect in 1973. In 1987 a protocol was signed between Cyprus and the European Community leading to a Customs Union Agreement which will be fully realized by the year 2000. In July 1990 Cyprus submitted an application for full membership to the European Union.

In the process of fulfilling this goal Cypriot agriculture needs to undergo a substantial process of modernization and alignment with that of the European Union. Our development policy therefore aims at restructuring and upgrading the agricultural sector for further development and exploitation of the opportunities created by the EU orientation.

Before concluding I wish once again to thank all distinguished delegates for the honour they did to my country and myself in electing me to chair the present session of the Conference. I wish once again to assure all of you that I will do my utmost to help us achieve a successful outcome to the Conference.

This Organization has a fine record of achievement during the fifty years of its existence. Let us all try to help the Food and Agriculture Organization to achieve an even more productive performance in the years to come.

Sjarifudin BAHARSJAH (Indonesia): Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, my delegation wishes to join the previous speakers in congratulating you, and in expressing our appreciation to the Director-General and the Secretariat for preparing excellent and comprehensive documents, which no doubt will make our deliberations effective and fruitful.

It is very sad indeed that during the past fifty years, which were marked by incredible advances in science and technology, including biotechnology, mankind has yet to solve its premier problem, namely, to enable all persons at all times to have access to safe and nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life. This problem of food insecurity, while particularly grave in the developing world where it impinges upon the lives of millions of people, is global in nature. As such, to solve it requires global understanding and involvement. Each and every government in the developing world has a prime responsibility to protect and promote the food security of its people; nevertheless such efforts on the part of the low-income food-deficit countries should have the support of the international community as a whole.

Food security is an urgent humanitarian issue which requires immediate action on the part of the international community lest it affects the plight of even more millions of human beings. Therefore, Indonesia supports the Director-General's initiative to convene a World Food Summit as a means of reflecting the collective global political will needed to solve this problem with resolutions which will not be in the form of ineffective short-term relief measures and/or piecemeal measures.

One year ago, in October 1994, agriculture ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) issued the Bali Declaration on Food Security of the non-aligned and other developing countries. Indonesia is very encouraged to observe that the spirit of the Bali Declaration is indeed present in the elements for possible inclusion in the draft policy document and plan of action that will be submitted to the World Leaders in the Summit. However, my delegation sees the need to underline some very important elements of the Bali Declaration with the view that these will also be submitted to and acted upon by the world leaders at the Summit.

On the plight of the Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries (LIFDC's) the Bali Declaration states that while the LIFDC's should accord food security first priority in their national development programmes, to enable them to do so an increase in development assistance to the level of the accepted United Nations target of 0.7 percent of developed countries GNP as reiterated at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development is required. Creditor countries should take substantive measures to reduce all types of external debt burden in order to contribute to the food security situation in the LIFDC's.

On the post-Uruguay Round trade environment, the Bali Declaration calls for an in-depth analysis by WTO, FAO and UNCTAD on the impact of the Uruguay Round Agreement on the food supply and food security in developing countries, particularly the LIFDC's. Compensatory measures would continue to be needed to protect adversely affected developing countries and vulnerable groups in these countries.

On international cooperation, the Bali Declaration underlines that cooperation among countries should be based on strengthened partnership, mutual interest and shared responsibility for economic and social development, including the formulation and implementation of appropriate national policies relating to food security and a favourable international economic environment. In this regard, a determined effort to intensify south-south cooperation is imperative. Increased economic and technical cooperation among developed and developing countries is essential to reduce existing disparities in the use of food resources.

Allow me to mention one more item which may seem to be quite technical but which in fact has serious implications on the ability of developing countries to increase food production. I am referring to the access of developing countries, including the LIFDC's, to advanced biotechnological innovations excessively protected by intellectual property right. FAO has a long-standing effort on the matter and a Commission of the current Conference will again intensively deliberate on this. My delegation is of the opinion that the spirit of strengthened partnership between developed and developing countries should also be extended to find ways and means to guarantee access by developing countries to these very strategic biotechnical innovations.

In conclusion, my delegation would like to reiterate Indonesia's continuing support to FAO in its efforts to alleviate hunger and poverty.

We are entering the second fifty years of FAO, and it behoves us to embark on the Programme of Work and Budget as proposed by FAO for 1996-97 in order to enable us to work with a programme which will provide an adequate momentum to achieve the goals we set ourselves fifty years ago.

Jochen BORCHERT (Germany): This year FAO is celebrating a special anniversary and I am pleased that, on this anniversary, five countries are joining FAO as new members. I would like to welcome: Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan.

The largest specialized organization of the United Nations is now 50 years old. This means 50 years of fighting world hunger and poverty. Much has been achieved in this half-century. FAO has contributed to achieving significantly higher food production in the world and better nutrition for more people. On behalf of my Government I wish to express our thanks and appreciation to FAO, and our best wishes. There is still much to be done, however. We shall only be able to make the age-old dream of a world without hunger and poverty come true if we jointly summon up more strength than before and jointly give FAO the necessary financial resources. In order to solve the pressing agricultural and food policy tasks in the world, FAO needs all the assistance it can get.

In many sectors of the global economy we see continuous growth. This is the right path. For increasing income also means additional demand, creating more favourable conditions for the further development of agriculture all over the world. Continued development and growth in all parts of the world must be preceded by active trade. The GATT Agreement has created a solid basis for more trade, for the reduction of distortions of competition, and thus for further growth. This is especially valid for the agriculture sector. It has also created the foundations for a fair trade exchange between developing countries and industrialized countries. My Government therefore especially welcomes the fact that other developing countries wish to join the World Trade Organization (WTO).

With the intensification of worldwide trade relations between industrialized and developing countries, we will also achieve improvements in the world food situation. This situation is presently characterized by inadequate cereal stocks and the resulting increases in prices. This has led the European Union to take the step of reducing the set-aside rate in order to produce more cereals and improve global supply.

A primary goal of the development policy of the Federal Republic of Germany is therefore food security through self-reliance. We want to support developing countries in such a way that, if possible, the population can live from its own production. We therefore support projects which serve the aims of a site-adequate form of farming and sustainable increases in production.

The conditions for the success of such promotional measures are, amongst other things, a market and price policy which creates incentives to increase agricultural production, secure land ownership conditions and long-term land-use rights for farmers and the creation of purchasing power through extensive economic development.

Help for self-help - this is our goal. It is not, however, doing away with food aid. In our view food aid should be combined with other measures to develop rural areas in order to produce sustainable effects; but in future it should also be provided quickly and in a non-bureaucratic way, in places which are stricken by natural disasters which cause misery and hardship such as droughts or floods.



In recent times food aid has also been necessary in places where hunger and misery have been caused by war and violence. In 1994 Germany had to use more than half of its food aid for such immediate refugee and emergency aid measures. It is unfortunately the case that where people are shooting at each other they do not have time to harvest. Those who live in peace in their home countries can have enough to eat and drink; they do not need to flee or to resort to violence themselves. The fight against hunger and poverty in the world is to a great degree a policy of peace and it has peace-making effects. Nutrition, agriculture and rural development are considered so important that 40 percent of German development aid is spent on those areas alone.

We must not look at the food problems of the Third World merely from an agricultural point of view. We have to tackle them in terms of the overall economic and social development. In our opinion, this aspect must play a pivotal role at the World Food Summit in 1996. Under-development manifests itself not only in insufficient food supply but also in other, unsatisfied basic needs such as deficiencies in health care, poor living conditions, a lack of education and training and unfavourable institutional and political conditions overall. The complexity of these problems forces us to think and act in a manner which extends beyond individual sectors.

Each country must find the solutions which suit its own situation. Since its unification five years ago, Germany has had its own experience of large-scale transformation. We can see that we were right to transform the economy and agriculture directly to a free market economy structure. Those who implemented these changes have achieved an enormous feat. Out of 4 500 state agricultural centres of production we have today, following restructuring, about 28 000 private agricultural enterprises. The privatization of former state-owned agricultural areas and forests is now under way. In the first phase, agricultural areas were leased on a long-term basis. In the second phase, tenants are to be enabled to acquire the ownership of the land themselves. We are also using our experiences in our aid to Central and Eastern European countries to the benefit of the newly independent states of the former USSR.

The German programme is embedded within parallel measures of the European Union, the OECD and international financial institutions. The goal of these measures in agriculture is the continued privatization and modernization of the agro-food sector. Prior conditions for this are the improvement of legal and institutional conditions through the establishment of an agricultural administration, the setting up of an effective system of trading, cooperatives and a comprehensive reform of agricultural law.

In the 50 years that FAO has been in existence, the global economy has undergone profound changes. This process has left its mark on the United Nations and also on FAO. The most important prerequisite for FAO to be able to fulfil its task in the future is a healthy financial basis. FAO must be realistic and have a feasible budget. Germany is willing to play a constructive role in solving the difficult budgetary problems FAO faces. In this context we have already submitted concrete proposals during the negotiations of the 109th FAO Council. International organizations will only accomplish new tasks and successfully overcome times of diminishing financial resources if they are more streamlined, more goal-oriented and more economical than in the past. We welcome the Director-General's efforts in this respect, and expect and look forward to further concrete proposals.

In June next year the Fourth International Technical Conference of FAO on Plant Genetic Resources will take place in Leipzig. As a representative of the host country, I take this opportunity to invite all member countries to Leipzig.

FAO is what we are ourselves - its members. To achieve a strong and effective Organization we must show solidarity and a constructive spirit. Let us combine that vision, solidarity, responsibility and a constructive approach in order to achieve a reasonable and realistic partnership. "Hope is a pillar of the world" is a South African saying. Fifty years ago such a pillar was created with the foundation of FAO. Together let us do everything we can to keep that pillar an attractive, credible and efficient one.

Oscar Manuel GUTIERREZ (El Salvador): Señor Presidente, señores distinguidos delegados, señoras y señores, es para mí motivo de particular satisfacción poder participar con ustedes en el 28° período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO. He venido aquí con el gusto de quien asiste a una reunión de amigos

con los que se comparten grandes sueños y también grandes preocupaciones. Unimos nuestra voz a los que han dado su más cordial bienvenida a esta Organización a los nuevos Estados que han entrado a formar parte de ella, su presencia seguramente reforzará aún más la importante labor que la FAO desarrolla.

Después de doce años de graves conflictos internos y habiendo firmado los acuerdos de paz, El Salvador, un país ubicado en el centro visual de las Américas, actualmente crece positivamente en términos del producto interno bruto con un 6,5 por ciento anual y una tasa de inflación de un dígito.

No obstante lo anterior, todavía tenemos un índice socioeconómico insatisfactorio, siendo la motivación fundamental de nuestro Gobierno la lucha frontal contra la pobreza y el hambre.

De cada diez salvadoreños, 2,6 personas, principalmente del área suburbana y rural sufren hambre. A pesar de los permanentes esfuerzos de mi Gobierno, de las fuerzas políticas nacionales y de la laboriosidad de nuestro pueblo, el hambre todavía continúa en la mesa de los salvadoreños.

Desde el nacimiento de la FAO, acta de la cual mi país fue su suscriptor, hemos escuchado numerosas respuestas que han logrado, no con el éxito esperado, que un menor número de seres humanos sufran de hambre.

Esto no debe minar la voluntad inquebrantable de esta Organización y de nuestros países de continuar en la lucha por erradicar el hambre en el mundo.

Señor Presidente, señores delegados, el conflicto armado que vivimos en El Salvador nos ha dejado lecciones fundamentales. Para nosotros la injusticia, el hambre, la miseria, las condiciones infrahumanas de vida que ofenden a la dignidad humana y que degradan a la misma civilización, son el nuevo nombre de la guerra, de la inestabilidad y del conflicto permanente, como se destaca en la declaración de El Salvador durante la 23<sup>o</sup> Conferencia Regional de la FAO que se celebró en mi país en agosto recién pasado.

Los países en vía de desarrollo debemos dejar a un lado las diferencias ideológicas para pensar en términos de los grandes objetivos de nación, sobre los cuales existe consenso. Los principios de libertad, justicia y equidad necesarios para la paz se encuentran directamente relacionados con la seguridad alimentaria.

Basados en la convicción de que la seguridad alimentaria de un pueblo tiene que ser prioritaria para los gobiernos, debemos desarrollar instrumentos y metodologías adecuadas que registren diagnósticos actuales y predecibles de el estado de nuestras existencias de alimentos en sus diferentes niveles de producción y productividad para la toma de acertadas decisiones. Es fundamental recalcar la importancia que tiene el poder contar con diagnósticos adecuados pues de ellos dependerá la formulación, elaboración y puesta en marcha de políticas que respondan a las verdaderas necesidades de la población, del agro y del medio ambiente.

Así también, debemos garantizar mecanismos de orden financiero para que en épocas de escasez de alimentos el sector privado, en forma ágil y oportuna, pueda proveer los alimentos que demanda la población.

Finalmente deberá hacerse reingeniería en cuanto a las capacidades de almacenamiento, manejo post-cosecha y transporte, dejando estas actividades en manos de los mismos agricultores. Debemos empeñarnos en que cada uno de nuestros pequeños agricultores pueda almacenar el fruto de su trabajo para que disponga de él a su entera voluntad y mejor racionalidad.

Todo esto en el contexto de una verdadera modernización agrícola, que nos obliga a una decidida inversión en la sociedad rural y en la agricultura, condiciones esenciales para aspirar a estilos de vida sostenibles basados en justos balances macroeconómicos, en una auténtica y transparente equidad social, en la democracia política, en el equilibrio y sostenibilidad ambiental y en objetivos claros de nación que den prioridad a la seguridad alimentaria e involucren activamente a todas las fuerzas.

Creemos que los Ministerios de Agricultura deben fortalecer el diálogo y las alianzas con las gremiales productoras para promover que sus intereses sean considerados en toda su dimensión dentro de las políticas económicas.

Este diálogo tiene que ser responsable y con visión al futuro, enmarcando al Estado dentro de su rol orientador y facilitador de la actividad agrícola, fomentando la rentabilidad de los cultivos y la competitividad dentro del comercio internacional.

En este camino en el que estamos empeñados, la asistencia de la FAO ha sido y deberá continuar siendo vital para la consecución de nuestros objetivos.

Permítame, señor Presidente, referirme brevemente a algunos de los temas principales que serán afrontados en la presente Conferencia. Hace un momento he indicado que para El Salvador la FAO ha representado un apoyo importante en el quehacer de la actividad agropecuaria. Para que esta Organización pueda continuar desarrollando esta función, es fundamental que cuente con las herramientas necesarias para su labor.

El proceso de reestructuración iniciado por el Director General cuenta con el respaldo del Gobierno de El Salvador. Esta Organización debe de mantenerse al día con los cambios que estamos viviendo, incrementando su versatilidad y capacidad de respuesta a las más urgentes necesidades de los países en desarrollo.

Dentro de ese proceso de reestructuración reviste particular importancia la creación de nuevas oficinas subregionales. En diferentes oportunidades mi país ha manifestado su interés en que la FAO establezca una oficina subregional para Centroamérica.

En El Salvador estamos dando cada vez más importancia al sector pesquero por el impacto que tiene su consumo en los niveles nutricionales de la población, por su alta capacidad para generar divisas y por constituir una importante fuente de empleo. Por ello, damos nuestro respaldo a las actividades programadas por la FAO en el sector pesquero apoyando particularmente el Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable.

Respal damos el Programa especial sobre producción de alimentos en apoyo de la seguridad y libertad de los países de bajos ingresos y con déficit alimentario. Expresamos nuestro deseo de que a corto plazo este Programa pueda ser ampliado a otros países de la Región de América Latina y el Caribe.

Mi país manifiesta la esperanza de que esta Conferencia apruebe el Programa de trabajo para la organización que le permita responder de forma oportuna a nuestras ingentes necesidades.

El Salvador comparte el principio fundamental de que todos los países miembros de esta Organización deben honrar sus obligaciones financieras de forma plena, en tiempo y sin condiciones.

Mi Gobierno da su decidido apoyo a la dirección que el señor Jacques Diouf está dando a la FAO, razón por la cual podemos confirmar la presencia de nuestro Presidente en la Cumbre de Presidentes sobre la Alimentación, a realizarse en esta histórica ciudad el próximo año.

Concluiré, señor Presidente, afirmando que la solidaridad debe ser nuestra fortaleza. Muchas gracias.

Salah HAMDÍ (Tunisie): Merci Monsieur le Président. J'ai le privilège de vous soumettre l'intervention de la Tunisie au nom de son Excellence, Monsieur le Ministre de l'agriculture qui, pour des empêchements de dernière minute, n'a pu le faire lui-même. Etant donné le peu de temps qui nous est imparti, je me propose de résumer cette intervention et je prie le Secrétariat de faire figurer le texte intégralement dans le compte rendu de séance.

Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi tout d'abord de vous féliciter pour votre élection à la présidence de cette session de la Conférence générale; mes félicitations s'adressent également à mes collègues du Bureau; et je remercie tous ceux qui nous ont fait confiance pour nous élire au Bureau de la Conférence.

Cette Conférence se tient juste après la célébration du Cinquantenaire de notre Organisation qui s'est attelée à contribuer énergiquement dans les domaines du développement agricole et de la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition. Elle a oeuvré ainsi pour la cause de la paix, d'autant plus qu'il ne pourrait y avoir de paix et de stabilité dans le monde sans un développement et sans une sécurité alimentaire pour toute l'humanité. Il nous est permis, en tant que communauté internationale, d'être fiers des efforts fournis par la FAO pour venir en

aide aux pays pauvres afin qu'ils réalisent leur objectif de développement garantissant la sécurité alimentaire et jetant les bases d'une coopération internationale et d'un développement agricole et rural, ce qui est de nature à dynamiser davantage la FAO et qui l'appelle à poursuivre ses efforts nobles dans un environnement international marqué par des mutations successives au niveau économique, dans le but d'atteindre l'objectif de sécurité alimentaire globale et durable à travers l'augmentation de l'offre d'aliments qui restera le plus grand défi que la communauté internationale aura à relever à la veille du XXI<sup>e</sup> siècle.

La Déclaration de Québec, qui a insisté sur le rôle de la FAO dans la réalisation de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, cadre parfaitement avec les propositions et les orientations que le Président tunisien, Son Excellence Zine El Abidine BEN ALI, a formulées à plusieurs occasions dans le cadre de son appel à la mise en place d'un pacte mondial pour l'éradication définitive de la faim, et pour la conclusion d'un Accord de paix et de coopération internationale basé sur le partenariat et la solidarité. Ces orientations et ces propositions ont eu leur impact dans les considérations qui ont poussé à l'organisation d'un sommet mondial sur l'alimentation au cours du mois de novembre de l'année prochaine à l'initiative de Monsieur Jacques Diouf, Directeur général de la FAO.

A cette occasion, je voudrais exprimer le soutien du Gouvernement tunisien à l'initiative de Monsieur le Directeur général, ainsi que la détermination de la Tunisie de participer activement aux travaux préparatoires et au succès de ce sommet, surtout que mon pays a déjà organisé la Conférence sur la sécurité alimentaire et le développement agricole en Afrique au cours du mois d'avril de cette année, et se prépare actuellement à abriter le Conseil des ministres de l'agriculture des pays arabes au début de l'année 1996. C'est d'autant plus nécessaire que la sécurité alimentaire constitue un des principaux objectifs stratégiques de la Tunisie sur la base desquels est conçue la stratégie du développement agricole et rural durable dans le cadre du plan global de ce développement.

Il ne fait pas de doute que le sommet de Rome, au même titre que les sommets de Rio et de Copenhague, permettra, à travers le dialogue et la solidarité, de trouver les solutions au problème de la sécurité alimentaire et du développement agricole et rural tout en tenant compte des résultats positifs des efforts déployés au cours des dernières décennies visant à l'identification des politiques et des stratégies qui permettent de résoudre les problèmes de la faim et de la malnutrition, et visant à la mise en place d'un plan d'action clair; d'autant plus que l'étude sur l'agriculture à l'horizon 2010 a permis de bien poser la problématique du développement agricole et d'identifier les contraintes entravant la réalisation de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale sur la base des résultats des programmes d'ajustement économique et des mutations enregistrées au niveau des relations économiques internationales. Cette étude a dégagé, par ailleurs, la possibilité de résoudre radicalement cette problématique, particulièrement grâce aux changements enregistrés au niveau de plusieurs indicateurs comme la croissance démographique ainsi que les perspectives de la production et de la demande alimentaire. Toutefois, ces perspectives ne doivent pas occulter la nécessité de considérer le problème actuel de la sécurité alimentaire qui caractérise certaines régions du monde, surtout en Afrique subsaharienne et en Asie du Sud qui regroupent la plupart des pays à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier dans le monde, et aussi de focaliser l'attention sur certains autres problèmes importants tels que les répercussions de l'accord sur le commerce mondial et l'élimination des subventions sur les exportations alimentaires, ainsi que les traitements de faveur et la limitation des programmes d'aide alimentaire.

Ceci confirme la nécessité d'accorder plus d'attention qu'auparavant à la priorité absolue du développement de la production agricole et alimentaire dans les stratégies des pays en développement, et de mobiliser tous les efforts nationaux ainsi que la coopération internationale, sous toutes ses formes et avec toutes ses ressources, vers le développement économique et agricole à travers des politiques agricoles permettant la réalisation de la sécurité alimentaire durable.

Monsieur le Président, nous avons suivi avec intérêt les réformes engagées par le Directeur général visant à une meilleure restructuration de l'organisation, à une rationalisation de son action et à une consolidation de sa décentralisation, notamment par la création de bureaux sous-régionaux et le développement des actions de terrain. Nous saisissons cette occasion pour exprimer notre confiance et notre soutien au Directeur général pour qu'il poursuive cette orientation dans le but de consolider le rayonnement de l'Organisation et se rapproche davantage de l'objectif d'éradication de la sous-alimentation et celui de la sécurité alimentaire conformément aux recommandations de la dernière déclaration de Québec et au Plan d'action qui résultera du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation.

D'un autre côté, et en tant qu'Etat Membre, nous sommes appelés à faire en sorte que l'Organisation dispose des moyens nécessaires pour sa bonne marche, surtout qu'elle est appelée à moderniser ses méthodes de travail, outre ses activités normales, et à répondre aux exigences des pays membres, dont le nombre s'accroît, en matière de coopération technique, particulièrement dans le domaine du développement agricole et rural, de la rationalisation de l'exploitation des ressources naturelles et de la promotion des ressources humaines.

C'est pourquoi, Monsieur le Président, la délégation tunisienne, tout en se félicitant des efforts réalisés pour la réduction des coûts et pour la maîtrise des dépenses, plaide avec détermination en faveur d'un programme de travail et de budget proposé par le Directeur général, projet longuement discuté par les organes directeurs et, particulièrement, lors des cent huitième et cent neuvième sessions du Conseil. Ce projet de programme de travail et de budget représente un minimum garantissant la crédibilité de l'Organisation en la mettant à même de poursuivre ses activités au bénéfice des Etats Membres et ce, conformément à la Constitution et à la volonté politique de ses membres réaffirmée par la Déclaration de Québec, unanimement adoptée. C'est la raison pour laquelle, Monsieur le Président, alors que nous nous sommes mis d'accord sur la problématique et l'objectif, la logique voudrait que nous nous mettions d'accord sur les voies et les moyens pour les atteindre.

Monsieur le Président, depuis le changement du 7 novembre 1987, la Tunisie s'est sérieusement occupée de sa sécurité alimentaire à travers les multiples ajustements visant au développement économique et la stabilité sociale en partant du principe de compter essentiellement sur ses propres moyens, et en adoptant des politiques de promotion de l'investissement et de mobilisation de tous les facteurs de production pour contribuer au processus de développement agricole et rural, avec une répartition claire des rôles entre le secteur privé, qui a la responsabilité de la production, de la transformation et de la commercialisation, et le secteur public qui doit fournir le cadre réglementaire adéquat, l'infrastructure et les incitations nécessaires pour la création d'un environnement propice à l'initiative et à l'effort des opérateurs privés.

Sous l'impulsion du Président Ben Ali, plusieurs réformes ont été entreprises dans le secteur agricole dont je cite la restructuration du secteur, l'organisation de la profession, la réforme foncière, la consolidation de l'infrastructure, la mobilisation et la conservation des ressources naturelles, la restructuration des circuits de commercialisations et la réforme de la politique des prix à la production. Par ailleurs, plusieurs mesures ont été prises en faveur du secteur privé et concernant notamment l'incitation à l'investissement dans l'agriculture, tout en favorisant les opérations de partenariat avec les pays frères et amis, ainsi que l'adoption d'une politique pilote en matière de financement des petits et moyens agriculteurs et la promotion du rôle de la femme, qu'elle soit exploitant ou employée agricole. Partant de la nouvelle distribution des rôles entre l'Etat et les producteurs, l'attention a été portée sur l'équilibre qui garantit l'augmentation et l'amélioration de la productivité pour répondre, d'une part, aux besoins croissants en quantité et en qualité et, d'autre part, à la garantie d'une gestion rationnelle et d'une exploitation équilibrée des ressources naturelles et génétiques.

Pour atteindre ces objectifs, nous avons mis l'accent, dans nos programmes et projets, sur des stratégies de conservation des eaux et du sol, de lutte contre la désertification, sur le développement de la forêt et des parcours. Nous avons fait en sorte que ces stratégies comprennent des actions préventives et des actions curatives, tout en respectant le principe de la protection des ressources dans le processus de développement. Notre conviction de l'importance des ressources naturelles nous a poussé à consolider nos programmes de recherche appliquée, à installer des réseaux d'information et de suivi, et à élargir les possibilités de contribution des agriculteurs et des habitants des zones agricoles dans la gestion et la conservation de ces ressources naturelles.

Tous les indicateurs montrent la pertinence des choix et de l'orientation prise par la Tunisie. La production agricole s'est développée de manière significative, surtout au niveau des produits de base, et les investissements dans l'agriculture se sont diversifiés et ont concerné également les domaines de la transformation des produits agricoles et des services. Ces résultats ont été acquis grâce aux compétences nationales à travers la contribution de centaines d'ingénieurs et de techniciens spécialistes dans le domaine de la production agricole afin de consolider le rôle du secteur privé et coopératif et de rajeunir et moderniser l'agriculture.

Monsieur le Président, parallèlement à nos préoccupations au niveau national et à l'autodépendance, la Tunisie croit en la nécessité d'instaurer une ère de coopération et de solidarité mutuelle sur la base de l'équité dans le but de contribuer à la réalisation de la sécurité alimentaire dans la région du Maghreb arabe, en encourageant les opérations d'échange des produits agricoles entre les pays de la région afin de concrétiser le marché

agricole maghrébin et de consolider la coopération entre les pays membres, dans le but de préparer le terrain à la mise en place de politiques agricoles harmonisées et complémentaires. D'un autre côté, la Tunisie s'est préparée à entrer dans une nouvelle phase de coopération avec l'Union européenne sur la base d'un partenariat à travers la conclusion d'un nouvel accord visant l'instauration d'une zone de libre-échange entre les deux parties. Ceci constitue un défi qu'il va falloir gagner par la consolidation des efforts de mise à niveau de l'agriculture tunisienne afin d'améliorer la qualité de ses produits et d'améliorer sa compétitivité dans le cadre d'un programme global de réformes visant la mise à niveau de l'appareil de production et l'assistance des producteurs à acquérir l'expérience nécessaire pour s'adapter aux exigences nouvelles de la zone de libre-échange. La réalisation de ce programme nécessite une importante assistance technique et financière pour soutenir l'effort national et les ressources propres de la Tunisie.

La Tunisie n'a épargné aucun effort pour soutenir la coopération Sud-Sud dans le cadre de ce que lui permettent ses ressources, que ce soit à travers la formation des hommes ou la fourniture d'assistances techniques, ou encore par des projets de partenariat avec plusieurs pays arabes et africains. Afin de consolider les liens de coopération avec la FAO, la Tunisie a conclu avec cette Organisation un accord portant sur la fourniture, par la Tunisie, de services d'assistance technique au profit des autres pays en développement garantissant le transfert de technologie dans les domaines de l'agriculture, des forêts et de la pêche, ce qui lui permet aussi de profiter de l'expérience des autres pays.

Mon pays vient également de signer un accord sur l'utilisation d'experts à la retraite et souhaite contribuer à l'utilisation de jeunes techniciens professionnels. Tout en considérant avec grande satisfaction l'assistance qu'elle a retenue de la part de la FAO dans le cadre du Programme de coopération technique, à plusieurs niveaux, la Tunisie insiste à nouveau sur la nécessité de consolider les activités de l'organisation et de fournir l'assistance à tous les pays et, surtout, à mon pays qui souhaite bénéficier d'une aide accrue de la FAO dans les domaines de la conservation de l'eau et des sols, des ressources halieutiques et du développement agricole et durable, ainsi que dans les domaines à portée technologique telles que les ressources génétiques, animales et végétales et la recherche scientifique appliquée. D'un autre côté, la FAO devrait s'appliquer à suivre l'évolution et les changements structurels découlant des accords de l'Uruguay Round et de l'Organisation mondiale du commerce à travers la fourniture de l'assistance technique nécessaire aux pays membres, particulièrement les pays en développement pour qu'ils ajustent leurs politiques agricoles aux nouvelles exigences internationales, et pour que leurs produits répondent aux normes sanitaires et de qualité exigées. Cette assistance devrait aussi couvrir les aspects relatifs au développement durable, à l'environnement et à la gestion des ressources naturelles. Dans ce cadre, ma délégation voudrait exprimer sa reconnaissance à l'effort fourni pour la préparation du Code de conduite pour une pêche responsable, espérant qu'il soit un instrument efficace pour aider à préserver les ressources halieutiques à travers la mise en place et la consolidation des outils adéquats pour rationaliser l'effort de pêche, aussi bien dans les eaux territoriales que dans les eaux internationales.

D.M. JAYARATNE (Sri Lanka): Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Your Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Let me, Mr Chairman, at the outset, congratulate you on your election for this important meeting and I am confident that you will steer the discussions to reach definite conclusions on the issues being debated.

I must also convey to the Government of Iraq my delegation's sympathies at the loss of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture.

I first bring to you the very good wishes of my President - Her Excellency Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga and her Government, which has a commitment to the welfare of the large rural population that dominates the electorate.

We are meeting at a historic period having celebrated FAO's 50th Anniversary, where we recommitted ourselves to the welfare of the millions of poor rural farmers and to provide food for the increasing population in the world. In this context, Sri Lanka is doing its utmost to contribute to global food security by meeting as far as possible our food requirements.

It is our intention to concentrate on certain very specific areas such as the following:

The pivotal role in Sri Lanka's agriculture will in future depend primarily on the organization of farmers. It is my pleasure to inform this assembly that, to date, a total of 14 000 farmer organizations have been formed with a "Govi Sevana" or "Farmer's House" being provided to each organization comprising about 300 to 350 farm families. The "Govi Sevana" will function as an educational Centre and marketing.

In Sri Lanka there are a number of banking facilities. However ordinary farmers are unable to obtain credit facilities due to long procedures, lack of sophisticated educational background and adequate collateral, forcing them to obtain credit from expensive and unscrupulous moneylenders who exploit them. This needs to be corrected.

With this in mind my government will establish a financial institution owned by individual groups of farmers who will provide the capital by purchasing shares in the bank and manage it by disbursing the loans and guarantee its repayment. This institution will be referred to as the Farmers Bank.

Sri Lanka has a problem of landless farmers and my Government has decided to provide 1 134 000 families with land titles.

Sri Lanka is placing an even greater emphasis on the horticulture sector, particularly in ensuring year-round availability of fruits and vegetables for the people. In addition it is our intention to further expand the potential export of these fruits and vegetables.

Due to the limitations on the availability of land for food production there has been the indiscriminate clearing of the forest cover for food crop production. This in turn has had its negative effects and imbalance on the environment, soils and the watershed. In order to arrest this deteriorating situation, my Government has a target of 130 000 acres for reforestation. In this programme agro forestry principles will play a large part.

Rice, which is the staple crop of the people of Sri Lanka, is facing the dilemma of stagnating and plateauing of yields leading to decreased incomes to rice farmers. This in turn has led to the abandoning of these lands and into marshy areas that need new uses to be found for them. FAO could help us in this.

Resorting to prudent degrees of mechanization and the greatest and efficient use of machines has to be looked into in greater depth and in this area too we would like to have FAO's assistance.

In order to break through the problems facing the small-holder farmers, we need to use improved technologies as well as greater quantities of inputs.

In order to obtain the maximum use of the large quantities of inputs and to obtain greater benefits both from the point of view of productivity and increased incomes, my government encourages the subsidizing of these inputs, at least in the short to medium term, so that some relief is given to the farmers.

Other areas of emphasis of the Government are the rehabilitation of minor irrigation schemes to ensure the availability of irrigation water to farmers and the development of farm to market roads to guarantee a more efficient transport and marketing system.

Improvements in both the parastatal and private marketing institutions is another area that will be given high priority. The lack of adequate storage and marketing facilities has resulted in large post-harvest losses, a subject much discussed with inadequate attention being given to correct the problem.

Recognizing the need for a future income after active farming, a Farmer Pension and Insurance scheme has been developed and this covers all forms of agriculture.

Sri Lanka is providing greater attention to fisheries. At present technologies are being developed to grow fish in the paddy fields, a technique widely used in a number of countries in Asia.

Further, the Indian Ocean accounts for around 20 percent of the total tuna landings in the world and has been in the forefront of regional cooperation in tuna management for a decade. At the Law of the Sea Convention in 1981, Sri Lanka proposed the established of a regulatory body to manage the exploitation of tuna in the Indian Ocean which was accepted by FAO, who initiated the establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission under the umbrella of the Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission with the Indo-Pacific Tuna Programme being established as a nucleus to IOTC in Sri Lanka in 1982.

Most countries in the Third World have had to face difficulties with a number of financial commitments made to the international lending institutions over the last two decades. I appeal to the international community to reconsider this situation and devise ways and means to ease the difficulties faced by developing nations.

We are also meeting at a time when there have been significant changes in international trade agreements, particularly with the Uruguay agreement and the establishment of the World Trade Organization. The direct impacts of this to developing countries are significant. Sri Lanka, in its attempt to ensure that we do not resort to import our basic foods, has provided certain concessionary measures to the farming community to encourage them to produce more food. The effects of the GATT agreement will have significant negative effects to producers in terms of increased costs and to consumers in terms of increased consumer prices. Greater attention needs to be given to the impact of these new agreements and to also avoid the pitfalls of allowing the dumping of excess production from the developed to developing countries.

There is much that farmers can learn by interacting among themselves, even across countries. Sri Lanka has limited success in this area, where we have taken farmers to other countries and exposed them to innovative practices and experiences being undertaken by farmers in a different cultural, economic and agro-ecological environment. I encourage FAO to look at this programme and facilitate this exchange.

Let me finally raise an issue that is common to all of us. In a number of countries a large amount of resources are diverted to the purchase of arms for various conflicts which cause untold misery to millions of people. If on the other hand these resources can be diverted to food production, the problem of hunger and food deficiency could be easily solved.

In conclusion, I sincerely hope that the path and the direction that is set out during the deliberations of this Conference will develop a more comprehensive and sympathetic understanding of the complexities of agrarian problems of the countries in the region and that FAO would reorder its priorities and refashion its approaches to the extent possible, and thereby obtain the maximum benefit to be realized.

Simeon NYACHAE (Kenya): Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of my delegation and myself, I warmly congratulate you on your unanimous election as Chairman of the 28th Session of the FAO Conference and other members of the Conference Bureau for their election, to their respective offices. I am confident that under your able guidance, the Conference will take decisions that will enable the organization to fulfil its mandate.

I feel honoured to address the 28th Session of FAO Conference which coincides with the 50th Anniversary of the Organization, which we commemorated at its birth place, the beautiful city of Quebec a few days ago. My delegation looks forward with hope and confidence that as we move into the 21st century, we will review the organization's past policies, priorities and strategies with a view to enhancing its capacity to fight against poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

Let me also express the gratitude of my delegation to the Member Governments for their invaluable support to the organization during the last 50 years. Their commitment to the ideals of FAO has enabled the organization to work towards achieving its mandate. In this regard I would like to reiterate Kenya's total commitment to the ideals of the organization.

Agriculture is the backbone of Kenya's economy. The country has traditionally produced enough to meet its national needs and even realized surplus for export. However, the last five years have been difficult ones. Kenya realized decline in food production particularly of maize, the main staple food of the population. Production fell below national consumption, regrettably the period coincided with a huge influx of refugees from some neighbouring countries putting pressure on the available food resources. Kenya is grateful to the



international community who came to its assistance. I am happy to note that the country quickly recovered from this situation. Following favourable weather in 1994 we realised over-production of maize and milk and increased output of other products.

The state of agriculture in Kenya cannot be adequately addressed without reference to the level of land available for agricultural utilization. Only about 20 percent of the land is arable while the rest is arid and semi-arid. The situation has tended to limit agricultural production to mainly intensive use of the arable and marginal areas.

To support a population of 25 million with an annual growth rate of 3.5 percent, food production must increase at a rate to match population growth rate. Otherwise current high population growth rate and limited arable land create imbalance between national food supply and demand as our efforts in dealing with the population problem is not an exercise which can bring about the required positive results in the short run.

Since 1993 Kenya has undertaken broad liberalization of its economy including abolition of import and price controls for agricultural inputs. This has led to short term higher prices of inputs to farmers, decline in veterinary services and depressed prices for farm produce especially cereals and livestock products.

In 1994, we produced the latest sessional paper on national food policy. Its major objective is to attain food sufficiency and security. We reviewed our past programmes in the agricultural sector, our successes and failures, our constraints and our strategies. In our policy analysis we look at the potentials for increasing production, food marketing and storage policies, food security at the household and national level. Research and extension, food trade, nutrition, resource development and employment policies are clearly defined in the paper.

Allow me to make some specific comments on a few areas that would promote food and agricultural development. Firstly, and in the context of farming in Africa and other developing countries, we should incorporate the positive elements in the existing traditional farming systems in our extension packages in order to give meaningful guidance in our actions for improving agricultural production. The farmers should be enabled to choose among alternative opportunities that are of social and economic benefit to them.

Secondly, land use policies should be developed and plans formulated which involve the rural people in the management of land resources.

Extension services should be tailored towards the needs of the nation and of local communities. The recent introduction of the concept of cost sharing in extension services should be applied discriminately. The concept might work well where there is profit motivation. However, when addressing the needs of farmers in subsistence food production or those of the underprivileged poor, extension approaches should be relevant to the circumstances of those they are meant to benefit. Meanwhile, systems of technology transfer should be flexible and adaptable to accommodate the prevailing local conditions.

The problem of food production in Africa is largely a problem of limited access to high-yielding seed varieties. Inputs, rural infrastructure and services, credit and unpredictable weather conditions, lack of these facilities, items and services have inhibited rapid food production.

There is need therefore to strengthen our seed production and supply. We should address the problem of unreliable and high cost of fertilizers. Farmer credit schemes that respond to the needs of the farmers should be developed. Along with these, effective credit recovery methods should be developed.

Africa more than any other region, has the highest average population growth and the lowest and least stable growth of food production. It is also sad to observe that in the 1960s the annual rate of growth in Africa's fertilizer use was 11.5 percent but dropped to six percent in the 1970s and further to 4.3 percent in the 1980s. Africa represents only 2.25 percent of the developing world's fertilizer consumption.

A critical look at the situation would show that Africa is not entirely to blame. We are all aware that 30 years ago when the Green Revolution was formulated and effected, Africa was completely left out. Kenya is convinced that had Africa been included in the Green Revolution package the state of food and agriculture in the continent today would be different. To recover from its present state the continent requires increased

investment of resources in agriculture. It is not too late to design a similar plan for Africa to create sustainable food production and enhanced productivity in the continent as opposed to the current piece-meal support Africa is being given. Support for realization of such a plan requires political will on the part of the international community.

Kenya duly recognizes women for the many and diverse important roles they play particularly in rural development especially in sub-Saharan Africa where they constitute the major producers of food for the household nutrition, food security and health. Despite these important roles they play in development, they have been marginalized in terms of access to productive resources such as land, financial credit, education and involvement in decision-making process for economic progress. In this regard my Government fully endorses the provision in the Director-General's budget for 1996-1997 for support to women in development activities. Given the limited financial resources of FAO to implement such important programmes, we appeal for international donor support for the extrabudgetary support in order to enhance the programme implementation. The support would enhance the role of women as key to the attainment of food security.

The role of forestry in food security needs to be emphasized. The problem of deforestation and land degradation needs to be diagnosed to determine the causes so that definite actions are taken as regards land-use policies and plans to combat environmental effects of deforestation and land degradation. In this connection there is also need for close monitoring of other factors that affect food security such as genetic erosion, global warming, ozone layer depletion and desertification. As regards fisheries, we wish to emphasize conservation and management of fisheries for sustainable development. In this connection, interregional cooperation is necessary in fisheries resource management.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, my delegation commends the Director-General for his initiative to organize the World Food Summit next year. We believe that mobilization of political support for the efforts to achieve food security at the highest political level is timely. With the necessary political will at the Heads of State and Government level, an enabling environment could be created to accelerate action towards attainment of food security at both national and global level.

Rudolf HORBER (Suisse): Lors de cette vingt-huitième session de la Conférence de la FAO, j'aimerais tout d'abord féliciter le Président ainsi que les Vice-présidents de leur élection et remercier le Directeur général et tout le Secrétariat des travaux préparatifs à cette conférence. En cette année du cinquantième anniversaire de la FAO, je tiens à affirmer toute l'importance de notre organisation dans le développement agricole et la lutte contre la faim dans le monde. Les défis à l'aube du XXI siècle nécessitent une solidarité et une coopération universelles. "Libérer l'humanité de la faim" est un objectif qui relève de la responsabilité de nous tous. Cet objectif fait appel à un engagement moral, politique, financier et à une solidarité de tous les membres de la FAO.

La FAO vient de passer son cinquantième anniversaire. Un tel anniversaire est l'occasion pour tirer un bilan. Des progrès importants ont été accomplis, à la fois dans la lutte contre la pauvreté et dans l'augmentation substantielle de la production agricole, souvent grâce à une "révolution verte". Des techniques de production toujours plus performantes ont permis de développer le secteur agricole dans de nombreuses régions. Le rapport de la FAO "L'agriculture mondiale: Horizon 2010" indique qu'il reste encore un potentiel limité des terres non cultivées, qu'il est possible d'exploiter. Dans 40 ans, le monde comptera quelque 3,5 milliards de personnes en plus. Il paraît que l'équilibre alimentation/population peut être résolu, qu'il est possible d'augmenter encore l'offre de la production agricole tout en respectant la nature. Ceci à condition toutefois d'accorder partout une haute priorité à l'agriculture et de mener de bonnes politiques agricoles. Afin de promouvoir le développement de l'agriculture tout en maintenant le patrimoine des ressources naturelles pour les générations futures, la FAO doit aider les pays concernés à lutter contre la désertification, l'érosion et la surexploitation des sols et les pousser à des méthodes d'exploitation respectueuses de l'environnement. Les enjeux sont de taille si l'on connaît les risques de dégradation de l'environnement liés à certaines politiques de développement agricole et rural mal maîtrisées.

Malheureusement les progrès du côté de l'offre à eux seuls ne suffiront pas à éliminer la faim. Il reste encore un certain niveau de sous-alimentation chronique. Ce problème se situe du côté de la demande, il est causé par la pauvreté et s'exprime souvent par un pouvoir d'achat insuffisant.

La difficulté croissante des tâches de la FAO face à ces enjeux, appelle trois réflexions de notre part.

Premièrement. L'expérience montre que le développement de la production et de la productivité agricole est un élément clé de tout développement; les pays qui ont négligé le secteur agricole n'ont en général pas bien réussi. La FAO place au centre de son action le postulat du développement agricole et rural durable comme élément primordial de lutte contre la pauvreté et de promotion de la sécurité alimentaire. La Suisse approuve cette approche. La FAO doit aider les pays dans la formulation et mise en oeuvre de meilleures politiques agricoles et rurales, afin de développer leurs zones rurales et de freiner l'exode rural.

Deuxièmement. La surproduction agricole dans beaucoup de pays riches coexiste avec la malnutrition dans les pays les plus pauvres. Il est indéniable que les politiques agricoles menées par certains pays industrialisés ont freiné la croissance du secteur primaire dans les pays en développement, en poussant d'une part les prix agricoles mondiaux à la baisse, et en réduisant d'autre part les possibilités d'exportation de ces pays. Ceci m'amène à souligner l'importance de l'accord sur l'agriculture signé en 1994 à Marrakech. Le cycle Uruguay a eu le mérite d'aborder, quasiment pour la première fois, la question d'une libéralisation progressive du commerce agricole sous un angle multilatéral. Même si les pas franchis sont souvent jugés plutôt petits, je pense que cet accord devrait constituer une chance pour les pays exportateurs du tiers monde. L'adhésion de la Suisse à cet accord le 1er juillet 1995 traduit la volonté de notre pays d'insérer progressivement son secteur agricole dans un contexte et des règles multilatérales. Tant pour des raisons externes qu'internes, la Suisse a ainsi mis en oeuvre une réforme en profondeur de sa politique agricole qui va même au-delà des dispositions de l'accord agricole de l'Organisation Mondiale du Commerce. Par une déréglementation partielle et des incitations financières à une production écologique, notre réforme vise à soumettre le secteur agricole davantage aux règles du marché et à nous rapprocher encore plus des principes d'une production respectueuse de l'environnement. Les nouvelles propositions de politique agricole de mon pays seront mises en consultation publique prochainement, et le Parlement en discutera l'année prochaine.

Troisièmement. J'aimerais insister sur le fait que dans le secteur primaire, une libéralisation totale, qui irait d'ailleurs à l'encontre des intérêts des pays en développement à déficit vivrier et de leur sécurité alimentaire, est irréaliste. Les diverses prestations de l'agriculture ne peuvent pas toutes être rémunérées par le marché. Le mandat de l'agriculture est non seulement de procurer des produits agricoles pour le marché, mais aussi de fournir des prestations d'intérêt général, tels l'entretien du paysage et le maintien à long terme des bases vitales. Nous pensons que la FAO est appelée à promouvoir un développement agricole durable dans le monde. Il faut trouver dans le domaine agricole un équilibre entre libre-échange et protection. Les efforts entrepris par les pays en développement pour garantir leur sécurité alimentaire et développer leur production agricole ne devraient pas être contrecarrés par des prix mondiaux décourageant leur production interne. Nous sommes confirmés dans cette opinion par les conclusions du Symposium de Québec, qui disent entre autres "qu'il y a des exceptions à la capacité du marché à régler les problèmes de sécurité alimentaire; le protectionnisme devrait être permis pour les pays pauvres".

Avant de conclure, quelques brèves remarques en ce qui concerne le programme de travail et budget 1996/97. Nous avons des difficultés à soutenir un niveau budgétaire dont nous savons d'avance que son financement n'est pas assuré. Seul 1/3 des pays membres ont entièrement réglé leurs contributions, presque un quart des membres sont menacés de sanctions et le plus grand contributeur a déjà annoncé qu'il ne pourra pas assurer sa pleine part de contribution. Si nous voulons éviter des risques graves pour notre organisation, nous devons faire preuve de réalisme budgétaire. Le défi pour nous tous est d'adopter un budget réaliste et d'améliorer parallèlement la discipline de contribution. La Suisse reste convaincue que notre organisation peut remplir ses diverses fonctions avec un budget inférieur à celui proposé, sans toutefois rejoindre la position du plus grand contributeur. Mon pays qui est membre actif de la FAO depuis 1946, a toujours versé ses contributions avec ponctualité. Le soutien de la Suisse pour la FAO s'exprime aussi par le fait, qu'en plus de sa contribution ordinaire, elle contribue avec des montants plus élevés encore, et ceci de manière volontaire, au financement des activités de terrain de la FAO.

Lutter contre la faim et la malnutrition dans le monde, contribuer au développement d'une agriculture soucieuse de l'environnement et allant dans le sens d'un développement durable, voilà les tâches principales de la FAO. La Suisse veut continuer à y contribuer, comme elle l'a fait dans le passé. D'ores et déjà, la FAO est assurée de l'engagement actif de la Suisse pour la préparation et la tenue du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation prévu pour novembre 1996.

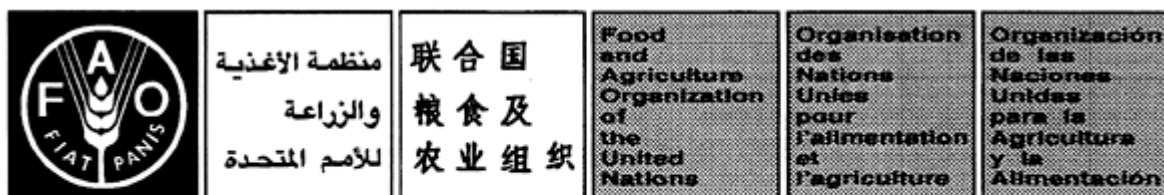
Mettre fin à la faim, n'est-ce pas là le défi majeur à relever par l'humanité? 800 millions de personnes souffrent de la faim, ce qui est insupportable. La FAO doit jouer un rôle de premier plan dans cette bataille "contre la faim" et la Suisse l'assure de son soutien sans failles!

The meeting rose at 11.00 hours.

La séance est levée à 11 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.00 horas.

23 October 1995



# CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Twenty-eighth Session • Vingt-huitième session • 28° período de sesiones

**FIFTH PLENARY MEETING  
CINQUIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
QUINTA SESION PLENARIA**

23 October 1995

---

## SUPPLEMENT

---

**Address by His Holiness Pope John Paul II on the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, on the Occasion of the Twenty-eighth Session of the Conference**

**Allocution de Sa Sainteté le Pape Jean-Paul II en l'honneur du Cinquantième Anniversaire de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, à l'occasion de la vingt-huitième session de la Conférence**

**Discurso de Su Santidad el Papa Juan Pablo II en el Cincuentenario de la fundación de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación, con ocasión de la celebración del 28° período de sesiones de la Conferencia**

I gladly welcome the distinguished participants in the Twenty-eighth Conference of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, making your now traditional visit to the See of Peter. Because this year marks the Fiftieth Anniversary of FAO, I am especially pleased that, despite your busy schedule, you did not wish to miss this occasion - a custom which has been honoured at meetings of the Conference since FAO settled in Rome in 1951.

Through you, Mr Chairman, I offer warm good wishes to the delegates and representatives of the Member States, and extend a special welcome to the new members of your Organization which more than ever reflects a world which, in spite of often painful divisions, has an increasing need to imite around common objectives.

I thank you, Mr Director-General, and renew my esteem for your generous commitment during the first phase of your mandate, which also involves the difficult but necessary task of restructuring the Organization.

It is not by chance that the beginning of FAO coincided with the formation of that broader organization, the United Nations, whose ideals inspired FAO and with whose activity it is associated. The establishment of FAO was thus intended to emphasize the complementarity of the principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations: true peace and effective international security are achieved not only by preventing wars and conflicts, but also by promoting development and creating conditions which ensure that basic human rights are fully guaranteed.

The Fiftieth Anniversary celebration of FAO offers a suitable occasion to reflect on the international community's commitment to a fundamental good and duty: the freeing of human beings from malnutrition and the threat of starvation. As you have pointed out in the recent Quebec Declaration, it cannot be forgotten that at the origins of FAO there was not only a desire to strengthen effective cooperation among states in a primary sector such as agriculture, but also the intention to find ways to guarantee sufficient food for the whole world through sharing the fruits of the earth in a rational way. By setting up FAO on 16 October 1945, the world community hoped to eradicate the scourge of famine and starvation. The enormous difficulties still involved in this task must not be allowed to diminish the firmness of your commitment.

Even today tragic situations are unfolding before our eyes: people are dying of starvation because peace and security have not been guaranteed. The social and economic situation of the contemporary world makes us all aware of the extent to which the hunger and malnutrition of millions of people are the result of evil mechanisms within economic structures, or are the consequence of unjust criteria in the distribution of resources and production, policies formulated in order to safeguard special interest groups, or different forms of protectionism. Furthermore, the precarious situation in which whole peoples find themselves has led to a mobility of such alarming dimensions that it cannot be dealt with by traditional humanitarian assistance alone. The question of refugees and displaced persons gives rise to dramatic consequences at the level of agricultural production and of food security, affecting the nutrition of millions of people. FAO's action in recent years has shown that the provision of emergency help for refugees is not enough; this kind of assistance does not bring a satisfactory solution as long as conditions of extreme poverty are allowed to continue and become even more acute, conditions which lead to increased deaths due to malnutrition and hunger. The underlying causes of such situations have to be addressed.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Fiftieth Anniversary celebrations furnish us with the opportunity to ask why international action, despite the existence of FAO, has been unable to alter this state of affairs. At the world-wide level sufficient food can be produced to satisfy everyone's needs. Why then are so many people threatened by starvation?

As you are well aware, there are many reasons for this paradoxical situation in which abundance coexists with scarcity, widespread corruption in public life, and massive investment in sophisticated weapons systems to the detriment of people's primary needs. These and other reasons contribute to the creation of what you call "structures of famine". Here we are speaking of the mechanisms of international business by which the less favoured countries, those most in need of food, are excluded in one way or another from the market, thus preventing a just and effective distribution of agricultural products. Yet another reason is that certain forms of assistance for development are made conditional on the implementation by poorer countries of policies of structural adjustment, policies which drastically limit those countries' ability to acquire needed foodstuffs. Nor can a serious analysis of the underlying causes of hunger overlook that attitude found in the more developed

countries, where a consumerist culture tends to exalt artificial needs over real ones. This has direct consequences for the structure of the world economy, and for agriculture and food production in particular.

These many reasons have their source not only in a false sense of the values which should sustain international relations, but also in a widespread attitude which emphasizes having over being. The result is a real inability on the part of many to appreciate the needs of the poor and the starving; indeed, to appreciate the poor themselves in their inalienable human dignity. An effective campaign against hunger thus calls for more than merely indicating the proper functioning of market mechanisms or attaining higher levels of food production. It is necessary, first and foremost, to recover a sense of the human person. In my address to the General Assembly of the United Nations on 5 October last, I pointed to the need to build relationships between peoples on the basis of a constant "exchange of gifts", a real "culture of giving" which should make every country prepared to meet the needs of the less fortunate.

In this perspective, FAO and other bodies have an essential role to play in fostering a new sense of international cooperation. During the last fifty years it has been the merit of FAO to promote people's access to land, thus favouring agricultural workers and fostering their rights as a condition for raising production levels. Food assistance, often exploited as a way of exerting political pressure, has been modified by means of a new concept: food security, which considers the availability of food not only in relation to the needs of a country's population, but also in relation to the productive capacity of neighbouring areas, precisely with a view to the rapid transfer or exchange of foodstuffs.

In addition, the concern which the international community shows for environmental issues is reflected in FAO's involvement in activities aimed at limiting damage to the ecosystem and safeguarding food production from phenomena such as desertification and erosion. The promotion of effective social justice in relations between peoples entails the awareness that the economic life of the world community should be oriented to sharing those goods, their use and their benefits.

Today it is more necessary than ever for the international community to recommit itself to fulfilling the primary purpose for which FAO was established. Daily bread for every person on earth - that "Fiat Panis" which FAO refers to in its motto - is an essential condition of the world's peace and security. Courageous choices must be made, choices made in the light of a correct ethical vision of political and economic activity. Modifications and reforms of the international system, and of FAO in particular, need to be rooted in an ethic of solidarity and a culture of sharing. To direct the labours of this Conference to this end can be a most fruitful way of preparing for the important meeting of the World Summit on Nutrition which FAO has scheduled for November 1996.

In all these efforts the Catholic Church is close to you, as attested to by the attention with which the Holy See has followed the activity of FAO since 1948. In celebrating this Fiftieth Anniversary with you, the Holy See wishes to demonstrate its continuing support for your endeavours. A symbolic sign of this support and encouragement will be the bell to be placed in the FAO Headquarters as a remembrance of the establishment, fifty years ago, of the family of the United Nations. Bells symbolize joy; they announce an event. But bells also ring out a call to action. On this occasion, and in the context of FAO's activity, this bell is meant to call everyone - countries, different international organizations, all men and women of good will - to even greater efforts to free the world from famine and malnutrition.

The words inscribed on the base of the bell evoke the very purpose of the United Nations system: "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isa 2:4). These are the words of the Prophet Isaiah, who proclaimed the dawn of universal peace. But, according to the Prophet, this peace will come about - and this has great meaning for FAO - only when "they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks" (ibid.). For only when people consider the struggle against hunger as a priority, and are committed to providing everyone with the means of gaining their daily bread instead of amassing weapons, will conflicts and wars come to an end and humanity be able to set forth on a lasting journey of peace.

This is the sublime task to which you, the representatives of the nations and the leaders of FAO, are called.

Upon your work and upon FAO, I invoke the abundant blessings of Almighty God, ever rich in mercy.

23 October 1995



منظمة الإغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

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

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

# CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Twenty-eighth Session • Vingt-huitième session • 28° período de sesiones

**SIXTH PLENARY MEETING  
SIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
SEXTA SESION PLENARIA**

23 October 1995

**The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.30 hours**

**Mr Costas Petrides,**

**Chairman of the Conference, presiding**

**La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 30**

**sous la présidence de M. Costas Petrides,**

**Président de la Conférence**

**Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 14.30 horas**

**bajo la presidencia del Sr. Costas Petrides,**

**Presidente de la Conferencia**



INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)

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

INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)

6. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (continued)

6. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)

6. Examen del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)

- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: Welcome to the Sixth Plenary Session. I call on the Head of the Irish Delegation to take the floor.

Ivan YATES (Ireland): During the past 50 years great strides have been made by the international community, FAO and other organizations to improve the food security of the world's people. Unfortunately, as we fast approach the third millennium, we are a long way from a situation where there is food for all.

In his 50th anniversary message the Director-General rightly emphasizes the worrying fact that, despite all the efforts made during the past 50 years to reach the goal of ensuring that all peoples all over the world have access to enough food, there are still some 800 million persons who are hungry or suffering from malnutrition. Sadder still is the fact that, of these, about 200 million are children under the age of five who are suffering from acute or chronic protein deficiencies. To go even some way towards resolving the existing problem is a major task in itself but the challenge facing us all in combatting hunger in the long term, unfortunately, will be made all the more difficult as the world's population is expected to reach some 9 billion by the year 2030, an increase of over 3 billion on the present population of 5 1/2 billion.

The agricultural sector is of course critical in the fight against hunger. In most developing countries the majority of the poor rely on agriculture for employment and income. This is demonstrated by the fact that in Africa and Asia about 60 percent of the people work in agriculture compared to 8 percent in Europe and North Central America.

Food security as a human problem is primarily one affecting the urban poor, the rural landless and smaller marginal farmers. This is particularly true in developing countries. The alleviation of hunger and malnutrition in developing countries is, in my view, dependent mainly on increasing sustainable agricultural production. The key to improved agricultural production is the introduction of better technology combined with training in modern agricultural production methods. This approach, however, can be successful only if structures are in place which, firstly, can provide the technology and training required and, secondly, a stable environment wherein farmers are motivated and rewarded for their efforts. Inadequate food supplies within a community or country signal serious social and economic stress and impede future development. Given projected levels of economic growth and investment in agriculture, population pressure and environmental limitations bring the possibility of acute and chronic hunger and malnutrition even nearer in many countries.

Ireland is very conscious of this problem and has developed a support strategy accordingly. Ireland's programme reaffirms its commitment to people who are in danger of death from drought, famine or disease or who are living in poverty or economic or social deprivation. The commitment in our programme to make substantial increases in Ireland's development assistance marks a watershed in the history of Irish aid. We have pledged to raise substantially our level of official development aid assistance through a series of specific annual increases. We also recognize that support is required for policies which will allow the economies of developing countries to grow and, in particular, for improved access to markets and a greater say in issues of world trade. In this way the developing countries can make a significant contribution to improving their own situation.

Ireland's historical experience, the fact that we experienced a long and devastating famine within the relatively recent past and our transformation from a comparatively underdeveloped rural economy have made us especially aware of and sensitive to the economic and social needs of developing countries.

In this, the 50th anniversary of the founding of FAO, I would like to extend our congratulations to the Organization. To mark the occasion my Government has presented a new Irish rug which is now installed in the lobby outside the Nordic Lounge to replace the one that was given previously by the Irish Government in 1953.

Coinciding with this 50th anniversary of the founding of FAO, my Government is also commemorating the 150th anniversary of Ireland's great famine from 1845 to 1850 - the largest-scale famine in Europe. Potatoes were the staple nourishing food for more than 3 million Irish people at that time. In 1846, following the blight which severely harmed the potato harvest of 1845, there was a total failure of the crop which affected people throughout the country. Those tragic years are part of our history and they make Ireland especially sensitive to the terrible plight of so many people in famine-ravaged areas of the world.

Apart from our national programme we also play our part within the EU Regional Programme. To date, experience has taught the European Union that the volume of aid alone, although extremely important of course, is in itself insufficient to ensure that it will achieve its objective. It is not enough simply to provide relief from disaster or poverty. The aim has to be to break the cycle of dependence and poverty by creating the conditions in which economic and social development can be self-sustaining.

Of course, emergency aid and food aid are the first priorities when dealing with natural or man-made disasters such as famine and war. They account for a significant part of the Union's budget; but the aim of development assistance must surely be the longer-term building of the economic and social structures which will lift people out of poverty permanently. Hence, the Union's Aid Programme is not only large, it is also varied and deploys a number of so-called "instruments" designed to deal with various aspects of the problems facing developing countries. These include rural development, food security, health, education and training, the position of women, support for export prices, structural adjustment - to mention a few examples.

At this stage, I wish to remind the Conference that Ireland has submitted its nomination for election to membership of the Council of FAO for the next three years. Ireland last served on the Council between 1981 to 1983. Since becoming a member of FAO in 1946, one year after it was founded, Ireland has had a deep interest in and commitment to the work of the Organization. We consider membership of the Council to be a great honour and, I might add, a great responsibility. Ireland would be fully committed to playing an active role in making its contribution to the work of the Organization over the next three years.

Many delegates will recall the words of Dr Jacques Diouf, Director-General of FAO, at the European Regional Conference held in Ireland in June 1994 when he stated that his first task as Director-General was to undertake a review of the programmes, structures and policies of the Organization, with the deep-rooted conviction that FAO needed to be reinvigorated and made more effective if it was to meet the two daunting challenges ahead: to eliminate the unacceptable human misery in which 800 million people still do not have adequate access to food; and to ensure that the world will produce, in a sustainable manner, enough to feed 9 billion people in the year 2030.

The Medium-term Plan of FAO covering the 1996 to 2001 period submitted to this Conference starts when FAO has crossed the 50-year mark and ends by crossing the dividing line between the 20th and 21st century. This significant plan not only deals with the present, but also makes provision for the challenges that lie ahead.

This policy document is innovative in addressing the substance of proposed FAO actions by focusing on cross-sectoral approaches. It emphasizes the main strategic thrusts proposed to guide FAO action over the next six years: the two common threads of food security and nutrition on the one hand, and sustainable agriculture and rural development on the other.

The Plan puts a special accent on partnerships and stresses this aspect of FAO's work. Over its 50 years of existence, FAO has adapted well to the bewildering political and other changes which have taken place since the end of the second world war. Indeed, the natural course of history, the constant emergence of new

problems while many of the old ones still remain, the modernization forces and the powerful thrust of regional and sub-regional initiatives, have contributed to making the present international institutional arrangements a far cry from the relatively simple world that existed during FAO's earlier years. This Medium-Term Plan will be found useful by Member Nations in their search for the optimal balance and direction they wish to provide to FAO's work.

I wish to refer briefly to the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1996-97.

I note that in his introduction to the Programme of Work and Budget for 1996-97, the Director-General acknowledges that the proposed budget amount is not acceptable to some members and it is for the delegates here to try and reach a consensus on this issue.

Ireland regards the redirection of resources proposed in the Programme of Work and Budget towards higher priority areas and particularly towards the Special Programme on Food Production in support of food security and low-income food-deficit countries as justified. While the goal of ensuring that all peoples all over the world have access to enough food has not yet been achieved, this special programme should achieve increases in both overall food availability and agricultural incomes in the 88 countries that fall into the low-income, food-deficit category. Ireland is also fully supportive of the emphasis which the Director-General has put on cost-cutting and increasing efficiency within the Organization during the past two years. Without the increased efficiency resulting from these efforts, I am certain that a considerably higher budget figure or, alternatively, a reduced programme of work would be before us for consideration at this Conference. A continuation of the search for a more efficient and streamlined Organization is, of course, a policy we support.

Integration of conservation strategies for plants and animals is desirable. Given that resources are limited, it is essential to avoid duplication or the development of conflicting strategies. We support the proposal to broaden the mandate of the FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources to cover animal and other genetic resources.

What can we expect in the years to come? Despite resource, environmental, and technology constraints, food production capacity in the world as a whole will probably be sufficient to meet the global increase in effective demand in the medium term. However, although much of the increase in both production and consumption will take place in the developing world, this progress alone may be insufficient to eliminate chronic malnutrition in the developing countries.

For the majority of the world's poor, the lack of food security remains their most serious constraint and leads to a level of suffering and lost potential that no family or nation can afford or tolerate. The World Food Summit being organized by FAO for 1996 must consider future action. The aim should be to raise public awareness at the highest level of the need for a global campaign to eradicate hunger and malnutrition and provide food security for all. A recurring message should be that food insecurity is not just a problem for developing countries but threatens the peace and stability of the world as a whole.

There is still a long way to go to complete the mission set forth in FAO's Constitution of "ensuring humanity's freedom from hunger".

The World Food Summit will, I hope, consider and adopt a policy on food security and a plan for its implementation. Participating countries should seek ways and means of fulfilling their commitments according to their respective abilities.

Finally, I would like again to congratulate the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on the 50th anniversary of its foundation and to wish it success in its future actions on behalf of the world's poor.

John M. NASASIRA (Uganda): Mr Chairman, on behalf of my Delegation and my country, I would like to join my colleagues in extending our heartfelt condolences to the Iraqi Delegation on the untimely death of their country's Minister of Agriculture.

Mr Chairman, let me also take this opportunity to congratulate you and other members of your Bureau on your election. Let me also thank the FAO Secretariat for the good organization of this Conference.

This FAO Conference, 28th Conference, comes soon after FAO's 50th Anniversary celebration and a Ministerial Meeting on World Food Security that took place in Quebec, Canada. The Conference also takes place a year before the planned World Food Summit in November, 1996. It is therefore important that we reflect on the successes and shortcomings of the past 50 years and plan for the challenges of the future, starting with the objectives and successes of the planned World Food Summit.

Mr Chairman, FAO was formed 50 years after the 44 Member Nations had realized that the chaos of war and poverty in the world had brought about a desperate food situation. During the last 50 years, FAO has tried to address this situation with a high degree of success. Many achievements have been made in food production, agriculture, fisheries, and forestry in the world. Major improvements have been made both in quantity and quality of food supplies. The rate of growth in food production has exceeded the high population growth in all regions except for sub-Saharan Africa.

Despite the above achievements, millions of our people are still undernourished, and millions of our children have chronic protein and energy deficiency. The situation is expected to get worse into the next century. Therefore, Mr Chairman, the problems that faced the 44 nations 50 years ago are still with us today. The only difference is that this problem is now being addressed by 176 nations, and it is not global but is now mainly in developing countries and, more precisely, in the least developed countries, and most of them sub-Saharan Africa. Mr Chairman, the irony of the matter is that most of these affected countries' economies depend on agriculture and most of the population live in rural areas and depend on the land.

Mr Chairman, just as the ravages of war 50 years ago caused hunger and poverty, it will be found that today food insecurity is due to either all or some of the following: political instability; civil strife; internal and regional conflicts; unfair terms of trade between agricultural producers and manufacturers of agricultural tools of production; lack of human resources to carry out agricultural research and extension services; inadequate production technologies, and yet their agriculture is rain-fed; debt burden; inadequate income to invest in agriculture; dumping of cheap food into some countries, which negates food production; unprofitable production systems practised by the small-scale or peasant farmers, and therefore lack of adequate income for their sustenance; and the majority of people live in rural areas as peasants.

Therefore, the reality of it all is that food security is not just a production and supply issue; it relates to income and purchasing power of the people. In order to address the issue of food security and sustainable development, we have to seriously address the issue of poverty.

Mr Chairman, we in Uganda have experienced most of the problems I have mentioned above. Our agriculture, which contributes 50 percent of our GDP, is rain-fed and depends on 88 percent of our population that lives in rural areas as peasant farmers. Despite our fertile soils, adequate rainfall, and 40 000 square kilometres of fresh water full of fish, only 30 percent of our arable land is under cultivation and 60 percent of fish harvested. The livestock sub-sector still remains relatively underdeveloped. Although we now grow enough food to feed our people and agriculture has grown at an average rate of 6 percent per annum for the last five years, our population still has a dietary and energy deficiency.

Mr Chairman, the Uganda Government has, for the last ten years, been making all the efforts to address the problems that I listed earlier. We have, among other things, returned the country on the road to political stability; invested in agriculture, road infrastructure and industry; liberalized our economy and reduced inflation to less than 10 percent; put a favourable investment code in place; constitutionalized a land tenure system that allows for foreign investment in rural land; constitutionalized the rights of women to property including land and their participation at all levels of decision-making; launched a National Plan of Action on Nutrition; launched a National Environment Protection Action Plan.

What we now need in Uganda is assistance and support in three areas: We need support in enhancing our national capacities in implementation of our policies and programmes; strengthening our adaptive research and extension services; promoting investment in agriculture and agro-processing.

We believe that just as the developed countries have established manufacturing industries in developing countries to utilize cheap labour, these countries can equally produce food naturally and establish agro-processing industries in arable land that is still unutilized in our countries.

The purpose of investing in agriculture should be to eliminate peasantry farming and encourage industrialization. It will be the only way we can hope to achieve sustainable development and eliminate poverty, and hence, food insecurity.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the FAO Director-General, Dr Diouf, for his efforts towards solving the problems of food production, food security, and nutrition. I am confident he will steer this Organization to a successful and fruitful World Summit in 1996. This will, however, be possible if FAO's budget is not insecure; otherwise, FAO's capacity to lead the war against food insecurity will be seriously reduced with untold consequences. It is therefore my hope that the more developed members of our Organization, most of whom were founders of FAO and on whom the FAO budget heavily depends, will honour their commitment in time. The problem of hunger and poverty is still as grave as in 1944, especially for the least-developed countries of our global family.

CHAIRMAN: I call Mr Salah Hamdi of Tunisia to take the chair for a while. At the same time I call upon the Republic of Korea.

Salah Hamdi, Vice-chairman of the Conference, took the Chair Salah Hamdi, Vice-Président de la Conférence, assume la présidence Ocupa la presidencia Salah Hamdi, Vice-Presidente de la Conferencia

In-Kee CHOI (Korea, Republic of): Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, and distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

First, I would like to join the previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as Chairman. I am sure the Conference will produce a fruitful achievement under your guidance. I would also like to extend my warmest welcome to the new FAO member countries.

The 28th FAO Conference draws special attention because we have just celebrated the 50th anniversary of FAO, and we are facing a challenging situation in world food and agriculture as we approach the twenty-first century. I am looking forward to hearing constructive policy suggestions on the world food and agricultural problems throughout this Conference.

While admitting that FAO has positively contributed to the coordination among member countries to achieve food security and nutritional improvements during the last 50 years, I would like to share some thoughts on the need for change in this Organization.

The role of FAO in the following areas has been more limited than I believe most of the member countries would have expected.

First, since food security is difficult to achieve on a universal basis, each government's responsibility in securing food for its people should be regarded as most important.

Nevertheless, many countries are exposed to the adverse impacts of agricultural trade liberalization without suitable consideration for national food security. I would like to question if the FAO has functioned properly as a forum for linking agricultural trade issues with food security and nutritional problems, and if the FAO shares the view that the tightness of recent world food markets is a result of agricultural trade liberalization.

Another important agenda in designing a change for the FAO includes: the duplication of activities with other international organizations; a lack of policy coverage; a weakening of the dynamism from the earlier times, and a possible flooding of technical jargon without relation to reality.

It is also urgent that the FAO change into a more effective organization which addresses such important issues as agricultural environment, technology, and trade. Each aspect of the change should be policy-oriented.

I am pleased with the reorganization programmes initiated by the Director-General since his assumption of office. I promise my support for him in pursuing greater efficiency in the organization and budget, and in correcting the geographical underrepresentation of the staff in the Organization.

Now I would like to touch briefly on the issue of the current world food situation. The FAO reported that the ratio of world food stocks to consumption for 1995-96 is only 14 percent, below the suggested level of 17 percent. In addition, various research institutions have reported that the long-term food situation is rather tight.

Food security and malnutrition problems in the developing countries, I believe, are closely related to the lack of human and physical capital. The international community must pay enough attention to facilitate a solution.

The developed countries should take seriously the FAO's warning of a possible disaster resulting from food insecurity and malnutrition in the developing countries and other parts of the world.

Enhanced economic cooperation among countries within regional economic blocs may contribute to regional food security. It may, however, result in a reduction in the amount of support for the low income food deficit countries.

The food situation in the low income food deficit countries is becoming worse as a result of tight supply and high prices which are due to the production reduction programmes in the developed countries. The problem is exacerbated by the lack of production capacities and purchasing power in the developing countries.

In order to achieve world food security and nutritional improvement, the stability of world food markets and the developed countries' aid to the food-deficit developing countries are very important.

In addition, support in the areas of policy-making and technology for agricultural development in the food-importing developing countries should also be emphasized.

Sustainable agricultural development in the developing countries, where the rural population is a majority, will result in food security and nutritional improvement by enhancing purchasing power. I share the view that this is an effective method of acquiring food security in the developing countries in the long run.

Food security is treated as one of our highest priorities in Korea. However, the rate of self-sufficiency in food is now less than 30 percent.

The Korean Government has a keen interest in the stability of world agricultural markets. While abiding by international trade commitments, we are focusing on measures designed to achieve an adequate level of national agricultural production.

We are pursuing a comprehensive investment scheme in order to accomplish increased agricultural competitiveness, rural reconstruction, and the improvement of farmers' welfare in Korea.

The public good functions of agriculture, including environmental conservation, land resource management, and balanced regional growth are also being emphasized in Korea.

The implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreement of the GATT has begun in 1995. The Korean Government is complying with market access commitments even if there are significant difficulties in our domestic agricultural and rural situation.

Turning to forestry policy, Korea considers the sustainable management of forestries under the principles and Agenda 21 of the UNCED very important. We have started forestry programmes designed to increase the economic value of our forests and to utilize forestry's public service functions.

In fisheries, Korea intends to harmonize sustainable fishery with resource conservation. We are looking forward to sharing our experiences with other countries during the 25th APFIC in Korea in 1996.

There is a saying in Korea that even a long journey begins with a single step. The path leading to world food security is not an easy one. But if we firmly set out to cooperate, I am confident that we can make steady progress towards our goal of global prosperity and welfare.

Jean Prosper KOYO (Congo): Monsieur le Président, Messieurs et Mesdames les chefs des délégations, Monsieur le Directeur général de la FAO, Mesdames, Messieurs, permettez-moi à mon tour, au nom de la délégation congolaise qui m'a accompagné, et en mon nom propre, de présenter toutes nos condoléances à la délégation irakienne suite à la disparition du Ministre Rachiid. Je voudrais aussi au même titre que ceux qui m'ont précédé, du haut de cette tribune, adresser nos sincères et cordiales félicitations au Président et aux membres du Bureau de la Conférence pour la confiance que l'Organisation a placée en eux, dans la direction des travaux de la présente réunion. Les mêmes félicitations s'adressent également au Directeur général de la FAO, Monsieur Jacques Diouf, qui, depuis son élection à la tête de notre Organisation s'attelle avec dévouement et abnégation à poursuivre les objectifs et principes de l'Organisation.

Monsieur le Président, la Vingt-huitième session de la Conférence générale de la FAO se tient dans un contexte d'anniversaire. En effet, la FAO vient d'atteindre l'âge adulte de 50 ans, mais qui dit anniversaire dit bilan. Certes, en 50 ans le monde a connu des transformations et des progrès considérables dans le domaine de production agricole, forestière et halieutique mais il n'en reste pas moins vrai qu'aujourd'hui encore, le monde continue d'être préoccupé comme en 1945 par les mêmes problèmes de famine, de pauvreté, aggravés par la dégradation fort inquiétante de notre environnement.

A l'actif de l'Organisation il y a lieu de mentionner d'une part, la qualité et la disponibilité de l'assistance technique que la FAO assure à travers le monde, en particulier dans les pays en voie de développement, ce qui a permis d'améliorer dans beaucoup de cas les conditions de production et de gestion des ressources rurales, et d'autre part, le fait que la FAO constitue le lieu où tous les pays du monde entier, au-delà des considérations d'ordre politique, économique, linguistique et géographique se retrouvent régulièrement pour réfléchir ensemble et s'enrichir mutuellement des expériences des uns et des autres en matière de développement rural.

S'agissant du passif, nous devons malheureusement reconnaître que les objectifs fixés en 1945 et actualisés à plusieurs reprises n'ont pas été entièrement atteints.

Car, outre le fait que l'humanité détruit de manière de plus en plus accélérée et dangereuse son environnement, nous devons noter avec tristesse que plus de 800 millions d'humains souffrent encore, de nos jours, de famine et de malnutrition, parmi lesquels 200 millions d'enfants.

Le fossé qui sépare les pays du Nord et ceux du Sud s'accroît de jour en jour.

Il est bien entendu établi que la première cause de la famine et de la dégradation de l'environnement se trouve être la pauvreté.

Cette pauvreté frappe plus particulièrement le continent africain qui, malgré ses énormes potentialités ne parvient pas à créer les conditions d'un réel développement socio-économique.

Monsieur le Président, en choisissant le thème "Nourrir le monde" pour la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation, année 1995, la FAO réaffirme sa mission première à savoir: produire davantage de denrées alimentaires, tout en assurant une bonne répartition et un accès au plus grand nombre.

C'est justement de cela qu'il s'agit dans la Déclaration de Québec, prélude au Sommet mondial sur l'alimentation prévu en novembre 1996, que nous venons d'adopter à Québec à l'occasion du cinquantième anniversaire de la fondation de notre Organisation.

Le Gouvernement congolais, tout en saluant l'initiative du Directeur général sur la tenue de ce Sommet mondial, s'engage à apporter sa contribution à ces assises au niveau le plus élevé.

C'est ainsi que Monsieur le Président de la République, le Professeur Pascal Lissouba a accepté avec plaisir l'invitation qui lui a été adressée sur le parrainage dudit Sommet.

Monsieur le Président, distingués invités, le Congo, à l'image de la plupart d'autres pays africains dispose d'énormes potentialités naturelles caractérisées par: 10 millions d'hectares de terres arables dont seulement 200 000 ha sont cultivés; 20 millions d'ha de forêts denses soit 60 pour cent du territoire national avec un volume sur pied commercialisable d'environ 200 millions de m<sup>3</sup>; 180 000 tonnes de ressources halieutiques.

Malgré ces fortes potentialités, le Congo continue de recourir à des importations de denrées pour couvrir une part importante de ses besoins alimentaires, surtout en zones urbaines.

Face à cette situation particulièrement préoccupante, le Gouvernement congolais a défini en 1993, dans le cadre du Programme d'action et de relance économique et sociale (PARESO), une nouvelle politique du secteur rural qui s'articule autour des axes ci-après: désengagement de l'Etat du secteur productif; décentralisation et renforcement des structures locales d'encadrement et de vulgarisation; relance de la production agricole forestière et halieutique, tout en conciliant développement et conservation du milieu; dynamisation de la coopération bilatérale et multilatérale.

C'est précisément dans le cadre de cette nouvelle politique que le Congo élabore à présent le schéma directeur du secteur rural, le Programme d'action forestier national et le Plan national d'action environnemental avec l'appui combiné déterminant de la FAO, de la Banque mondiale et des coopérations bilatérales française et allemande.

La visite de terrain que le Directeur général de la FAO a effectuée au Congo en décembre 1994 est une forme très appréciée de la coopération agissante entre la FAO et le Congo.

Aussi, je profite de l'occasion qui m'est offerte pour, non seulement louer le rôle catalytique de la FAO dans la réalisation effective de la nouvelle politique congolaise en matière de développement rural, mais également réaffirmer le soutien du Congo au programme budget 1996-1997 proposé par le Directeur Général de la FAO.

S'agissant justement des moyens dont notre organisation a tant besoin pour mener à bien son programme, je suis heureux d'annoncer à la Conférence que le Gouvernement de mon pays vient de payer 20 millions de FCFA soit 39 443 dollars E.-U. au titre des arriérés de contribution.

En dépit de la crise financière qui secoue mon pays depuis une dizaine d'années, cet effort sera poursuivi par le paiement d'ici la fin de l'année des 25 autres millions FCFA soit 50 000 dollars E.-U. au titre de la contribution de 1995 et du fonctionnement de la représentation de la FAO à Brazzaville.

Monsieur le Président, distingués Chefs de délégation, je ne saurais terminer mon propos sans attirer l'attention collective de la communauté internationale, que nous représentons tous ici, sur les risques graves et lourds de conséquences que court notre espèce si nous ne parvenons pas à créer, à moyen terme, les conditions d'éradication de la pauvreté sur notre planète, préalable sine qua none à la conservation et à la gestion durable de nos ressources naturelles aujourd'hui dangereusement menacées.

Kalevi HEMELA (Finland): Mr Chairman, first of all I would like to congratulate you, and the Vice-Chairmen on your elections. The delegation of Finland warmly welcomes all the five new members that have joined FAO during this Conference. We were also very pleased to learn in Quebec that the Russian Federation has officially informed FAO of its intention to join the Organization in 1997. This is an important step towards universality in the membership of FAO.

The delegation of Finland largely welcomes the new orientations and measures that the Director-General has taken during his first two years in office. The fact that the global food security situation and its outlook for the future are increasingly precarious was repeatedly emphasized in the ministerial meeting commemorating FAO's fiftieth anniversary in Quebec City last week. The situation in sub-Saharan Africa, where food production has declined for more than two decades, is a cause of growing concern also in this context.



Although the first call for FAO must be to improve global food security and in particular to increase food production and productivity in the low-income food-deficit countries, the overriding prerequisite for the success of such programmes is that the criterion of sustainability be brought into them right from the planning stages. Food production programmes must be integrated into and well coordinated with national development plans and the programmes of other external partners. The special programmes initiated by the Director-General must be tailor-made for the countries where they are launched. Yet, to be fully successful, they should provide a catalytic model for other countries in similar situations.

Increased food production and productivity, like other FAO programmes, must of course be seen in the light of FAO's ongoing work of promoting the objectives and programmes of action of the recent global conferences that are of particular relevance to FAO. Among them are sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries as a follow-up to Rio, striking a balance between economic growth, environmental concerns and population relevant policies adopted in Cairo, measures for reducing poverty and advancing employment as agreed in Copenhagen, as well as the empowerment of women and girls as a result of Beijing. By promoting these objectives the international community is jointly working for sustainable human and economic development. In our view FAO is a critically important partner in this effort, not least because of its special responsibilities in food production, in balanced utilization of renewable natural resources and in environmental protection as well as in enhancing the central role of women both as producers and consumers. FAO can provide invaluable normative support and policy advice as a centre of excellence in its own field of competence.

My own country, Finland, became a member of the European Union at the beginning of this year. Thereafter our agricultural policy became a part of the common agricultural policy of the European Union. This has caused considerable adjustment problems to our farming population and food industries because the producer prices declined steeply with the membership. Special support measures during the period of transition have, to some extent, helped the farmers, although the adjustment process is still under way.

Finland, like the other Nordic Countries, has always strongly emphasized the role of women in the activities of FAO. In all developing regions of the world, but especially in Africa, the role of women as food producers is of critical importance.

We have noted with satisfaction the revised FAO Plan of Action for Women in Development and its very down-to-earth approach to gender problems and its concrete and realistic proposals as to how FAO can be effective in assisting female farmers and other rural women to achieve their proper position in society. We attach special importance to FAO's work in close cooperation with NGOs, especially with farmers' unions, in this respect.

I also urge the member countries to make greater efforts to present women candidates for Professional posts within FAO, and to include more women in their delegations to FAO meetings and conferences.

Forestry is an important element of sustainable development in many countries. We hope that the outcome of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests will, in the framework of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, facilitate reaching an agreement on the international forest instrument. Finland supports the Panel by arranging a Seminar on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management in August 1996. We have also offered, in cooperation with FAO, to arrange an Expert Consultation on Forest Resources Assessment 2000.

FAO gave a major input as a Task Manager of UN organizations in the field of forestry to the preparations of CSD session on forestry matters held this spring. We find it important that the Organization maintains its active role in the future as well. We also hope that the Organization will attach more importance to forestry and its connections to agriculture in its programme of work with a view to promoting sustainable forestry management and practices.

Our Organization finds itself in a financial crisis. If we really want FAO to perform those vital tasks that so forcefully were once more highlighted by the Ministers in Quebec City, it must have the resources for that performance. The Member States must meet their obligations to the Organization in full and on time. Yet, the budget to be adopted must be realistic in the sense that the expected income should cover the programme

of work including administrative expenditures. In a year's time the World Food Summit will take place here in Rome. The decisions of the Summit will, without doubt, present new obligations to FAO.

Ira D'AUVERGNE (Saint Lucia): Mr Chairman it is my honour today to address this Plenary Session on behalf of the 14 Member states of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) as well as on my own behalf as Minister of Agriculture of Saint Lucia.

In this context, I wish to add our congratulations to yourself and the Vice-Chairpersons for the confidence placed in you as evidenced by your election to the respective offices of this 28th FAO Conference.

Mr Chairman, food for all does not only mean access by all people at all times to the food needed for a healthy life. More importantly, and indeed more profoundly, it means the opportunity for all peoples to feed themselves by their own efforts. Food aid is but a temporary solution to the main problem, but a plaster on a wound which, while giving some immediate relief, is not necessarily a cure. We must work as much as possible towards a total cure by assisting deprived people to find a lasting solution through equipping them to undertake that journey no matter how long and hazardous it may be, for, in the final analysis, it is the right of every human being to live in dignity and not in a situation of on and off dependence.

At the same time, developing nations which by their sustained efforts, with or without the assistance of donor countries, have managed over time to achieve a certain level of development, should not have this advance arrested or eroded by the sudden move into trade liberalization now being pursued by more powerful nations. This demonstrates insensitivity to the disastrous consequences to small nation economies which are not endowed with the technology and the resources to equip their human resources to meet this challenge in the short term.

Agriculture is the heart of the economic activity of most CARICOM States and is vital to our economic well-being and social and political stability. For example, our market share in bananas in the European Union is less than 3 percent and we depend on this minuscule percentage to maintain, educate and sustain our population. Therefore it goes without saying that if the rug of preferential protection is pulled from under our feet, the result will be serious economic and political upheaval thereby inflicting upon our people the unspeakable misery and degradation which every member of FAO, at this and other fora, has vowed to eliminate.

Therefore trade liberalization should be pursued in a reasonable and gradual way, in stages and not all at once. Simultaneously developing countries should be provided with technical assistance to help them diversify and improve their productivity especially in the poorer areas of the world.

We are here examining the State of Food and Agriculture even as some very challenging circumstances have an impact on the growth and development of the sector. From our perspective, the major global challenges affecting CARICOM agriculture are:

- i) UNCED Agenda 21 (1992), and the need to pursue agricultural activities in a manner which does not result in destruction of the environment, yet still allows for increased efficiency of resource use in production;
- ii) The Uruguay Round Arrangements (1994) (and the new international trading arrangements which have resulted) which now threaten the viability of our major agricultural crops which have traditionally benefited from special marketing agreements.

In this regard, I refer specifically to the incendiary debate on the banana trade and the recent interventions being made under the WTO to effect significant rolling back of current ACP-EEC arrangements with disastrous consequences to the banana industry and economies of many small island states of the Caribbean -St. Lucia being one of them.

In addition to these global challenges the vulnerability of our Member Nations states cannot be ignored. In this regard, our vulnerability can be viewed from two perspectives. Firstly, from an economic viewpoint we are not sufficiently large producers to command or demand a special price in the market and must per force accept the going price in most circumstances. Secondly, as has been evident this year, many of the island

nations of CARICOM are prone to natural disasters, in particular hurricanes which wreak havoc with our economies overall and our agriculture especially. As an example Hurricane Luis destroyed 90 percent of the banana industry in Dominica. Antigua was devastated and suffered even greater losses. This was in the wake of Tropical Storm Debbie which in 1994 caused about US\$111 million worth of damage in Saint Lucia.

Under these circumstances we in CARICOM stress the need for continuing in global partnership and strengthened cooperation and collaboration, with intergovernmental organizations such as FAO playing a pivotal role. We reaffirm that in the global circumstances of pervasive malnutrition and the projected demand for food for the anticipated increase in world population, the mission and mandate of FAO is still valid after 50 years.

It follows that the issue of food security, encompassing not only production but also distribution and availability and access to food, is one that should always be of common concern and receive the attention of all governments. Recognizing this the Standing Committee of Ministers Responsible for Agriculture of the Caribbean Community at its 18th Meeting in June 1995 in Trinidad and Tobago unanimously adopted a resolution in support of the initiative of the Director-General to convene the World Food Summit with its focus on world food security.

I am pleased to report that this resolution also received support at the highest political level within CARICOM with its endorsement by the July 1995 meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government. I am confident that many of our Heads of Government will participate in the World Food Summit in November 1996 since, as an indication of the importance attached to Agriculture, our Heads are convening a special Conference on Agriculture in March 1996.

The 28th Session of the FAO Conference marks the first opportunity for the membership to review the performance of our new Director-General and to provide him with the vote of confidence to pursue and deepen the strategies elaborated early in his tenure and to be formalized in the Programme of Work and Budget for the coming biennium. I take this opportunity to congratulate the Director-General on his sterling efforts to review, reorganize and restructure the operations of the Secretariat, positioning it to be more responsive, efficient and effective in addressing the needs of the membership, particularly those small and islandic developing countries like those of the Caribbean which continue to depend on this Organization for strategic policy assistance and advice and programmatic support in meeting the diverse challenges to agricultural, forestry, fisheries and rural development. The leadership and direction provided by the Director-General in the first two years of his tenure have been exemplary.

This is reflected, too, in the quality of the documentation prepared for our consideration - the Programme Evaluation Report, the Programme Implementation Report and the Medium-term Plan, a triad of documents which form the context for the 1996-97 Programme of Work and Budget.

We fully endorse the budget proposals and would argue that the proposals of the Director-General for a zero real growth budget represents the very least that we should support in light of the continuing demands we make on FAO and the real need requiring to be met in relation to poverty alleviation, reduction of malnutrition and overall improvement of the well-being of rural peoples. In any event in a spirit of global cooperation we should strive for consensus on the level of the budget.

In assessing the proposals for the Programme of Work and Budget for the 1996-97 biennium, I submit that we should focus more on why than on how much. In this regard, Mr Chairman, reference is drawn to the recent statement of Ambassador Madeleine K. Albright, US Permanent Representative to the United Nations who, in a recent statement to the Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly said "In approaching the budget in the Fifth Committee, we should ask not 'how much' but 'why?'". In like manner we need to ask ourselves why FAO should undertake the activities outlined in the Programme of Work and Budget rather than how much they would cost. In doing so, I submit that we would assist FAO to sharpen its focus, become even more productive and increase its delivery of policy advice and technical assistance to Member Nations.

It would be remiss of me, Mr Chairman, if I fail to refer to some of the initiatives being undertaken at a regional level in CARICOM and in my own country. At the Caribbean Community level we have recently prepared a revised programme for agricultural development which is underpinned by the philosophy and strategy of providing support to the differential agricultural thrusts at national levels. In addition, among

other things we are increasing our cooperation in the sustainable management of fisheries and strengthening the linkages between indigenous primary agricultural production and agroprocessing. With the aid of FAO, IIC A, USD A (among other agencies), we continue to work on the eradication of the tick Amblyomma variegatum which has decimated the livestock populations in some countries. Recently, some of these agencies have again joined forces with us to fight the spread of the Pink Mealybug which is currently widespread in Grenada, gaining foothold in Trinidad and Tobago and threatening to spread to other countries in the region.

With respect to my own country, recognizing the imperatives of the new international trading arrangements, we are working against considerable odds to promote the diversification of our agricultural production base. Among our limited successes to date are increases in commercial fisheries and aquacultural activity, as well as pineapple, vegetable and tree crop production. In addition, we have succeeded in establishing a community-based programme in watershed management which we are confident will contribute to the protection of our fragile ecosystem and the sustainability of our rural communities and agricultural production in the future.

The countries in the Caribbean have benefited in the past from the various partnership associations with intergovernmental organizations in our economies overall, and particularly in relation to agricultural production and its contribution to our strengthened food security. Of late, however, we see signs which could be interpreted to be the desire of some countries to withdraw from their association with the intergovernmental organizations which in turn, would severely weaken the association between the intergovernmental organizations and developing countries like ourselves. In view of the critical and immediate need to address national and global food security to which I earlier referred, I urge an urgent review of our approach to the FAO Programme of Work and Budget. Let us focus on the "Why" and not on the "how much".

Idi MAMANE (Niger): Monsieur le Président, Honorables délégués, Mesdames et Messieurs. La délégation du Niger présente ses condoléances les plus attristées à la délégation de l'Iraq suite au décès de son Ministre de l'agriculture. La délégation du Niger salue l'admission des nouveaux membres au sein de notre Organisation.

Monsieur le Président. Je m'associe aux honorables délégués qui m'ont précédé pour vous exprimer mes félicitations pour votre brillante élection.

Permettez-moi de saisir cette occasion pour exprimer également notre satisfaction et notre soutien au Directeur général, M. Jacques Diouf, pour les efforts déployés pour redynamiser notre Organisation et pour les réformes entreprises pour améliorer l'efficacité et l'efficience de notre Organisation.

Notre présente session se tient à un moment où l'analyse de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture révèle des inquiétudes. En effet, près de 800 millions de personnes souffrent de sous-alimentation chronique dans le tiers monde, dont 192 millions d'enfants de moins de cinq ans atteints de carences protéino-énergétiques aiguës ou chroniques.

Face à cette situation, le combat engagé il y a 50 ans par notre Organisation, pour contribuer à l'expansion de l'économie mondiale et libérer l'humanité de la faim, reste plus que jamais d'actualité.

Aussi, ma contribution abordera-t-elle la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture qui prévaut dans mon pays et les mesures de politiques mises en oeuvre par le Gouvernement de la République du Niger pour améliorer la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle des populations nigériennes.

Sur un plan d'ensemble, il y a lieu de rappeler que les productions végétales, l'élevage, la sylviculture et la pêche demeurent les principaux moyens de subsistance de la population nigérienne. En effet, l'économie nigérienne est largement dominée par les activités agricoles. L'agriculture constitue 85 pour cent des emplois et contribue pour 37,5 pour cent au Produit intérieur brut. La performance du secteur agricole et sa contribution au Produit intérieur brut, irrégulières depuis 30 ans, dépendent surtout des conditions climatiques.

Ainsi, depuis 1971, le Niger dépend de plus en plus des importations pour satisfaire ses besoins alimentaires, des importations alimentaires qui prennent des proportions très inquiétantes.

A partir de 1990, malgré une tendance à la normalisation de la pluviométrie, les importations céréalières ont contribué significativement à la satisfaction des besoins alimentaires des populations.

Pour les années 1994 et 1995, le coût des importations des produits alimentaires vont accuser une forte augmentation suite à la dévaluation du franc CFA intervenue en janvier 1994. Une hausse significative des prix est actuellement observée, notamment au niveau du riz importé.

Sur le plan nutritionnel, toutes les enquêtes réalisées de 1985 à 1992 ont révélé que la population nigérienne ne bénéficie pas d'un statut nutritionnel satisfaisant. Les principales pathologies nutritionnelles identifiées sont la malnutrition protéino-énergétique, l'avitaminose A, l'anémie nutritionnelle et les troubles dûs à la carence en iode. Elles sont des problèmes majeurs de santé publique au Niger.

Je voudrais à présent aborder quelques repères quant aux politiques mises en oeuvre ou envisagées par mon gouvernement pour améliorer l'état alimentaire et nutritionnel des populations nigériennes. Depuis plusieurs années, le développement rural a, de façon constante, occupé une place primordiale dans la politique de développement du Niger.

Notre stratégie repose aujourd'hui sur les axes prioritaires suivants: une gestion intégrée des ressources naturelles, l'organisation du monde rural, la participation des populations et la modification du rôle de l'Etat, la sécurité alimentaire, l'intensification et la diversification des productions, et le financement du monde rural.

La mise en oeuvre de cette politique s'exerce dans un cadre de libéralisation économique dans lequel le rôle de l'Etat consiste principalement à promouvoir un environnement institutionnel et juridique favorable, un environnement professionnel adéquat, un environnement financier actif, et un environnement économique incitatif.

Sur le plan nutritionnel, les orientations stratégiques ont pris en compte les objectifs généraux proposés par la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition et ont défini les objectifs spécifiques qu'il faut atteindre au cours de la période 1996-2000. Il s'agira de mettre en oeuvre des programmes pour vaincre les principales pathologies nutritionnelles.

Depuis la grande sécheresse de 1984, plusieurs secteurs de développement ont exprimé de façon explicite les préoccupations d'ordre nutritionnel dans leurs plans et programmes. C'est le cas notamment des secteurs de l'agriculture, de l'élevage, de la santé. Ces secteurs sont renforcés dans leurs actions par les plans d'opération des agences de coopération bilatérale et internationale, des bailleurs de fonds et des organisations non gouvernementales. Les efforts en la matière sont restés sectoriels et cloisonnés en raison d'un manque de cadre de concertation entre les différents acteurs et d'une orientation claire priorisant les questions nutritionnelles dans les plans et programmes de développement. Cette insuffisance est en train d'être comblée avec l'élaboration en cours d'une nouvelle stratégie de nutrition avec l'appui de la FAO.

Pour les prochaines années, le secteur agricole continuera d'être, au Niger, le principal moteur de la relance économique. A la faveur d'une amélioration des conditions climatiques de ces dernières années, on note avec satisfaction la reprise de certaines productions telles que l'arachide, principale ressource d'exportation du Niger pendant les années 1960. Dans le cadre de l'intensification et de la diversification de la production agro-sylvo-pastorale, des réflexions sont en cours pour développer les filières, notamment celles des produits agricoles bénéficiant des marchés extérieurs et pour lesquels le Niger jouit d'un avantage comparatif. Dans la perspective de la relance de ces filières porteuses, des mesures sont envisagées pour améliorer les conditions de l'investissement dans le secteur rural. Il s'agira notamment de trouver une solution adéquate et durable au problème de financement du monde rural, de promouvoir l'émergence d'opérateurs privés nationaux et étrangers compétents et de les amener à s'intéresser à la production, à la commercialisation et à la transformation des produits agricoles.

Dans le cadre de l'amélioration de leur sécurité alimentaire, plusieurs pays ont besoin d'une assistance financière et technique. Permettez-moi de saisir l'occasion qui m'est offerte pour exprimer notre reconnaissance aux pays et organismes qui soutiennent le Niger dans son combat contre l'insécurité alimentaire. Il me plaît de saluer ici l'initiative prise par le Directeur général de la FAO pour lancer le Programme spécial pour la production alimentaire dans les pays à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier. Il y a également lieu de saluer l'initiative du Directeur général de mettre en place un système de prévention et de

réponse rapide (EMPRES) contre les ravageurs et les maladies transfrontières des animaux et des plantes dont l'extension est ici souhaitée pour prendre en compte l'Afrique occidentale qui renferme à son sein des zones de reproduction du criquet pèlerin.

Plusieurs pays ont eu et continuent à recourir à l'aide alimentaire pour sauver des vies humaines. C'est le cas de mon pays qui, confronté aux aléas climatiques, enregistre périodiquement des déficits vivriers qui exposent une partie de la population à l'insécurité alimentaire. Pour l'année 1996, la probabilité pour le Niger de recourir à l'aide alimentaire est grande. En effet, la campagne agricole qui vient de s'achever n'a pas partout répondu aux attentes des populations à cause des dégâts importants occasionnés par les sauteriaux sur les cultures.

Devant la diminution des livraisons d'aide alimentaire enregistrées ces dernières années, c'est le lieu ici pour les pays - comme le Niger, confronté aux déficits vivriers pour lesquels le recours à l'aide alimentaire devient souvent une nécessité - de reconnaître avec la plus grande lucidité, la contribution significative de l'aide alimentaire à l'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire et au développement des pays à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier, et d'exprimer à juste titre leurs préoccupations quant à la tendance observée.

Dans le cadre de la recherche de la sécurité alimentaire, il me plaît de saluer la clairvoyance et l'initiative du Directeur général de la FAO d'organiser un Sommet mondial de l'alimentation.

L'on se souvient encore, en 1974, lors de la Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation, que les gouvernements ont proclamé solennellement que "chaque homme, femme et enfant a le droit inaliénable d'être libéré de la faim et de la malnutrition afin de développer pleinement ses facultés physiques et morales". Après plus de vingt ans, force est de constater que cet objectif n'est pas encore atteint. En effet, plusieurs millions d'êtres humains à travers le monde endurent les affres de la faim, de la sous-alimentation et de la malnutrition, véritables aberrations et scandales économique-technologiques à l'orée du 21ème siècle.

L'organisation du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation à Rome, en novembre 1966, à laquelle ma délégation adhère totalement, sera certainement l'occasion, pour les dirigeants de ce monde, au plus haut niveau, de réaffirmer leur adhésion aux principes sur lesquels se fonde notre Organisation et de renouveler leur engagement de supprimer la faim et la malnutrition et d'assurer la sécurité alimentaire pour tous, grâce à l'adoption des politiques et des mesures concrètes aux niveaux mondial, régional et national.

Je voudrais, avant de terminer, réitérer notre profonde reconnaissance aux pays et organismes amis qui nous ont toujours appuyés dans notre bataille pour le développement et contre la faim, la sous-alimentation et la malnutrition.

Je souhaite plein succès à nos travaux.

Je vous remercie.

Theodoros STATHIS (Greece): On behalf of the Greek Government, I would like to congratulate you on your election to the chairmanship of the Conference. I also extend my congratulations to the Vice-Chairmen on their election.

The overall setting in which the 28th Conference of FAO takes place, on the eve of the 21st century, is one which seems to be moving towards a delicate balance. The world economy is currently regaining growth, mainly due to the continuing dynamic economic take-off of east Asia and, to a lesser extent, to the modest recovery of OECD countries. Furthermore, the Uruguay Round Agreements have initiated the liberalization of the trade process which is expected to provide some opportunities for several countries to exploit their comparative advantages and give a further boost to world trade.

We should not, however, overestimate these positive signs of recovery. As the UNCTAD Trade and Development Report states, the world economy has been losing steam in 1995. Growth in Latin America as a whole will fall from 3.5 percent to 2 percent. The developed market economies are also expected to slow down. However, growth in developing countries of Asia will accelerate and a number of countries in Central and Eastern Europe will also show continued advance. On the other hand, unemployment is now a veritable

scourge in the developed market economies. Unemployment has risen sharply in the OECD countries, from an average of 3.2 percent of the labour force from 1960 to 1973 to 7.3 percent from 1980 to 1994. In the last year, 34 million people were out of work. The quality of new jobs created has been poor on the whole, while most are also low-paid. In addition, although today there is enough food in the world for everybody, there are still nearly 800 million people suffering from chronic malnutrition, and at least another 32 million victims of man-made and natural disasters are threatened with acute hunger.

I will not try to analyse what is very well established in this Organization, namely that at the root of the problem are poverty, underdevelopment and man-made disasters. It is appropriate to stress once again, however, that the elimination of hunger and malnutrition remains the main challenge even into the 21st century.

Food and agricultural development, on the other hand, is also in an unstable balance. The long depression of world market agricultural prices is at least partially halted. This very recent development, together with the initiation of reforms consequent to the Uruguay Agreement on Agriculture, is expected to provide benefits to exporting but not to importing countries. This means that of all countries those with low income will face the greatest difficulties.

The goal of universal food security and the objectives of reducing chronic undernutrition as well as improving nutritional well-being will retain its high priority. Over the last decades, many countries have admittedly experienced improvements in the quantity and quality of food supplies. Taking into account the latest assessments, however, according to which the world's agricultural growth rate up to 2010 is likely to be lower than at any time in recent history, we have to retain our cautiousness and remain alert.

In this respect, it is a very worrying fact that so-called "aid fatigue" now prevails among members of the international community. Taking into account the diminishing level of world cereal stocks, as well as the increasing budgetary restraints in all countries, it appears that even the exceptions that the Uruguay Round Agreement in Agriculture have initiated for the benefit of ensuring world food security may be proved insufficient to meet an extensive food emergency. The theme of the 50th anniversary of FAO, "Food for All", therefore, sends the right message: that effective production and distribution of food still remains a live issue.

In this context, the Quebec Declaration is a very useful document and will prove itself to be a locomotive, for both FAO and its separate Member Nations, taking us towards our future targets.

Lasting food security, sustainable development and equity imperatives cannot be met with the increased availability of food alone. It will be essential to discuss the theme "Invest to Nourish the World" at next year's World Summit Meeting. There is urgent need for investment both of human and physical resources in the agricultural sector. It is also true, however, that this will be met only if there is a favourable economic environment and proper financial institutions to ensure adequate revenue, stability and the reduction of risk for the producers. I believe that these are essential prerequisites for ensuring that investment in agriculture is met primarily by domestic savings at farm or household level.

Furthermore, the reconciliation of the long-term objective of sustainable development with the short-term objective of increasing agricultural and food production, as well as income for the present generation, is a very difficult but high-ranking task. Indeed, we understand that developed and developing countries attach different priorities to increased production and environmental protection objectives. We believe, however, that there is scope for achieving lasting and viable development for future generations by making agricultural systems more sustainable and by avoiding the export of bad farm practices to the developing world.

Agriculture can certainly have a dual effect on the environment. Agricultural activity may serve to protect but, at the same time, contribute to adverse effects on the environment.

Agricultural reforms that have been initiated by the Uruguay Agricultural Agreement can contribute positively to the aim of environmental protection and conservation of natural resources only if they lead to the adoption of slower evolutionary rather than revolutionary methods of production.

This brings me to the crucial issue of research in agriculture as a means for achieving the goals of Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development (SARD). In my view, the new cooperation agreements between FAO and the Member States are of particular importance. My country's interest in this form of activity is reflected by the recent signing of such an agreement between FAO and the Greek Ministry of Agriculture.

Agricultural activities are the main but not the only ones practised in the countryside. The development of rural areas therefore calls for a more integrated approach. Rural development, being much broader than agricultural development, is not only an issue of increasing rural finance, improving infrastructure or enhancing the adoption of new and appropriate technologies or even coping with the problem of institutional reorganization. It is also an issue of human resource base development. This is the basic factor for success. In this regard the active participation of the rural population in the local decision-making process is of great significance.

Particular emphasis should be given to the role of women in the development process. I trust that the FAO revised Plan of Action for Women in Development will enforce their contribution and will provide the necessary response to the global events.

Last but not least, Mr Chairman, I would like to raise the issue on the roles of FAO in the context of severe budgetary restraints on the one hand and the need for FAO restructuring in order to adjust to the changing international environment on the other.

First of all, I wish to reaffirm my government's agreement to the basic roles of FAO as these are set out on the Medium-term Plan 1996-2001.

Furthermore, I fully agree that the translation of these roles into congruent sets of priorities and activities in the framework of the Medium-term Plan will clearly depend on the volume of resources put at the Organization's disposal.

It is true that the problem of budgetary constraints is currently characterizing practically all international organizations and countries; yet it is our indispensable duty to ensure that FAO, in its restructured form, will find its way to its future work without putting its basic programmes at any risk.

Aguinaldo LISBOA RAMOS (Cap-Vert): Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général de la FAO, Monsieur le Président indépendant du Conseil, Messieurs les Ministres, Mesdames et Messieurs. Permettez-moi, Monsieur le Président, tout d'abord, de vous exprimer mes chaleureuses félicitations pour votre brillante élection à la présidence de la vingt-huitième session de la Conférence générale de la FAO. Ma satisfaction est encore plus grande puisque vous êtes l'illustre Ministre de l'agriculture d'un petit pays, insulaire comme le mien, donc profond connaisseur des problèmes particuliers qui caractérisent ce groupe de pays.

Je suis convaincu que vous saurez animer avec fermeté et dynamisme, les débats où seront analysées des questions vitales et d'extrême importance pour notre Organisation.

Je suis heureux de saisir cette occasion pour féliciter les nouveaux Etats Membres notamment l'Azerbaïdjan, la Géorgie, Moldova, le Turkménistan et le Tadjikistan.

Leur admission comme membres de cette noble famille réaffirme la vocation universelle de cette Organisation et constitue pour nous motif de satisfaction et de joie.

Permettez-moi, également, de saluer la présence parmi nous du Directeur général de la FAO, qui témoigne ainsi l'importance qu'il accorde à l'Organisation et aux problèmes qui l'affectent.

Pendant ces deux années de son mandat, il a su réaliser avec dévouement et zèle un profond travail, en mettant toute son intelligence au service de cette prestigieuse institution internationale.

Monsieur Jacques Diouf n'a pas permis que les espoirs et certitudes de ceux qui l'ont élu puissent être frustrés, en se consacrant avec courage, forte détermination et esprit créateur à l'accomplissement de son programme et des décisions issues de la 27<sup>ème</sup> Conférence. Il est juste de souligner comment, dans les



étroites limites budgétaires, il a réussi à définir un programme continu de restructuration et de décentralisation de l'Organisation qui a été approuvé à l'unanimité par le Conseil à sa 106ème session et dont les résultats ont déjà commencé à être probants.

Avec cette restructuration qui continue et avec les deux programmes spéciaux également approuvés - le PSPA et l'EMPRES - son nom figure déjà, sans ambages, dans l'histoire de la FAO.

Je ne peux pas laisser de mentionner, à cette occasion, l'importance de la visite que le Directeur général a bien voulu effectuer au mois de mai dernier à mon pays, ce qui a été pour nous un motif de grande satisfaction et d'encouragement.

Ces visites se revêtent de grande utilité pour la FAO et ses Etats Membres parce qu'elles constituent des occasions uniques pour, d'un côté, le plus haut responsable de l'Organisation de connaître la réalité du pays, évaluer ce qui est fait dans les domaines de l'agriculture et d'établir des contacts à très haut niveau avec plusieurs responsables de l'Administration, et, de l'autre côté, pour ceux-ci de réaffirmer leur engagement et leurs compromis vis-à-vis de l'Organisation.

Monsieur le Président, la Conférence est un forum privilégié d'analyses et de débats de la situation de l'agriculture, des pêches, de l'alimentation et des questions importantes y afférentes.

Nous sommes, donc, sûrs que dans cette rencontre, comme par le passé, seront adoptées des résolutions capables de contribuer à l'élimination de la faim, de la misère et du sous-développement de la face de la terre.

De gros efforts sont déployés pour la résolution des problèmes les plus urgents qui affectent encore l'humanité, tels que la faim et la malnutrition, la pauvreté, la dégradation de l'environnement, la sécheresse, la désertification, les catastrophes naturelles lesquels, dans leurs ensemble, constituent d'énormes défis à relever dans le cadre de la politique de développement durable.

Malheureusement, c'est dans le continent africain que la situation se présente toujours avec une plus grande gravité. La faible augmentation de la production alimentaire ne suit pas la croissance démographique accélérée. Le nombre de personnes sous-alimentées ne cesse d'augmenter.

Le Cap-Vert est persuadé que la solution de ces défis est une tâche qui revient à toute la communauté internationale dans un cadre de solidarité entre les divers partenaires de développement. Il continue de soutenir indéfectiblement l'action de la FAO pour la totale réalisation des objectifs consacrés dans ses textes fondamentaux.

Monsieur le Président, pays sahélien avec un climat très irrégulier, écologiquement faible et vulnérable, toujours sujet à un processus de dégradation accélérée de l'environnement et de ses ressources naturelles, le Cap-Vert pratique une agriculture avec un potentiel de production de biens alimentaires assez limité, de loin insuffisant pour nourrir sa population.

Cependant le secteur agricole, malgré cette fragilité continue, a joué un rôle crucial dans l'économie nationale surtout si l'on tient compte qu'un pourcentage élevé de la population dépend de l'agriculture.

Considérant que la sécurité alimentaire et l'accès aux aliments sont une de ses plus grandes préoccupations, le Gouvernement du Cap-Vert mise sur la modernisation de l'agriculture. Ainsi il met à sa disposition d'importantes ressources financières et techniques, promeut la formation et l'introduction de nouvelles techniques et technologies, développe la participation populaire, valorise le rôle de la femme dans le processus économique et il a créé un service de crédit agricole et dynamisé les mécanismes du commerce.

Cet effort ne peut être possible que grâce à l'appui précieux des partenaires du développement de mon pays parmi lesquels la FAO maintient une place de premier plan dès le lendemain de l'indépendance nationale.

A ce sujet, j'aimerais vivement remercier tous ceux, en particulier la FAO, qui promptement, ont pu répondre à l'appel lancé par le Gouvernement du Cap-Vert dans le but d'aider les victimes de la récente éruption volcanique dans l'île de Fogo et la récupération agricole de la zone atteinte.

Monsieur le Président, la campagne agricole 1995/96, contrairement aux dernières années, où l'on a enregistré une pluviométrie trop déficitaire avec des répercussions assez négatives sur le volume de production agricole, a bénéficié aux mois de juillet, août, septembre et début octobre de pluies généralisées dans presque tout le pays permettant une vigueur végétative des cultures.

Si l'on considère encore que la situation phytosanitaire se présente sans grande incidence de maladies et ennemis des cultures, on peut prétendre à une année agricole meilleure que celle de l'année passée, surtout en termes de fixation d'espèces forestières et fruitières, du pâturage et de la recharge de la nappe phréatique.

On prévoit que bientôt une mission conjointe FAO/CILSS/CAP-VERT procédera à l'évaluation de l'année agricole et des disponibilités et besoins alimentaires pour 1996-97.

Monsieur le Président, nous sommes conscients de la crise financière que connaissent les organisations internationales, en particulier celles du système des Nations Unies dont la FAO fait partie. Les efforts déployés par le Directeur général pour réduire et rationaliser les dépenses sont dûment appréciés et ont d'ailleurs déjà une forte incidence sur le Programme de travail et budget pour 1996/97 soumis à cette Conférence pour approbation.

Nous félicitons le Directeur général du fait que ce Programme de travail et budget ait été établi dans une perspective globale et à long terme sans recours aux arriérés de contributions pour le financer, et des efforts dans le sens de réduire de façon significative les augmentations de coût sans affecter les programmes prioritaires, cherchant ainsi à donner satisfaction aux préoccupations manifestées par les Etats Membres.

Donc, et considérant, d'une part, les priorités établies, notamment le PSPA, l'EMPRES, le CTPD et le PCT, les programmes relatifs à l'aménagement des sols, la diversification de cultures, la participation populaire, et, par ailleurs, le contexte économique défavorable et les difficultés financières de diverse nature que connaissent les Etats Membres en général, la délégation cap-verdienne réitère son appui au principe de croissance réelle zéro défini sur la base budgétaire du programme et budget 1994/95, soit 673 millions de dollars E.-U., et donne son accord pour l'approbation du Programme de travail et budget pour 1996-97 tel que présenté.

En effet, quoique loin de couvrir les nombreux besoins des Etats Membres, cette base budgétaire a le mérite de prendre en compte le contexte économique et politique actuel.

Bien que le le Cap-Vert possède de rares ressources naturelles, étant détenteur d'une vaste zone économique exclusive, le secteur des pêches est stratégique pour son développement.

Ainsi, nous appuyons l'adoption du Projet de code de conduite pour une pêche responsable. La survie de ce secteur dépend de la rationalisation de la gestion des ressources halieutiques, ce qui présuppose l'existence de règles qui garantissent la pratique d'une pêche responsable, condition fondamentale pour le développement durable des pêches.

Malgré les réductions budgétaires qui affectent le Grand Programme Pêches, il nous est agréable de constater que l'élaboration d'un programme d'appui aux petits Etats insulaires en développement a été prévu.

Pour les pays pauvres comme le nôtre, le Programme de coopération technique (PCT) s'est révélé d'importance capitale dans la résolution de problèmes ponctuels et urgents. Pour cela, nous regrettons la situation financière de l'Organisation qui ne permet pas une plus grande augmentation des ressources, comme le recommande la Résolution 9/89 de la 25ème Conférence. Nous espérons que cette contrainte sera surmontée dans un avenir proche.

Nous sommes heureux des premières activités du PCDC et souhaitons la consolidation de ce programme.

La participation populaire revêt aussi une importance considérable dans la promotion du développement rural. Il est réservé à l'Etat le rôle dans la création de conditions pour que les populations puissent, de façon responsable, assumer consciemment leurs problèmes, les évaluer et les résoudre en accord avec leurs aspirations et besoins.

Le peuple cap-verdien, malgré les multiples contraintes, participe activement au processus de développement socio-économique du Pays, en harmonie avec les mesures de politiques adoptés par le Gouvernement.

La femme joue un rôle prépondérant dans le processus de développement à travers les responsabilités et les fonctions qui lui reviennent dans la société, comme agent promoteur de biens alimentaires.

Le statut de la femme dans la société n'est pas encore à la hauteur des responsabilités sociales qu'elle assume, connaissant plusieurs fois la discrimination dans l'accès à certains droits.

N'importe quel programme de développement doit avoir pour stratégie l'intégration totale de la femme comme force vive de la société.

Nous sommes convaincus que les recommandations issues de cette Conférence mondiale seront mises en pratique, contribuant de façon significative à la reconnaissance universelle des droits de la femme et de son rôle dans l'économie et dans la société.

La réunion de Québec qui a regroupé un grand nombre de ministres constitue, sans doute, une étape supplémentaire et fondamentale dans la voie d'une FAO revitalisée et un pas important dans la préparation du Sommet mondial sur l'alimentation qui a été l'objet d'un fort soutien de la part de tous les présents.

Nous souhaitons, donc, que soit adoptée par la 28<sup>ème</sup> Conférence la Déclaration sur l'alimentation et l'agriculture issue de cette réunion.

Au moment où l'humanité continue, malheureusement, à faire face aux graves fléaux qui sont la faim et la misère, l'initiative de réaliser en 1996 ce Sommet sous le thème "Sécurité alimentaire pour tous", mérite tout notre appui.

Cet événement sera une excellente occasion de réflexion, au plus haut niveau, et permettra de renouveler l'engagement des Etats Membres et l'adoption de politiques et orientations indispensables à la réussite de la Sécurité alimentaire pour tous à l'an 2010.

Pour terminer, il m'est agréable de réaffirmer ma conviction que les travaux de cette Conférence atteindront les objectifs fixés et les succès attendus.

Peter BACO (Slovakia): I am taking the liberty to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on your election as the Chairman of the 28th FAO General Conference.

I have the special honour to repeat my congratulations to His Excellency Jacques Diouf at the 50th Anniversary of the Food and Agriculture Organization. It is also my honour to congratulate the Heads of the delegations of the new FAO member countries: Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

I would like to address the 28th General Conference on the following issues which I consider very important for the future development of the Organization.

First of all I highly appreciate the activities and decisions of His Excellency, which became the basis for implementation of two special programmes on Food Security in Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries, and Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Plant and Animal Diseases. Slovakia offers its experts to the FAO special programmes and projects, particularly in the areas of human nutrition, water management, veterinary and forestry science and its well equipped educational and scientific institutions.

It is my intention to ask FAO in the difficult situation to implement in our sub-region more functioning, flexible and preventional approaches. Liquidation of negative impacts is more demanding and expensive in comparison with decisive steps at the beginning when a problem has appeared. Let me remind you that at the 18th Prague European Regional Conference in 1992 I have informed that development in the sub-region is on course towards the critical decay of the agricultural production in the consequences of the radical restrictions of the state support, protectionism and managed interventions in the agrarian sector. It has also been said that formerly clear exporter countries may be found among the food-deficit countries. This warning stood without

appropriate response from the Organization. Negative results are visible - 8 countries from the sub-region belong to the aforesaid group.

In accordance with the guidelines of the Conference I would like to share with the delegates our experience from the transitional period which we are achieving in Slovakia. Radical changes over the years 1991-1993 led to nearly a 30 percent decrease in the agricultural production. For this reason we have implemented a regulatory approach which has replaced ineffective and uncontrolled development. Also, the system of firm prices and quotas has been introduced in milk production. We have implemented the institution of the Fund of the Market Regulation which serves for purchase of the overproduction, and for meat and wheat, which means creation of the conditions for guaranteed prices.

The comprehensive economic policy of the Slovak Government in the agriculture and food industries is set out in "The Concept of the Agrarian Policy of the Slovak Republic" enacted by the Slovak National Council. Decline has been stopped. Positive changes can be seen from 1994. In that year an increase of about 5 percent was achieved, and the same trend is expected in 1995. Almost half of the farms made a profit and 85 percent of them improved their economic results. This process of revitalization is supported by an increasing of the investments into the technologies of more like 40 percent in this year. Slovakia is supporting the FAO proposal to decline customs and trade barriers negotiations within the CEFTA countries. It is assumed to achieve a 50 percent cut-down among these states already from January 1996.

In parallel with these measures, Slovakia adopted a whole range of measures to harmonize particular areas of legislation and technical standards with the European Union.

In relatively stabilized forestry in Slovakia, a serious problem is the disproportioned exploitation of forests and generally worsened health conditions of forests in Slovakia. On this issue we would like to have the FAO expert support.

Our intentions for further cooperation with FAO for the next biennium are to organize the sub-regional meeting on the impact of GATT Agreements on agriculture trade and to prepare other sub-regional meetings on the matters of acceding into the European Union.

Bearing in mind the crucial situation in poverty and hunger, Slovakia welcomes preparation of the World Food Summit.

I would like to express my support on the difficult issue regarding the current financial state in the Organization. We are fully aware, as the Director-General mentioned in his statement, that FAO is our Organization, and I would like to add that we feel our responsibility for it. A complicated situation is resulting from the insufficient distribution of resources. In the case that this Conference will decline the budget, first and major victims of this decision would be the poorest people. The price growth of the most bulky foodstuff - wheat and rice - does not provide alternatives. We have two possibilities. One is to support utilization of the concentrated redistribution, the increased financial requirements for the two programmes submitted by FAO, which is intended to assist deficit countries, mainly for the increase of the domestic production, or we can calmly accept the fact that the number of hungry people and those who are dying due to it will grow further. In this dilemma we should be aware that no one of us has the right to stay neutral on this matter. The above mentioned is valid for forestry as well, where a present share of 4.6 percent is indicated on the very marginal level. The important role of forestry in sustainable agriculture is evident, and a further cut-down would be inappropriate. In this precarious crossroad for FAO, Slovakia is on the side of productive dialogue in order to obtain consensus.

It has been an honour for me to present this statement on the 28th FAO Conference and I believe in a successful outcome of our Meeting and fruitful multilateral cooperation, in order to fulfil the declared targets and programmes.

Stanley WEBSTER (Namibia): Director-General, fellow Ministers, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the Namibian delegation I express our deepest sympathy to the Iraqi Minister's family and the Iraqi people for the untimely loss of their beloved father and colleague.

We further join our other colleagues in welcoming the five new Members to the Organization. The expansion of the Organization is a reflection of its effectiveness and efficiency in addressing the problems of food security.

It is five years ago since Namibia joined FAO. Without any regret, we are proud to say that it was a valuable step. I therefore consider it appropriate on this occasion to narrate to you and the Conference the developments that have taken place in the areas of agriculture and food security in Namibia since we became a member. What we have achieved so far not only reflects our own dedication and efforts, but also those made by FAO in addressing our problems in Namibia.

The agricultural status and the food security situation of Namibia are not only a result of the indisputable harsh climatic condition and the poor soil fertility, but they have also been brought about by the neglect of more than 70 percent of the 1.7 million people, most of whom live in the rural areas. In addition, the country's high rate of population growth, which is estimated at approximately 3 percent per annum, has a negative implication for the food security situation, especially at household level.

The different administration before independence has resulted in the situation of underdeveloped, inappropriate farming practices and this has led to a progressive decline in farm productivity and in the creation of two distinct agricultural systems: the commercial, free-hold, well developed, capital-intensive and export-oriented farming sub-sector which occupies more than 70 percent of the productive land, has an average farm size of more than 6,500 hectares, and is owned and controlled by less than two percent of the total population and, in contrast, less than 40 percent of the total agricultural land area provides for the livelihood of now nearly one million people who depend mainly on rain-fed subsistence cropping with land and labour being the principal inputs with few, if any, external inputs being used. Extension services in many areas were non-existent prior to independence, while credit, technologies and markets were similarly very scarce. High unemployment as well as underemployment rates in the agricultural sector further inhibit any increase in farming productivity. Health, sanitation, nutrition, and education further reflect the glaring neglect of the social service sector.

As a result, many of our people lack access to productive farming, income-generating opportunities and consequently lack of purchasing power. The result is that they do not have access to good supplies of food to meet their daily basic needs for a balanced diet.

Unfortunately, this situation still prevails in spite of efforts made to secure food security at national level through domestic production and food imports. Widespread undernutrition and malnutrition still exists amongst infants and children under the age of five. This is especially so where illiteracy rates are highest. The low proportion of the population having access to sufficient and safe water is another constraining factor.

The lack of water, especially in the rural areas, has resulted in the concentration of livestock around the few available waterpoints, which further degrades the existing range land. This has further adverse implications for Namibia's livestock sub-sector which forms the backbone of our agricultural sector: from it, the majority of farmers derive their income.

Addressing the inequalities that characterise almost every sector of our economy has proved no easy task, and this will continue to be the case for some years to come. However, the Government of Namibia remains strongly committed in its endeavour to free its population from the fear of hunger and starvation, and from material insecurity - just as it is in its commitment to peace. The commitment to pay its dues is a manifestation of the pride our small nation has to empower itself. Development can only take place if there is political stability, and I am very happy to note that in the sub-African region we are at political peace.

In recognition of the important role the agricultural sector plays in the performance of our economy, and the contribution it makes to individual lives of the largest proportion of the population in Namibia, we have embarked on a number of initiatives since independence.

First and foremost, we have formulated and recently published our First National Development Plan and our National Agricultural Policy. These set out the overall goals and immediate objectives we wish to realize

over the next five years - in particular, the path has been defined in the fields of production, technology development and extension as well as the training of farmers, farming communities and government personnel. In this way, we intend to reduce, if not close, the gap in income and service provision that exists between the two farming sub-sectors.

The Plan and Policy documents serve as a guide for all those involved in assisting the development of our agricultural sector, as to where resources and efforts should be focused. The bulk of the interventions which will be made over the next five years will have small holder farm families in the communal-tenure areas as their primary focus. Apart from having a great impact on poverty reduction, labour absorption and social welfare generation, such an approach will, we believe, strengthen household food security and stabilise rural-urban migration.

The fisheries sector is one of Namibia's best chances for generating broad-based economic growth necessary in addressing food and nutrition problems. It is currently the fastest growing sector in the economy despite some slowing down recently because of adverse environmental conditions. Nonetheless, the sector's contribution to GDP has doubled to 7.6 percent since 1991. Further, employment in the sector has also doubled to 12,000 persons during the same period and we project that more than 20,000 jobs will be created by the year 2000. Exports have also nearly doubled since independence, from N\$640 million to N\$1.4 billion in 1994. We expect the same trend in the value of output in the medium to longer term. The Ministry of Fisheries is currently working on a White Paper on Fresh water Fishing and related legislations which will address issues with regard to exploration, protection and conservation of fresh water fish and to the development of aquaculture.

Food and nutrition are fundamental factors which play a determining role in our daily lives. Without access to adequate and nutritious foods people's productivity is limited. We, in Namibia, have realised this and have therefore committed ourselves to ensuring that everyone of us, old and young, rural and urban, have reliable access to safe and nutritional food at all times. To this end, we have drawn up a multi-sectoral Food and Nutrition Policy to guide effectively and efficiently, and to coordinate all sectors of the Government, all NGO's, the private sectors and the local communities.

Two important institutional structures which have been set up to improve our food security and nutrition situation are "National Early Warning and Food Information Unit", which is progressing particularly well, and an "Emergency Management Unit". New initiatives have been linked with these existing structures through our Food Security and Nutritional Technical Committee. Both units are involved in monitoring all matters affecting food security and provide monthly reports, on the basis of which necessary remedial action can be taken - in collaboration, where required, with our S ADC partners.

Our commitment to food security and nutrition has been echoed in various ways. Firstly, by our Prime Minister in 1992 when he declared a "Food and Nutrition Decade" for the country. Secondly, by the inclusion of a chapter on "Food and Nutrition" in the First National Development Plan and, finally, by the formulation of a Food and Nutrition Action Plan. The assistance provided by FAO in the preparation of these documents is much appreciated.

Furthermore, ladies and gentlemen, we are proud to share with our President the honour he has been shown recently when he was selected as a recipient of the "African Leadership Award" which he will receive during the celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations, in New York. This award is in recognition for the commitment and dedication that he has shown in fighting hunger and eliminating all forms of malnutrition by the year 2002, since his election as President of the Republic of Namibia in 1990.

We have not been alone in the past and hope that we will not be alone in the future, in our struggle for the social and economic betterment of our people. Many agencies from the international community have shown their willingness and commitment to assist us in attaining our national development goals. It would therefore be improper for me not to use this occasion to thank them for the help which they have provided and which they continue to provide to us.

We further would like to particularly thank the Food and Agriculture Organization for its unwavering support to food and agricultural development in Namibia. In addition to the support which I mentioned earlier, I have in mind the assistance that the Organization has recently provided us:

- in organizing and reviewing our agrarian and rural development policies and strategies;
- in implementing our programme of land reform;
- in guiding the development of our fisheries sector; and
- in developing our national seed industry.

Finally, on behalf of the Government of Namibia, I would like to express my thanks for the recent appointment of Mr Siry, the FAO representative in Namibia. The presence of the representative in the country is helping to maintain the efficient flow of communications between Windhoek and Rome, thus ensuring that the Organization continues to support our development efforts.

We hope that the excellent relationship and cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Namibia and the Food and Agriculture Organization that we have both nurtured, will continue to flourish for many years to come.

Mr Chairman, before I conclude, let me join my colleagues in the plea for continuous development and support to the environment; social, and in particular, human capital development in order to ensure a sustained economic development.

In conclusion, we support and endorse the Director-General's zero growth budget proposal and all his noble initiatives. On behalf of the Namibian Government and the Namibian people, I wish the Director-General and all those who work alongside him, the strength to enable them to gracefully continue to carry out the difficult task they have been assigned to. Let me also assure him that Namibia will continue to be a cooperative partner.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie Monsieur le Chef de délégation de Namibie qui a dépassé le temps qui lui était imparti.

Je donne maintenant la parole à M. le Représentant, Chef de la délégation de l'Italie.

Walter LUCHETTI (Italie): Je suis particulièrement heureux et honoré de participer aux travaux de cette Conférence, le plus important organe de la FAO, en qualité de représentant du Gouvernement du pays qui, depuis plus de 40 ans, en accueille le siège sur son territoire.

Il y a quelques jours, nous avons célébré à Québec City, ville où la première fois la Conférence ministérielle de la FAO se réunit, le Cinquantième anniversaire de l'Organisation. Nous nous sommes solennellement engagés à continuer l'action nécessaire pour réaliser les principes fondamentaux de justice et de solidarité que nos gouvernements signèrent en 1945.

Les mérites acquis par la FAO pendant ces longues années sont très connus par tous, et nous en avons beaucoup parlé pendant les réunions au Canada.

Un long chemin a déjà été parcouru pendant les réunions au Canada.

Au cours des dernières années, la question de la sécurité alimentaire a pris une place de plus en plus importante dans le débat politique international. Dans les années 80, les crises alimentaires, qui ont à maintes reprises frappé des pays en voie de développement, ont rendu manifeste la faiblesse structurelle de l'économie agro-alimentaire mondiale, caractérisée par un paradoxe évident. En effet, dans l'hémisphère Nord, émergeaient avec force les problèmes des excédents structurels, agricoles et alimentaires des pays développés, et les gouvernements ont tout mis en oeuvre pour essayer de résoudre le dilemme de la nécessité de soutenir le revenu agricole sans entraîner des crises de surproduction. Bien au contraire, dans l'hémisphère Sud, les pays les plus pauvres enduraient des situations structurelles de pénurie alimentaire qui ont souvent pris l'aspect de véritables crises alimentaires.

Ce paradoxe - à savoir l'existence dans le système agro-alimentaire mondial à la fois d'excédents et de pénuries - a sans doute mis en crise l'ancien principe de la sécurité alimentaire d'après lequel la sécurité alimentaire est assurée par une disponibilité mondiale d'aliments égale aux besoins alimentaires de la terre. De surcroît, la persistante pénurie alimentaire dans certains pays plus pauvres a mis en évidence la faiblesse de quelques-unes parmi les politiques de développement agricole mises en oeuvre dans les décennies précédentes, dont les succès n'ont été que partiels et répartis, sur le plan géographique, "en tache de léopard".

Les progrès considérables enregistrés au cours des dernières décennies en termes de croissance de la production agricole et, par là, des réserves alimentaires disponibles, ne sont cependant pas parvenus à éliminer les énormes difficultés de bon nombre de pays - en particulier, mais non seulement, de l'Afrique au sud du Sahara - tant pour ce qui concerne les réserves disponibles que, et surtout, les possibilités des groupes sociaux les plus faibles d'accéder aux aliments. Trop de pays et trop de gens encore subissent de graves limitations en cette matière; la FAO continue à jouer un rôle fondamental en assistant ces pays et la communauté internationale tout entière dans leurs efforts pour résoudre ces problèmes.

La coopération avec la FAO est, pour l'Italie, une longue et constante tradition qui nous place au premier rang des pays donateurs, grâce à la réalisation conjointe, de 1979 à nos jours, de plus de 150 projets de développement, en Afrique, en Amérique du Sud et en Asie, pour un montant global d'environ 400 millions de dollars.

Parmi les secteurs de collaboration, celui de la sécurité alimentaire a toujours été présent, avec la réalisation de nombreux projets, tant de développement rural intégré que de systèmes d'alerte précoce pour la prévision des récoltes et les informations aux agriculteurs.

A ceux-ci je voudrais maintenant ajouter, en lui donnant mon soutien le plus convaincu, le Programme de développement de la sécurité pour les semences, programme qui, sans aucun doute, pourra assurer une grande aide à la sécurité alimentaire dans les pays les moins favorisés, tout en respectant une agriculture durable. En effet, le programme, non seulement garantit un accès plus rapide aux semences certifiées ou commerciales des variétés sélectionnées, mais il prévoit aussi une impulsion à la conservation et même à l'utilisation des diversités génétiques à travers les applications de biotechnologies.

A ce point, je tiens à exprimer notre appréciation particulière au Directeur général, Monsieur Diouf, pour l'engagement renouvelé de la FAO en matière de sécurité alimentaire qui est particulièrement appréciable, certes, pour la continuelle urgence des besoins, mais surtout pour la recherche de stratégies de façon à satisfaire, tout en respectant les droits des générations futures, les exigences des populations aujourd'hui les plus nécessiteuses.

Le "Programme spécial de soutien de la sécurité alimentaire" fait partie de cet engagement et propose une action qui, bien qu'elle puisse certainement être améliorée par une interaction mieux articulée entre la FAO, les pays bénéficiaires et les pays donateurs, constitue dès à présent une base robuste d'objectifs et d'outils.

En partageant ces objectifs, nous avons, dès le début, ouvert un dialogue qui a engendré une meilleure exposition de certains thèmes fondamentaux. Ce processus conjoint d'étude et de révision a fini par nous convaincre qu'il s'agit, dans l'ensemble, d'une initiative très importante. En effet, elle révèle un caractère "pilote" pour la priorité accordée à la coordination et à la mise en valeur de toutes expériences réalisées jusqu'à présent dans ce secteur, et aussi parce qu'elle prévoit l'exécution locale et l'approche participative nécessaires pour assurer un terrain de base favorable à la réalisation des différents projets.

Notre pays s'est donc engagé à soutenir le "Programme spécial" en particulier dans quelques-uns des pays les plus démunis d'Afrique, comme, par exemple, l'Éthiopie et l'Érythrée, dont les premiers résultats seront traités lors du Sommet de Rome en novembre 1996.

Je tiens à répéter que l'Italie participera, avec la plus grande détermination, à la phase préparatoire du Sommet (également en qualité de président de l'Union européenne au cours du premier semestre de l'année prochaine) et elle s'efforcera d'exercer au mieux son rôle délicat d'hôte d'un événement aussi important.



La coopération italienne étudie, en outre, sur le plan multilatéral, en collaboration avec la FAO mais aussi avec les deux autres agences agricoles, PAM et IF AD, des initiatives ne faisant pas partie du "Programme spécial" mais qui s'en inspirent, au Mozambique, en Angola et en Somalie.

Je voudrais maintenant ajouter des éléments plus proprement techniques: il s'agit d'aspects du problème déjà connus et qu'il faut souligner ici.

Désormais, tout le monde s'est rallié à la vision "globale" du problème de la sécurité alimentaire, et son étroit lien avec celui du développement. En outre, je crois que, dans cette phase de l'histoire de l'homme, la prépondérance des aspects économiques de la question alimentaire est indéniable, aspects qui sont liés à l'efficacité des structures de développement à l'échelle planétaire par rapport à ceux plus proprement technologiques.

C'est l'effet de la phase de transition que les sociétés sont en train de traverser et qui voit tous les pays de la planète se consacrer à redessiner leur structure et leur rôle dans un monde plus grand et, en même temps, plus petit et plus égal, informé mais pas encore prêt à faire face à ses problèmes.

Il me semble évidemment nécessaire de travailler avec acharnement au sein des grandes assemblées internationales durant une phase dans laquelle nous sommes moins autonomes, mais plus responsables; même les grandes organisations internationales ont constaté la profonde différence entre leur activité actuelle et celle du passé, avec une complémentarité objective de leurs actions.

La coopération est une nécessité des Etats au niveau international; elle peut se produire soit de façon solidaire, soit de façon forcée, active ou passive, mais il s'agit d'un aspect de la scène politique qu'il faut absolument considérer; tous les gouvernements doivent s'en rendre compte.

Aujourd'hui, il est impossible de programmer une politique alimentaire sans entrer parallèlement dans le vif du sujet du problème important de l'harmonisation des politiques internationales, dans le respect et la sauvegarde des ressources, et sans réaliser une grande organisation du commerce.

Le commerce a, depuis toujours, signifié prospérité et culture pour les peuples, et cette charte offre des capacités qui, jusqu'à aujourd'hui, ont été peu valorisées.

C'est une opération complexe au chemin long et difficile, sur lequel nous sommes en train de faire nos premiers pas et qui doit nous voir prêts au dialogue et à la médiation d'une façon responsable.

Dans le domaine technique, il nous reste de grands pas à faire. Si nous jetons un regard sur le passé et si nous analysons les statistiques selon la moyenne arithmétique, chaque individu a aujourd'hui à sa disposition plus de 2.700 calories par jour, contre les 2.300 disponibles au début des années 60 et seuls, avant la génération actuelle, 80 pour cent de la population des pays en voie de développement avaient des disponibilités alimentaires tout à fait insuffisantes, alors que le quota d'indigence est maintenant réduit à 20 pour cent.

Mais pouvons-nous nous contenter de ces chiffres et dire avec satisfaction que, de nos jours, "seuls" 800 millions de personnes sont sous-alimentées dans le monde? Evidemment pas.

Je voudrais être plus optimiste que ceux qui considèrent qu'il est de plus en plus difficile que la production alimentaire puisse soutenir ce rythme de croissance des populations et besoins des sociétés; il est vrai que cette analyse tient compte du fait que les productions de base ont presque doublé pendant ces derniers trente ans, mais que cela s'est produit avec un ralentissement constant de la croissance des productions primaires des derniers quinze ans et que, parallèlement, les phénomènes de pollution et de destruction des ressources ont miné la capacité productive de bien des zones.

Privilégier des solutions qui tiennent compte du facteur humain implique la clé des changements; de ce point de vue, les questions qui concernent les productions céréalières sont exemplaires.

L'Union européenne a montré comment, en gérant la politique agricole d'une façon flexible, elle peut s'ouvrir au marché sans abandonner ses producteurs.

Mais le plus important est qu'un processus de développement durable s'engage dans tous ces pays à bas revenu, en mobilisant des investissements et des énergies dans les domaines qui peuvent donner un rôle et une identité dans le cadre du système économique mondial et qui redonnent aux populations l'envie d'être promoteur de leur développement.

Je voudrais conclure en rappelant aussi bien qu'en étant optimiste sur la possibilité de trouver des solutions applicables, que je ne m'illusionne pas sur la facilité d'y arriver, mais c'est justement dans ces occasions que l'essence profonde de chacun de nous vient à la surface avec sa capacité de croire en des idéaux et de les poursuivre.

J'espère que nous tous trouverons la force pour le faire.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie Monsieur le Chef de la délégation de l'Italie.

Mes chers collègues, je constate que certains chefs de délégation n'ont pas respecté le temps imparti et j'invite cordialement et instamment Messieurs les chefs des délégations à veiller au respect de ce temps imparti.

Je donne maintenant la parole à Monsieur le chef de la délégation de Maurice.

K.C. RUHEE (Mauritius): I feel singularly honoured to address this distinguished gathering today; I am particularly grateful for the opportunity for my delegation to be able to partake in the preparatory groundwork for the forthcoming World Food Summit.

Let me at the very outset reaffirm the commitment of my country to the idea of this high-level Food Summit and our continuing pledge to the noble mission and ideals of the FAO.

We have come to a crucial turning-point as we prepare to forward into the next millennium, with challenges aplenty in so many fields. But the most important one remains, as all of us agree here: the primordial function of ensuring the food security of each and every human being on earth.

I need not recall the grim situation in regard to food and nutrition that is particularly afflicting the less-developed nations. This is being more than amply depicted by so many authorities, not least by the FAO itself, while the stark reality of starvation and undernutrition is projected to us, almost as a daily ration of bread, through such heartbreaking, graphic images by the media. So our mission though not insurmountable does constitute a formidable hurdle to be crossed over.

The formulation with any consistency of agricultural and food policies and workable strategies has become a task beset with such ever-increasing number of considerations, internal and external, that it is more than timely that an international and concerted action is called for. These multiple dimensions besides internal realities such as the level of economic development, resources endowment, climatic factors, the social set up, etc. now have to cope with further pressures from the external front not solely related to the World Food Situation. In fact we have now to adjust also to a new international trade order furthering liberalization as embodied in the GATT accord; to a new environmental order for sustainable and environmental-friendly development emanating from the earth summit; and the additional considerations of the social summit towards poverty alleviation; of the agreement reached at the ICN on the improvement of quality and safety of food, and gender aspects from the recent Beijing conference.

We in Mauritius have evolved certain guiding principles which, together with our assessment of the world situation are directing the design of policies and strategies. Given the urgency of the situation we have in some way been preempting the outcome in terms of policy and action of the World Food Summit. In fact, I am pleased to note that most of the elements we are addressing have a very close concordance with those that the Draft Policy and Plan of Action suggest for inclusion in the final version to derive from the World Food Summit.

Mauritius at independence in 1968 inherited a colonial legacy of a mono-crop agricultural economy that just could not be socially and economically sustainable. The then alarming rate of population and unemployment

increases, coupled with the saturation point reached in the labour absorptive capacity of agriculture, a high dependency on international trade, land scarcity and geographical isolation, periodic climatic upheavals, etc. led to a strategy of economic diversification as from the early 70s. This was based on export-oriented manufacturing and tourism development which were fuelled mostly by the sugar sector itself. Concurrently an aggressive population control programme was initiated. This structural adjustment programme and population policy have produced such impressive results over the past two decades, at the national economy level and in terms of fertility decline, that agriculture today is displaced by the export-processing sector to second position as net foreign exchange earner. Its socio-economic commitments (in terms of generation of employment and income opportunities and related food supply/security which remains prominent) are today fairly shared, and any required readjustment relieved, by the industrial and tourism sectors and an emerging financial sector.

I re-emphasise that our approach in regard to food security encompasses both self-reliance and self-sufficiency as defined in the FAO draft policy document. Our thrust therefore is both towards aiming at a positive trade balance through an aggressive export-oriented agriculture, while also improving supply from local production for the Mauritian and an expanding tourist population.

Thus, while still being a food-deficit country that imports the totality of its staples needs (rice and wheat), and almost 80 percent of the rest of our food consumption, we still remain a self-reliant food economy and our strategy is bent towards an improvement of this situation. We already have some dynamic sub-sectors of agriculture which have shown considerable promise in the recent past, e.g. small-scale vegetable, pig and industrial poultry production.

However, despite various studies that imply that the GATT provisions will give a boost to the world economy, the situation may not be that bright for food-deficit LDCs. I referred in Quebec to the recent study of UNCTAD that does illustrate the serious plight of poor, import-dependent nations. Mauritius is in a particularly difficult situation given its overreliance on international trade for ensuring, amongst other things, its national food security, given the likelihood of the gradual erosion of trade preferences and the expected rise in the prices of food commodities. This is already the case for cereals and livestock products, which we import heavily.

Our agricultural strategy is double pronged, directed at one level on the export-oriented sugar sector, and at the other on agricultural diversification for both local consumption and export, while trying to exploit to the maximum the interactions between the two. And all this is being attempted by first eliciting a collective move towards forging an informed, cross-sector and cross-party consensus, and by efforts focused both at the internal and external fronts to make the most of the five-year grace period afforded under the GATT regime. In the process we are paying special attention to the needs of the small-scale sector. The small producers in fact constitute the "soul" of our agricultural sector. We thus want to ensure that they are not left out to fend for themselves in the harsh, market-led reality that the prevailing ethos entails, nor that the technology gap between the small-scale enterprises and the larger-sized ones are left loose to widen further.

Because of the unfavourable climate in the international trade scene, we are increasing the momentum of the reform of our sugar policy that spans several components aiming at better efficiency and competitiveness: modernization, rehabilitation and consolidation of sugar factories, mechanization of cultural operations; upgrading of irrigation technologies, production of still higher value-added special sugars, optimization of the use of sugar byproducts particularly directed towards the use of bagasse by the setting up of power stations for electrical energy production, and small farmer efficiency schemes, a major component of which is the implementation of a Land Area Management Unit (LAMU) concept whereby small producers are being incited to group themselves into consolidated, larger-sized units not only to benefit from economies of scale, but also from better management, while still retaining all their legal ownership and other rights over their land.

The reform policy for the sugar sector does not diminish social and environmental concerns. The Mauritian sugar industry historically has always been plagued with suspicion and social conflicts which we are attempting to uproot now. We are in the process of implementing a unique Planters and Employees Participatory Scheme that enables these industry partners to acquire 20 percent of the equity capital of sugar milling companies, under very favourable conditions in terms of discounts, government grants and loans. Labour laws also give due recognition to Trade Unions while ensuring satisfactory wage and work conditions

for employees, and attempts are accelerating towards also offering better housing conditions for the sugar industry workers.

Efficient pollution abatement equipment is to be installed in new boilers in sugar factories, particularly those which would form part of power plants. Pesticides and fertilizer applications are being monitored at plant, soil and groundwater levels, although we may have to step up efforts here.

The tea sector in Mauritius was expanded on state lands as from the mid-fifties, more so out of the need to relieve the unemployment problem. Despite numerous restructuring programmes it has always remained unviable because of rising costs and the ever-dwindling price of tea on the international market. The government therefore took a drastic policy decision last year, that of diversifying the public tea sector that locks up a gross land area of about 4 500 hectares towards other more remunerative agricultural activities.

The diversification programme is already started. Here as well we are incorporating social and environmental considerations, to the extent possible. The adjustment process for the 2 500 or so families involved is being eased to the maximum: in fact they are not being compelled but rather incited towards non-tea activities through a package of incentives that include land preparation by the government, financial grants, concessionary loans, and technical support. In the overall plan, some fragile sites and water catchment areas are to be retained under conservation forestry, and the private sector component of the tea industry will be maintained to cater for local consumption.

Agricultural diversification so far has remained a marginal activity within the sugar sector which has been maximizing the use of its resources, in terms of rotational and interline land cultivation under foodcrops, its labour force and its infrastructure. We want now to give non-sugar agriculture an identity of its own and no longer view it as an end in itself, rather as a means of achieving the desired structural transformation and revitalization of Mauritian agriculture.

The whole exercise of diversification thus had to be undertaken in an integrated, sophisticated and rational manner. So it was that a high-powered Committee on Agricultural Diversification was reinstated under my chairmanship last year, precisely to come up with a policy blueprint for Action. Eleven task forces grouping all the parties concerned reported on issues ranging from land use, financial incentives, technology support, to storage and marketing including export potential, and the implications of the GATT multilateral trade provisions. The consolidated technical findings were submitted for public scrutiny and debate at a national consultation meeting, and eventually synthesized into a single statement of Policy and Action for the coming five-year period, entitled "Initiatives 2000". This document has already been endorsed by government for implementation.

"Initiatives 2000" is more about restoring the economic importance of agriculture in our country by modernizing and revitalizing it through injection of new technology and fresh capital within an appropriate framework of incentives, the intention being to give agriculturists equal opportunity and treatment as their counterparts in the other sectors to modernize and grow. It is also about using technology and capital more efficiently and improving agricultural productivity, the only basis for competition and survival in the trade-driven global economy of the 21st century.

The initiatives of the government must be consistent with the aspiration of the agricultural community as a whole. "Initiatives 2000" is thus also about how government would be "reinvented" for the agricultural sector by disengaging it from certain activities which could best be left to private initiative. The document realizes that it is important to see revitalization not as a top-down government managed programme but as a multi-level process by which Mauritian agriculture revitalizes itself over the next decade and more.

Various initiatives are already being implemented. We have restructured the research and extension wings of the Ministry into one unit to give it the autonomy needed. Some of our research institutions are already linked to, and benefiting from, the global communications networks such as the INTERNET and the SYFED systems. The other agricultural services currently on offer are soon to be reorganized and streamlined following the completion of a study under way.

Regarding the consumption and nutrition aspects of food policy, let me say that the Food Policy Unit of my Ministry (FPU), following participation at the ICN Conferences, organized a National Workshop on

Household Food Security, and has recently introduced National Codex Standards as per FAO/WHO guidelines for meat and fish products, their processing plants and retail shops. The standards are advisory, but are to be mandatory for export-oriented products. New standards are being prepared for other commodities.

The Ministry of Health is in the final stages of drafting a new Food Bill that will replace the rather old legislation in force, and the Veterinary Bill is also near completion to incorporate more recent considerations about health and safety.

Mauritius has already moved into a transition phase regarding food consumption. We are now as the developing world, a victim of the "diseases of affluence". The Ministry of Health has thus also embarked on several nutritional and health surveys of the Mauritian and outer islets population, and an aggressive campaign on desirable food habits has been launched.

We also believe in an integrated approach to conservation and development. Another specific goal we value therefore relates to the development of a national nature conservation plan and the maintenance of biodiversity. The mission of the National Park and Conservation Service of my Ministry is to enhance the "ecological pedigree" of our national heritage through a range of ongoing and intended projects, including a major Biodiversity Restoration Project.

Moreover, land use is now more strictly controlled according to the prescriptions of the National Physical Development Plan, and any development project should also obtain prior clearance following an Environmental Impact Assessment undertaken by the Ministry responsible for Environment.

In this overall context perhaps it would be worthwhile for me to say a few words on a new concept that is emerging, that of green accounting, more specifically environmental and natural resources accounting. It is unfortunate that natural resources worldwide, which are becoming increasingly scarce and degraded, are not being well accounted for. This poses a serious threat to future production and consumption, to world food security. This continual depreciation of the natural capital is being glaringly omitted in national accounting systems which overemphasise man-made capital only. Although this concept is new and still shrouded with some confusion, the need to make our national accounting systems environment-friendly and to develop a policy for environmental economics remains an urgent one, and should receive the priority it needs on the Research agenda.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Last Saturday, the Head of the European delegation, Dr Fischler asked the following pertinent questions:

Have some of us perhaps ignored in our GATT discussions the plight of the poor and our moral obligation of solidarity with the needy?

Do we risk losing our heart as some of us become richer?

We are meeting on this auspicious occasion of the 50th anniversary of the FAO today, when the Hindu Faith is also celebrating the Divali or the Light Festival to mark the victory of light over darkness. I want therefore to make a humble plea:

A plea in particular addressed to those who today are lucky enough to be basking in the cosy comfort of plenty.

Let us make our Organization the "Voice of the voiceless". Yes, the voiceless.

Those millions whose daily lives have been reduced to being scavengers of food left-overs.

The voiceless - those that constitute the 200 odd million children and other toddlers who roam about every day in search of a few stale crumbs.

Let us pledge on this special occasion to conjugate our energies to eliminate the pernicious scourge of poverty and hunger.

An old American lady is reported to have said - "the future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams".

We have a beautiful dream. Collectively we do have the resources, so why not make the poor man's dream of a daily, decent meal come true?

That in my humble view is the ethic of solidarity and the culture of sharing that was talked about this morning by his Holiness the Pope.

It's now up to us to ensure that this does not remain a pious hope.

Thank you.

Algirdas ZEMAITIS (Lithuania): Mr Chairman, representatives of the Director-General, Ministers, Excellencies, delegates and observers, ladies and gentlemen, I am honoured to address this important meeting on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania. I am aware of the recommendation that speakers should concentrate on an overall review of the state of food and agriculture and not on country statements. However, before me there were a number of distinguished colleagues who spoke with great eloquence on this subject, whose views in most cases I fully share and therefore see no need to be repetitious. Besides, my statement, while concentrating on the situation in Lithuania, might be of some benefit to countries in similar circumstances.

Having re-established its independence in March 1990, after some 50 years of foreign occupation, Lithuania - at one time the largest state in Europe, with borders from the Baltic to the Black Sea, but now a medium size country, with a population close to 4 million and a land area of 65 200 km<sup>2</sup> - continues to strengthen its statehood, create an internationally recognized legal system, develop democratic government institutions, and to implement free market economy, with private ownership having been fully recognized and legitimized.

The first years of our reforms led to an economic decline but in 1994 this effect began to diminish. In that year, the gross national product increased by approximately 0.6 percent. Inflation was 45.1 percent, compared to 188.7 percent in 1993. For the first time in several years individual real income increased. Declines in production and distribution slowed down, and there were increases in the manufacture of domestic appliances, textiles, minerals, and wood processing. All the basic economic indicators suggest that the economic recession in Lithuania is coming to an end.

The agricultural sector, which accounts for over 11 percent of the gross domestic product and some 22 percent of the labour force, was probably the hardest hit sector in the transition from a planned to a free market economy and will take a longer period of time to become stabilized. The transition resulted in massive increases in energy and raw material prices, and the collapse of our traditional trading links, which resulted in a drastic decline of agricultural output. Consequently, the most important task at present is to acquire and to utilize modern technology for upgrading the production of crops and livestock as well as to accelerate the introduction of other crops to meet local and foreign demand. The same applies to the restructuring of the agricultural processing industry.

In general, we feel that Lithuania has a good potential for the development of its agriculture. Since we were not wealthy enough to utilize chemicals and other artificial means to bolster our agricultural production, our soils and our products are ecologically clean. The agro-climatic conditions are favourable, our centuries-old farming tradition exists, and highly skilled and qualified personnel are available. For example, approximately one in ten persons of the country's population over 21 years of age has a university diploma, with many of them engaged in agricultural processing industries. We believe that with these advantages our farmers will be able to satisfy not only local demand but also meet the requirements of both developing and industrialized countries.

On the other hand, much remains to be done. In addition to the already mentioned adoption of modern agricultural technology, a rationalization of the whole agricultural sector is required. In particular, since the average farmer has seven hectares of land, foreign advice and assistance is required for the establishment of a viable cooperative structure. Assistance and advice are needed for internationally acceptable guidelines on

how to support our farmers in their development efforts without state subsidies. These, whilst internationally not acceptable, still exist in a less-than-obvious way in a number of countries.

A problem, which is shared by many other countries, is a decline in nutritional standards. With rampant inflation over recent years and the consequent decline in purchasing power, our people can no longer afford to buy higher quality food.

Assistance given by FAO in solving many of the problems in this period of transition is highly appreciated by my government. While we have many qualified technicians, our knowledge of the standards and requirements of the outside world has been rather limited over the last 50 years. FAO was established 50 years ago as an "organization of agricultural brains". Through the assistance of the Technical Cooperation Programme and other FAO programmes, which money-wise might seem minuscule, we received sound advice on passing internationally acceptable legislation through the parliament on fisheries, forestry, food standards, etc. Projects on improvement of seed varieties, pesticide control, animal diseases and others are under way. In short, all reasonable requests by my government for FAO's "brain" assistance have been accepted and excellently executed.

Finally, I would like to express my government's appreciation to the Director-General and everybody in the Secretariat for their efforts in preparing the programme of work for the following two years. If I am not mistaken, these programmes were recommended and approved by just about all member countries either in Council meetings or in the last Conference. The Secretariat has put in concrete terms how much their implementation would cost. Thus, if the present Conference is inclined not to accept the proposed budget -which to my knowledge is not only one of zero growth but much below the increases of other specialized agencies' budgets - it is up to the Conference to advise the Secretariat which programmes should be reduced or even completely eliminated. On the other hand, I fully agree with those of my colleagues who emphasize that the approved programmes have to be kept under constant review in order to maximize any possible savings.

António DUARTE SELVA (Portugal) (Original language Portuguese): I should like at the outset to congratulate the Chairman, whose election to that distinguished post is just recognition of the outstanding abilities of dialogue and coordination which he has demonstrated widely in the past. I should also like to extend my special compliments to the Director-General of FAO whose capacity to innovate has been exemplary. Along with his staff he has produced an outstanding set of documents and we would thank the entire staff on this effort.

We welcome all new members of the FAO, whose presence will further strengthen our Organization.

Virtually from the outset Portugal has been an active participant in all the activities launched by FAO. There has been participation in the various programmes and projects which, at a national level, demonstrates the existence of our own, recently revamped, structures. Our Ministry is well represented within the Cabinet and we can therefore properly represent all the matters which are particularly relevant for FAO. We have a special interest in all FAO's activities. That is why we are standing for Council membership and we hope we shall have support for this.

At the ministerial meeting in Quebec we made a clear effort to find solutions to the problems facing the world; in particular, issues of food security at the family level. There was once again a recognition of the great difficulty which faces us in eliminating pockets of poverty, which runaway urban development tends only to exacerbate. The production of food and its availability is a guarantee of access to food resources for all levels of the population. We wish to commend FAO for its work in a climate which has not been very easy or felicitous and we are particularly pleased with the document "Agriculture Towards the Year 2010".

The Quebec Declaration takes a new approach to combatting hunger and undernutrition. We believe that this is something which will, in turn, be taken into account by heads of delegation in the coming year. We should also like to endorse the various initiatives endorsed on the occasion of the 50th anniversary celebration.

Amongst the documents circulated to us, the Medium-term Plan for the years 1996-2001 has been particularly impressive and we would commend Dr Jacques Diouf because it gives a very clear picture of the targets we wish to attain.

We support the activities which FAO intends to carry out in food and agriculture in general and in the fishery sector in particular. This document points to the critical areas such as rain-fed areas, upland agriculture and others. I would stress, in particular, the topics relating to biodiversity and genetic resources.

Turning to the Programme and Budget for 1996-97, this is a topical document which reflects genuine knowledge of the needs and difficulties which we can expect. It provides for a zero growth budget which takes into account the fact that contributions are not always forthcoming in exactly the amounts we should like.

We are particularly concerned with the issues of forestry as well as citrus fruits. As you know, my country is very much involved in work in these areas, and we should also like to take part in the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. As you know, fisheries and aquaculture make an important contribution not only to food production but also to trading activities and to welfare for today and tomorrow.

Fisheries corresponds to 70 million tonnes of fish which is consumed directly by human beings and an additional 30 million tons used for animal consumption. We are striving to ensure rational cultivation and use of marine resources. Nonetheless, there is still over-exploitation of certain fishery species, and we have to be very careful to ensure that there is not unlimited access to fisheries activities.

We must give shape to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. We have to have an innovative attitude and a new mind-set regarding fisheries activities. This is an area which has given, in fact, rise to this whole new concept of responsible fisheries within certain marine frontiers, and I should like to draw attention to the small communities of fisherfolk and the growing importance of aquaculture - the fact that we have growing scientific bases for this kind of activity. And it is the responsibility of all of us, all states, because we are all directly or indirectly involved in fisheries activities.

This should be the background against which we launch activities for sustainable development of fisheries, be it in national or international waters. We must pay attention in particular to the strategies for fisheries policies and management of fisheries activities, and we have to bear in mind that all of this is part of a composite whole for the oceans and the seas and that this should all be taken into account in the Code of Conduct that we should like to see implemented. This, in fact, will call for policies which will be increasingly responsible in order to protect the living resources of the sea.

Mr Chairman, I should not wish to conclude my statement without making reference to two topics which are particularly dear to us in Portugal: firstly, the making available of technicians with the requisite training and experience, making them available to work in different parts of the world, in particular in Africa. They are ready and willing to provide their support in order to work towards better food security. And the second area which is very dear to our hearts is the importance we attach to the new restructuring of FAO with new sub-regional structures, decentralization, and the definition of new priorities.

NGUYEN THIEN LUAN (Viet Nam) (Langue originale vietnamienne): Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués, permettez-moi tout d'abord au nom de la délégation socialiste du Viet Nam de féliciter le Président et les Vice-Présidents de leur élection. Nous sommes certains que sous leur conduite nos réunions seront couronnées de succès.

Nous aimerions adresser nos félicitations les plus chaleureuses aux délégués qui viennent d'être admis au sein de la FAO et nous espérons qu'une coopération étroite s'instaurera avec ces pays.

Nous aimerions présenter nos condoléances à la délégation de l'Iraq en raison du décès de son Ministre de l'agriculture, Monsieur Rachiid.



Mesdames et Messieurs, le Viet Nam est un pays essentiellement agricole avec 80 pour cent de sa population vivant dans les zones rurales. L'agriculture demeure un des secteurs stratégiques les plus importants de notre économie. Depuis 1981 le Viet Nam poursuit son processus de rénovation dans le domaine de l'agriculture, processus qui est devenu global depuis 1988. Les éléments principaux de cette rénovation renforcent le rôle des familles d'agriculteurs qui représentent les unités de production fondamentales, l'application des mécanismes du marché et les autres efforts menés par le gouvernement. Depuis lors, l'agriculture a cru à un taux de plus de quatre pour cent par an. Cette croissance a été étendue à divers secteurs et sous-secteurs. De bonnes conditions ont ainsi été créées pour la stabilité et le développement futur de l'économie du Viet Nam.

Le résultat le plus important pour notre pays est que la production alimentaire a pu être augmentée rapidement et de façon durable. En effet, chaque année la production alimentaire augmente d'environ un million de tonnes. En 1995 nous avons eu de bonnes récoltes dans tout le pays et la production alimentaire totale a pu être estimée à 28 millions de tonnes. Grâce à cela la sécurité alimentaire du pays a pu être assurée même si la population augmente de 1,5 million d'habitants par an.

En outre, le Viet Nam exporte de 1,5 à 2 millions de tonnes de riz par an et occupe le troisième rang parmi les exportateurs de riz après la Thaïlande et les Etats-Unis.

L'agriculture du Viet Nam a été diversifiée. En dehors de la production alimentaire d'autres sous-secteurs agricoles ont été commercialisés. Ceci satisfait les besoins domestiques et fournit de relativement grandes quantités de devises. Certaines récoltes telles que le café, le caoutchouc et la noix de cajou sont devenues des éléments importants de production avec de larges zones de cultures spécialisées. En pleine croissance ces produits permettent au Viet Nam d'atteindre une position importante sur le marché international. La production de café s'est accrue rapidement et est passée de 5 000 tonnes par an durant la période 1975-1984 à plus de 16 000 tonnes en 1995. La production de caoutchouc, de coton, de soie, de fruits, de canne à sucre ainsi que la production animale se sont développées qualitativement et quantitativement. C'est ainsi que les exportations de produits agricoles ont pu être évaluées en 1994 à 1,3 million de dollars E.-U. soit 3,3 fois plus qu'en 1990. Nous avons 9,3 millions d'hectares de forêt au Viet Nam et, afin de protéger et de développer nos ressources forestières, le gouvernement a pris des mesures très fermes pour reboiser et limiter l'exploitation et l'exportation des produits forestiers, en vue du développement intégré de l'économie rurale dans les zones forestières.

Cependant certaines lacunes se font sentir dans l'agriculture vietnamienne. Les taux de production, à part le domaine du riz et du café, sont encore relativement bas. L'industrie de transformation et l'efficacité de production sont encore faibles. Dans certaines zones rurales, les infrastructures sont insuffisantes, l'industrie rurale et les services sont sous-exploités. En un mot notre agriculture est en retard par rapport à d'autres pays et nous avons beaucoup à faire pour la stimuler. En effet, les niveaux de développement de notre pays sont encore très inégaux. La sécurité alimentaire dans les zones à faible densité de population n'est pas assurée. Certaines pénuries alimentaires subsistent et actuellement parler de sécurité alimentaire dans le pays signifie simplement l'apport d'une quantité minimale de calories à l'ensemble de la population.

Afin de résoudre les problèmes auxquels je viens de faire allusion, notre agriculture, dans les prochaines années, sera développée dans le sens d'une plus grande diversification afin de mieux utiliser nos ressources et les avantages comparatifs de certaines de nos zones agro-écologiques en vue d'accroître la productivité, la qualité, l'efficacité et la durabilité, ce qui devrait permettre d'assurer la sécurité alimentaire dans le pays. Il y aura combinaison de l'agriculture, des forêts et des pêches, de la culture et du bétail et de la production agricole avec traitement. L'agriculture va se moderniser de plus en plus et nous pensons produire assez pour la consommation intérieure mais également pour l'exportation. En même temps le développement agricole devra améliorer le niveau de vie des fermiers, supprimer la pauvreté, créer des emplois, accroître le revenu des agriculteurs et jeter les bases du développement rural.

Mesdames et Messieurs, le Viet Nam s'intéresse à toute coopération avec d'autres pays et organisations internationales et souhaite notamment encourager une telle coopération avec la FAO.

Le Viet Nam a obtenu certains résultats positifs dans le domaine agricole au cours de ces dernières années ce qui a été possible non seulement en raison des efforts que nous avons déployés mais aussi en raison de l'aide apportée par la FAO dans tous les domaines: échange d'expériences, évaluation des politiques, assistance dans la préparation des projets pratiques grâce à la formation d'un certain nombre de spécialistes dans le pays.

Une fois de plus, au nom de la population vietnamienne, permettez-moi d'exprimer notre profonde reconnaissance à la FAO et au Directeur général. Nous espérons sincèrement que le Viet Nam continuera à bénéficier de la coopération de la FAO à l'avenir afin de nous permettre de poursuivre notre développement agricole et de participer à l'échange d'expériences dans le domaine agricole des pays en développement. Nous avons des sols fertiles et une main-d'oeuvre abondante.

Les conditions climatiques, les conditions de travail de la terre, chez nous, sont très variables et nous permettent de produire de nombreux produits agricoles, d'avoir toute une série de cultures différentes qui peuvent satisfaire les différents goûts qui existent au sein de notre pays mais également à l'étranger. L'emplacement du Viet Nam est d'ailleurs très favorable pour le commerce, la politique, l'environnement social; il devient de plus en plus favorable. Le système juridique, la politique macro- économique, l'agriculture sont en train de s'améliorer. En outre, la fiscalité, l'investissement pour le développement de l'industrie manufacturière et de traitement, surtout celles qui sont dans les zones rurales, sont de plus en plus attrayants. Il s'agit là, je crois, de conditions importantes pour étendre les réseaux de coopération internationale et pour attirer les investissements.

Le Viet Nam espère très sincèrement qu'une coopération efficace entre nous, c'est-à-dire entre les pays membres de la FAO, puisse se poursuivre à l'avantage de la lutte contre la pauvreté et la faim dans le monde. J'espère que cette réunion rencontrera beaucoup de succès. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

Lyle VANCLIEF (Canada): Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, I wish to add my sympathies to those already extended to the Iraqi delegation on the sudden loss of their Minister last Friday night. I also take this opportunity, Mr Chairman, to congratulate you on your election to the chair and your colleagues, to express the confidence of my delegation in your expert handling of this important Conference.

In recent years the agricultural sector all over the world has been subject to extensive unprecedented changes: globalization, intensified competition, new alliances, and improved efficiency throughout the private sector. At the same time, new technologies that challenge conventions, increasingly aware and demanding consumers, vertical integration which even extends to the farm gate and to the consumer's plate and continuum, and the pressing need to reduce government debt have had an impact on the way governments manage their affairs.

In Canada, we have chosen to confront the forces of change. In September 1994, my colleague, the Honourable Ralph Goodale, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, proposed a vision of the agri-food sector to Canadians, reflecting our aspirations for the year 2000.

We see a sector that is prosperous, competitive and responsive to market needs; a sector that is profitable and that keeps pace with the changing needs of its clientele; a sector that is less dependent on government support and that contributes to the quality of life of rural communities; and finally, a sector that seeks to ensure the financial security of producers, environmental protection and to maintain a supply of wholesome foods of the highest quality.

To support this vision, and in some cases to meet our obligations under the Uruguay Round Agreement, our government has taken the following steps, among others:

- We have reformed our grain transportation system by eliminating all freight subsidy programmes.
- We have strengthened our trade and market development programmes.
- We have rationalized our research infrastructure and implemented a matching investment initiative with industry.
- We have established a major adjustment fund.
- We have reduced spending on safety nets and on production sectors under supply management.
- We are working on a new whole-farm income stabilization programme.

All of these changes have occurred at the same time as government has made significant moves to reduce expenditures. Overall, we have reduced agricultural spending while ensuring the sustainability of our agricultural sector.

I would like to point out that, despite this reduced spending, Canada has reiterated its commitments to the Food Aid Convention and has agreed to continue to provide food under the International Grains Agreement. Even if the quantities of grains committed are less than in the past, we still hope to exceed our minimum and help supply those who are the most in need.

Besides agriculture, Canadian fisheries are also subject to forces of dramatic change. They are now almost overwhelmed by the threat of long-standing overfishing. Canada therefore welcomes warmly the text of the Code of Conduct that the experts agreed upon at the technical meeting held here in Rome this September. We are also very pleased with the adoption by consensus of a draft Agreement at the UN Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Species. When it takes effect, the Agreement should end overfishing of these stocks on the high seas. We therefore intend to ratify it as soon as possible and we hope others will do likewise.

These changes in policy are increasingly driven by external forces and are consistent with Canada's obligations under the World Trade Organization, the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development and the International Conference on Nutrition.

Over the last ten years, an increasing number of countries have recognized that world trade is essential to economic growth. In Canada we share this view. We are convinced that international trade is a positive force for attaining food security. We also believe that it is a fallacy to think that a country's domestic food production represents the complete answer to its food security. Rather, we hold that international trade is essential to the concept of self-reliance and that imports play a legitimate role in filling food needs. While the balance between domestic production and imports will vary according to natural advantage, traditional diets, proximity to markets and other important factors, both sources of food should be considered part of the national equation.

I would like to move on to my last point by expressing my satisfaction with the decision to hold a World Food Summit in 1996. We have noted that some 20 years after the World Food Conference of 1974 the World Food Summit will present a timely opportunity for the international community to take stock of the progress accomplished in recent years and focus on the shortcomings that remain in the area of food security.

We all have a role to play in the quest for food security. The Government of Canada has just launched a series of national consultations in which the provincial governments and the Canadian non-governmental organizations will be taking part. The purpose of these consultations is to identify food security problems both within Canada and around the world, and to come up with innovative and practical solutions. We hope that FAO will take note of the results of national consultations such as these in preparing for the Summit, for it is the national government which retains ultimate responsibility for ensuring the food security of its own people.

FAO member countries must take steps, individually and jointly, to improve their food security. Although the FAO special programme for food production will go some way to help, we believe that it only partially contributes to solving the problem of world hunger. We hope that the Summit will focus on all aspects of food security, namely: production, stability, nutrition and above all access. We have heard it said often times in this building, and I heard it at Quebec earlier this week, that the root cause of food insecurity is poverty, and that access to food is the key.

While the rationale for holding the Summit at the Head of Government level is to integrate, in each national process, all the economic, financial and social decision-making that affect food security, similar integration must take place at the global level. Canada therefore urges FAO to involve all concerned partners in this process before it is too late. The full partnership of relevant multilateral organizations, development agencies and research institutes will help advance the process for the achievement of food security.

We have much to do over the course of the next 12 months, and my Government is committed to doing what it can to make the Summit successful and truly effective.

Valeriu TABARA (Roumanie): Monsieur le Président de la Conférence, Monsieur le Président du Conseil, Monsieur le Directeur général, Excellences, Messieurs les Chefs de délégations, Mesdames et Messieurs, c'est un plaisir et un honneur pour moi d'avoir l'occasion de m'adresser à vous au nom du Gouvernement roumain pour témoigner de l'intérêt que mon pays, la Roumanie, porte à la Conférence et à l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture.

Qu'il me soit permis de féliciter et de remercier le Directeur général, son Excellence M. Jacques Diouf pour la qualité des documents soumis à notre Conférence.

Nous sommes aujourd'hui à un tournant dans l'histoire de notre institution. Depuis sa création, la FAO a parcouru un chemin considérable et vigoureux afin qu'elle puisse relever les grands défis de la faim et de la malnutrition dans le monde.

Dès son entrée, la Roumanie a placé beaucoup d'espoir dans le suivi des décisions de notre Organisation inspirées par les idéaux de ses fondateurs qui, au lendemain de la seconde guerre mondiale, avaient voulu réaliser ce qu'ils appelèrent "le mariage de la santé et de l'agriculture". Aujourd'hui, notre Organisation vise toujours, avec détermination, la sécurité alimentaire mondiale comme condition majeure de la stabilité mondiale.

Il nous paraît évident que les documents proposés à notre attention présentent un grand nombre de pistes de réflexion en vue d'améliorer le fonctionnement de la FAO. Plus globalement, on nous propose, à nous, Etats Membres, de veiller à l'avenir de notre Organisation en contribuant aux grands efforts pour l'amélioration de l'alimentation sur notre planète.

La Roumanie salue toute initiative qui vise à la préservation de l'avenir de notre Organisation, ayant la conviction que de nouvelles solutions seront trouvées pour dépasser les présentes difficultés. Pour l'essentiel, rappelons-nous que les fondateurs de la FAO avaient la claire intention de créer une institution en charge de faire faire et non de faire directement. J'ajoute - et je tiens à l'en féliciter - que le Directeur général et son équipe ont d'ores et déjà engagé des réformes internes courageuses à la FAO. Nous devons tous apporter notre aide pour rationaliser l'Organisation, pour mieux valoriser les ressources humaines, pour rendre plus efficace sa façon de travailler.

La Roumanie attend de la FAO une coordination à l'échelle globale et régionale de nos efforts.

Le Gouvernement roumain partage les préoccupations concernant l'effort financier que l'Organisation doit déployer pour maintenir son rôle irremplaçable dans le progrès de l'humanité en général, et de l'agriculture en particulier. Nous pensons qu'une solution pour réduire les dépenses pourrait être trouvée dans le secteur logistique, en rationalisant les coûts de personnel et ceux qui sont nécessaires pour les réunions.

Nous sommes convaincus qu'après une telle rationalisation, la FAO continuera à être ce qu'elle a été dans le passé et, en même temps, qu'elle va promouvoir son image et ses connaissances en tant que centre mondial de compétences pour les problèmes concernant l'agriculture, la production et l'utilisation rationnelle des aliments. Dans ce sens, si une réduction du budget ou bien des programmes était nécessaire, nous croyons qu'il serait utile que les Etats Membres soient consultés au préalable.

Vu le processus de transformation politique, économique et social déclenché il y a plus de cinq ans, la Roumanie a redéfini son approche de la FAO. Sur la base de son expérience agricole millénaire, et en partant de son potentiel, mon pays entend participer activement à l'activité future de notre Organisation.

Pendant la période d'après la révolution, toutes les formes sociales et politiques du pays ont été unanimes à dire que l'agriculture représente la branche de l'économie qui peut être redressée le plus rapidement et avec les coûts sociaux les plus bas.

En partant de ces considérations, le Parlement et le Gouvernement de la Roumanie ont adopté un nombre important d'actes réglementaires destinés à créer le cadre nécessaire pour la transition vers une économie de marché et, par conséquent, à accélérer le processus de réformes et de redressement de la production alimentaire.

La réforme foncière, adoptée en tant qu'acte de justice sociale, faite pour les propriétaires terriens, a conduit à l'élimination de toutes les coopératives de production et des associations économiques intercoopératives grâce à la reconstitution ou à la constitution de la propriété privée à partir du patrimoine de ces dernières.

Presque la moitié des terres est travaillée individuellement, dans des petites exploitations qui ne permettent pas l'application de systèmes modernes de production, l'autre moitié étant organisée dans des exploitations de type associatif et dans des sociétés commerciales par action avec majorité de capital d'Etat.

C'est pourquoi le gouvernement, dans la stratégie qu'il a adoptée pour la transition de l'agriculture, s'est donné comme objectif principal la sécurité alimentaire. Il s'est donné aussi comme objectifs stratégiques l'accroissement de la production et de la productivité, l'assurance de prix rémunérateurs pour les producteurs et accessibles aux consommateurs, ainsi que la promotion du commerce extérieur des produits agricoles.

Les voies considérées pour atteindre les objectifs établis visent principalement l'accélération du processus de la privatisation, le développement et la consolidation des exploitations agricoles, la modernisation des chaînes de distribution, ainsi que le développement durable des communautés rurales.

La loi pour l'accélération de la privatisation, récemment adoptée par le Parlement, vise la privatisation d'environ 4 000 sociétés commerciales, dont 1 200 sont dans les branches de l'agriculture et de l'industrie alimentaire.

Les mesures adoptées pour soutenir les producteurs agricoles, y compris la législation appropriée, ont conduit à l'arrêt du déclin de la production agro-alimentaire et même à un renforcement de celle-ci à partir de 1993.

Le redressement de la production agro-alimentaire permet d'envisager la couverture des besoins de consommation de la population et un surplus de production permettant de participer aux échanges commerciaux internationaux, dans le cadre des accords auxquels la Roumanie prend part.

1995 est la première année de la période de transition où la Roumanie revient à sa tradition d'exportateur de céréales.

Pour terminer, je voudrais dire que nous partons avec la ferme conviction que les problèmes complexes auxquels l'humanité est aujourd'hui confrontée réclament la participation de plus en plus active et directe de tous les Etats Membres. La Roumanie est décidée, avec les autres pays, à trouver des solutions fiables et durables pour l'accélération du progrès de toute l'humanité.

En même temps, nous apprécions, avec beaucoup de satisfaction, l'adhésion de nouveaux Etats en tant que pays membres et nous sommes convaincus que leur participation à l'activité de l'Organisation apportera une importante contribution à l'accomplissement des programmes de la FAO.

Permettez-moi de souhaiter beaucoup de succès aux travaux de notre Conférence.

Jean-Paul SAWADOGO (Burkina Faso): Je voudrais tout d'abord, au nom de ma délégation, présenter au gouvernement et au peuple irakien mes condoléances à la suite du décès de leur Ministre de l'agriculture.

Permettez-moi aussi, Monsieur le Président, de vous présenter toutes mes félicitations ainsi qu'à votre Bureau, pour votre brillante élection à la tête de notre Conférence. Je souhaite la bienvenue aux nouveaux membres dans cette grande famille de la FAO.

La 28ème Conférence générale de notre organisation, la FAO, est l'occasion pour les Etats Membres et les organisations internationales de faire, certes, le point sur la situation alimentaire et l'agriculture, mais aussi d'en esquisser les perspectives.

En cette importante circonstance, mon pays, le Burkina Faso, voudrait apporter sa contribution aux débats de l'ordre du jour, s'enrichir des expériences des délégations ici présentes et partager avec elles les préoccupations qu'elles ont sur l'avenir de leur économie agricole.

Monsieur le Président, notre Conférence se tient à un moment où l'ordre international laisse apparaître des signes d'instabilité et de précarité qui accentuent la marginalisation de certains Etats dans la gestion des affaires politiques et économiques du monde.

La situation des économies de l'ensemble de nos pays est difficile et caractérisée par: l'abaissement de nos ressources financières potentielles et du pouvoir d'achat de nos populations, les perturbations monétaires, et le poids excessif de la dette qui hypothèque le financement de la croissance du développement.

Face à ce constat, devons-nous subir dans l'impuissance et la résignation l'ordre économique mondial actuel?

Laisserons-nous le hasard, le désordre et les contraintes extérieures nous imposer le délabrement de notre tissu économique en nous transformant en consommateurs passifs relégués à la périphérie du monde? Nous disons non car l'humanité a les moyens de relever le défi. A ce sujet, le souhait de ma délégation est qu'un consensus puisse se dégager autour des budget et programme de la FAO à l'issue de notre Conférence car des centaines de millions de vies humaines en dépendent.

Le Burkina Faso, pour sa part, réaffirme son soutien au budget croissance zéro qui lui paraît réaliste. Il mettra tout en oeuvre pour s'acquitter de sa contribution malgré une situation difficile.

Mon pays, le Burkina Faso, avec 10 millions d'habitants et un revenu par habitant de 320 dollars E.-U., a connu, au cours de ces dernières années, une croissance relativement satisfaisante avec un PIB en augmentation de 3,5 pour cent par an. Malgré ces progrès enregistrés, l'économie reste fragile.

Le secteur agricole, qui emploie près de 75 pour cent de la population active et qui contribue pour plus de 40 pour cent au PIB, est confronté à de nombreux problèmes qui sont, entre autres, les facteurs climatiques et édaphiques défavorables, les divers fléaux et calamités qui réduisent considérablement la production et la productivité, l'insuffisance du matériel, de la maîtrise des techniques et des méthodes de production, l'exploitation souvent irrationnelle de nos ressources qui compromet le développement de notre pays.

Cette situation a pour conséquence que les disponibilités céréalières par habitant varient d'une année sur l'autre, au niveau national, de 80 à 110 pour cent et ne couvrent pas toujours de façon sécurisante les besoins.

Face à cette situation de notre agriculture et de notre économie qui nous interpelle et nous lance de grands défis, le Gouvernement du Burkina Faso a pris l'engagement de promouvoir les mesures nécessaires pour lutter contre la faim, la pauvreté et le sous-développement.

Ainsi a-t-il entrepris, depuis 1990, un vaste programme de réformes économiques dans lequel le secteur agricole occupe une place de première importance.

En effet, le programme d'ajustement du secteur agricole, que notre pays s'est engagé à réaliser avec l'appui de ses partenaires de la communauté internationale, se fixe trois objectifs majeurs: la modernisation et la diversification de la production, le renforcement de la sécurité alimentaire, l'amélioration de la gestion des ressources naturelles.

Pour atteindre ces objectifs, il a été retenu des orientations générales et des programmes d'action spécifique visant à accroître la productivité par la diffusion de technologies de production intensive, à assouplir le système de fixation des prix des produits agricoles, à promouvoir l'investissement privé et à accroître l'efficacité des dépenses publiques.

Afin de consolider cette stratégie, le Président du Burkina Faso, S.E. M. Baise Compaore, au cours d'une importante rencontre, le 2 juin 1994, avec les différentes couches sociales du pays, a engagé des actions imminentes devant être conduites par le gouvernement. Il s'agit de la création d'une unité nationale de labour fortement décentralisée, à même d'aider les agriculteurs à accéder aux engins mécaniques de production, la création dans chacun des 300 départements du Burkina Faso, d'un centre d'encadrement de dépôts d'aliments pour bétail et de produits vétérinaires au profit des éleveurs, la mise en place d'un projet dénommé "8000 villages, 8000 forêts", pour planter, à partir de 1994 et en trois ans, 15 millions d'arbres de toutes espèces adaptées à notre environnement.

Une attention particulière est donnée à la consolidation d'une stratégie de sécurité alimentaire par des actions tendant à équilibrer l'offre et la demande par une meilleure orientation de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition des populations, surtout des groupes les plus vulnérables.

En cela, la priorité accordée par la FAO à la sécurité alimentaire et à la lutte préventive contre les ravageurs est toujours d'une actualité que nous partageons entièrement.

Concernant l'environnement, la recherche d'un équilibre socio-écologique est apparue comme l'objectif ultime d'une gestion rationnelle de l'environnement.

Au Burkina Faso, les activités en matière de gestion de l'environnement s'organisent autour du thème principal de la gestion des ressources naturelles. Elles trouvent leur concrétisation dans l'approche "gestion des terroirs", laquelle approche reconnaît à la participation volontaire des populations un rôle privilégié dans la gestion de leurs ressources naturelles. Avec cette approche, notre ambition est d'assurer à chaque communauté de base une autogestion efficace de son terroir pour contribuer à l'autosuffisance alimentaire et énergétique.

Il s'agit d'accélérer l'enseignement des connaissances et des techniques en vue d'une transformation qualitative des ressources et des potentialités existant dans le milieu.

Ainsi, la consolidation des structures acquises à la base (types d'organisations librement acceptées, groupements villageois, coopératives) constitue-t-elle un atout majeur qu'il faut soutenir par des initiatives nouvelles ouvrant des perspectives à des formes plus évoluées et maîtrisées.

Comme l'a reconnu la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition, tenue à Rome en décembre 1992, la pauvreté, les inégalités sociales, la sécheresse, l'ignorance sont les causes premières de la faim et de la malnutrition.

Toutes les actions et les stratégies énoncées visent la réalisation d'un mieux-être pour l'ensemble de notre peuple par l'élimination de ces causes.

Dans un contexte de profondes transformations, nous sommes tous interpellés. De la démocratisation des institutions à la libéralisation des économies, des défis démographiques à l'émergence d'une société civile dynamique, de la dégradation des écosystèmes à l'instabilité de la production agricole, l'équilibre et l'harmonie ne sont pas toujours faciles à réaliser. Mais des opportunités existent. Et c'est pourquoi il me plaît de saluer l'initiative fort heureuse de la convocation d'un Sommet mondial de l'alimentation.

Puisse notre Conférence apporter tout son appui à la réalisation d'une telle concertation mondiale et, surtout, à la mise en oeuvre des actions qui seront retenues car la sécurité alimentaire est avant tout un problème planétaire.

Qu'il me plaise, avant de terminer, d'exprimer toute la satisfaction de mon gouvernement à la FAO pour l'assistance qu'elle lui apporte dans la réalisation de ses programmes et, particulièrement, en ce qui concerne le "programme spécial" pour la sécurité alimentaire dont le succès du démarrage est porteur de grands espoirs.

Issa Abdel Kafî SAID (Libya): Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Heads and Members of Delegations, Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of the great Socialist People's Libyan Jamahiriya I would like to express our congratulations to the Chairman of this Conference and the Vice-Chairman for their election of the head of this 28th Session of the FAO Conference, and we hope that this meeting will reach positive and applicable resolutions. We would also like to congratulate the sister nations that have joined this international family. We are confident that this will make our Organization more universal and will promote international cooperation among its members.

On this occasion I must express the deepest condolences to this international family and to the people of Iraq for the loss of our friend the Minister of Agriculture. May God bless his soul.

The great Jamahiriya is fully convinced of the importance of integrated agricultural development in order to achieve food security for Arab Libyan citizens. That food security is a human right. That is why the revolution of 1 September gave a special priority to the food sector and its development plans which included development of human resources and infrastructure as well as the promotion of positive policies aimed at raising agricultural production while conserving human resources and fighting desertification and desert locusts.

Among the pioneer projects that the Jamahiriya is implementing on the basis of its own resources I would like to mention the project of the industrial river which is the "Eighth Miracle". This project aims at transporting six million cubic metres of water every day through a network of huge pipelines from the depths of the desert in the south to the arable lands in the north, in order to add 200 000 hectares of agricultural land and settle 35 000 farmers.

According to the recommendations of FAO this year the Jamahiriya organized a number of meetings at national and Arab level in the field of food supply. The last of these meetings was a seminar on food security at the University at Tripoli. Numerous experts and specialists participated. We also celebrated World Food Day this year, which was covered fully by the media. Several lectures were given in all the schools and educational institutions in order to familiarize people with this day, and raise food awareness among the new generation.

My country also attaches great importance to the development of sea resources in order to participate in the food supply of the Arab/Libyan citizen. FAO has participated in studies to evaluate sea resources and to design programmes for the optimum use of these resources. In spite of these efforts, my country is facing a great number of impediments which undermine our optimum use of arable land. Some of these problems remain as a legacy from colonialization which lasted over 40 years. Mines are situated in highly fertile land, and as we have received no full data, information or comprehensive maps about these mines, it has been very difficult for us to solve this problem. Therefore, I appeal to you all to help us in solving this problem -which is a grave problem - for the sake of food supply and security.

We support the efforts made by this Organization to have a forum to allow Member States to deal with the issue of food security at the highest level, especially under the circumstances that we live in today, and in which we find huge challenges.

At this stage, I would like to express our deep gratitude to the Director-General, Dr Diouf, for this excellent initiative in calling for a World Food Summit. We are grateful for the efforts he is making to allow the Organization to fully play its role at this difficult stage. In spite of the economic circumstances, which have affected most developing countries, we do support the contents of the draft budget submitted to us. We had hoped it could have been much better, as this Organization is the international body in charge of agricultural development and food in the world.

While our world witnesses amazing and overwhelming technical achievements in all fields, 800 million go hungry every day. The international community must take upon itself the responsibility of making greater efforts in giving cooperation and bringing about solidarity on the basis of justice and equality by promoting technology transfer to the developing countries, and in particular poorer countries. Developing countries should help those other countries in overcoming the obstacles they face, and to help them to promote their food production so as to relieve hunger in those countries.

In order to achieve this noble goal, all actions that undermine food security should be condemned - actions such as the unjust embargo imposed on my people without any logical proof or justification. This embargo is contrary to the most basic human values and to the free will of the people. It affects the efforts aimed at promoting the full development and achievement of food security in my country and the efforts of my people to achieve self-reliance. This embargo has also affected the duty incumbent upon us to participate seriously in solving developmental problems in the international community. This embargo has been condemned in many international and regional organizations.



We are satisfied with the results of the work of this Organization, and wish to show our confidence in its administration and in the capacity of its Secretariat and its staff. We hope that it will be given the means to play the role it should play in facing the challenges of the future, and in applying the resolutions we adopt for the sake of food security and the development of agriculture in the world.

Finally I would like to say to the Heads of Delegations and all delegates participating in this Conference that our motto should be, yes to food, yes to production; no to the embargo, no to hunger. Thank you for listening to me.

Dato' Amar Dr. Sulaiman DAUD (Malaysia): Mr Chairman, fellow delegates, ladies and gentlemen, firstly I wish to join the other delegates to this Conference in congratulating you on your election as chairman of this Conference. I would also like to congratulate the three Vice-Chairmen on their election.

On behalf of the Malaysian delegation, may I extend our deepest and sincere condolences to the family of the late Mr Khalid Rasheed, Minister of Agriculture, Iraq and to the government of Iraq as well as to the Iraqi delegation, on the untimely demise of His Excellency.

Malaysia takes this opportunity to welcome the five new countries as new members of FAO.

FAO is on the threshold of the next millennium. While we take stock of FAO's achievements on many fronts as well as our shortcomings in the last 50 years, the problems of hunger, malnutrition and poverty are still with us, requiring even more concerted efforts and closer cooperation among member countries. As we cautiously move into the next century, we need to define clearly the goals to be achieved and the path to be taken. In this regard, Malaysia fully supports the convening of next year's World Food Summit. This would provide the best opportunity for us to consolidate our thoughts and resources and renew our political will and commitment towards increasing food production for our people, and especially for our rural communities.

The Malaysian delegation also wishes to congratulate the Director-General on his innovative and untiring efforts to restructure FAO with a view to improving the efficiency, effectiveness and productivity of the Organization. I am confident that through innovative mechanisms and a transparent system of management, the fruits of these efforts will duly emerge for the benefit of Member Nations. To further effect cost-cutting in field operations and programmes, the Malaysian delegation would venture to suggest the expanded utilization of indigenous expertise, and local as well as national institutions. These arrangements, in our view, will be more sensitive and relevant to the socio-cultural background of member countries as well as to their socio-economic needs and aspirations.

Malaysia is very clear as to the direction of its agricultural sector, at least for the next 15 years. This is clearly set out in our policy NAP 92/2010. The goal of this agricultural policy is to transform the agricultural sector into one that is highly modernized, commercialized and sustainable, whose development will be market driven and human-resource led. The overriding policy is the maximization of income through optimal utilization of the resources of agriculture and other sectors of the economy and the achievement of a high level in the attainment of sustainable development in agriculture.

The Malaysian economy has been experiencing an average growth rate of 8 percent for the last eight consecutive years. However, under the National Agricultural Policy (1992-2010), the agriculture sector is targeted to grow by 3.5 percent per annum. While this rate of growth is relatively low compared with other sectors of the Malaysian economy, nevertheless the development of agriculture will continue to be given emphasis. To facilitate the growth of the sector, the Government will adopt measures that will reduce resource outflow and encourage the revitalization of the sector through, among other things, fiscal incentives, productivity improvements, infrastructure building and upgrading, intensification of R&D as well as ensuring sustainable exploitation of forest and fisheries resources and the creation of an entrepreneurial group of farmers, livestock breeders and fishermen.

However, the agricultural sector itself will also require greater commercial orientation in terms of the crops and management style, while the reformation of the smallholders' operation towards a more organized

plantation style will be necessary. As Malaysia progresses to a newly emerging industrial economy, agricultural production and food supply continues to be our central concern. The production of our industrial oil crops - namely, oil palm, rubber and cocoa - remains a major income earner and source of employment to our rural population. With an annual production of 7.2 million tons of palm oil and 1 million tons of rubber, we are still a key player in the global production of these commodities. With regard to food crops, the production of rice, vegetable, fruits, poultry and eggs (as well as fisheries) is encouraging, but they need to be further intensified to cope with increasing demand. Although the level of inflation is currently low at 3.4 percent, the Malaysian Government has taken many steps to curb price increases. As an incentive to increase the production of more food the government has introduced credit facilities such as the Fund for Food Scheme, in which US\$240 million has been set aside. Under this Scheme, eligible food producers can attain funding of a minimum of US\$4 000 at a maximum lending rate of 4 percent with other terms which are favourable to the borrower. It is hoped that this Scheme will stimulate the higher production of food in the country.

Malaysia has put into operation the concept of sustainability in our economic planning by striking a proper balance among three interrelated systems involving money, nature and people. Environmental consciousness is now deeply entrenched in our society. For example, no major project can proceed without the preparation of an environmental impact analysis. We are doing this out of a conviction that unless development was sustainable, we would not be able to harmonize the needs of the present and future generations.

Malaysia considers itself to be an active member of FAO Council, and would like to remain so with the support of member countries. Malaysia has also extended technical assistance to developing countries under its Malaysian Technical Systems Programme. It is in this context that Malaysia is proud to host the FAO International Consultation on Tropical Fruits in Kuala Lumpur in July 1996. We would like to invite all distinguished delegates to attend the Consultation.

To strengthen further Malaysia's commitment to FAO programmes, we will conclude the signing of the agreement concerning the use of experts for technical cooperation among developing countries with FAO at this Conference this Wednesday.

Malaysia would like to request FAO to take urgent and appropriate action regarding bio-safety, especially in developing countries, and to support further the development of a global system for the conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, as well as plant breeders' rights as amended in the UPOV Convention of 1991.

I would like to reiterate our concern regarding world food security and nutrition. As the issue of hunger and malnutrition cannot be fully resolved, there is urgent need for renewed political will, innovative policies and plans of action to address critical problems.

In this connection Malaysia continues to urge the international community, especially the big donors, to fulfil their moral and humanitarian commitments to assist the food-shortage countries in Africa and other regions which have been adversely affected by natural calamities, social and political upheavals.

In conclusion, my delegation would like to join all member countries in urging for a repositioning of the world's food and agriculture priorities, initiatives and programmes to their rightful place. They should remain at the top of the global agenda and should not be sidelined. It is imperative that FAO remains relevant, innovative and creative in bringing about a more equitable world food order in the next millennium.

Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba): Ante todo, quiero expresar mi más sentida condolencia a la Delegación de la República de Iraq, haciéndola extensiva a su Gobierno y familiares, por la sensible pérdida ocurrida.

En primer lugar, permítanme hacer llegar al Sr. Ministro, Costas Petrides, la felicitación de nuestra Delegación por su elección para la conducción de este 28° período de sesiones, que a nadie escapa su importancia, pues se produce en el mismo año del 50 aniversario de la FAO, como preámbulo a la Cumbre Mundial de 1996, sin olvidar que acontece a las puertas de un nuevo siglo. Todo un número de símbolos que agrupan enormes desafíos.

Al mismo tiempo deseamos extender nuestra felicitación por su elección a los Vicepresidentes, los colegas de Túnez -que observamos, con satisfacción, preside esta sesión- y Eslovaquia, y agradecer la nuestra, así como los mensajes de felicitación recibidos.

Ello nos obliga a un redoblado esfuerzo para situarnos a la altura de la confianza depositada, y augurarnos un trabajo de equipo que actuará, Sr. Presidente, bajo su correcta dirección.

Permítanme una breve reflexión personal: viajar a Quebec nos proporcionó la imagen de haber dado un salto en la historia, encontrarnos en los mismos lugares y locales donde hace 50 años se fundó la FAO, y, aún resonando en nuestros oídos los vibrantes discursos, llegamos a la conclusión de que el verdadero hilo conductor que hizo posible su fundación lo constituyó, sin lugar a dudas, la voluntad política de sus precursores.

Tal vez al explicarlo con rapidez seamos esquemáticos, pero creo difícil encontrar otra mejor definición, la cual nos lleva de la mano a estas dos ideas:

Primero, si no existiera la FAO, habría que crearla.

Segundo, no contribuir a su fortalecimiento y desarrollo es un crimen de "lesa humanidad".

De Quebec nos queda también una frase pronunciada por el propio Director General, Dr. Jacques Diouf, en su declaración inicial, que cito textualmente: "El final de la guerra fría hizo nacer grandes esperanzas: el haber perdido todo sentido la carrera de armamentos, las enormes sumas de dinero y de recursos humanos que se consumían sin beneficio alguno se podrían dedicar y canalizar hacia empresas pacíficas de desarrollo, generadoras de prosperidad y de bienestar para toda la humanidad. Estas grandes esperanzas se han visto cruelmente frustradas."

En el transcurso de los últimos años, la comunidad internacional ha expresado en numerosas ocasiones una profunda preocupación ante la difícil situación alimentaria mundial, mientras que se están reduciendo los compromisos de asistencia externa, tanto bilateral como multilateral, para la agricultura de los países en desarrollo.

Son alarmantes las cifras de las personas que sufren el hambre y la malnutrición. Sin embargo, lo es más aún saber que estas cifras continuarán multiplicándose si no se adoptan medidas urgentes para invertir las tendencias actuales.

Los problemas de alimentación y nutrición exigen una acción inmediata de la comunidad internacional, a fin de atacar las actuales causas de la persistente inseguridad alimentaria que afrontan nuestros países.

Estamos convencidos de que necesitamos urgentemente de la cooperación internacional para atenuar nuestra principal preocupación, pero sabemos también que su solución está en la voluntad política de la comunidad internacional, como fue señalado en la Declaración de Quebec.

Cuba, desde el principio, ha tenido una política bien definida de apoyo al Dr. Diouf y a sus iniciativas de reformas, y así se le reiteró, en su reciente visita a nuestro país, por la alta dirección del Gobierno.

La terrible situación de nuestros pueblos resulta bien añeja y, sobre todo, conocida. La influencia del pasado colonial, creador de las desproporciones de hoy, pero especialmente el actual escenario internacional, que no ha logrado reducir la brecha que separa el norte del sur, limitan las pretensiones de los pueblos en desarrollo de potenciar sus economías, alejar la pobreza, acceder a las nuevas tecnologías e incrementar su producción y productividad.

Desde su primer documento, en 1945, hasta el más reciente, "Agricultura hacia el año 2010", la FAO plantea que la pobreza engendra hambre. De esta afirmación se desprende que no se podrán enfrentar el hambre y la pobreza sin combatir sus causas más generales, como son la deuda, el proteccionismo y el intercambio desigual, entre otras muchas, y, dentro de las políticas nacionales, sin elevar el nivel científico técnico, el acceso a los adelantos e investigaciones universales, potenciar el factor humano y adelantar el desarrollo

sostenible, teniendo presente el factor ecológico y el valor del agua como fuente de vida, visto en el sentido más amplio de la cooperación internacional.

El tema de la seguridad alimentaria, por ejemplo, ha pasado de la periferia al centro mismo del debate, debiendo enfrentar con urgencia la toma de decisiones.

Es hora de abordar los problemas de la mujer en su completa dimensión económica y social, en plena igualdad y oportunidad, sin retóricas, como se ha tratado en la Conferencia de Pekín.

Cuba, por su condición e identidad, es producto de un mundo en desarrollo, latinoamericano y caribeño, razón por la cual el estado actual de las desigualdades que engendra pobreza y desnutrición, tanto en nuestra región como en la de África-Asia, está en el centro de nuestras preocupaciones, y la defensa de estas urgentes aspiraciones ocupa un lugar cimero en la batalla por un orden económico internacional justo y equitativo.

Por más de tres décadas nuestro país sufre los embates de un bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero, violador de la carta de las Naciones Unidas y de los principios más elementales del derecho internacional.

El recrudecimiento de este bloqueo, tras la pérdida abrupta de los principales mercados vinculados a la economía cubana, ha provocado una afectación substancial en la cantidad y calidad de la alimentación del pueblo cubano. Reiteramos nuestra condena al bloqueo que sufre nuestro pueblo y al uso de los alimentos como arma política.

A pesar de ello, el Gobierno cubano ha hecho ingentes esfuerzos por atenuar los efectos de esta medida. Hemos iniciado un proceso de reestructuración de la economía donde se inscribe la diversificación de los vínculos económicos y comerciales y la inserción de la economía mundial.

No vamos de nuevo a insistir sobre la reiterada votación en la Asamblea General de la ONU condenando el bloqueo a Cuba, sino referirnos a dos momentos muy recientes.

Iberoamérica, Latinoamérica, se dio cita en Bariloche, Argentina, a nivel de jefes de estados, sin tutelaje, enarbolando el estandarte de la integración bolivariana y con el pensamiento de Juaréz, San Martín, O'Higgins y Martí, y se solidarizó con la crítica situación cubana condenando el bloqueo.

La XI Cumbre de países no alineados efectuada en Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, luego de sentar las bases en su lucha contra la pobreza, el desarrollo sostenible y el intercambio tecnológico, fijó su condena al bloqueo a Cuba. Con el significado moral expresado por la solidaridad de todos los pueblos del mundo, de nuestros pueblos, Cuba resistirá, pues el clamor emana de nuestras propias raíces.

Dentro de esta valoración serena, firme, sin temor, sólo con los matices de la realidad, nos proponemos que se conozca el proceso de un pueblo que sufre y padece y, aunque reafirma su inquebrantable firmeza, está abierto al diálogo, siempre que se respete el sagrado derecho que emana de su autodeterminación y de la dignidad plena de la soberanía.

Por todos es conocido el principal problema que aqueja a nuestros pueblos, pero ¿cómo pudiera solucionarse si a nuestra Organización se le avecinan momentos difíciles bajo una situación financiera precaria? ¿Qué podemos esperar ante el recorte del presupuesto y la disminución del Programa de Cooperación Técnica de la FAO, que ha limitado a nuestros países de recibir tan importante ayuda?

Si la respuesta a estas interrogantes por parte del principal responsable de la aguda crisis financiera de la Organización es negativa, sería la prueba más fehaciente de que se están violando flagrantemente los compromisos internacionales contraídos.

La Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación es un foro de esperanza para nuestros pueblos, y será en ella donde la comunidad internacional adquirirá un compromiso y aprobará el Plan de Acción para afrontar el mayor problema que aflige a la humanidad: la inseguridad alimentaria. En esta iniciativa, siempre podrán contar con el pleno respaldo de nuestro gobierno y de nuestro pueblo.

Sabemos que el futuro es aún incierto, pero la FAO debe continuar cumpliendo con los objetivos que adoptamos hace medio siglo y persistir en su lucha contra la pobreza y el hambre en el mundo.

La solución está en la respuesta positiva que brinde a esta conferencia y en su empeño por resolver este problema.

No es momento de paliativos, es momento de acción y pedimos que se le otorgue a esta prestigiosa Organización el mayor apoyo para que continúe, cada vez con más eficacia y vitalidad, conduciendo el rumbo del desarrollo de la agricultura y la alimentación, y siga siendo líder en la noble tarea de erradicar el hambre y la pobreza, en cualquier lugar, para que todos podamos vivir en un mundo más justo y mejor.

Perdóneme Sr. Presidente, pero es que hay cosas que tenía que decir, muchas gracias.

Ishkhan MARDIROSSIAN (Armenia): Honourable Chairman, Honourable Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen. On behalf of the Government of Armenia and the Armenian Food and Agriculture Ministry, I would like once again to congratulate you on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. I would like to express my sincere condolences to the Iraqi Delegation for the tragic death of His Excellency, the Minister of Agriculture. Also I would like to congratulate you for your nomination as Chairman of this Conference. Finally, I would like to congratulate the five new members of former CIS countries for their admission to FAO. I am sure that their admission will contribute to bringing peace in the region as well as a new era of peaceful economic collaboration, especially that two new members are Armenia's direct neighbours.

As a young member of this Organization, Armenia was truly honoured for taking part in the momentous celebration held in FAO's birthplace, Quebec. No doubt, through its sound policies and remarkable adaptation instinct, this Organization has made a real difference by synchronizing the efforts against hunger and the development of agriculture internationally. The Quebec Declaration now brings a new drive toward achieving our common humanitarian goals for the sake of new generations.

Our newly independent Republic, you may know, has benefited greatly from FAO. This example of international cooperation has triggered a radical reform and privatization programme. The following projects were activated jointly by FAO: Irrigation Rehabilitation, co-financed by IF AD, Agricultural Reform Support, Food and Nutrition Security, Rehabilitation and Development of Armenian Forests, Elimination of Animal Diseases, and Amelioration of Animal Health. Recently, FAO experts have also assisted Armenia to create a much-needed wholesale market for fresh agricultural products which were financed by IFAD. To date, we collaborate with FAO, targeting new areas in Armenian agriculture.

The Government of Armenia has undertaken serious measures to enhance a peaceful cooperation with its neighbours. We assure you that we aim at securing sustainable agricultural development, not only for Armenia but for all the countries in the region. To this end, we will continue to work towards eliminating all remaining obstacles leading to full cooperation.

Within the agrarian policy, one of the priorities is considered to be the creation of favourable conditions for setting up highly efficient commodity farms, the important prerequisites of which are the formation of the land market and its operation.

Another urgency consists of developing a market system capable of performing private land transactions and expanding land ownership rights, together with providing an effective system of land titles, ensuring the right to sell and purchase land.

In the agrarian policy of Armenia, water supply is considered to be one of the most significant aspects. It is, therefore, envisaged to rehabilitate the irrigation systems through a World Bank loan, improve the system of water charge collection mechanisms, and to evaluate and distribute the water resources.

Presently in the veterinary field, it is foreseen to promote the development of the private sector in order to enlarge the coverage of veterinary arrangements and provide effective medical interventions.

Agricultural activities, as you well know, affect the environment directly, which in turn is correlated positively with the state of forestry. Thus problems in this area should be given particular attention to avoid aggravation. It is therefore required in Armenia to develop and submit for approval a comprehensive project on forestry, privatize industrial enterprises in the field of forestry, develop special projects to struggle against spontaneous deforestation and use of pastures and grasslands, and then submit them to international financial institutions for long-term financing.

Armenia's well-researched agricultural reform was born in a period of urgency. During the first year of independence, decision and immediate reorganization of this sector ensured food supplies locally, thus avoiding the drastic effects of the failing centralized network developed in Soviet times. Coupled with the interruption of the trade routes resulting from the blockade, the food safety issue entailed an increase in self-provision as a short-term policy. Long-term objectives, instead, deal with the establishment of effective commodity-trading entities that would translate into an increase in agricultural production levels and efficiency, thus further integration into the division of labour in the Republic and hence introduction into the International Food Market.

In our newly developing market system, the State will assume a new role, mainly consisting of promoting self-reliance for producers, ensuring to motivate growth and sophistication. It is also envisaged to trigger the process through a macro-economic stabilization, the realization of large-scale reform in the agro-food complex, the procurement of production means, and provision of marketing and supply services. The setting of an agrarian market with its corresponding elements is projected as well.

Presently the Republic of Armenia is passing through a transitional period of free-market relations that immediately requires efficient networks of market structures. Although the formation of middle- and large-scale agricultural enterprises as well as farmers' associations is not excluded in the near future, it seems that the current small-scale farmer, relying on primitive manual work, will still persist for a long while. Mainly, such integration ought to be promoted, eventually bringing the integration of plots, growth in size, and, finally, creation of Commodity Farms. Therefore, it is necessary to focus on the creation of land renting and leasing mechanisms with their appropriate legal framework. In the future under the conditions of rehabilitation and development of the branches of the economy, it will be possible to intensively change the ownership rights and integrate lands on the basis of land transactions.

It is worth mentioning here that the agricultural education system is also undergoing reforms. Agrarian scientists have made efforts towards developing of such systems that will operate in new socio-economic conditions, creating new methods of selection, genetics, and biotechnology, and introducing new cost-effective technologies in crop production and animal breeding. A three-pillar system of staff training is being introduced in the educational system. Moreover, to provide direct assistance to the peasant farms theoretically and practically, an "Extension" service has been established whereby regional agents consult peasants on running their enterprises.

To this end Armenia intends to participate fully in FAO and is committed to developing friendly and cooperative ties with other nations. This, we recognize, is necessary to overcome difficulties and initiate long-term mutual support. We strongly believe that through FAO mediation, regional planning could become one of the most significant factors for resolving our common problems.

In conclusion, I would like to thank again the Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf, for his kind invitation to Armenia to attend the World Food Summit next year in Rome.

Thank you for your attention.

Ougoure Kilfe AHMED (Djibouti): Pour commencer, Monsieur le Président, au nom de ma délégation, je présente mes sincères condoléances à la délégation irakienne endeuillée par la disparition de son Ministre de l'agriculture. Mes condoléances vont également au pays ainsi qu'à la famille du défunt. Que Dieu prenne soin de son âme.

Ensuite, je félicite les nouveaux membres de leur adhésion à cette grande famille qu'est la FAO. Je félicite aussi le Président de la Conférence pour son élection à la tête de la Conférence. Je félicite également le

Directeur général de la FAO pour la bonne organisation des travaux de la Conférence, ainsi que pour la qualité des documents de travail qui nous ont été présentés.

J'éprouve à mon tour l'honneur qui m'est fait et qui est également fait à mon pays de m'adresser à vous, du haut de cette tribune, à l'occasion de la 28ème session de la Conférence de la FAO.

La célébration de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation et du 50ème anniversaire de la FAO s'achève à peine, et voici déjà que notre traditionnelle rencontre biennale, qui se tient en prélude au Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, nous offre une occasion supplémentaire pour débattre de la question de l'alimentation.

Ainsi que de nombreux orateurs qui m'ont succédé l'ont rappelé, près de 800 millions de personnes, soit 15 pour cent environ de la population de la planète, souffrent de la faim ou vivent dans des conditions de grave malnutrition.

Et pourtant l'alimentation constitue un droit inaliénable. Sans nourriture, en effet, l'homme ne peut plus agir et, à la longue, il ne peut plus penser: il devient incapable de satisfaire le moindre de ses besoins.

La communauté internationale a pourtant pris conscience du défi alimentaire depuis fort longtemps puisque, bien avant la Conférence alimentaire mondiale de 1974, le manifeste de Rome de 1963 affirmait déjà - je cite: " Assurer à chaque homme l'exercice du premier des droits de l'homme, celui d'être affranchi de la faim".

Force est de constater aujourd'hui qu'en dépit des prouesses technologiques effectuées, on est encore très loin de la réalisation des vœux de nos parents.

La fin de la guerre froide a mis un terme à une ère au cours de laquelle la confrontation entre l'Est et l'Ouest commandait la marche des affaires du monde.

C'est ainsi que des forces diverses sur des intérêts partisans empêchaient les nations d'examiner ensemble, et en toute confiance, les problèmes dans le sens de la volonté des peuples de coordonner leurs efforts vers des objectifs communs.

Bien qu'encore, au nom de la diversité et de l'intolérance, les hommes se déchirent dans certaines contrées de la planète, l'on peut cependant affirmer aujourd'hui que la guerre verte est en train de se substituer à la guerre froide presque partout sur la Terre.

La floraison des conventions internationales, gage de développement durable (Droit de la mer, changements climatiques, biodiversité et, récemment, lutte contre la désertification) corrobore cette affirmation.

La FAO s'est mise également à l'air du temps puisque, Monsieur le Directeur général, sous votre conduite dynamique et éclairée, vous avez pris l'initiative de convoquer dès 1996, à Rome, un Sommet mondial de l'alimentation.

Et pour traduire en action cet objectif mobilisateur, vous venez de mettre en oeuvre votre méthode: un mécanisme participatif et un calendrier avec obligation de résultat.

A l'aube du XXIème siècle, la communauté mondiale vit des changements spectaculaires qui donnent lieu à des graves inquiétudes.

Comme chacun le sait, la crise économique persiste; elle n'épargne pas nombre des pays développés qui connaissent des problèmes d'inflation, de chômage, de déficits budgétaires; mais, sans minimiser leurs difficultés, c'est leur niveau de bien-être et non pas leur survie qui se trouve menacé, contrairement à ce qui se passe dans les pays en développement.

Dans les pays du tiers monde, et plus particulièrement en Afrique, la nécessité de nourrir des populations toujours plus nombreuses provoque une surexploitation des terres, un empiétement des cultures sur des sols de plus en plus restreints, à une cadence uniformément accélérée. De telles pratiques mènent à l'érosion, à la dégradation irréversible des terres et, enfin, à la désertification.

Mais s'il est une région du monde où sont rassemblées toutes les faillites écologiques du moment, c'est bien la partie orientale de l'Afrique. On y trouve à la fois les désastres entraînés par l'exploitation "minière" des ressources naturelles, mais également ceux provoqués par les conflits civils larvés qui ont atteint leur paroxysme avec le drame somalien.

Aujourd'hui, l'Afrique orientale renferme plus de 25 pour cent des populations déplacées et des réfugiés écologiques de l'Afrique.

Ces faits tragiques que je viens d'évoquer démontrent suffisamment que l'homme est le principal ennemi de l'homme.

Pour relever ce défi, et réaliser nos espérances et nos aspirations à une vie meilleure, nous avons décidé ensemble de se doter d'un instrument approprié pour traduire nos objectifs en actions.

Ainsi, le projet IGADD est né en 1986 à Djibouti, pour porter témoignage de notre refus d'accepter une prétendue fatalité dans un domaine qui est avant tout affaire de volonté, volonté d'affranchir chaque citoyen de la faim et de la malnutrition, mais volonté également de transmettre le capital naturel aux générations futures peut-être mieux que nous ne l'avons reçu.

Après la mise sur la rampe de lancement par nos pères fondateurs, l'IGADD a perdu, au cours des temps, sa vitalité et une relance de la mécanique s'imposait pour que l'autorité soit de nouveau en phase avec les changements intervenus au cours de ces dernières années.

Nous avons ainsi décidé de la restructuration avec, pour objectifs, une meilleure définition de son mandat, une plus grande efficacité, un redimensionnement financier et en personnel plus adéquat.

Il nous appartient maintenant de réussir le compte à rebours et de permettre à l'Autorité d'atteindre rapidement sa vitesse de croisière.

Mon pays, la République de Djibouti, caractérisé par un profil écologique sahélo-saharien spécialisé en pastoralat nomade, connaît une crise sans précédent de son pastoralisme. Ce système de production fonctionnel est maintenant aux "abois", le berger ne pouvant trouver de l'eau et de l'herbe à des endroits rapprochés.

Avec le rétrécissement des espaces pastoraux, la grande transhumance est en train de céder la place à un nouveau mode d'occupation d'espace caractérisé par un habitat fixe et un faible rayon de déplacement des troupeaux. Le paysage est en train de se "miter" et cette nouvelle situation ne fera qu'accélérer l'exode rural si des mesures radicales ne sont pas prises en temps opportun pour juguler ce fléau. La situation s'est encore exacerbée avec les séquelles laissées par trois années de conflits internes.

Avec le retour de la paix, mon pays s'emploie avec abnégation, et de concert avec les institutions de Bretton Woods, à repanser ses plaies et à se remettre debout au plus vite pour retrouver de nouveau le chemin de la croissance économique.

Je sais, il est facile de formuler, du haut d'une tribune, des souhaits ou des esquisses de solutions contre la pauvreté et la malnutrition qui gagnent chaque jour en importance.

Mais, quelles que soient les qualités de la stratégie de développement conçue, nous sommes convaincus que nos programmes et nos projets n'ont de chances de réussite que s'ils emportent l'adhésion du peuple entier.

Au moment où des décisions cruciales doivent être prises pour la survie de l'humanité et de la planète, souvenons-nous de deux adages que nous dicte la sagesse populaire: "Aux grands maux, les grands remèdes" et "Qui veut la fin, veut les moyens".

Au moment où la guerre alimentaire remplace la guerre froide, j'exhorte du haut de cette tribune, pour que des ressources additionnelles soient dégagées pour lutter contre la faim et la malnutrition.

Je souhaite que les travaux de cette présente Conférence aboutissent au succès que nous en attendons et constituent un jalon de taille dans la préparation du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation.



LE PRESIDENT: Mesdames et Messieurs, nous sommes à la fin des travaux de cette sixième séance plénière. Je voudrais vous remercier de votre contribution. Je remercie le Secrétariat pour son soutien et je remercie les interprètes pour leur patience. Nous reprenons nos travaux demain matin à 9 h 30.

The meeting rose at 18.45 hours.

La séance est levée à 18 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.45 horas.

24 October 1995



منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

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

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

# CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Twenty-eighth Session • Vingt-huitième session • 28º período de sesiones

**SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING  
SEPTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
SEPTIMA SESION PLENARIA**

24 October 1995

**The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.45 hours**

**Mr Costas Petrides,**

**Chairman of the Conference, presiding**

**La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45**

**sous la présidence de M. Costas Petrides,**

**Président de la Conférence**

**Se abre la séptima sesión plenaria a las 09.45 horas**

**bajo la presidencia del Sr. Costas Petrides,**

**Presidente de la Conferencia**

INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)

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

INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)

6. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (continued)

6. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)

6. Examen del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)

- MANIFESTACIONES DE LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen. Welcome to the Seventh Plenary Meeting. I call the meeting to order. Before we proceed with the speakers I would like to make two announcements. One, is that you have received the report LIM/18 from your pigeon holes. I would ask you to read it because at 2.30 today we will be adopting it. This is an advance notice and I would like to ask you to be ready at 2.30.

The delegations of Brazil and Ethiopia have asked that their reports be inserted in the records. Therefore, they will not get the Floor.

Kutaiba M. HASSAN (Iraq) (Original language Arabic): In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate, on behalf of the Iraqi delegation I would like to begin by expressing our thanks to you, the Director-General of FAO and to all heads and members of Delegations for their condolences and all their expressions of sympathy upon the death of the Minister of Agriculture of Iraq. May God spare you and your families all sorrow. Now I will read out the statement prepared by our Minister of Agriculture.

In the name of God the Compassionate, the merciful, I have pleasure in presenting to the participants of the Conference our very warmest greetings and best wishes for the successful outcome of the session so we may achieve its objective. We are convinced that as a result of the active participation and contribution of all attending the session, constructive results will be achieved which will be in the interests of all the members countries of the Organization.

I also have pleasure in paying tribute to the Director-General and his assistants for their ideas and endeavours in developing agriculture and agricultural production throughout the world, and also for the assistance they have given member countries to help those countries overcome their problems in ensuring food security for their citizens as well as rural agricultural development. They have been helpful in assisting us in overcoming the obstacles which must be overcome if we are going to meet the growing demand for production and productivity and for achieving the goal of food security.

Mr Chairman, everyone knows that FAO works diligently and continuously and has done so ever since it was first established in order to meet the expectations of the international community and ensure world food security. It follows that this is the responsibility of all mankind. It is a responsibility which calls for international cooperation and commitment. Therefore, we support the initiatives taken by the Director-General to give top priority to the food production programme in order to guarantee food security in low-income food-deficit countries, and also in order to prevent the spread of transboundary diseases amongst animals and plants.

We pay tribute to the Director-General for his initiative to convene a World Food Summit, which will adopt coordinated policies and measures at international, and regional national levels in order to guarantee food security. In this context, we support the budget level proposed by the Director-General in order to implement these programmes and encourage him to pursue this initiative designed to increase the efficiency of the Organization, and to make savings without affecting the technical and economic programmes.

Mr Chairman, ever since the revolution of 17 July 1968 the government of my country has been interested in guaranteeing the human and material infrastructure required as a sound basis for social and agricultural development. This is necessary if we are to improve our people's living conditions, their social welfare and their health. Nevertheless the total embargo that has been placed upon my country for the past five years is the reason why we lack everything we need in order to respond to the legitimate food requirements of our Iraqi citizens. This was confirmed by the FAO mission which visited my country in September 1995 subsequent to the completion of a similar previous mission in 1993. This recent mission confirmed that the situation in my country portends catastrophe due to economic deterioration and the government's difficulties in ensuring health services and in feeding its population. Malnutrition is widespread and has affected all social levels, particularly children. Twelve percent of our children are wasting away, and 20 percent are suffering from stunted growth. This is in Baghdad the capital, without mentioning all the other sovereignties of the country. In this report, the mission recommended that the only lasting solution for the food crisis in Iraq, a prosperous country, is to use its resources to attract foreign earnings and thus feed itself in order to save the sick and the hungry.

We must pay tribute to FAO for the emergency assistance offered to us, especially in the agricultural sector. Nevertheless, this is a small proportion of the actual needs of the Iraqi people. This sector lacks a production infrastructure which can be achieved only through imports, and we cannot import because of our lack of foreign currency and funds required.

I wish to express my thanks to all brothers who have taken a firm stand, and urge others to do the same, a stand in the right direction, thus alleviating the suffering of my people. It is a matter of justice and equity for human beings, surely this is the objective of this Conference. In the light of the economic embargo imposed on my country we have a number of questions which need to be addressed. First, is the Iraqi farmer able to engage in agricultural and farming activities?

POINT OF ORDER POINT D'ORDRE PUNTO DE ORDEN

I. RUFF (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom delegation believes this is not an appropriate forum for the discussion of Security Council Resolutions. We do not believe sanctions should be lifted until Iraq complies with those Resolutions. Iraq is not complying and therefore sanctions must be left in place. Iraq can help its own population by implementing Security Council Resolution 986. Until now Iraq has refused to implement Security Council Resolution 986. We urge Iraq to reconsider this view. The international community has no quarrel with the ...

CHAIRMAN: This is not a Point of Order. This is a statement you are making. At the same time, I would like to point out to the delegate of Iraq that this is a technical forum, and he should stay within this spirit.

Kutaiba M. HASSAN (Iraq) (Original language Arabic): The important point is that I am talking only about the food and nutrition situation in Iraq. I do not think anyone has the right to interrupt the head of a delegation when he is making his country's statement.

In the light of the embargo imposed on my country we have to ask a number of questions at this Conference. Is the Iraqi farmer able to engage in his legitimate activities?

POINT OF ORDER POINT D'ORDRE PUNTO DE ORDEN

Ms Fatimah HASAN J. HAY AT (Kuwait) (Original language Arabic): I apologize for interrupting the statement, but the delegate of the United Kingdom raised a Point of Order. If the Head of the Iraqi delegation wishes to pursue this question of the embargo I would remind him that we are here at a technical and not a political conference. Political matters have no place in our debates, so I would request the delegate of Iraq to restrict himself to matters that lie within the competence of FAO.

CHAIRMAN: I will ask the representative of Iraq again to stay within the technical spirit of this forum and to avoid political issues.

Kutaiba M. HASSAN (Iraq) (Original language Arabic): I was not raising a political problem. I was just talking about the food and nutrition and food security situation in my country.

I should like to continue with my statement uninterrupted because it is not right that a speaker be interrupted. Points of order are used surely only for the right of reply and not in order to make comments on a statement.

Is the Iraqi farmer able to engage in agricultural activities and improve his production in the absence of an agricultural infrastructure, whose absence is due to a ban on imports from certain influential Security Council members, and this at a time when FAO is making every effort to improve the health and living conditions of peoples throughout the world and support them in their efforts to bring world poverty and hunger to an end? Do not we have the right to ask the following question:

What does the USA want from Iraq and why is it adamant on its stance in all international fora, persistently calling for the continuous economic embargo on Iraq?

We see that democratic rights and international legitimacy to which the USA pays lip service have solely one single explanation namely that of subjecting all countries of the world to its own will, hence using them to achieve its declared and undeclared goals, looting their natural wealth and leaving them prey to all forms of underdevelopment.

It is necessary for FAO Member Nations to stand beside Iraq to help it overcome the plight fabricated by the USA and its allies.

The American persistent objection to the lifting of the embargo aims at killing an entire people. How can this be right when we are gathered here to discuss and examine the issue of the food and nutritional situation in the world, whereas Iraqi children, women, the sick, the old and the handicapped are suffering from the shortage of food and medicine?

Mr Chairman, having submitted to your Excellencies this overview on the food and agricultural situation in my country, I should like to call upon this august gathering to use all ways and means in order to put an end to the suffering of the Iraqi people, to call for the lifting of all economic sanctions imposed on Iraq in order to recover its natural right to export basic products and commodities and thus enable it to secure its urgent food and medical requirements.

Thank you.

Ms Fatimah HASAN J.HAYAT (Kuwait) (Original language Arabic): I should like to keep the tone of the Organization's debate in accordance with its regulations. This is why I ask for the right of reply to the statement by the Head of the Iraqi Delegation at the end of this morning's session.

CHAIRMAN: Yes, you can do it at the end of this morning's session.

Ms Lisa Bobbie SCHREIBER HUGHES (United States of America): I would also request the right of reply at the end of the session.

Ms Therese STRIGGNER SCOTT (Ghana): On behalf of the Ghana delegation, I join previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as Chairman of this Conference, which coincides with the historic 50th anniversary of the birth of FAO.

Before I proceed, I wish to express the regret of Mr Ibrahim Adam, Ghana's Minister of Food and Agriculture for his inability to be present at this Conference. An equally important assignment to join the delegation of Ghana's Head of State on a US visit after Quebec is the reason for his absence. He has however asked me to convey to this Conference his committed and full support for the philosophy and objectives of FAO.

I wish to assure you of the fullest cooperation of my delegation to ensure the success of this Conference. I would also like to commend the Director-General and the FAO Secretariat for initiating and pushing through cost-effective programmes for the benefit of the entire developing world.

As FAO celebrates its 50th anniversary, we pause to ask ourselves the question what would the world food situation be today if we did not have a Food and Agriculture Organization with all its interrelated activities from several other agricultural support agencies? Yet despite FAO we are still faced with the grim statistics of 800 million chronically undernourished people in developing countries, of widespread environmental degradation, and of inequitable commodity pricing, the consequences of which are unfair resource flows and poverty.

Thanks to the Food and Agriculture Organization, we have very positive programmes such as the Harmonization of Plant Genetic Resources, Codex Alimentarius - which ensures our safety when we buy food from the shelves - the Special Programme on Food Production in Support of Food Security in Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries (LIFDCs), the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) - the Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and many other important programmes that we conceive as a matter of course.

For these programmes and the wide range of services given to developing countries, FAO deserves the support of both developed and developing countries. Budgetary constraints, however, impede the goodwill of governments in developing countries to provide adequate support to the agricultural sector. The international donor community and other agricultural support agencies creditably fill the critical gaps in support of food security and general agricultural and rural development in developing countries.

This essential life-saving support is being threatened and could lead the world to other types of man-made tragedies that would again call for various fora and conferences in search of solutions. The solution is right here with us: to maintain a sound FAO.

My delegation has followed the proceedings of several conferences and meetings of the Organization. It has come to realize the sad dwindling levels of resources that have been with us for some time. To re-focus on resources under these critical conditions, for the plight of developing countries in general and Africa in particular, my delegation would recommend that the Director-General adopt a wide range of cost-saving mechanisms without seriously sacrificing ongoing major programmes. As part of the cost-saving measures, my delegation supports the reduction in cost for servicing technical assistance personnel by resorting to the use of National Professional Officers (NPOs).

As a further measure of cost-saving, my delegation observes that though large volumes of technical materials on improved agricultural practices already exist, these have not been implemented. Of immediate relevance are those related to soil water management, irrigation, drought-resistant crop varieties, soil fertility, and pest management. If we implement these programmes from pilot to expanded levels on a majority of food deficit areas, I am confident that there will be no more need for the publication entitled "Food Crops and Shortages".

In Ghana today, improved agricultural output has become an economic imperative to maintain the projected overall 6 percent growth of the economy. Donor-assisted schemes such as the World Bank Extension and Livestock projects, the CIDA Grains Project, GTZ Agricultural Extension project and a number of IF AD projects are contributing significantly to increased agricultural output. Paradoxically, the need to obtain more from the land and forest has led to rapid degradation of both. Serious efforts to balance harvesting and planting have yet to make a significant impact. It is in the light of this that my Government is grateful to the

Director-General for approving recently a TCP grant for "Assistance in Forestry, Policy and Legislation". I have no doubt that a follow-up of this assistance will help address the decline of our forest resources.

Many of the opinions expressed and to be expressed in this forum and elsewhere will continue to argue that agricultural production in sub-Saharan Africa has been greatly constrained by external environmental factors and by poor incentive systems. However, what is technologically effective and how policy incentives are applied by producers depends on how much production and marketing are coordinated.

My delegation endorses the recommendation of the last session of the Committee on Commodity Problems that donor assistance in improving storage, packaging and marketing, including financing, is as important as providing assistance for production. It is therefore urgent that FAO and donor organizations redirect their efforts in emphasizing post-harvest technology transfer with encouragement given to the private and public sectors to develop facilities for storing, processing, transporting, preservation and distribution.

The Secretariat and the Technical Committee on the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries have done a commendable job and have come out with a generally acceptable version of the code. Although it is not legally binding, some level of enforcement is essential. Most developing countries, however, lack the capacity to carry out any level of enforcement and would be grateful to FAO and the donor community for help in surveillance and enforcement of the code to preserve the dwindling fisheries resources of developing coastal states.

Ghana fully supports the efforts made by the Director-General to move FAO closer to the field where its activities are most needed. This principle, as manifested in the decentralization programme and the use of National Professional Officers, has our full support.

In furtherance of this objective, my Government is happy to announce that suitable offices have been found for the expanded Regional Office for Africa based in Accra. I wish on behalf of my Government formally to invite the Director-General to commission the new offices during his visit to Ghana this year.

The meeting was suspended from 10.10 to 10.25 hours

La séance est suspendue de 10 h 10 à 10 h 25

Se suspende la sesión de las 10.10 a las 10.25 horas

Tseveenjavyn UULD (Mongolia): Mr Chairman, I am greatly honoured to have this opportunity of representing the Government of Mongolia at this 28th Session of the FAO Conference in the company of the distinguished delegates from the other FAO member countries.

I would like to offer you my congratulations on your election as Chairman. I am convinced that, with the benefit of your guidance, this session will yield fruitful results. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude and respect to the Director-General and the Secretariat for all the preparatory work and arrangements they have made.

The 28th Session of the Conference coincides with the 50th Anniversary of the Organization, which is respected all over the world. The efforts of FAO aimed at eliminating poverty and hunger amongst the world's population and improving its food supply and security have always been highly appreciated by the Government of Mongolia.

The Government of Mongolia considers that in collaboration with the Organization and some of the member and donor countries, it has achieved better results in developing the country's agriculture sector and in enhancing the food supply since Mongolia became a member of the Organization more than 20 years ago. FAO TCP Projects including Agricultural Statistics, Agricultural Marketing Development, Livestock Gene-Bank and Weeds and Rodent Control being implemented in Mongolia during the last four years of transition from a centrally-planned economy into a market-oriented economy have had an important value for upgrading and improving the agricultural management and data processing capacity in the country.

Taking this opportunity, may I thank those donor countries and international organizations which have been providing and continue to provide assistance to my country, in the form of financial support, transfer of know-how, and supply of material goods, during the critical period of transition.

Since the start of the democratization process and economic transition of the country into the market system which took place five years ago, several results have been achieved. These are stabilization of the overall economic decline and economic growth of some sectors of the economy, liberalization of the prices for all agricultural products, and a legal framework of the market economy operations which has been established following the adoption of new laws taking into consideration the specifics of the country.

During the years of transition, the livestock sub-sector has developed sustainably, but the production of the crop sub-sector, in particular grain production, is continuing to decline due to the shortage of required capital for production and replacement of agricultural machinery; and, as a result, 700 000 hectares of grainland, more than half of the total, has been abandoned. The situation is worsened by the low yield as a result of the drought that occurred in my country in the summer this year, and the total harvest will be far shorter than the required domestic flour demand. As in many countries, the situation of food supply, in particular flour supply, remains difficult in Mongolia.

I would like to note that there is quite a lot to do for the Organization as we know that every seventh member of the world's population is starving from hunger and malnutrition, including more than 190 million children under the age of five years. On the other hand, as a result of overall change in the world's climate large numbers of people continue to be affected and become poor following the frequent occurrence of natural disasters like drought, flooding, storms and heavy snow falls. Also wars and conflicts of confronting sides in some countries and regions become another reason for many human beings being so poor. I believe that the Organization will expand its activities aimed at preventing the world's population from the causes of hunger, malnutrition and poverty and addressing their impacts.

To do this we should consider implementing the decisions taken from previous meetings and conferences. As we are all aware, two special agencies of the United Nations, FAO and WHO, jointly organized the International Conference on Nutrition in 1992. This Conference adopted recommendations to its participants and obliged them to develop a National Plan of Action for Nutrition. I believe that the more active participation of FAO for the implementation of recommendations and national plans in the developing countries will result in better achievements in those countries.

It is my belief that if FAO will take action in organizing transfer of technical advances achieved in all industrialized western countries, bringing not only food security but also leading to surplus agricultural production, this will be of great use for developing countries. Developing countries need to get some support through specific programmes for the development of small-scale agricultural products processing facilities including food processing, which will improve their food security and lead to a production increase of export items.

Mr Director-General, may I draw your attention to the need of some of the developing countries, like my own, to get the Organization's support in finding financial sources for the further development of investment projects, following their preparation activities, the results of which should be reviewed by the parties involved. In this connection I also would like to mention that there is a need to improve project cost efficiency, in particular reducing consultants cost, at both preparation and implementation stages.

As you are aware, the number of countries in a transition economy has been growing during the last years. The fact that agricultural production decline in most of these countries continues should draw more and more attention by the Organization and the international community. If these countries making a transition to the market-oriented economy get support through the development of special programmes and provision of substantial financial sources for food production, rural development and intensive farming, many households can be saved.

Protection and conservation of environment, in particular improvement of soil fertility, should be foreseen as major issues for food security of the world's population. As you are aware every year hundreds of thousands of tonnes of fertile soil are blown and washed from the earth and drained into the seas, turning croplands into sandy and stony areas. We have to mobilize our common effort for the development of regional programmes



for soil protection and conservation and I would like to express the fact that the Government of Mongolia is eager to participate in such programmes.

The growth of the world's population, changing climate and other situations in the world will continue to make improvements and expansions in the role and activity of the Organization necessary before we enter the second millenium. I do believe that the decision to be taken by this Conference will make a valuable contribution in eliminating hunger and malnutrition all over the world by use of the results we have achieved and introduction of advanced technology, and I am sure that the 28th Session of the Conference will succeed in discussing the agenda items and will take wise decisions to bring the activity of the Organization to a new stage.

Horace A. CLARKE (Jamaica): Mr Chairman, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen: Jamaica is very pleased to participate in this 28th Session of the FAO Conference. First of all, Mr Chairman, I extend to you my warmest congratulations on your election to the chair. I recall with pleasure the great honour it was for my country on the occasion of the 27th Session of the Conference when the Honourable Seymour Mullings, our Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture, served as Chairman.

I am assured Sir, that with your outstanding knowledge and guidance this Conference will also yield fruitful results for all member countries.

I wish also to use this medium to commend the Director-General and staff of FAO for their continued efforts towards providing solutions for the global food and agricultural problems.

Approval must be expressed for the changes in the structure of the Organization which have been put in place to strengthen its effectiveness in carrying out its mandate.

With specific reference to the Caribbean, we are particularly grateful for the establishment of a sub-regional office which has enabled FAO to better serve our needs.

The Conference is taking place at a very historic point in time for the Organization, as it coincides with its 50th Anniversary celebrations. The International Symposium and other commemorative activities just concluded in Quebec have brought the accomplishments of the Organization over the past 50 years into sharp focus and also underlined the tremendous challenges which are ahead.

As the available data indicate, in the developing countries there are still 800 million people who are chronically undernourished. In this regard the World Food Summit set for November 1996, for which preparations are already being made, will be very, very critical. With the dwindling bilateral and multilateral assistance to the agricultural sector of countries falling in the low-income food-deficit category, there is grave concern that the situation with respect to poverty and hunger will worsen considerably. In this scenario, there is going to be an increasing demand on the technical and financial resources of FAO to assist in agricultural development.

In recent years much attention has been focused on the impact of population growth and intensification of agricultural production on the environment. However, this remains a critical area of concern. In the process of agricultural production in many countries there is still considerable damage to natural resources such as soil and water. The depletion of fishery resources, rapid deforestation and the destruction of natural ecosystems also continue unabated in a number of countries and regions of the world.

In addressing these issues there will be need for further and more far-reaching interventions by FAO and other international and regional bodies with capabilities to assist countries in attaining sustainable development.

It is necessary, for example, to conduct further research and expand programmes to promote the use of pest and plant management systems that have minimal impact on the environment, relying largely on natural ways of controlling pests and increasing soil fertility.

Another issue of critical importance is that of agricultural development in the economy-wide context. Many developing countries are still undergoing stabilization and structural reforms aimed at correcting fundamental and unsustainable macro-economic disequilibria that developed largely as a result of adverse external conditions and internal policies pursued during the mid-1980s.

In the experience of Jamaica and that of many other countries agriculture has been deeply affected by macro-economic stabilization policies. This is evidenced in measures such as the reduction or the total elimination of input subsidies, the application of market-driven lending rates for agriculture, and the deregulation of marketing boards.

Closely aligned to structural adjustment is the growing thrust towards a liberalized global economy. The completion of the Uruguay Round of GATT, the further development of the European Union, the emergence of NAFTA and the overall trade liberalization efforts throughout the Americas, have all impacted on the international environment in which the agricultural sector exists.

The structural adjustment and trade liberalization process are tied closely together by the common challenges and goals they represent. Increasing competitiveness in the agricultural sector has to come through increasing productivity. Increasing productivity is dependent on technological changes in production, processing and marketing. The entire process is dependent on a stable macro-economic policy that sends the right signals to producers and consumers, and on institutions that promote and support the changes required.

The results of policies are not always intended. This is borne out by the recent study conducted in Jamaica with FAO Technical Assistance, to provide an assessment of "The Effects of Structural Adjustment on the Agricultural Sector's Performance", with particular focus on the impact of economic policy changes on small farmers.

The results of the study indicate that while there have been important benefits there have been major disadvantages from structural adjustment and trade liberalization policies which create hardships. The essence of a constructive strategy for Jamaican agriculture is to promote those areas which can take advantage of opportunities. At the same time, however, it is essential to be analysing the impact of these policies, particularly on national food security and on utilization of natural resources. Therefore, the policies should be constantly monitored and reviewed in the context of changing circumstance.

This is imperative in respect of the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of GATT and the WTO arrangements. Many countries will no doubt require the assistance of FAO in analysing the impact of these arrangements in their agricultural trade and developing appropriate policies and strategies to take advantage of opportunities and minimize elements that may cause dislocation.

This Conference is an extremely important forum for the exchange of ideas at the highest political and technical levels on the issues just outlined and others affecting food and agriculture. It is my hope that our deliberations here will lead to the identification of concrete solutions of the difficulties we now face and those we anticipate will arise in the future.

In spite of the financial difficulties encountered FAO has been able to maintain its potential for effective action and expertise and has shown commitment to its mission. However, the way forward requires careful planning to get maximum benefit from the available resources, and in this regard the restructuring already effected in the Organization, as well as the shifting of resources to priority areas, based on the Organization's expertise are steps in the right direction.

Before I close I must raise the issue of trade - E/U and ACP Banana protocol. There are a number of small countries whose economic life depend on this industry. It happens that a single transnational corp aided by a powerful country seeks to attack and destroy these mono-industry economy nations. World food security requires production, but world food insecurity includes the ability to trade. Let us urge reasonableness in this matter.

In closing this statement Mr Chairman, I would like to reaffirm my country's commitment to supporting the activities of FAO and in particular, our eagerness to work together with other developing countries under the technical cooperation development programme agreement to which we are signatories.

Ahmed ABU EL GHEIT (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): I would like to congratulate the Director-General Dr Jacques Diouf and all the staff of the Organization as well as the Member States on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of FAO of which Egypt was among its founding nations and has supported to obtain its objectives, in particular, the sustainable use of natural resources and ensuring world food security. My delegation together with others welcomes the growth of agricultural production over the last three decades. Egypt has contributed to this. In particular as regards cereals, we have arrived at record levels. The cultivable areas have also increased through the reclamation of new lands and with the development of cropping areas. Current estimates indicate that the share of arable land of each individual has decreased. Therefore we must make every effort to maintain the natural resources that we need, and we shall need rational strategies for the use of resources.

In the last few years we have had to face a lack of financial resources in many of our countries and this has been a problem for the agricultural policy. Population growth has also had an impact on the level of unemployment, and this has laid a further burden on the natural resources of countries, particularly in Africa and Asia.

It was stated in Quebec, that together with all countries of the world, we support the role of the Organization in taking up challenges in the world and raising the standards of living of all people.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that President Mubarak of Egypt supports the idea of the World Food Summit and to renew our commitment to food security, and to ask for solutions to deal with the root of hunger, and agree the necessary policies in this respect. We must all take part in this joint effort and we support Mr Jacques Diouf in the efforts designed to ensure that the World Food Summit in 1996 will be a basic stage of the road to guaranteeing food security. The agricultural sector in Egypt is one of the major sectors in the countries. Fifty percent of the population work on agricultural matters and the industrialization of agricultural producers.

The agricultural sector has begun to make programmes of agricultural reform such as during the 1980s and constructive results have been achieved. The programme of economic reform has been pursued into the 1990s. Agricultural policy in the 1990s is based on six points: completing the programme of agricultural reform and the use of hydraulic resources; support for the national agricultural capacity; making a link between research and implementation; raising efficiency and developing the marketing sector. The programmes of economic reform require fresh definition of the role of the state and its relations with the private sector. These programmes also call for appropriate financial monetary policies. They also call for encouragement of private enterprise and support for the private sector.

We give our support to the present working budget for the medium-term programme for the year 2000. We should like to express our support for the permanent budget drawn up by the Director General, where real growth was held at zero. We would also support the efforts designed to reduce the costs provided, that this does not have a negative impact upon the technical operation activities.

We should like to support the programmes concerning food security in the least developed countries because these resources are the minimum that the Organization can present to these countries. We also support the emergency programme for trans-planetary and in particular the locust control which is a great danger for the countries in the region.

Finally, let me submit to delegations one or two of the areas that we consider to be of major importance, and that require support from the international community: encouragement for rural development and combatting poverty in rural communities; secondly, sustainable development of natural resources; thirdly, encouragement of world partnership for sustainable development; fourthly, encouragement for the growth of food production in developing countries, and particularly the low-income countries; fifthly, support for national capacity for developing policies and programmes; sixthly, maintaining the capacity for research and expansion work, supporting trade in food products and opening up the markets to the produce from the farming countries.

We hope that all these efforts of the committee will be committed to solving the problems of the developing countries.

Junji ICHII (Japan): Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, it is a great honour for me to have this opportunity to represent the Japanese Government at this 28th Session of the FAO Conference, giving me the occasion and pleasure to have close and candid exchange of views with the distinguished delegates present.

First of all, I would like to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, your Excellency, Costas Petrides for your unanimous election as Chairman of this Conference. My greatest respects must also be expressed for the efforts of Dr Jacques Diouf, Director-General of this Organization, whom I am convinced will make this session a full success.

Mr Chairman, the world food situation has been significantly improved by FAO's great efforts, those of its Member Nations and related organizations in the technical and socio-economic fields. It is a great pleasure for us to recognize that through the improvement in such fields the world cereal production has doubled in the last 30 years increasing the per caput food supply significantly.

Nevertheless, it is quite serious that there remains nearly 800 million people suffering from undernutrition. The degradation of agricultural production resources leading to future shortage of such resources gives rise to major concern.

Moreover, recent agricultural production is approaching a stagnant point, putting the supply and demand situation no longer in a surplus position. Due to this turnover, the cereal stock level is estimated to decline to 14 percent, which is below the level of the early 70s when there was a global food crisis. Together with this, the higher world food market price and declining food aid volume are dramatically changing the whole food situation in the world.

Furthermore, because of the significant increase in the world population and the improvement of food consumption in many developing countries, as well as growing concern over global natural resources and environmental problems, the possibility of unstable food supply in the future seems to be more realistic.

Mr Chairman, taking into consideration such supply and demand situations of food, I believe that the food security issue will be more important than before. It is an urgent problem to secure food for the low-income developing countries with a large amount of undernourished population. To solve this problem, it is necessary for each country to increase agricultural production capacity securing domestic food supply and prompting economic development. In this concept, Japan has been implementing assistance aimed at food production increases in those countries concerned. In the same context, Japan expects a positive outcome from the special programme for food security in Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries.

Sustainable development is also an important issue for the countries requiring reinforcement of producing capacity as well as the currently self-sufficient countries, from the viewpoint of conservation of production resources and the environment. Therefore, it is important to make clear the methods to achieve sustainable development, as well as their execution.

Concerning the rise in international market price of cereals and the decrease in the global food stock and food aid levels, which are pointed out in the Secretariat's document, my country hopes that these will not have negative effects on food security for developing countries and food importing countries. In this concern, it is important to fully analyse the present market situations and the impact of the results of the Uruguay Round from the viewpoint of world food security.

Mr Chairman, Japan considers that food security needs to be addressed increasingly on a global basis in the coining 21st century. Keeping this in mind, I would like to underline the importance of taking into account population, food and environment together, and giving importance not only to the developing countries suffering from hunger and malnutrition, but also developing countries achieving significant economic growth and even food importing developed countries.

In conjunction with this, I would like to briefly refer to the Ministerial Meeting on World Food Security in Quebec City, Canada, just recently held.

What we have pointed out there, was that while many food importing countries rely for their supply of food on limited number of food exporting countries, there is an increase in the number of potential food importing countries. Based on this observation we stressed that the food supply and demand situations of these rapidly developing economies and countries with extremely low self-sufficiency ratio of food might be possible to influence international supply and demand situations and thus, might affect seriously the world food security in the future.

In consideration of the foregoing, it is necessary for food importing developed countries and developing countries approaching to this category to make efforts, within the framework of relating international rules, to domestically produce basic foods in a sustainable manner in order to stabilize future world food supply and demand. We firmly believe that this approach is necessary for the achievement of food security for all.

I have touched upon Japan's basic ideas on food security, and together with various points made by other countries I think it is important now to seriously discuss food security issues in various fora. In this connection, Japan highly commends the initiatives taken by the Director-General, Dr. Diouf, to convene the World Food Summit in November next year. Japan will actively participate in the discussions in order to achieve the kind of world food security that covers and serves both developing and developed countries.

The policy document and plan of action, envisaged to be the major outcome of the Summit, should be instrumental for world food and agricultural policies and actions with the supreme aim of achieving world food security. Therefore, although the Secretariat's document C 95/2 explains that "the plan of action will specify the actions to be taken to ensure sustained progress in reducing the incidence of chronic undernutrition and improving nutritional well-being for an ever-increasing population", I firmly believe that it should be the one to take care sufficiently and in a well-balanced manner the food security concerns of all countries and peoples, irrespective of whether they are developing or developed countries.

Deforestation and forest degradation on a global scale is a pressing issue which requires an intensive approach with human wisdom. In this context, it is expected that the Open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests established under the UN Commission on Sustainable Development will bear a fruitful result.

However, while we are sitting here global forests are continuously being depleted. Therefore, as Japan proposed at the Ministerial Meeting in March this year, further practical actions should be taken in the field. Such actions include: demonstration of sustainable forest management on an operational scale based on internationally developed criteria and indicators, and participatory afforestation and forest conservation activities using experience and expertise obtained through FAO's community forestry activities.

In promoting such actions, coordination between forestry and other land-related sectors, such as land use and agricultural development, and the establishment of a close linkage between bilateral and multilateral cooperation are vital for their success. It is our firm belief that FAO would further contribute in such practical action areas.

In recent years an active global trend for the review of the fishery management system from the viewpoint of ensuring sustainable utilization of fishery resources has been observed. With the recognition that FAO's role in the area of fisheries is assuming further weight under these circumstances, the Government of Japan is committed to continuing its strong support of FAO's activities so that FAO can exert its leadership role to the maximum possible extent.

Based on this belief, Japan, in collaboration with FAO, will host the International Conference on Sustainable Contribution of Fisheries to Food Security in Kyoto, Japan, in December this year, to provide an opportunity for concerned countries to discuss this issue and obtain a common basic understanding.

FAO's past activities in assisting and advising developing countries have greatly contributed to the improvement of the world food and agricultural situation. However, Japan believes that FAO's activities should not remain as just development support for developing countries, but should strengthen those functions required to discuss and guide world agriculture as the centre of excellence. Moreover, I consider it desirable that FAO, the specialized organization tackling the issue of world food security, should provide appropriate advice to other international organizations discussing matters relating to food and agriculture.

Concerning the Director-General's initiatives to restructure FAO and review its activities carried out since the assumption of his office, I hope that the Director-General's leadership will further facilitate the reform of FAO so that it becomes a more efficient and effective organization. My country is ready to support FAO's reform as much as possible in this direction.

Our country has been expanding official development assistance in the agriculture sector as one of the most important parts of international cooperation. Concerning the cooperation through FAO, we have been providing support to many field projects and other activities. Japan is ready to contribute as much as possible to FAO's activities aimed at achieving world food security and from the standpoint of assisting developing countries' self-help efforts.

Finally, I close my statement by stressing our hope that in the mid to long-term perspective and bearing all countries in mind, FAO will strengthen its activities in the next 50 years in order that worldwide food security will be achieved and maintained in the future.

Peter CARBON (Dominica): Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Honourable Ministers, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, my delegation wishes to congratulate you and the Vice-Chairmen on your election of this important Conference. We would also like to congratulate the new members to FAO.

On behalf of my country and myself I wish to extend our congratulations to the Director-General and his staff on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of this Organization. During its long history it has been able to assist many developing countries, including my own, in fighting hunger and poverty, and in finding solutions towards providing food security for all. FAO is expected to carry out this mandate by helping to provide both technical and financial assistance to developing countries. Therefore we must give full support to the budget being presented by the Director-General.

My country is located in the centre of the Caribbean chain of islands. It always seems to be getting struck by any storm or hurricane which effects the Caribbean. In 1979 Dominica was devastated by hurricane David, followed by hurricane Alleyne in 1990. In 1989 hurricane Hugo destroyed the country completely. In 1994 Dominica was hit again by tropical storm Debbie. This year, 1995, tropical storm Iris and the hurricanes Luis and Marilyn devastated the islands. Throughout the years we have also been affected by drought, high winds, pests and diseases. Although FAO has been able to assist us with technical and financial support towards our goal of providing food security for our people, when these hurricanes strike my island we must find the courage and the financial aid for our people to start together anew. We must start to replant our agricultural crops, our forest trees, rebuild our homes, reconstruct our feeder roads, our bridges and coastal roads. We need to find ways of supplying our fishermen with new fishing equipment. We must provide food for our people, in particular for those who live in the rural areas.

In my country agriculture and food production have moved from the plantation system to a system of production by small farm families. This may not be as efficient as plantation agriculture in dollars, but it allows for equitable distribution of food and certain wealth among the rural poor: This change has improved food security in the island, but again it requires institutional support from the government - support in continuous education through research and extension services, support from credit programmes, support in marketing, support in the building of infrastructure and support to build farmer organizations such as associations and cooperatives.

If my country cannot attain financial and technical assistance from organizations like FAO and others, as well as friendly governments, the rural people will revert to their traditional farming methods which in the long-term will lead to the total destruction of our tropical forest. We must therefore provide the small farmers with modern farming techniques that includes soil and water conservation, irrigation, integrated pest management, supply of inputs and overall improved farm management techniques.

Eighty percent of Dominica's export earnings depends on the sale of agricultural crops, especially bananas, known to us as "Greengold". Export-led growth and better trade are the keys to our economic development. Free trade is seen as the engine of growth, and this policy should lead to domestic and economic reforms.

But if free trade does not take the economic stability of small island states into account, it is not fair trade. For example: our banana exports at the present time are at zero due to hurricanes. Therefore the trade support we are now receiving from the European Union is critical in keeping our market share when production returns, something that needs to be taken into account.

We recognize that our development will have to take into consideration the effect of storms and hurricanes, but we cannot face those natural disasters alone. Since we are partners in the global community, we urge our brothers and sisters in all international organizations such as FAO, WFP, IFAD and others to support us in our efforts, and to help us restore our agriculture, forestry and fisheries industries. Traditionally, we have received support and assistance from the US, UK, Canada, France, and the European Union, just to name a few. For this we are thankful. We are now making an appeal to our new friends to come to our assistance in this time of need.

My government would like to take the opportunity to mention the assistance received from the Governments of the Republic of Taiwan and Japan, which have been helping us with diversification of our agriculture and fisheries. We have taken further action toward diversification in agriculture by introducing some wind-resistant crops, increasing small stock production and aquaculture. We have placed special emphasis on the improvement of our ecotourism product.

Dominica is known as the nature island of the Caribbean, and we will make every effort to ensure that it maintains its name. My government has taken a keen interest in the protection and enhancement of our environment. We have established a forest reserve, a number of national parks, and implemented regulations for protection of wildlife, rivers and coastal zones.

Dominica is listed as one of the world's 10 most beautiful nature islands. We intend to make it the most environmentally friendly island in the world, but we believe also that environmental protection should be the responsibility of all nations.

Our women have been in the forefront of our economic development; they have shouldered most of the work in rural areas. We recognize their efforts and have set up special programmes to bring out their skills.

What changes can be made? FAO is the backbone of the agriculture, forestry and fisheries development, but it does not have the financial capacity that is needed. It must therefore continue in its efforts at building closer partnerships with other UN agencies, international institutions, the NGOs, and the private sector. By doing so we can all acquire the resources which are necessary for working together towards effectively achieving the goals of food security among all nations.

My delegation would therefore appreciate that sustainable development and food security of small island states, especially those which suffer from natural disasters, be placed on the agenda of the World Food Summit to be held in FAO next year.

I would like to assure the Director-General that my Prime Minister and myself will give full support to that event.

Dionisio CUADRA KAUTZ (Nicaragua): Es para mí un honor estar presente en este magno e histórico recinto y reconocer con justicia, en nombre del pueblo y Gobierno de Nicaragua, que preside la Excm. señora doña Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, y en el mío propio, la loable labor que desde hace 50 años ha venido desarrollando la FAO.

Esta labor ha consistido principalmente en contribuir a la intensificación de la producción alimentaria, así como en destacar la importancia del sector agropecuario, tanto en los otros continentes como en América Latina y el Caribe, en la lucha contra la pobreza, principal causa del hambre y de la desnutrición.

Por otro lado, permítanme expresarles un cordial saludo, en mi calidad de portavoz de los distinguidos representantes de los gobiernos y sociedad civil de los países de América Latina y el Caribe, presentes en Managua los días 9 y 10 de octubre de 1995, donde celebramos la primera reunión regional de alto nivel

sobre seguridad alimentaria, aprobándose todos los acuerdos contenidos en la llamada Declaración de Managua.

Esta Declaración fue presentada en la ciudad de Quebec con motivo del cincuentenario de la FAO, y distribuida en esta 28ª Conferencia de la FAO, aquí en Roma.

El Gobierno de Nicaragua presentará, en cumplimiento de los acuerdos suscritos en Managua el 10 de octubre de 1995, un informe de los avances alcanzados en el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, que se celebrará en Roma en enero de 1996. En este sentido, esperamos con gran interés conocer los resultados de los países hermanos, así como las propuestas y acciones de la FAO para apoyar este gran proyecto latinoamericano y del Caribe, que surge en Managua, al igual que el apoyo de los países identificados con la causa de la seguridad alimentaria.

Si bien es cierto que a nivel mundial se han logrado algunos progresos, no obstante, las restricciones externas al comercio, los subsidios a la producción y comercialización en los países desarrollados, las limitaciones al acceso a la tecnología y comunicaciones y los términos de intercambios desfavorables, son factores que también agravan la pobreza y la seguridad alimentaria.

Por ello, el trabajo que queda por delante a todos, tanto a los gobiernos como a la sociedad civil y a los organismos internacionales en su conjunto, sigue siendo un desafío de gran trascendencia y de gran magnitud para finales de este siglo y el próximo.

En consecuencia, debemos fomentar estrategias de aumento de la producción de alimentos básicos, así como programas de prevención y control de deficiencias nutricionales y de micronutrientes, promoción de lactancia materna y control higiénico-sanitario de los alimentos, para garantizar alimentos seguros en calidad y cantidad.

Debemos continuar intensificando la solidaridad internacional en la lucha contra el hambre, la pobreza y la malnutrición. Debemos también alentar la participación de la población rural, y en particular de la mujer, niños y otras personas desfavorecidas, en las decisiones y actividades que afectan su vida por falta de una seguridad alimentaria. La buena alimentación que se traduce en cuerpos sanos y mentes sanas, traerá indiscutiblemente una paz mundial firme y duradera.

Es imperativa y urgente la tarea de continuar promoviendo y fomentando cada vez más la cooperación entre los países en desarrollo.

Es hora, por tanto, de que en esta gran cruzada contra la seguridad alimentaria todos nosotros, gobierno, sector privado y sociedad civil, unamos nuestros esfuerzos y hagamos realidad nuestros compromisos como países, y como regiones, para reducir drásticamente los enormes desafíos del hambre, la pobreza y malnutrición.

Quisiera, una vez más, exhortar a todos ustedes y, sobre todo, a los latinoamericanos y caribeños, para que apoyemos la iniciativa y los esfuerzos que viene realizando con gran visión el Director General de la FAO para descentralizar y hacer más eficiente esta Organización; en él confiamos.

En este sentido, deseo aprovechar la oportunidad para reafirmar la voluntad del Gobierno de Nicaragua de acoger una oficina subregional de la FAO, que apoye a todos los países de América Central; oficina que reúne una serie de factores altamente positivos.

Mi Gobierno respalda plenamente la iniciativa de celebrar la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación a nivel de jefes de Estado y de Gobierno. Reunión de capital relevancia en el difícil contexto internacional que hoy enfrentan nuestros países, especialmente los de América Latina y el Caribe, con su gran potencial de desarrollo.

Quiero agregar, al celebrarse hoy, 24 de octubre, el día de las Naciones Unidas, que sin agricultura no hay alimentos ni paz sostenible. Y sin alimentos ni paz sostenible, no podremos jamás alcanzar un verdadero desarrollo humano y sostenible con una seguridad alimentaria en beneficio de todos los seres humanos de nuestro planeta.



Para finalizar, quiero expresarles las palabras que la Presidenta de Nicaragua, doña Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, dijera en la fecha de inauguración de la primera reunión regional en Managua. Cito textualmente: "Al asumir la Presidencia de la República de Nicaragua, el 25 de abril de 1990, encontré un país destruido económicamente y con graves problemas sociales, en medio de las consecuencias de una guerra civil que durante más de 10 años dividió a las familias nicaragüenses. Hoy hemos logrado crear una verdadera democracia, emprender la modernización del Estado y mejorar sensiblemente nuestra economía, que, por primera vez en 11 años, creció en 3,3 por ciento del PIB, con una base fuerte en el sector agrícola.

Estos logros sólo han sido posibles gracias al esfuerzo de los productores, de nuestros trabajadores y de la sociedad civil en general, pero también gracias a la cooperación invaluable que hemos recibido de gobiernos y organismos internacionales, amigos que nunca nos han dejado solos."

Rawle C. EASTMOND (Barbados): First, on behalf of the Government and people of Barbados I extend sympathy to the Iraqi delegation. Secondly, I congratulate FAO on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. Thirdly, I extend congratulations to those countries recently admitted to membership of FAO at this Conference.

Before I continue, Mr Chairman, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment to the Chair and to express my appreciation for the very able and efficient manner in which you are presiding over our deliberations.

As we move towards the 21st century we find ourselves struggling to cope with old problems even as new challenges emerge. Here I have to express an element of disappointment and frustration at the fact that the scourge of hunger and malnutrition is still very much with us today. Barbados considers it timely, therefore, that the Director-General should propose the convening of a World Food Summit for the specific purpose of "raising awareness and political will at the highest level, as well as in the realm of public opinion, on the unacceptability of continued food insecurity and the need for global commitment and action to redress this problem". We are satisfied that, given the necessary support, the Summit currently scheduled for November 1996 can do much to improve food security and strengthen our commitment and resolve to the elimination of hunger and malnutrition. I am very pleased to be able to report to this Conference that member countries of the Caribbean community have all pledged their support for this very important Summit.

From time to time it is useful and necessary for any Organization to undertake a critical self-examination, if for no other reason than to ensure that it is realizing its objectives and also to ensure that it is operating at an acceptable or tolerable level of efficiency. I note with considerable satisfaction therefore that, even as the FAO celebrates its 50th anniversary, it is deeply involved in a process of self-examination and restructuring. Indeed, the Director-General is to be highly commended on the initiative which he is taking to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of our Organization. In this regard he is responding to the calls for greater efficiency in the utilization of available resources from those responsible for funding the Organization's programmes and projects, as well as from its general membership.

The 1996-97 Programme of Work and Budget provides several shining examples of an organization which is seeking to respond positively to the needs and demands of its membership. Let me take a few moments to highlight some of them. The first example is the Special Programme on Food Production for Food Security in Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries. This programme is being proposed against a background of increasing food insecurity and has the primary objective of assisting Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries rapidly to increase food production. Then there is the effort being made to decentralize the Organization's programmes and activities. This initiative has seen the transfer of certain posts from Headquarters to decentralized offices, as well as the establishment of Sub-Regional Offices.

I am delighted to report that the Government of Barbados has approved the agreement for the establishment of the FAO Caribbean Sub-Regional Office and I expect that agreement to be signed shortly, at a mutually agreeable time. Barbados is extremely grateful for the opportunity afforded it to provide the location for such an important office. The Government and people of Barbados deeply appreciate the support given by other regional countries in this regard. We shall undertake to ensure that staff members assigned to the office are able to carry out their functions in maximum peace and comfort. I wish to extend an invitation to all of you to

visit our shores at your earliest convenience so that you can see for yourself the facilities which have been provided.

Over the years, the Barbadian economy, like that of many other countries, has experienced a notable transformation. Whereas during the 1960s our economy was dominated by agriculture, which provided over 22 percent of the Gross Domestic Product, tourism has now emerged as the dominant sector, with agriculture providing no more than 5 percent of the GDP. It should be stressed however, that agriculture remains an extremely important sector of our economy, especially as a source of employment, a source of food for our population and also a source of foreign exchange, which is so vital in facilitating economic development. Any development which threatens the agriculture of small developing states is of concern to us and there are certain developments which I wish to highlight in this regard.

For the past three decades, Barbados has been striving to diversify its agricultural sector. We have been, and still are, heavily dependent on a single crop - sugar. I note that many industrialized countries have been advising developing countries to take steps to reduce their dependence on traditional export crops such as bananas and sugar.

Our experience is that diversification is an extremely difficult process. Barbados, of course, did not wait to be told what to do in this regard. It is extremely important, however, that the international financial institutions recognize that developing countries need adequate support if they are to develop and diversify their agriculture. We must be provided with access to adequate funding under appropriate terms and conditions, including loan funding, if we are to be able to undertake the investments necessary to stimulate agricultural development and, by so doing, help to improve the quality of life of our people. Further, we must be offered fair and reasonable prices for our agricultural exports if we are to earn the foreign exchange needed to support development, for it is on agriculture that many of us depend for much of our foreign exchange requirements. Additionally, we must be permitted reasonable access to the markets of the industrialized countries, in the spirit of the final act of the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations.

Permit me to mention another unfortunate development. It seems to me that a number of our countries are being punished by being denied access to concessional funding and international technical assistance because of the application of inappropriate indicators of development. Indeed, it seems, too, that we are being forced to rely more and more on our special cooperative arrangements, such as the Lome Convention, to develop our economies.

This seems a real tragedy when one considers that it was not so long ago that many of our concerns were articulated at various International Fora around the world. In this context I am sure that we can all recall, among other things, the Bridgetown Declaration, which emanated from the 1992 Inter-Regional Conference of Small Island Countries on Sustainable Development and Environment in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the commitments made at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development which was held in Brazil in 1992, and the recommendations agreed to at the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island States, which was convened in Barbados in 1994.

Barbados and other developing countries depend to a great extent on the technical and other forms of assistance provided through the Food and Agriculture Organization to help develop their agriculture and generally improve the standard of living of their people. Such forms of assistance are of special significance for small island developing States.

Of course, it would be remiss of me, Mr Chairman, if I did not make special mention of the Technical Cooperation Programme, for through this Programme the FAO has been able to respond with speed to the needs, especially the emergency needs, of our countries both on a national and regional basis. And here I must commend the Director-General for the understanding he has shown as regards the importance of this Programme to Member Governments in shaping the 1996-1997 Programme of Work and Budget.

We appreciate the financial constraints facing the Organization at this time. That is why I have to say that the efforts being made to contain and control the growth in Budget reflects a sense of responsibility by those responsible for the Organization's management that is hard to equal, far less surpass. We are hopeful that in the near future it will be possible to implement Conference Resolution 9/89, which requires that the Technical Cooperation Programme Budgetary Allocation be provided at a level of 17 percent of the total effective

budget. Bearing in mind, however, the current constraints, Barbados' position is that Barbados will support a zero growth budget.

Mr Chairman, I want briefly, as I conclude, to mention the assistance being provided to the Eastern Caribbean Region by FAO and the international community in the fight to combat the spread of the Tropical Bont Tick. We welcome the effort that FAO has granted to us in this area, and we are deeply appreciative of it.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I should like to say that like the other Member Nations of the Caribbean, we are deeply pleased that FAO has come to celebrate its 50th anniversary and, Mr Chairman, I am most deeply obliged to you.

Fahad Abdulla AL-HASAWI (Kuwait) (Original language Arabic): In the Name of God, the Merciful and the Compassionate, Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, distinguished heads of delegations, Ladies and Gentlemen: It is a pleasure for me to speak on behalf of the delegation of Kuwait. We would like to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, and also to congratulate the Vice-Chairmen for the well-deserved trust that has been placed in you in your election at the Head of the 28th Session of the FAO Conference. On this occasion I would like to welcome the new Member States in FAO. We wish them full success in achieving their aspirations for the prosperity of their nations and the nations of the world at large. It is our hope that the Conference, through sincere cooperation, constructive dialogue, and objective deliberation, may reach practical resolutions and recommendations to achieve our common aspirations.

Mr Chairman, this session is highly important, for it coincides with the 50th anniversary of the Organization. It is also an occasion to take stock of two years of activities undertaken by the Director-General, Dr Jacques Diouf. We were honoured to receive Dr Jacques Diouf in Kuwait last year. We appreciate his ambitions and hopes, to strengthen the role of the Organization and pursue its mission. We hope that he will be able to lead it with a steady step and a new vision adapted to this changing world in order to take up the challenges of the coming century, taking into consideration the basic concerns of developing countries.

The key to solving food and agricultural problems in developing countries lies in the sound management of their basic natural resources. It is thus important to review the priorities of the Organization in light of the reduced financial resources, and to strengthen cooperation and coordination with relevant UN agencies and other organizations. It is also important for FAO to have a pioneer role in assisting developing countries in benefiting from potential progress in biotechnology. This should increase food production, limit environmental pollution, and contribute to sustainable production as well as the elimination of diseases. This highlights the growing importance of the role that FAO should play in providing assistance and advice to developing countries in the field of agricultural policy, through special action plans aimed at promoting food security and nutrition.

FAO should also promote an efficient marketing system based on accurate data collection. It should be able to help Member States in setting up information and monitoring systems to identify the effects and impact of agricultural development projects on food security and nutrition in developing countries. As a follow-up to the International Nutrition Conference, I would like to stress the need to provide policy and programme support within the framework of sustainable agriculture and rural development in accordance with Agenda 21. The problems arising from increasing pressures on fish resources in the world confirm the need for a rational management of fish stocks in order to avoid deterioration of environmental conditions and promote sustainability of these fish stocks. That is why the delegation of Kuwait supports the efforts aimed at drawing up a Code of Conduct on Rational Fishing. This will promote better management of the maritime environment thus preserving the fisheries of today for the generations of tomorrow.

Mr Chairman, recent data and statistics produced by the Organization on the State of Food and Agriculture in 1995 are a source of concern and discouragement. They show that the expected cereal stocks for 1995/96 will be only 14 percent of expected consumption. This is much less than the level required to guarantee food security, and could thus lead to a deterioration of the situation in food-deficit developing countries. We must here affirm that the Government of Kuwait fully supports the efforts of the Organization to hold an international food summit in 1996. Such a Conference would raise public awareness and strengthen political

commitment at the highest levels to launch a worldwide campaign to fight hunger and malnutrition and to guarantee food security for all.

Mr Chairman, I should like now to commend the Organization for the positive efforts it has made in the Near East. We support the contents of the Draft Action Programme and the priorities that it sets for the biennium 1996-97. Nevertheless, I should like to comment on some issues that are of great importance to the region, and I should like to talk about some of the problems that we face in our agricultural development programmes and which prevent us from achieving food security. Our region has harsh climatic and environmental conditions. Water resources are scarce and deteriorating. In addition, we are victims of desert-locust infestation and the onslaught of desertification. We also suffer from overexploitation of natural resources and rapid population growth. All this shows the acute need of almost all, if not indeed all countries of the region for the services and assistance of the Organization.

Mr Chairman, there are indeed a great deal of obstacles that we are faced with in Kuwait in the agricultural field, especially since the heinous Iraqi aggression of 1990. This invasion led to massive destruction in the agricultural sector in addition to the environmental sector as the environment was gravely damaged and polluted in various ways. Since the liberation of the State of Kuwait, the agricultural sector has attracted great attention from the Government, in spite of its poor economic performance, as the Government believes in the need to diversify national income sources and achieve food security as well as conserve our natural environment.

On this occasion I should like to refer to the results of the action taken by the Agriculture and Fisheries Agency in Kuwait. We have drawn up a comprehensive agricultural development strategy that aims at achieving sustainable agricultural development in line with the orientations of the State. This strategy also aims at achieving self-sufficiency and takes into consideration the need for environmental conservation as well as the maintenance of natural resources.

The agricultural development strategy in Kuwait is based on several pillars. We promote highly developed greenhouse vegetable production, widespread palm tree plantations and date production, fish stock development, hi-tech animal husbandry projects and farms, and the expansion of urban green areas using processed sewage water.

We also encourage the private sector to participate positively and effectively in agricultural development in our country. Nevertheless, and in spite of these achievements, we face a great number of challenges. That is why we are also in need of greater cooperation with FAO in the fields of advice and technical assistance.

Haniteli FA'ANUNU (Tonga): Mr Chairman, honourable ministers, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen:

Mr Chairman and Vice-Chairmen, on behalf on the Tongan delegation we congratulate you on your chairmanship. We also extend our condolences to the Iraqi delegation. We also welcome the five new nations to the FAO family.

While recognizing and endorsing the various issues raised by country statements on food security during this Conference and the 50th Anniversary in Quebec City, I would like to submit my statement on the state of food and agriculture in Tonga, from the point of view of a small island nation.

Tonga has a total land area of 700 square kilometres spread over 700 000 kilometres of ocean, with about 100 000 people staying in Tonga and about the same number of people staying in foreign countries.

Tonga's natural resources are therefore in its people, land and ocean.

Our economy depends heavily on remittances of Tongans living overseas, foreign aid, Tonga's agriculture, and with future potentials on its undeveloped ocean resources.

Tonga is not a cereal country, but a root crop multiple cropping culture. Traditional crops of yams, taro, cassava, sweetpotatoes, watermelons and vegetables are grown for subsistence, sales on local markets, and

increasingly for exports to New Zealand, Australia and the United States. Our most successful export crops are squash pumpkins, exclusively to Japan, and dried vanilla to the United States, France and Germany.

I am pleased to say that our Government is very committed to the rapid development of agriculture, primarily to increase crop yields for domestic consumption and for export purposes.

I am glad to say that there is no food shortage in Tonga except for the short periods of reduced crop yields or crop failures due to cyclones or droughts. However we are making great efforts in nutrition education to counter the increasing incidence of diet-related diseases such as high blood pressure and diabetes associated with increasing consumption of imported processed foods.

Admittedly for a small nation depending on agriculture for its livelihood, we are constantly subjected to major constraints including:

vulnerability to natural disasters of frequent tropical cyclones, salt sprays, droughts, pests and diseases; its smallness and limited land area for its increasing population; its remoteness and long distances to export markets; high freight costs, high labour costs and low export prices; quarantine restrictions, tariffs and trade constraints; very high quality standards of markets; severe competition with developed and rich countries on the same types of crops and limited technical information and decreasing foreign aid.

My country has striven with some successes into niche marketing outside of the Pacific, in Asia and Europe. We are establishing bilateral quarantine agreements and trade agreements with countries of potential markets. Our country aims to expand our agricultural ventures into lands in Papua New Guinea and Sarawak, to be closer to identified markets and also food security for us during periods of natural disasters.

However, to achieve and sustain rapid agricultural growth Tonga still needs the continuing assistance of developed nations who are also FAO Members. Many of the issues mentioned earlier and in other member country statements are much more critical to us small island nations and can only be successfully solved and dealt with on the international level, and with the sympathetic considerations of developed and rich nations.

In conclusion, I wish to acknowledge and extend our gratitude to the Director-General and technical staff of FAO for their active support to Tonga in the past two years. We have benefitted greatly from FAO Technical Cooperation Programmes. We make good use of AGRIS, CD-ROMS, CARIS and other programmes on plant protection, etc. We have benefitted greatly from FAO regional projects in the South West Pacific. We are also grateful for the proposed new sub-regional office in the South West Pacific. For us in the Pacific, including Tonga, I urge FAO to please continue strongly with these programmes and allocate more funds to them so that we small island nations may benefit and survive the war against hunger.

I speak with heavy heart. Somehow, the South Pacific delegates have fallen victim to pickpockets and are concerned that we might join them on the streets.

Majid Jawad AL-JISHI (Bahrain) (Original language Arabic): At the outset I should like to offer my condolences to the Iraqi delegation.

Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General of FAO, your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen.

It is with pleasure that the Bahrain delegation is taking part in this 28th Session of the General Conference. This 28th Session coincides with FAO's celebration of its Golden Jubilee, and I would like to seize this opportunity to congratulate the Chairman of the General Conference on his election. His election is indeed a sound and good choice and it reflects the trust which he enjoys from all delegations here. I would also like to welcome all new members of this Organization. I strongly believe that their membership will bring help and support to the Organization. Furthermore, I would like to pay tribute to the Director-General for his efforts to streamline the programme and to explore ways and means to use efficiently the funds available to this Organization.

The fact that this 28th Session coincides with FAO's celebration of its Golden Jubilee gives it a special importance. It also entrusts us with responsibility to give a strong impetus to this Organization in order to

help it uproot hunger and poverty from the world, thereby liberating millions of people from this scourge. According to the data available, 800 million people are still suffering from malnutrition and do not have access to proper and adequate food supplies. We therefore believe that this places a further responsibility on this Organization. This Organization is the international melting pot, the clearing house, for international policies related to agriculture and food geared to help developing countries. According to estimates available of developing countries food imports will increase from 110 million tonnes now to 120 million tonnes by the year 2001, and will go up again to reach 160 million tonnes by the year 2010. This situation undoubtedly represents a major challenge to this Organization, as well as a yardstick for testing its credibility and orientation in assisting developing nations achieve long-term self reliance and secure short-term food aid flows.

We regret to note that food aid flows to developing countries have shrunk from 15 million tonnes in 1992-93 to 10 million tonnes in 1994-95, and this despite the increasing requirements of developing countries.

Few days ago, the Canadian city, Quebec, played host to an important ministerial meeting focusing on world food security. That meeting reached the Quebec Declaration coinciding with the 50th anniversary of FAO and which is a declaration submitted to this session of the General Conference for adoption. We seize this opportunity to support this Declaration, which we believe would be a stepping stone for this Organization to chart new strategies to help developing countries achieve genuine economic and social development.

When dealing with agricultural development, we have automatically to deal with one of the basic pillars of this development, namely, water resources. Water resources are the mainstay of agriculture. The scarcity of water for irrigation purposes represents a problem for many countries among which are the Gulf countries. This problem requires the pooling of our resources in order to make the best use of our depleting water resources and find alternatives to the depleted underground water reserves. We hope that this Organization will continue its support in order to help us adopt the best and most adequate policies for the sound management of water resources. I am happy to inform you here that in my country we are undertaking a number of projects whereby sewage water is being processed in order to be used for agricultural purposes. Furthermore, we strive to promote the responsible use of water resources through the implementation of modern irrigation techniques, taking account of the shrinking underground water tables and the increase in water salinity - we therefore welcome any form of technical assistance from FAO in this field.

The agricultural sector in my country has throughout the last decades relied heavily on the government either through infrastructure setting up or through specific support programmes in order to help this sector perform its task.

However, this policy changed its course recently, since we have opted for privatization policies whereby the government is deregulating its policies and giving further responsibilities to the private sector.

This policy has been initiated and it coincided with the creation of the World Trade Organization and the conclusion of the new GATT trade agreement. It is necessary to examine thoroughly the expected impact of this agreement in order to alleviate its possible negative effects and to secure fair competition in the flow of commodities. This new agreement will bring about trade liberalization and will also eliminate all forms of subsidies thus paving the way for the private sector to shoulder more responsibilities and to supply the necessary support to the agricultural sector. My government has initiated this policy and the privatization process is well underway in the agricultural sector.

Mr Chairman, as far as the Programme of Work and Budget is concerned, we do pay tribute to the Director-General for the efforts he made to submit realistic zero growth budget. However, calling for a further cut in this budget would make it difficult for the Organization to strike a proper balance between its available resources, the needs of developing countries and the requirements of this Organization, since it is an Organization shouldering tremendous responsibilities.

On this basis we believe that cutting this budget further would reduce the programmes of the Organization, especially at a time when we witness a widening gap between the haves and the have-nots. Furthermore, we believe that the World Food Summit to be convened next year will focus on important issues, namely food and hunger in the world. We hope that such a summit would bring about positive results and would help the

Organization receive adequate moral and financial support, so that it will shoulder its responsibilities in a most efficient manner.

We do also hope that this historic meeting here would establish a positive dialogue between the rich and poor countries, whereby the rich countries - at the highest leadership levels - would be more sensitive towards the sufferings of developing countries, and would also promote their assistance. In this connection I do deem it necessary to prepare a clear-cut plan of action for the next summit meeting with clear objectives so that we will not lose sight of the central issue, namely the issue of food in the world. We should not lose this in the labyrinth of side issues to be discussed at length.

Finally, I should like to express my best wishes for the success of this session, hoping that it will reach adequate resolutions and recommendations devised to speed up serious work leading to the expected goals and objectives.

Gustavo CASTRO GUERRERO (Colombia): Señor Presidente, señores ministros, señores delegados y observadores, el mundo agrícola continúa dividido en la relación Norte-Sur en razón de la pobreza, del hambre, de las desigualdades. A pesar de los avances por un mundo más libre de trabas en el intercambio de bienes y servicios, y la creación de la Organización Mundial del Comercio, subsiste una división por barreras que le niegan a los pueblos del Sur la posibilidad de avanzar hacia una sociedad más justa e igualitaria.

Barreras comerciales arancelarias y no arancelarias que impiden al acceso de los alimentos y materias primas agrícolas del Sur a los grandes mercados mundiales; barreras tecnológicas que cada día alejan más los sectores rurales pobres del avance científico y del conocimiento; barreras financieras que limitan las posibilidades de crédito a la inversión productiva y social y, en muchos casos, implican condicionamientos que atentan contra la soberanía de los países con menores ingresos; barreras informativas que han dejado en poder de unos pocos la información sobre lo que les sucede a muchos; subsidios agropecuarios, que distorsionan los flujos comerciales, le restan competitividad a la producción del Sur y le quitan el pan de cada día a millones de habitantes de los países más pobres.

En fin, muchas de las políticas de los países del Norte, por una parte incentivan la especulación en los mercados de productos básicos y, por otra subsidian y protegen excesivamente su producción agropecuaria de la competencia internacional, lo que se traduce en un obstáculo colosal al comercio y al desarrollo rural del Sur.

Al mismo tiempo, la irrupción de los países industrializados a base de subsidios como exportadores de productos agropecuarios que anteriormente importaban del Sur constituye otro factor perturbador de las economías de los más pobres.

Consecuencia lógica de estas prácticas es la reducción del mercado potencial de los países del Sur y la sobreoferta de una gran variedad de productos del campo, lo que se traduce en precios e ingresos más bajos.

Es un fenómeno que obliga, además, a recurrir al mercado internacional de capitales para financiar las compras externas de alimentos, en vez de utilizar esos recursos para fortalecer la inversión en la gente y aumentar la productividad en el futuro.

Esta dependencia en materia de suministro de alimentos crea un problema adicional, los países deficitarios son susceptibles a presiones políticas indeseables, sufren por las fluctuaciones de los precios y fácilmente se llega a problemas de desnutrición crónica.

Por otro lado, la inestabilidad en los sectores rurales del Sur restringe las áreas sembradas e induce a movimientos migratorios anormales, inclusive en algunos países, entre ellos Colombia, hacia cultivos ilícitos de drogas alucinógenas provocando graves tensiones sociales y un terrorismo atroz.

Todo lo anterior causa un daño económico y social irreparable a los pueblos del Sur y posterga los beneficios del progreso. De continuar esta situación la desigualdad se mantendrá y la estabilidad política estará comprometida.

Definitivamente, el impacto de la política agrícola de los países desarrollados sobre la agricultura de los países en vía de desarrollo, es el más claro ejemplo de la interdependencia del Norte y del Sur. Por lo anterior, y como lo señaló el Presidente de Colombia al asumir la dirección del Movimiento de los no alineados hace apenas una semana, se necesita un modelo alternativo de desarrollo, un modelo basado en la solidaridad y la cooperación internacional que estreche los lazos entre el Sur y el Norte.

La FAO que en Quebec acaba de celebrar cincuenta años de fecunda labor en beneficio de la agricultura mundial, tiene que seguir jugando un papel primordial en esta tarea de cerrar la brecha entre el Norte y el Sur y de contribuir a fortalecer los lazos de cooperación en un mundo que cada día se globaliza más en términos geográficos, tecnológicos, de comunicaciones y de comercio.

En este sentido, debemos hacer los máximos esfuerzos para evitar que las entidades multinacionales como la FAO se debiliten y por falta de recursos no puedan cumplir de forma cabal sus grandes objetivos.

Por ello mi país apoya, sin reservas, la solicitud que está haciendo a la Conferencia las directivas de la Organización, en el sentido de que se apruebe un presupuesto adecuado con base en el cumplimiento estricto por parte de los países miembros de sus cuotas atrasadas y nuevas y que tenga un nivel, al menos, no inferior al del período anterior. Por supuesto, Colombia aspira a un uso más eficiente de los recursos disponibles.

El problema del narcotráfico que tanto golpea a Colombia merece una mención especial, mientras se mantengan los altos niveles de consumo que hay en los Estados Unidos, Europa y Asia es difícil tener éxito con los programas para reducir la oferta. Se requiere de una acción combinada de todos porque es un problema multinacional que exige igualmente una solución multinacional.

Señores Asistentes, señor Presidente, mi país, Colombia, tiene el honor de presidir por los próximos tres años el Movimiento de los no alineados. La razón de ser del nuevo alineamiento no es la guerra fría, ni la confrontación Este-Oeste sino la solidaridad y la cooperación de los países del Sur para hacer frente al neoproteccionismo, para superar las barreras y obstáculos que los separa del Norte, que impiden un nuevo orden internacional más justo, más centrado en el ser humano, más comprometido en el ideal de ser libres, libres de la dictadura de la pobreza, que es la peor de todas.

Saeed Mohammad ALRAQBANI (United Arab Emirates) (Original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, the Director-General Mr Jacques Diouf, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to congratulate you, Sir, on your election to the Chair of this general Conference of FAO, as well as for the excellent manner in which you have been leading our deliberations. My delegation will be granting you its full support in order to obtain the objectives set for this session.

I would also like to congratulate the Vice-Chairmen and wish them all the best in their labour. I would like to congratulate the new members who have joined this Organization at this session. I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to tell you how pleased we are to have taken part in the Fiftieth Anniversary celebration of the creation of FAO.

On behalf of the United Arab Emirates I am honoured to be able to congratulate you, Sir, Mr Jacques Diouf, and express our appreciation to you and to the representatives of all the Member States who have taken part in the celebrations of the Fiftieth Anniversary of FAO.

Over this past period efforts have been joined in order to protect the environment, to preserve genetic resources, to promote sustainable development in order to increase the levels of food production in the world. We wish to launch a call to the international community so that they grant an even greater priority to all the problems related to food production.

Mr Chairman, my country fully backs the Director-General's initiatives aimed at reviewing FAO programmes and priorities in order to ensure food security. We would also associate ourselves with the initiatives the Director-General has undertaken. We thank him and congratulate him for his ceaseless efforts in order to attain these noble objectives. We believe that low income countries should be granted the highest priority. We will pursue our efforts in order to support these initiatives as my country has done in the past.



The United Arab Emirates is indeed one of the main contributors in the efforts to relieve the poorest countries' plights, particularly in the case of disasters of any kind. We have given 25 percent of our GDP in aid, grants and concessional loans to many countries.

We call governments and organizations to help and support FAO in its effort to implement the special programmes to increase food production to ensure food security in the world. This will require the relentless effort of all those with good will.

I refer now to the main guidelines of the Organization, which are in line with the global vision and the wise policies set out in my country by the Head of State, Sheik Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, based on solidarity and mutual help between rich and poor countries. These policies have been put into practice and coincide with the priorities of the Organization. This is why we call upon all countries to have the political will to foster world trade in food products. We also call on all countries to reduce any new tariff and non-tariff barriers on food products, particularly those which are exported from developing countries. In this way we hope to stimulate trade in food and thus help poor countries to balance their trade deficit and re-establish their balance of payment equilibrium. We call on all countries to make every possible effort to contribute to greater stability in world markets, in particular so far as food products are concerned, to guarantee a fair price for producers and consumers and stable market conditions. The international community should guarantee to food importing countries, particularly those with low incomes, access to food products at fair conditions, far away from arbitrary and exploitative practices.

On the basis of FAO reports, the food situation is hardly satisfactory. Wheat prices have increased substantially on account of poor weather conditions and other factors. Over the past fourteen months these prices have soared constantly and there have been no concessionary conditions given to poor countries who have to buy on these markets. Many developing countries, particularly in Africa, have seen the quantities of food available diminish, whereas the quantities available in other countries have increased. We must not remain paralysed in the face of such situations, but do something to solve the problems.

The United Arab Emirates are acutely aware of the need to examine the dimensions of the problems related to hunger and malnutrition. The governments, the international and regional organizations involved in the field should concert their efforts to adopt policies aimed at strengthening the awareness of the public regarding this acute crisis in order to find solutions. This is absolutely crucial.

In order to achieve food security, my country has financed a number of projects: land reclamation, agro-industries improvement of land irrigation systems, dam construction and the development of fisheries. We have also engaged in infrastructure expenditures for global rural development, in addition to loan concessions and grants which have been awarded. We feel that international solidarity is proof of our commitment to the well-being of all, something which is rooted in our beliefs. Although we are a very young nation, thanks be to God we have managed to achieve self-sufficiency in many food products. We have varied our farm production despite our poor climatic conditions. Our self-sufficiency ranges from 36 percent to 88 percent and even 100 percent for some products. We have given greater priority to legumes, fruits and fodder. We have attached great importance to the palm tree, which is associated with our history and our heritage. This is a crop first developed in oases many years ago. There are now over 50 varieties and 20 million trees in my country.

So far as fisheries are concerned, fish is one of the staples in our diet. We have gone beyond self-sufficiency and have a surplus which we export.

Despite the scarcity of grazing land and vegetation cover available for family husbandry we have developed this sector. Local production of dairy foods and of meat is available at local markets.

In the fight against desertification and the progress of sand, my country has great experience. Despite all the difficulties of hot weather and small rainfall levels and the harsh climatic conditions, we have planted trees to create green belts surrounding the cities, trees bordering our roads, and forests. Three hundred and thirty hectares of trees have been planted and we will make an effort to extend this area in the future. We have given special care to nature reserves. Over 200 islands have been declared nature reserves for birds and other fauna, particularly for those species threatened with extinction. These are the object of a great deal of care, and we have noted an increase in their population.

I would like to say that all of the advances we have accomplished would have been impossible without the backing of scientific research and technological transfer in the sphere of agriculture which was adapted to the specific geographical area of my country. My government devoted a great deal of attention to training in order to better prepare fishermen and farmers to use these new technologies.

In all these efforts made by my country, we strive to cooperate with other countries in the world in order to achieve food security, eradicate hunger and malnutrition, and guarantee sufficient food supplies. The eradication of hunger and malnutrition is a challenge which the international community must face. This requires continuous effort on both national and international levels.

Padma Sunder LAWATI (Nepal) (Original language Nepalese): First of all, I would like to express our condolences on behalf of my delegation and His Majesty's Government of Nepal on the sudden demise of the Minister of Agriculture of Iraq the other day.

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to be here in Rome especially after the observance of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Food and Agriculture Organization. May I extend, on behalf of my government and myself, our heartiest congratulations to the FAO on the completion of the auspicious 50th anniversary. May I also wish prosperity for the FAO; may its role be increasingly significant in the coming years in improving the state of food security in the world in general and particularly in the countries which have an unstable food security situation.

On behalf of my delegation and of myself, may I extend our hearty congratulations to you, Mr Chairman, on your election to the Chair of this august body. I would also like to welcome and congratulate the new members of our FAO family. I take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of Italy for the warm hospitality extended to the delegations.

We are meeting in this Conference at a juncture of history where an unprecedented capacity to feed and nourish all humanity has been created, but at the same time an equally unprecedented number of people are forced to be deprived of food and other basic necessities of life since they live in poverty. In fact, the problem of hunger, malnutrition and poverty has become one of alarming dimensions. Therefore, it must be our special interest as well as collective responsibility to seek a solution to the world food problem in conjunction with the resolution of poverty and ignorance. I feel that the overriding goal of an international forum like this should be directed to noble issues, such as how best to balance the present needs and aspirations of the people against the requirement of the future; how best to steer the globally available technologies in food production on the road to economic growth with equitable distribution; and what policy measures and efforts are needed in the present context to ensure adequate resource investment so as to improve the world food and agriculture situation.

After the restoration of democracy in Nepal, our priority has been to give a sense of direction to the economy and its development. The political environment is quite favourable. Very recent economic policies of our government were aimed at a liberalized and free-market economy. His Majesty's Government is committed to developing the agricultural sector which in turn would trigger the development of industry and the trade sectors. We are in the process of providing necessary incentives such as safety, security, and guarantees to the domestic and foreign investors in the country. Major agricultural policies are thus framed in rhythm with the government's broader economic policy.

The major agricultural policies of His Majesty's Government of Nepal are to accord priority to the agricultural sector as the lead sector of the economy; to encourage market oriented agriculture with beneficiary participation; to resolve poverty problems by concomitant development of other non-agricultural sectors and through the creation of additional employment and income; and to encourage commercialization of agricultural production based on ecological advantages.

Given the pivotal role played by agriculture in our economy, Nepal's eighth Five-Year Plan (1992-97) has accorded top priority to agricultural development and has set its goals: poverty alleviation, environmental protection, sustainable development, and the enhancement of people's participation. Within this framework, a number of priority areas for the food and agriculture sector were identified, including food security and nutrition; efficient growth of the sector based on agro-ecological comparative advantage; diversification and

intensification based on the farmer's resource endowment; promotion of sustainable farming systems, and a greater market orientation.

Nepal has recently endorsed a 20-year Agricultural Perspective Plan (APP). According to the plan, identified priorities for investments are rural roads; irrigation; rural electrification; enhanced supply of fertilizers; strengthened agricultural research geared to generating appropriate technologies; livestock development; promotion of high value crops; agribusiness; forestry and institutional strengthening; with a high degree of coordination among various sectors related to agricultural development. The APP target is that by the year 2015, per capita food grain availability is to be raised to 426 kilograms from the present level of 277 kilograms. The plan also considers the wise use of natural resources in an environmentally-friendly way. The plan calls for an investment of roughly US\$118 million per annum over the next 20 years. Technical assistance requirements are over and above this investment. Nepal would require international support and cooperation to meet this investment requirement as well as the sharing of technological innovations.

The degree of stagnation observed in agriculture could then be broken and a higher level of production and productivity achieved through the judicious mix of the packages mentioned above. The present government is not only conscious of the imperatives for the development of the agricultural sector, but it is also committed to the transformation of this sector so as to achieve a comfortable position for food security and also to help alleviate poverty in a respectable period of time.

Despite the important role played by the agricultural sector in the economy, this sector will continue to face challenges in the years ahead. Because of the lack of employment opportunities in the non-agricultural sector, population pressure has over-burdened the agricultural sector. In view of this fact, His Majesty's Government of Nepal has very recently created a Ministry of Population and Environment. This endeavour will certainly provide a way to tackle the issues related with population dynamics, the question of arresting environmental degradation and achieving sustainable development.

FAO-funded projects have contributed remarkably to our development efforts. FAO-Nepal cooperation dates back to the early 1950s. Among the agencies of the UN system, FAO was the first to start field cooperation with Nepal. Since Nepal became a member of FAO in November 1951, over 100 small and large projects have been completed covering various aspects of agricultural development, such as agricultural planning and statistics, crop diversification, forestry and watershed management, agro-industry, rural credit, food security, women's development, agricultural productivity improvement to mention just a few important ones.

In addition to these cooperative efforts at national level, Nepal has been actively participating in a number of FAO's regional projects and programmes. The regional projects demonstrate the important gains from regional cooperation, especially the contribution to individual national efforts. They also help regional countries to secure access to the widest possible range of expertise and promote collective self-reliance. In reporting this, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Director-General for selecting Nepal for launching the Special Programme on Food Security. The FAO's programmes and projects have been instrumental in making available such critically important inputs as technical advice and information, apart from serving as a link between Nepal and FAO.

We hope that Nepal will receive enhanced international support and cooperation for its investment requirement in its long-term agricultural strategy to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of the majority of rural poor people. Nepal also needs more programmes and assistance in areas of non-farm income-generating activities to enhance the income level of rural people which, in turn, will aid the agricultural sector. We also seek assistance in the institutional strengthening of the Ministry of Agriculture, especially in the agricultural policy and planning arena.

On the broader agenda of the Organization, we believe the Programme of Work and Budget for 1996-97 conforms with the needs and priorities laid down by the Director-General. With the firm conviction that the Programme will be translated into action, it will receive Nepal's full support and I look forward to cooperating in the programmes of action. Furthermore, the guidelines set out for the international agricultural adjustment will also be seriously considered by Nepal in formulating its agricultural development strategy. Nepal also endorses the Quebec Declaration at this meeting.

The agenda of this Conference and the documents prepared by the Secretariat cover a wide range of topics and issues. What I have presented here has touched upon only a few of the very important ones. Nevertheless, I can give an assurance that members of my Delegation will be presenting Nepal's view on specific aspects as we progress in this Conference.

CHAIRMAN: Kuwait and the United States of America have asked for the right to reply.

This afternoon, Estonia will not take the floor but they have asked that their statement be inserted into the verbatim report.

RIGHT OF REPLY

DROIT DE REPOSE

DERECHO DE RESPUESTA

Fahad Abdulla AL-HASAWI (Kuwait) (Original language Arabic): In reply to what was said by the delegation of Iraq in their statement this morning, the delegation of the State of Kuwait would like to reiterate the importance of maintaining a special spirit during the deliberations of this session of the Conference of FAO.

This is not the specialized international forum for dealing with the resolutions of the Security Council. Furthermore, we support what has been stated by the delegation of the United Kingdom this morning concerning the responsibility of lifting the economic embargo imposed on Iraq.

James SCHROEDER (United States of America): In regard to the statement by the delegation of Iraq earlier this morning, the United States of America wishes also to note that this is not the appropriate forum for discussing Security Council resolutions. Only when Iraq has fulfilled its obligations to the Security Council can modifications to the sanctions regime be discussed.

Alvaro GURGEL DE ALENCAR (Brazil): In the history of organized societies, food security has always been a critical element and a constant concern of leaders and regimes wanting to retain their power. The "pax romana" was maintained in part through the formula "pane et circensis" (food and entertainment), in this order. In the course of history, every time food security was seriously threatened, the inability to restore it to an acceptable level led sooner or later to serious social unrest: internal power struggles or migratory movements in search of new or more productive regions, or even the disappearance of a people, victimized by military conquest or quick decline and eventual collapse.

The historical perspective of food security is relevant to the consideration of the problem today. First, in order to remind us of the close connection that has always existed between hunger and social unrest. Even in modern times, many governments have paid a very high price for not solving or alleviating the problem of hunger. Second, the historical perspective allows us to retain the notion that the persistence of hunger and misery cannot only threaten internal stability, but can also result in external pressures or interferences. As has happened in the past, nowadays huge populations from countries with food deficits try to escape from misery by migrating to other countries. These migratory movements tend to result in political pressures, conflicts and undesirable social unrest. It is clear that all countries - rich, medium or poor - should deem the attainment of food security, at the national and the international level, to be of decisive strategic importance for the preservation of their own interests. Being aware of such commonality of interests is essential to achieving worldwide mobilization to come to grips with the problem.

It is shocking to see that at present there are some 800 million people suffering from chronic malnutrition in the world. Without decisive action, consisting in a direct attack to the causes of the problem, the chances of reducing this figure and, consequently, reducing the danger it represents to the world community, are meagre.

The nature of the problem is known. The long list of constraints includes: losses in production due to plagues and rodents, low productivity due to inappropriate inputs and techniques, lack of irrigation, critical deficiencies in storage and transport, insufficient marketing systems, and, to worsen the problem, inefficient patterns of land tenure. In addition, stress must be laid on the crucial problem of the low level of purchasing power of populations affected by hunger. There is a clear need for actions aimed at reducing the constraints on the supply of food and, at the same time, strengthening demand through the generation of employment and income, in order to bring about a better match between the purchasing power of the people and the price of food.

The Brazilian Government is fully committed to this vital goal. Food security has been chosen as one of the highest governmental priorities, and it is our objective to involve all segments of the national community in the fight against hunger. It is also essential to have the support of the international community. In this regard, Brazil fully supports the initiative of the FAO Director-General, Dr Jacques Diouf, to convene a World Food Summit in 1996.

As the Director-General pointed out in a recent speech, the Summit will represent not only a significant effort to disseminate information about the nature and the magnitude of the problem, in itself an important objective. It will also represent an opportunity to elicit an even stronger commitment from all members of FAO regarding the actions needed to combat hunger. In addition, the Summit should allow us to seek to achieve, within the diverse characteristics of the countries plagued by hunger, a certain unity in comprehending and facing the problem, including establishing certain basic common criteria to guide us in the search for solutions. It is important, for instance, to stress that food security must be ensured to the whole population. Any target below 100 percent food security is simply unacceptable, ethically and politically. That is why FAO has chosen the motto "Food for All".

As we know, it is foreseen that the World Food Summit will adopt a Declaration of Principles and a Plan of Action, with detailed support activities to be implemented, from the development of infrastructure, health, education and rural extension, up to attracting investment, assistance to settlements, support to small farmers and small enterprises and the conservation of the environment and natural resources. We must not forget that, above all, food security means not only the availability of food, but also access to food. In many instances, it is not possible for governments to distribute free food for all the needy; not only is it a financial burden that governments cannot afford, but it is not compatible with human dignity. Given these constraints, the only legal way to have access to food, if one does not produce it, is to buy it. It is evident that, beyond emergency assistance, access to food ought to be ensured through employment and income generation to allow people to buy food in the market-place. Thus, food security can only be achieved through actions aimed primarily at creating purchasing power in the target populations.

The evolution of these concepts in the international community and their enshrinement in a World Summit document will contribute greatly to solve the problem of hunger and chronic malnutrition. There is no substitute, however, for the conscientious national effort to face the problem. Such effort must be a strategic component of a country's development project and be executed in partnership with all segments of the national society.

Regarding forests, I would like to reiterate some of the points raised by the Minister of Environment of Brazil, Dr Gustavo Krause, on the occasion of the Ministerial Meeting on Forests held in FAO Headquarters during last March. Brazil believes that Agenda 21 - particularly Chapter 11 - and the Non-Binding Declaration on Forest Principles, are amongst the most comprehensive documents ever produced within the United Nations. The Forest Principles were an expression of international consensus on the objectives of conservation, management and sustainable use of all types of forests. It is a balanced document, which recognizes the states' sovereign and inalienable right of using their forests, and points out the need for sustainable development. We think that there is an urgent need to fully implement these principles.

In this process, FAO, as task manager for forest issues within the United Nations System, has a very important role, not only for the contribution that FAO can provide to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, but also for the technical expertise that the Organization has in this field. FAO should be able to publish transparent and reliable data on environmental issues related to forests. FAO could also proceed to the identification of financial resources to foster research and to produce technical and scientific studies on the relationship between forests and other issues related to sustainable development,

taking into account the environmental, social and economic aspects of the subject and the need for technology transfer, capacity building and provision of new and additional resources. FAO has a leading role in suggesting methodologies on forest issues, such as the identification and development of criteria and indicators for the sustainable management of all types of forests. We favour a strengthening of FAO's activities in support of national capacity in the field of forestry, particularly in relation to national forestry action plans and programmes.

FAO also has an important contribution to make in other areas related to the environment. To wit, the role of FAO in the area of biodiversity, where close collaboration with the Conference of the Parties and with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is of utmost importance to avoid overlapping of activities. In this regard, we stress the important work under way in the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources in the preparatory process for the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources, including the elaboration of the First Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources.

The Convention on Biological Diversity, which deals with all genetic resources, including plant genetic resources, is the result of a negotiated process and is a balanced text with many important concepts which represent concrete gains to developing and developed countries alike. The Convention represents a very important achievement of multilateral diplomacy and is a step forward in order to implement the conservation and the sustainable use of biological diversity.

The revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources currently under way in FAO must be done strictly in line with the provisions and the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. It must be a cautious and precise exercise that should not be hastened by considerations of a purely temporal dimension. In this connection, there are many important concepts that must be incorporated in the revised Undertaking, such as:

- a) sovereignty of states over their plant genetic resources and the access to them, subject to national legislation and prior informed consent;
- b) recognition of the rights of farmers and traditional communities to dispose of their achievements and to benefit from them, including through a sui generis intellectual property regime for the protection of plant genetic resources provided by farmers and traditional communities as well as of their knowledge, innovations and practices;
- c) conservation should preferably be in situ and complementary ex situ in the country of origin of the genetic resources;
- d) transfer and development of technology;
- e) participation of developing countries in biotechnological research and access to its results;
- f) new and additional financial resources to meet the needs of developing countries.

The adoption of the Code of Conduct on Responsible Fishing represents an affirmative response with a view to ensuring effective conservation, management and development of aquatic resources, with due respect for the ecosystem and biodiversity. This is an important step, in particular for developing countries which form the vast majority of coastal states and can no longer suffer the squandering for which they have not been responsible and of which they are not beneficiaries.

A similar effort in the search for compatible environmental, economic and social approaches to fisheries is made in Brazil through the adoption of sustainable development practices, relevant principles and rules on management and conservation of fisheries.

Brazil recognizes that the Code sets out principles and international standards of behaviour for responsible practices in order to preserve the vital source of food, employment and economic well-being that fisheries represents both for the present and future generations. We urge all states to take the necessary measures for this Code to be soon implemented.

In this important moment when we approach the end of this century, it is not possible to think about the role of FAO in combatting poverty and malnutrition without mentioning the difficult financial situation that FAO faces.

As we previously stated in the 108th Session of the Council, Brazil shares the widespread conviction that it is incumbent upon all member countries to fulfill their financial obligations in full, on time and unconditionally. Any weakening of this commitment as regards FAO cannot but have detrimental effects on the functioning of the Organization and, indeed, shake the very foundations of the United Nations edifice. The occurrence of arrears, regrettable in itself, must not be utilized as a reason for reducing the level of activities, but should rather serve as a reminder of the need to strengthen our resolve to again become and stay current in our payments.

It must be understood by one and all that arrears are due and cannot be written off; arrears should be paid as soon as possible; the payment of contributions in full as well as liquidation of arrears cannot be made contingent upon any reduction in the level of the budget. No country can determine unilaterally the amount of its contribution and therefore the total level of the budget. FAO should continue to streamline procedures, improve the cost effectiveness of all programmes and make efforts to reduce costs without negatively affecting the implementation of the Programme. Total absorption of cost increases will eventually put FAO in a straight-jacket, rendering it unable to respond adequately to new challenges.

The fight against hunger and malnutrition is not an activity where the international community can afford to relent in its efforts, as this is the main source of all ills affecting humankind today. Every nation has to fulfill its responsibilities in this struggle, including the timely payment of its contributions to FAO.

In order to achieve the objective of Food for All it is imperative that FAO, while improving its level of excellence, continues to expand operational activities. The gathering of knowledge and the improvement of FAO as a centre of excellence is not an objective in itself, it is only the means that will allow FAO to fulfill its mandate of eradicating hunger.

Neither should work of a normative character, however useful, detract attention in any way from the all-important operational activities. FAO's rightful place is in the field, providing technical assistance, transferring technology and knowledge and cooperating with governments as they request assistance in the task of increasing food production and productivity. Ultimately, FAO's activities have to be gauged by their effectiveness in improving the working and living conditions of the end-user, i.e., the men and women in the fields, forests and seas who are engaged in the production of food, as well as all those who have the right to adequate nutrition. Until such a time as every human being has been freed from the scourge of hunger and malnutrition, it is premature, if not irresponsible, to think of converting FAO into an academic institution.<sup>1</sup>

Addis Alemi BALEMA (Ethiopia): On behalf of the government and peoples of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, it is my pleasure to congratulate you on your election to the Chairmanship of this exceptionally important session of the FAO Conference. I wish you every success in guiding the deliberations and I am confident that you will lead it to fruitful conclusions.

May I take this opportunity also to welcome those joining the Organization. Certainly, I am glad to note that the new members, through their presence and contributions will enrich and strengthen the role of FAO, and, they in turn will undoubtedly benefit from membership in this Organization.

With this brief remarks, may I turn to an issue gaining global concern - food security. Current world food and agricultural production review and future projections indicate that our planet-earth is capable of producing adequate food for all. However, there are still millions of people who suffer from hunger, malnutrition, chronic undernutrition, protein and micro-nutrient deficiencies. The main cause is poverty and results out of unequitable distribution of resources.

Mr Chairman, in the face of domestic and external economic, political and social challenges such as debt burden, low-price to primary agricultural commodities, civil strife, declining official development assistance and most importantly the ever declining level of investment to agriculture, it is increasingly difficult to bring a remarkable increase in agricultural production particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. In this respect, agricultural production growth rate had been far behind population growth in the region in the past few decades and future projections are not promising. Deterioration of the ecosystem is very common. Environmental degradation and desertification is advancing.

---

<sup>1</sup> Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

A country level food production assessment specially in low-income food-deficit countries such as Ethiopia, reveals the food crisis more acute. Joint WFP/FAO food assessment reports and our experience witness that Ethiopia is structurally food deficit. These repeated food shortages were in the range of 1 million tonnes and even higher during the drought. Deficits were mostly met by food aid and by imports. In this connection we would like to express our sincere appreciation to FAO, WFP and international community at large who unfailingly participated in bridging the gap under the emergency operations.

Recognizing agriculture as the backbone of the Ethiopian economy and food security embedded in the political and national economic structures, the Government of Ethiopia after re-establishing peace, security and democracy embarked upon the formation of constitutional government that assumed office in August 1995. Economic liberalization had been under way starting the transitional period. The adoption of market-oriented policy was central. Some of the policy reform measures recorded some successes though others had negative impacts like significant decline in food production as a result of decline to subsidy in agricultural inputs.

With a view to achieving sustainable food security and improving nutritional levels, the Federal Government's development plans aimed at food self-sufficiency as one of the major policy objectives in its five-year plan. Increase in production and productivity of the small farmers with due emphasis to rural women is an area of focus to meet the national requirement, since this sector constitutes 90 percent of food production in the country.

Crop production in Ethiopia suffered from erratic rainfed agriculture. However, water resource is abundant and irrigation potential is high. But, regrettably, only 5 percent is irrigated out of 3 million hectares.

Despite we attach priority to small-scale irrigation, little has been achieved since irrigation schemes require substantial capital outlay which is beyond the financial means of developing countries like Ethiopia.

We are very pleased to note with satisfaction that FAO's assistance to Ethiopia under various programmes was helpful in increasing food production and productivity. We appreciate the initiatives taken by FAO to identify 15 countries with chronic food security problems in the LIFDCs. We support the special programme and look forward to successful implementation of same. In summary we would like to emphasize that future FAO's assistance is mostly geared towards water resource utilization and management taking into account the experience to be gained during the pilot phase.

Turning to the livestock sector, it is worth mentioning that Ethiopia has the highest livestock population and per capita cattle size in Africa. However, existing limited capacity has been a draw-back to modernize the sector and effectively use the untapped resources.

While genetic upgrading can bring substantial increase in production, controlling diseases of economic importance is also equally important. Ethiopia's effort to control major livestock diseases with support from FAO is showing good results. The priority given to the EMPRES programme further strengthens assistance in this sector and, we are, therefore, optimistic that future cooperation and collaboration with FAO and neighbouring countries will contribute to the development of this sector.

In respect to relief and emergency measures, food assistance still continues despite governments concerted effort to put an end to food aid. To combating future disaster and contained emergencies, the government reorganized and strengthened the disaster prevention and preparedness programme.

As one of the centre of biodiversity Ethiopia attaches special importance to the work of the Commission on Plant Genetics Resources. We believe that the conservation, sustainable use and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from utilization of genetics resources for food and agriculture will make a breakthrough in the quest for food security. So far activities in the field of plant genetics resources have been encouraging. We hope that the preparatory works for the Fourth International Technical Conference, the report on the state of the world's plant genetic resources, and the global plan of action will be finalized as planned. In summary, it is our view that all the stake holders in the plant genetic resources have to cooperate in the negotiation process to bring the international undertaking to a meaningful end compatible to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

There is consensus that FAO is uniquely placed in the UN system for the development of food and agriculture over and above its designation as task manager for some chapters under the UNCED.



In the light of its broader mandates, it is traditional for FAO to prepare a programme of work and budget in a biennium with active participations of the programme and finance committees and with guidance from its governing bodies. Naturally such programmes have to be backed with the necessary resource for successful implementations. Sources of funds were mainly assessed member contributions. So far there are diverging views as to the level of the budget. Many countries are in arrears of which lack of commitments on part of a major contributor is the main concern. It was with the spirit of coming to the right levels of budget that series of discussions and consultations were carried in various fora. However, no consensus was reached until this session.

Ethiopia appreciates those Member Nations whose advice contributed for efficiency and effectiveness. Nonetheless, we note with concern that few members still opt for a budget reduction beyond the 1994/95 level at the zero real growth rate. Proposals for continuous cost absorption also cripples the financial position of the Organization. The inability to increase the budget for TCP and the attitude to reduce various resource facets looks also discouraging when membership is on the increase and the issue of food security is still at stake. Consequently, resource lacking programmes will have poor implementation performance and this adversely affect developing countries striving to attain food self-sufficiency. We, therefore, draw the attention of all Members to join hand to meet the right budget levels through fulfilling their commitments so that neither a reduction in the number of projects nor deterioration in the qualities of work is a concern.

In view of maintaining optimal budget level to help the Organization continue its function we support the budget level proposed by the Director General and we are pleased to inform the conference that Ethiopia will meet its requirements fully.

As far as the two priority programmes are concerned, we note with great satisfaction that the special programmes for food production in support of food security in low-income food-deficit countries and the emergency prevention system for transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases (EMPRES) are well on board. While we encourage further strengthening and full realization of these programmes, the establishment of a rapid intervention mechanism within EMPRES to tackle unforeseen outbreaks of the desert locust is also timely.

Despite generous promises, the 1974 World Food Conference is remembered with mixed features of some successes. As a result of limited accomplishment and following multi-dimensional problems, many countries in Africa continue to be confronted with food crisis. Then food insecurity and poor nutritional undernourishment are still dominant, many developing countries put them as priority policy objectives. Therefore, the need for a concerted effort to tackle this problem lies within the international community, international financial institutions, non-government organizations (NGOs), the private sector and society at large. Definitely, FAO has an important role to play in coordinating and assisting Member Nations. In view of this fact, we fully support the initiative by the Director-General for convening a World Food Summit in Rome in 1996 with a view to renewing the commitment of political will at the highest level in order to eradicate hunger and malnutrition.

In conclusion, Ethiopia attaches unique importance to the objectives and activities of FAO. We would, therefore, like to express our satisfaction at the work of the Organization and we look forward to work together in the future with more cooperation and collaboration.

Thank you for your kind attention.<sup>2</sup>

The meeting rose at 12.45 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas.

---

<sup>2</sup> Statement to be inserted in the verbatim records on request.

24 October 1995



منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

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

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

# CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Twenty-eighth Session • Vingt-huitième session • 28° período de sesiones

**EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING  
HUITIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
OCTAVA SESION PLENARIA**

24 October 1995

**The Eighth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.30 hours**

**Mr Costas Petrides,**

**Chairman of the Conference, presiding**

**La huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 30**

**sous la présidence de M. Costas Petrides,**

**Président de la Conférence**

**Se abre la octava sesión plenaria a las 14.30 horas**

**bajo la presidencia del Sr. Costas Petrides,**

**Presidente de la Conferencia**

Second Report of the General Committee

Deuxième rapport du Bureau

Segundo Informe del Comité General

CHAIRMAN: I told you this morning we were going to have the General Committee's Report, Second Report. I trust you have now all read the Second Report of the General Committee containing documents C 95/LIM/18, related to the Election of the Council. If that is so, can I ask whether the Conference is willing to adopt this Report? Well, there have been no comments. I declare the Report adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Adoptado

CHAIRMAN: Now we proceed to the Second Report of the Credentials Committee, and I now call upon the Chairman of the Credentials Committee to present the Second Report.

Adoption of the Second Report of the Credentials Committee

Adoption du second rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs

Aprobación del Segundo Informe del Comité de Credenciales

Fotis G. POULEDES (Chairman, Credentials Committee): Mr Chairman, thank you very much, but I have just received it, and I am reading it for the first time; so please excuse me if I make some errors. The Second Report of the Credentials Committee - which at its first meeting had elected the Ambassador for Djibouti's Permanent Representative of Cyprus for FAO as Chairman, and Mr Auburn Andriago, Minister and Counsellor and Permanent Representative of Canada to FAO as Vice Chairman - held its second meeting on the 23rd of October, 1995, at 09.30 hours to examine additional credentials of the delegation members to the 28th Session of the FAO Conference.

It is to be recalled that at its first meeting the Credentials Committee found valid the credentials of 120 delegations. In accordance with Rule III-2 of the General Rules of the Organization and the criteria established by previous committees, the Credentials Committee examined 29 new credentials and found them to be valid. The FAO Members to which the delegations belong are shown in the attached list. To date, in addition to those seven Member Nations mentioned in the report of the Committee's first session, 19 Member Nations have still not presented credentials. Any other credentials which will be received from Members, as well as credentials or references of the United Nations Specialized Agencies and related Organizations, will be examined by the Committee at subsequent meetings.

And now I will give you a list of Members whose delegations have presented valid credentials: Afghanistan, Albania, Australia, Barbados, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Fiji, Gabon, Guyana, Hungary, Japan, Liberia, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Switzerland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Turkey, and Moldova - a total of 28 Members.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Do you have any comments on the report of the Credentials Committee? Well, thank you then. The report is adopted, and we proceed now to Item 6, the Statements by Heads of Delegations; and, as announced before the break for lunch, the first speaker will be Argentina. I now call upon the Head of the Delegation of Argentina.

INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)

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

INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)

6. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (continued)

6. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)

6. Examen del Estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)

- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

Sra. Ileana DI GIOVAN BATTISTA (Argentina): Señor Presidente, felicito a usted y a los vicepresidentes que han sido elegidos para esta Conferencia.

El Estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación en esta 28ª Conferencia es el tema central de este plenario y, como tal, materia de debate. Por tal razón, no me voy a referir a la agricultura, la pesca y los bosques de mi país, Argentina, más que para recordar tres aspectos generales:

En primer lugar, como país en desarrollo la agricultura en Argentina sigue siendo fuertemente dependiente de las condiciones climáticas y esta campaña 1995-96 asolada por una persistente sequía dará la prueba.

En segundo lugar, como país abierto a la economía mundial, Argentina no otorga a sus agricultores otro estímulo ni otro sostén que la demanda de los mercados y los precios internacionales. Esto enfrenta, día a día, a nuestros productores con la dura realidad de los obstáculos y las restricciones al comercio internacional de los países industrializados y, por otra parte, con los problemas de solvencia y capacidad importadora en los países en desarrollo que necesitan importar para completar su abastecimiento alimentario.

En tercer lugar, en el ámbito internacional el acontecimiento más importante que ha incidido en la realidad argentina en la última década es la integración junto con Brasil, Paraguay y Uruguay para formar el Mercosur. Nos complace formar parte de esta agrupación regional que es el Mercosur.

Varios delegados que me han precedido en el uso de la palabra han coincidido en destacar que la pobreza es un fenómeno rural generalizado en los países en desarrollo, sobre todo, en los países de bajos ingresos con déficit de alimentos.

Algunos han enfatizado que el desarrollo agrícola es la clave para el alivio de dicha situación de pobreza y para alcanzar la seguridad alimentaria que no es - como bien dijo el Jefe de la Delegación de los Países Bajos - meramente volcar excedentes de un país a otro. La ayuda alimentaria debe ser un complemento, nunca una alternativa al desarrollo agrícola autónomo.

Argentina está convencida de que la seguridad alimentaria a nivel nacional e internacional será una resultante de un conjunto de factores y procesos que la comunidad internacional deberá proveer y ordenar de manera adecuada y simultánea.

Así - según entendí - lo expresó el Jefe de la Delegación del Camerún quién, en un largo pero excelente discurso, se refirió a todos los aspectos que su Gobierno encuadra en sus políticas y estrategias económicas: producción, valorización de los productos, diversificación, promoción de exportaciones, investigación, conservación "in situ" de la biodiversidad, atención de la mujer rural. Todo un programa, señor Presidente en el cual nada es superfluo y donde no hay un solo elemento del cual nuestra Organización pueda desentenderse.

Permítaseme decir que en el centro de este desafío que representa la seguridad alimentaria global no está el mayor o menor desequilibrio de la oferta y la demanda mundiales de cereales, el volumen de las existencias en los países desarrollados o las fluctuaciones de los precios de cuatro o cinco cereales principales.

Sería miope, y como tal inexcusable restringir nuestra visión a estos datos estadísticos. En la base de la seguridad alimentaria está el desarrollo agrícola autónomo y sostenible, el libre intercambio de alimentos y tecnologías, la inversión y la capacitación. Esperemos que todo esto será tema de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación convocada por el Director General para 1996 y a la cual, la Cumbre Iberoamericana reunida recientemente en Bariloche, ha dado su más caluroso apoyo.

A la vanguardia de todo programa de acción nacional e internacional de seguridad alimentaria debe colocarse el crecimiento de la producción y la productividad agrícola en los países en desarrollo, a través de la investigación, la capacitación de la población rural, el mejoramiento del acceso al crédito y a la tecnología sustentable, combinando eficazmente la inversión directa con la asistencia oficial para el desarrollo.

Solamente con estas orientaciones estratégicas se reducirá la pobreza, se atenderán las necesidades alimentarias a costos y precios razonables evitando un empobrecimiento irreversible de los recursos naturales.

Puesto que la pobreza es la amenaza más grave para el medio ambiente en los países en desarrollo así como la sobrecapitalización, por la vía del uso excesivo de agroquímicos es la causa principal de la degradación del ambiente en los países industrializados.

En términos mundiales, señor Presidente, dos son los desafíos nuevos que en este fin de siglo acompañan al desafío secular del hambre y la malnutrición: el desarrollo sostenible y la protección de la biodiversidad; o sea, los recursos indispensables para las generaciones presentes y futuras.

La delegación argentina agradece al Profesor Mugnozsa su magistral conferencia en memoria de McDougall y su elocuente llamado a detener la degradación y la destrucción de la biodiversidad. Su mención entre las causas de esa degradación y destrucción del crecimiento poblacional, el creciente consumo de los recursos, los efectos del comercio global, la ignorancia de especies y de ecosistemas, las políticas pobremente concebidas y la inadecuada valorización de la biodiversidad no pueden menos que golpear nuestra reflexión.

En síntesis, señor Presidente, la variedad y complejidad de factores y procesos que hacen a la agricultura y la alimentación en 1995 nos llevan a hablar, como lo hizo el Viceministro de Agricultura en Quebec, de un sistema alimentario mundial en vez de agricultura; este sistema alimentario mundial no sólo se integra con la producción, la distribución y la provisión de alimentos. El comercio mundial de productos agrícolas es un pilar fundamental del sistema alimentario mundial.

La conclusión de la Ronda Uruguay marca una etapa importante en el fenómeno de la globalización de los mercados y la tendencia hacia la liberalización del comercio que esta vez ha incluido a los productos agrícolas.

Pero éste es sólo un hito en un camino en el cual queda mucho por recorrer. Muchos países en desarrollo, entre los cuales Argentina, han hecho considerables esfuerzos para abrir sus fronteras al comercio de mercaderías y servicios, así como rodear de garantías a la inversión externa y a las patentes y derechos de propiedad intelectual.

A cambio de ello, como anota el Informe Carlsson-Ramphal los países en desarrollo han recibido sólo limitadas oportunidades de mejorar el acceso a los mercados industrializados; en efecto, estos países en desarrollo enfrentan barreras comerciales que se estima, según el informe, les cuestan el doble de la ayuda que reciben.

Para la mayoría de los países en desarrollo el comercio y, en particular, el acceso a los mercados de los países industrializados sería más importante que la ayuda - dice este informe -. Este es un parámetro a tener claramente en cuenta al delinear orientaciones sobre el ajuste agrícola internacional.

Señor Presidente, todos estos desafíos que la comunidad internacional deberá afrontar y para los cuales la FAO es el Organismo Central de Naciones Unidas, requieren una organización sólida, técnicamente competente y eficaz. Una organización amplia en acoger la discusión y el ordenamiento de todas las cuestiones políticas y de todas las estrategias que hacen a la agricultura y a la alimentación en una organización concentrada, por el contrario, en áreas esenciales tanto en sus actividades operacionales como en la aplicación de sus recursos.

Feliz cincuenta aniversario a la FAO y los mejores deseos de una nueva juventud otros cincuenta años.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Carlos Agostinho DO ROSARIO (Mozambique): Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General of FAO, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. First of all I would like to present my congratulations to Your Excellency on your election as Chairman of the 28th Session of the FAO Conference, to greet the delegations of all countries here present, and to express our support to the principles on which the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations is based.

I also wish to extend my greetings to FAO for its 50th Anniversary, as well as congratulate it on the success achieved in its efforts for agricultural development and food security. There still remains a long way ahead to achieve these great and noble purposes, but we trust that in a not too distant future the mission will be accomplished.

Finally, I would also like to congratulate Your Excellency, Mr Jacques Diouf, Director-General of FAO, for your efforts in the process of reorganization of FAO, which we trust will allow the Organization to confront the great challenges facing humanity, such as the struggle against poverty, hunger and malnutrition, as well as to achieve the dream of having "Food for All".

The Government of Mozambique, democratically elected almost a year ago following the first multi-party elections in the country, approved the quinquennial development programme, after its endorsement by the Parliament. In accordance with this programme, the Government is concentrating its priority efforts on actions to ensure nationwide peace, stability and unity, and more concretely on the reduction of poverty levels, aiming at its eradication at medium term, as well as the improvement of living conditions for the Mozambican people with emphasis on education, health, agricultural and rural development and employment.

In Mozambique agriculture, animal production and fisheries constitute the main source of wealth, contributing 73 percent to the country's annual exports. Three years after the signature of the Peace Agreement in Rome on 4 October 1992, which marked the end of armed activities in the whole country, the refugee and displaced populations are returning to their zones of origin and the majority of the Mozambican people, consisting mainly of farmers, are resuming their normal agricultural activities in a peaceful way.

For this reason, the Government of Mozambique considers agriculture as the basis for economic and social development of the country. In the short and medium term the priority will be to progressively ensure self-sufficiency in staple foods, to provide raw materials to national industry and to contribute to the improvement of the national balance of payments, through the production of export commodities and the reduction of agricultural imports.

In this context, the new Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, presently undergoing a process of restructuring, is discussing the agricultural policy and defining its implementation strategy in order to attain the above mentioned goals. Essentially the agricultural policy envisages food security, sustainable economic growth, and the reduction of unemployment and poverty. The general strategies for its implementation are based on the sustainable use of natural resources and on the expansion of production capacity and agricultural productivity.

Over the last years, with peace and the return of the refugees from neighbouring countries, as well as the internally displaced populations to their zones of origin, the country has experienced a marked increase in agricultural production, in spite of the drought that has affected the southern and central regions of the country in recent years. Thus, cereal production increased from 764 000 tonnes in 1993 to 1 126 000 tonnes in 1995, representing an increase of 47 percent.

However, the production of the seven main food products in Mozambique cannot yet meet the nutritional requirements of the population. With the implementation of the new agricultural policy, we hope to reach 100 percent of their caloric requirements of agricultural origin by the year 2000.

A very critical component of the country's agrarian sector is the livestock subsector. By the end of the 1970s, Mozambique had about 1.4 million head of cattle. This number was reduced to no more than 300 000 at present, as a consequence of the warfare in the country. This grave situation as regards livestock numbers has strong negative effects on the availability of animal proteins for the population and in the reduction of farmers' income in traditionally poor areas.

The Government of Mozambique maintains that the solution of our problems in agricultural development can only be found in the context of coordination and collaboration with the international community. In conformity with this, we have great expectations regarding the forthcoming World Food Summit.

We are convinced that FAO, as well as other UN Agencies, will support identifying and funding projects in specific areas of the agriculture, livestock and fisheries subsectors, which will enable us to achieve the development we seek for those sectors in the medium and long terms.

We wish to express our gratitude to FAO and the World Food Programme for the large support they have provided to Mozambique, which has enabled a considerable part of our population to survive one of the most difficult periods of our history.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Abdel Aziz Bin Hamad AL MUDBIL (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic): In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful, Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, distinguished Heads of Delegations, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. Allow me at the outset to extend my congratulations to the five countries which have recently joined our Organization. It is my pleasure, Mr Chairman, to extend my congratulations to you and to the Vice-Chairmen on the confidence vested in you by the Conference. I wish you success in your task, and I assure you of the support and backing of Saudi Arabia in your efforts to carry out this task. It is my pleasure also to extend my congratulations to the Director-General, Dr Jacques Diouf, and his Assistants on the achievements and positive results of the Organization over the short period under the leadership of His Excellency, Dr Jacques Diouf. We hope that those efforts will continue, in order to enable the Organization to face future challenges and put an end to hunger and to the tragic situations and sufferings of a large number of people. My delegation is also pleased to extend its congratulations to all the Member States as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Organization, and we would like to express our appreciation of the efforts and activities aimed at attaining the Organization's objectives and applying the principles of its foundations. We also express our appreciation of the Organization's achievements at the international level over the last 50 years. We hope that it will continue to carry out its role and message, which is to assist the peoples of the world to enjoy a decent living free of any threat to their food security.

The world has witnessed important changes in the last few years which will undoubtedly have far-reaching effects on the world order as a whole, which we hope will adapt to the new developments and thus be more in harmony with the changing nature of international relations and more sensitive and responsive to the problems facing a large number of countries, and more particularly developing countries.

We still consider that the developments which have affected the developing countries' economies and their standard of living are their respective responsibilities alone although unfair economic relations and other factors have played an important role in affecting their situation. Therefore, they have to bear their responsibilities and continue to exert the necessary efforts within their capacity and lay down successful economic development policies and implement effective reforms in conformity with free trade arrangements.

We hope that the free trade in the future will lead to the economic recovery in the developing countries so that their commodities will have easy access to world markets free of barriers and in a fair, competitive environment and thus be able to have the development requirements to improve their production and economies.

Mr President, we all understand that prices of most agricultural food commodities, especially those imported from the developed countries, will gradually increase in the coming period as a result of the implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreements. This will lead to a higher bill for food commodities imported by developing countries which rely to a large extent on imported food commodities to meet the needs of their people, although many of them suffer from a heavy burden of external debts which reach more than US\$1.3 trillion, together with a deterioration of their national income. This will have highly damaging effects on the economy and the economic and social situation of a large number of developing countries. Therefore, in view of these circumstances we think it is appropriate to urge the developed countries to extend technological assistance to developing countries to help them to overcome this problem and to enable them to develop their agricultural sector.

The delegation of Saudi Arabia is pleased to report the achievements made by the agricultural sector in the Kingdom in spite of its limited natural resources. These achievements have led us to achieve self sufficiency in a large number of staple food commodities. As a result of the implementation of plans and policies aiming at the development and growth of the agricultural sector, we have managed to change the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from an importer of most food commodities into an exporter of vegetables, fruits, dates, eggs and other products.

We are pleased on this occasion to point out that the growth rate in the agricultural sector in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reached 5 percent in 1993 and is expected to continue on this level during the coming few years.

The above-mentioned achievements have been made as a result of the efforts of the private sector in the Kingdom with the support and incentives provided by the State to develop the agricultural sector within the framework of the support to all the other development sectors. The delegation of Saudi Arabia is pleased to affirm that the agricultural sector will continue to play its vital role in the development of the Kingdom in order to ensure food security within the framework of a general policy and plans that aim at developing available resources by exploiting them in an optimal and well-planned manner, especially as regards water resources and the environment.

Appropriate policies and systems have been established in order to preserve water resources and ensure their economic use and the utilization of methods of irrigation such as sprinkler systems and drip irrigation and the growing of crops in need of little water. The Kingdom has also taken certain measures in order to increase the water resources through the building of dams to feed the underground water reservoirs, and through the purification of sewage water.

The Kingdom has also been, throughout the development of the agricultural sector keen to preserve the ecological balance. It has initiated projects involving the preservation of the environment in its various aspects such as tree planting, preservation of the vegetation, protection of wild life, control of desertification and so on.

While the Kingdom was going through its experience to develop its agricultural sector with its own efforts to ensure its food security it never abandoned its role to extend food aid from its own production in order to alleviate the sufferings of the hungry, either through bilateral and direct aid or through the WFP. The Kingdom's assistance reached more than US\$300 million including 130 000 tonnes of good quality dates of our own production.

The Kingdom has also contributed to the development of the agricultural sector in some developing countries through bilateral cooperation and the Saudi Development Fund and through the international financing institutions and UN specialized agencies, especially the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in which the Kingdom's contribution since its foundation up to now has reached more than US\$364 million.



The delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has studied the Conference documents and examined the contents of the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1996-97 and we approve the views and proposals therein. We hope they will be carefully implemented in coordination with the authorities concerned.

Our delegation would also like to express our appreciation of the efforts made by the Director-General and his colleagues in the preparation for this Conference and to commend the efforts exerted to facilitate the task of the participants and enable them to carry out their duties easily and smoothly. We hope the Conference will reach positive recommendations and good results to further the Organization's objectives and assist it in carrying out its noble message.

Dennis R. NORMAN (Zimbabwe): Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Honourable Ministers, Your Excellencies, distinguished delegates and observers, ladies and gentlemen. I would like to start my statement by extending my best wishes to all participants at this 28th Session of the Food and Agriculture Organization Conference.

The rainfall pattern in Zimbabwe has been erratic and poorly distributed over the last 15 years. Of those 15 years, eight saw a below average rainfall falling in Zimbabwe. As annual rainfall figures of 400-600 mm are generally considered semi-arid, it follows that Zimbabwe has been in a semi-arid state for more than 50 percent of the time since independence in 1980. The situation has been even more serious in the immediate past five years, during which the average annual rainfall has been above normal in only one year.

These prevailing semi-arid conditions have a serious negative effect on agricultural activities and the food security situation in the country. If Zimbabwe does not experience a wet season in the next year or two, the severity of these semi-arid conditions will intensify.

The 1994-95 season started with uncharacteristically high rainfall in October which encouraged farmers to fully implement their cropping programmes. Prolonged dry spells in November and December destroyed most of the dryland crops. Widespread crop failures were reported throughout the country. The army-worm infestation in January and February 1995 wiped out the remaining crop, particularly in the smallholder sector.

The production of maize (the most widely used staple food in Zimbabwe) fell by 60 percent in the past season compared to the overall output of 2.5 million tonnes in 1993-94, making it necessary to import stocks to last the country until the next harvest in April 1996. Due to the policy adopted by government to keep a reasonable strategic grain reserve for feeding the nation during low production periods, the import of maize will be lower than during the great drought of 1992.

As a country, Zimbabwe is not in such a critical food stock situation as in 1992, but for many smallholder farmers, the position is devastating, necessitating some forms of food assistance from central government and non-governmental organizations through the grain loan scheme and supplementary feeding for children.

Achievements in increasing national food security and improving nutrition in the first decade of independence have been largely eroded due to the recurrent droughts. In a normal rainfall season, Zimbabwe has been able to achieve self-sufficiency in the production of maize, sorghum and millets as well as from the livestock such as cattle, goats, sheep, pigs and poultry.

Zimbabwe's food situation is, however, characterized by a disturbing paradox of chronic food insecurity in a country generally self-sufficient at national level. It is now clear that only about 20 percent of smallholder farmers produce marketable food surpluses and that up to 40 percent require extra staple grain every year. Drought worsens the situation and appropriate measures must be taken urgently to reduce any further erosion of the food security position.

To answer the call for an increased rate of growth in agricultural output, government, the private sector and non-governmental organizations have introduced various schemes to assist smallholder farmers to transform into more competent modern farmers who can increase agricultural production and farm incomes in the rural areas. We believe that it is the responsibility of government to put in place programmes aimed at giving smallholder farmers skills to start agro-based income generating projects to escape poverty and to reduce food aid through appropriate measures to respond to environmental stress.

Like Zimbabwe, most Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states depend on agriculture to provide food and incomes for the majority of their population. Between 50-80 percent of the population of SADC countries rely on agriculture for employment, food and income. Cereal production in southern Africa in 1994-95 has been sharply below the 1993-94 average. Only South Africa and Zimbabwe had significant stocks of maize carried over from the 1993-94 crop. Therefore, net imports of food and food aid requirements to the sub-region as a whole will rise.

In almost all the SADC countries the problems of food insecurity, particularly at the household level, are most prevalent in the rural areas and among the urban poor and unemployed. Both the magnitude and the nature of the problem of food insecurity differs from country to country and from one season to another.

The emphasis of the SADC food security strategy is to help the region to achieve self-sufficiency in food production, reduce post-harvest losses, and increase the grain storage capacity. The current food security programme comprises of various interlinked regional projects. Core projects of the regional programme include an Early Warning System and a Regional Resources Information System.

Most member countries have reviewed and reformulated their policies to stimulate agricultural production and rural development. A number of policy objectives have been developed for implementation throughout the region. Their successful implementation holds some promise of increasing food production, reducing food insecurity and poverty through the region.

In line with the important role of agriculture in the economies of African countries, we have participated in various meetings of the Global Coalition for Africa. We strongly support the urgency of placing agriculture at the forefront of the development agenda in African countries.

Let me register my gratitude and that of Zimbabwe to FAO for the establishment of the FAO Sub-regional Office for Southern and Eastern Africa in Harare, pursuant to the recommendations by the Council of the FAO at its 106th Session. This emphasizes the importance which FAO places on the role that agriculture can play in the economic development of the region. The new FAO Sub-regional Offices for Southern and Eastern Africa will be inaugurated in Harare on 6 November 1995 and Zimbabwe welcomes Ministers of Agriculture and other dignitaries from the region and FAO Headquarters to Harare to participate in the inauguration.

I cannot conclude my remarks without commenting upon perhaps the most important question facing us during this Conference, namely, that of the Programme of Work and Budget and, in a sense, the future of FAO. Against the background of intensifying drought and drought-related social problems within our Continent of Africa and, as we know well, in many other parts of the world; against the prospect of increasing food insecurity and hunger as we move into the next millennium, we should probably now be looking towards increasing and intensifying FAO's activities rather than cutting them back, and looking for more rather than less funding.

But, fully aware of the difficult international economic environment, Zimbabwe is fully supportive of the Director-General in his proposal for a zero real growth budget for the 1996-97 biennium. We commend him for the efforts he has made not only to reduce cost increases, but also to absorb as far as possible some of those unavoidable increases. Yet he is still under pressure to cut further and to save more. He has told us that further cuts to the proposed budget will inevitably affect FAO programmes and will further undermine the already reduced capacity of the Organization to deliver effectively on those programmes.

We fully understand those who seek change and a better use by FAO of its resources. Change has already begun and it is expected we will see the emergence of a leaner, more cost-effective Organization. But this will take time. If we try to force the pace or if change is simply imposed, we will find ourselves in a situation the full consequences of which are difficult to foresee. But they are unlikely to be positive for the FAO itself or for the broader United Nations system.

There is justifiable concern on the part of many nations at the level of arrears. Clearly this state of affairs is unacceptable. Member Nations simply must meet their obligations in full, on time and without condition.

I repeat that none of us is or can be opposed to change. But such change must come about through consultation. It must be gradual and it must be in accordance with the Rules and Code of Conduct which

govern us. Our primary concern must be for the well-being of this Organization. Let all of us always keep that thought uppermost in our minds.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Russell BALLARD (New Zealand): I would like to start off by joining with other delegations in congratulating you, Mr Chairman, on your election. Your handling of Plenary so far has fully justified their faith in your selection.

This is a year of celebration. The United Nations and the FAO have both turned fifty. New Zealand, as one of the 44 founding members of the FAO, was pleased to be able to join with colleagues in Quebec last week in commemorating this important anniversary. In 50 years, the FAO has achieved much of which it and its members can be proud.

The Organization now faces the challenge of looking ahead to its next 50 years. A key element in that challenge is the concept of sustainable development. For FAO, as for governments and organizations worldwide, sustainable development must be considered in its broadest sense - the interaction between sustainable use of biological and physical resources, the economic viability of utilisation, broader environmental impacts and community values.

New Zealand is confronting this challenge in our own country. In agriculture, we have moved over the past decade from an unsustainable system where, like many other countries, we paid our farmers financial assistance to support commodity prices. This had many adverse consequences, including encouraging environmentally and economically unsustainable farming practices. New Zealand farmers now welcome the current non-distortionary regime under which the market and environmental laws dictate their production decisions.

Because of the nature of our forests and our forestry industry, New Zealand has a unique contribution to make to international debate on forestry - both at FAO and elsewhere. In April this year we were honoured to chair the first ever meeting of Ministers responsible for forestry held here in Rome, as well as the twelfth session of the Committee on Forestry. My Minister, Hon John Falloon - who is both Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Forestry - regrets that he is not able to be here today.

New Zealand will be hosting the seventh meeting of the Montreal Process in a few weeks' time. Our interest in the international process reflects our commitment to maintain and enhance the sustainable management of our own forests. In New Zealand, almost all our 17 million m<sup>3</sup> of production comes from planted production forests. Very little comes from our 6.4 million hectares of natural forests. The government's objective is to conserve that natural resource while expanding reliance on 1.4 million hectares of planted forests for all wood needs. In this context, New Zealand supports FAO's work on plant genetic resources, and in particular that focused on sustainable use of those resources.

In the area of fisheries, New Zealand's national management system is proving to be workable and sustainable. Under a transferable quota system, quota owners themselves are taking over the responsibility for ensuring efficient management and monitoring of total allowable catch for each species, so as to preserve their entitlement in the next year's allocation. This system has proved more effective than, for example, input controls such as limiting the number of fishing vessels.

As a fishing nation which has adopted the concept of sustainability in its own fisheries management, we have been pleased to participate closely in FAO's work to develop a Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries. The adoption of the Code will be one of the significant achievements of this Conference, and we congratulate the FAO Secretariat for the work it has put into the Code's preparation. In recognition of the importance of fish protein in the diet of a large proportion of the world's population, and the significance of fisheries to our own region - the southwest Pacific - New Zealand would like to see an increased emphasis on sustainable fisheries management in FAO's future work programme.

As an agricultural trading nation, New Zealand places particular importance on the CODEX work on scientifically-based standards. Greater international harmonization is needed in this area and in the construction of international phytosanitary standards. The disciplines of the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture will lower tariffs and other traditional trade barriers. But it is important to be vigilant in order to ensure that this new access is not impeded by newer, technically unjustified sanitary and phytosanitary barriers to trade.

Together with other agricultural exporters, particularly developing countries, New Zealand is continuing to work to ensure that the agricultural disciplines of the Uruguay Round are not undermined, and that progress in freeing world trade in agriculture continues. We depend on our exports of agricultural products for our livelihood. Like many developing countries, we have been victims of the highly distortive agricultural policies of much of the developed world. For too long those policies, which subsidised the production and export of food surpluses, have exported instability onto world food markets and undermined the sustainability of world food production systems and the economies of many countries around the world.

We see next year's World Food Summit as an opportunity for FAO to focus on how to move ahead from the progress already made towards creating the conditions for agricultural development and long term economic growth in member countries. The Summit will be an opportunity to be forward-looking and to establish the basis for applying the broad concept of food security more consistently across the full committee and work programme structure of FAO in the future. However, the concept of food security should not be confused with or distorted by the notion of national self-sufficiency. The removal of distortions in world agricultural production and trade will assist developing countries whose economies are dependent on producing, distributing and marketing food. The overall economic security of producers will benefit as will the food security of their trading partners through improved access to reliable and affordable food supplies.

In order for FAO's work to flourish and for the Organization to continue as a centre of excellence into the next century, rigorous discipline in the use of resources will be required. Whatever the budget level this Conference agrees upon for the next biennium, we know that the Organization will need to direct itself towards using its limited financial resources to the best possible effect. It is a challenge that New Zealand understands well from our own experience of over a decade of budgetary stringency and economic management reform. It has not been painless, but we have discovered that an explicit programme of sustainable budgetary discipline tied in with best practice management systems can generate considerable efficiency gains and economies. The end result is worth the effort.

We look forward to working with our colleagues at this Conference to give guidance to FAO on the scope and focus of its activities as it faces the challenges of the next fifty years.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Gabriel Dotte BADEKARA (République centrafricaine): Monsieur le Président, la délégation centrafricaine se joint à toutes les délégations qui l'ont précédée pour vous féliciter chaleureusement, à la suite de votre élection à l'unanimité à la présidence de notre Conférence. Vos qualités propres et vos solides connaissances constituent pour nous le plus sûr garant du succès de nos travaux.

Nos félicitations vont également aux membres nouvellement admis au sein de l'Organisation, et qui, nous en sommes convaincus, feront de leur mieux pour intensifier notre lutte contre l'élimination de la faim et de la misère dans le monde pour une vie plus humaine.

Monsieur le Directeur général, qu'il me soit permis, au nom du Président de la république, de vous remercier pour l'honneur que vous nous avez fait en venant en République centrafricaine, en juillet dernier, précisément du 25 au 27 juillet.

En outre, je puis vous assurer que la République centrafricaine soutient avec conviction l'initiative que vous avez prise en faveur de l'organisation d'un Sommet mondial sur l'alimentation en novembre 1996.

C'est donc avec plaisir que je vous confirme que le Président de la République centrafricaine a accepté avec intérêt de faire partie du Comité de parrainage du Sommet.

Monsieur le Président, si des progrès certains ont été accomplis durant le demi-siècle de l'existence de notre Organisation, comme cela a été démontré à Québec lors de la commémoration du cinquantième anniversaire et de la réunion ministérielle, c'est avec appréhension que nous voyons l'avenir de l'humanité dans les 30 années à venir, surtout par la situation qui prévaut dans les pays africains au sud du Sahara, notamment en République centrafricaine, notre pays.

L'Afrique continue à rester en mauvaise position par rapport au reste du monde. Le nombre de personnes mal nourries et ayant faim augmente. En 2010, on estime qu'il y aura environ 300 millions de personnes mal nourries en Afrique, soit presque le tiers de la population, et 180 millions de personnes de plus que maintenant.

C'est la situation la plus défavorable qui soit dans le monde. La production agricole alimentaire a augmenté moins vite globalement ces 30 dernières années que la population.

Cependant, les disponibilités alimentaires globales ont légèrement augmenté de 2 100 à 2 250 kilocalories par personne et par jour. Sur les 49 pays considérés comme les moins avancés dans le monde, 34 sont en Afrique et sont restés à 2 050 kilocalories ces 30 dernières années.

Vingt-trois pays ont vu diminuer leurs disponibilités alimentaires entre 1970 et 1992 et, en 1992, il y avait encore 15 pays où la population disposait de moins de 200 Kcal alors que, dans le reste du monde, seuls cinq autres pays sont dans ce cas.

La sécheresse et le manque d'eau sont en partie responsables de cette situation défavorable, mais les conflits armés en sont aussi grandement responsables. En Afrique subsaharienne, le taux des échanges commerciaux a, à lui seul, diminué de 6,3 pour cent en 1992 et de 7,6 pour cent en 1993. La pauvreté grandissante et les capitaux nationaux limités freinent les aspirations de développement des pays de cette partie du monde. Le défi est donc énorme, mais nous devons avoir l'ambition de le relever.

Mais, Monsieur le Président, que dire de l'agriculture centrafricaine?

La République centrafricaine dispose de ressources naturelles relativement abondantes par rapport à sa population, et de conditions agro-écologiques généralement favorables à la promotion des productions végétales, animales et forestières. Les sols sont de fertilité correcte, et le climat permet une agriculture pluviale intégrant des cycles culturels assez variés, relativement longs. Ces conditions physiques décrites se prêtent bien à la mise en culture d'une gamme très importante d'espèces vivrières et d'exportation (céréales, tubercules, légumes, racines, coton, café, tabac, fruits, canne à sucre, palmier à huile, ...).

Cependant, l'agriculture centrafricaine n'a pas été très performante jusqu'à présent; les rendements restent, dans l'ensemble, faibles par rapport à ceux observés dans les pays voisins. Les statistiques disponibles montrent qu'il n'y a pratiquement pas eu de gain significatif de productivité en agriculture au cours des dernières décennies.

Suite aux années difficiles de la période 1990-93, marquées par les troubles socio-politiques qui ont perturbé toutes les activités économiques du pays, la situation actuelle du secteur agropastoral se caractérise par une nette reprise de la production. Le gouvernement a eu pour premier objectif l'assainissement des finances publiques dont la situation était très fortement dégradée, la réhabilitation des secteurs sociaux très éprouvés par la période de troubles et la relance des activités économiques en accordant une priorité de premier rang au secteur agropastoral.

S'agissant des produits vivriers, la tendance est à la reprise après les années 1990-93 qui ont été marquées par une nette régression. L'amorce de relance constatée en 1994 s'est traduite, dans un premier temps, par un arrêt du déclin de la production. Cependant, la stabilisation de la production, ajoutée à l'effet de reprise de la consommation et aux effets induits de la dévaluation (réenchérissement des produits alimentaires d'import-substitution), a occasionné une hausse des prix susceptible de stimuler la production à court terme.

Dans le secteur de l'élevage, les produits sont en croissance continue et devraient connaître un nouvel essor avec la mise en oeuvre du projet de développement de l'élevage et la gestion des parcours cofinancé par le Fonds international du développement agricole, la France et l'Union européenne. Cette solution favorable du secteur de l'élevage trouve son origine dans la maîtrise de la distribution des produits vétérinaires, par la Fédération nationale des éleveurs centrafricains et d'autres partenaires privés, et dans un contrôle et un suivi permanent de la santé animale, dans l'existence de parcours fourragers adéquats et un circuit de commercialisation du bétail bien organisé. Cet essor sera consolidé grâce au dynamisme, à une meilleure organisation et à une plus grande responsabilité des structures professionnelles. Enfin, les novations apportées par le projet de développement de l'élevage et de la gestion des parcours (notamment la mise en place du fonds interprofessionnel de développement de l'élevage), ainsi que la prise en compte des mesures d'atténuation de l'impact de l'élevage sur l'environnement, doivent permettre de franchir une nouvelle étape dans le développement de ce secteur.

Dans le domaine des forêts, face à l'exploitation abusive et anarchique du massif forestier du sud-ouest du pays par les sociétés forestières et industrielles, guidées plus par la recherche du profit que par une exploitation rationnelle et durable respectueuse des écosystèmes, le gouvernement a pris la décision de tout mettre en oeuvre afin d'assainir la situation et de mettre fin au scandale forestier centrafricain.

Le sous-secteur pisciculture a toujours bénéficié du soutien, tant technique que financier, de l'OAA pour son développement.

Aussi, le gouvernement s'engage à poursuivre et à mettre en oeuvre, dans une approche système et participative du monde rural, les objectifs ci-après: assurer la sécurité alimentaire de la population, accroître et diversifier les exportations agropastorales, assurer une gestion rationnelle et conservatoire du milieu naturel par un développement durable et mettre en place un programme d'irrigation à faible coût de 100 000 hectares en dix ans car on ne peut concevoir le développement agricole sans la maîtrise de l'eau.

Monsieur le Directeur général, en décembre 1992, les pays membres de la FAO ont adopté dans cette même salle, lors de la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition, le plan d'action et la déclaration mondiale sur la nutrition.

L'évaluation de la situation nutritionnelle a montré qu'il existe toujours de graves problèmes nutritionnels en République centrafricaine: malnutrition des jeunes enfants, nombre élevé de goîtres dans certaines régions, et insécurité alimentaire des ménages entre autres.

La République centrafricaine qui a de bonnes potentialités de productions alimentaires n'a pas de structures de production ni de contrôle alimentaire suffisamment bien établis. Le plan national d'action pour la nutrition représente un cadre conceptuel pour arriver à résoudre ces principaux problèmes.

La République centrafricaine va présenter son Plan en janvier 1996, lors d'un séminaire qui permettra de proposer des projets de développement dans les domaines alimentaires et nutritionnels.

Pour ce séminaire, la République centrafricaine sollicite l'appui des divisions techniques de la FAO, en particulier de la Division de l'alimentation et de la nutrition, et de celle de la transformation des produits agricoles.

Pour conclure, Monsieur le Président, il y a quelques jours, à l'aimable invitation du Gouvernement du Canada et dans la ville de Québec, nous avons commémoré le Cinquantième anniversaire de la fondation de notre Organisation. Du bilan d'un demi-siècle d'existence fait à cette occasion, il ressort que, si des progrès importants ont été réalisés, ce dont la FAO peut être légitimement fière, il reste beaucoup à faire par rapport aux objectifs fixés par les 44 membres fondateurs.

La FAO a encore un rôle capital et déterminant à jouer pour la lutte contre la faim, la misère et la pauvreté.

Que le vent qui a soufflé à Québec continue de souffler à Rome.

La délégation de la République centrafricaine soutient la déclaration faite par le président du groupe africain, le ministre d'état du Gabon, et lance un appel pressant à tous les contributeurs, grands, moyens, petits, mais

surtout grands, pour adopter le Programme de travail et budget proposé par le Directeur général de la FAO, afin de lui permettre de mener à bien la mission qui lui est confiée par les États Membres.

Je crois que ce serait un gage de redynamisation et le signe d'un nouveau départ de la FAO.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Raúl ALEGRETT (Venezuela): Compláceme, señor Presidente, felicitarle, y por su intermedio a los otros miembros de la Mesa Directiva, por su elección para dirigir los trabajos de este 28° período de sesiones de la Conferencia de nuestra Organización; estamos seguros de que bajo su experta y dinámica conducción nuestros trabajos llegarán a feliz término.

Expresamos nuestra sentida condolencia, tanto al Gobierno de Iraq como a la familia del Ministro Rasheed.

En el mes de febrero del año en curso tuvimos el privilegio de recibir en Venezuela al Director General de la FAO, señor Jacques Diouf, a quien reiteramos en esa ocasión, al más alto nivel, el compromiso de nuestro país con los nobles objetivos de la Organización, a la vez que nuestro apoyo a su propuesta de trabajo, así como al proceso de reestructuración que adelanta. Hace pocos días tuve la ocasión de reiterar el compromiso de nuestro país con la FAO, con motivo de conmemorar sus 50 años en la ciudad de Quebec.

Durante varias décadas nuestro país mantuvo una política de sustitución de importaciones, implementando medidas compensatorias orientadas a estimular la producción agrícola, consistentes fundamentalmente en subsidios directos e indirectos. Con el fuerte apoyo oficial se obtuvieron logros significativos, tales como crecimiento del producto, introducción de mejoras tecnológicas, incorporación de maquinarias y equipos para la producción y, en general, cierto dinamismo social y económico en las áreas rurales. Pero al mismo tiempo se generaron aspectos negativos, como la distorsión del mercado de bienes y servicios para la producción y la comercialización, el estímulo a actividades y a productores poco eficientes y no competitivos, tasas elevadas de inflación en los alimentos y un exagerado e insostenible gasto fiscal en subsidio. Adicionalmente el crecimiento acelerado de la población así como el ingreso en la urbanización influyó en que, a pesar del crecimiento en la producción agrícola, el país fuera cada vez más dependiente de las importaciones de alimentos.

En este contexto se inicia la implantación del Programa de Estabilización y Ajuste Estructural, en el año 1989. Sus efectos sobre el sector agroalimentario fueron, entre otros, los siguientes: Incremento del costo de los insumos, maquinaria y equipos importados, como consecuencia de las devaluaciones adoptadas; de igual manera, se generó un estímulo a la sustitución de importaciones y al incremento de las exportaciones, que encontró muy poca capacidad de respuesta; reducción y encarecimiento de la financiación agrícola, lo que repercutió en el área sembrada y en el uso de insumos; pérdida de la protección en el mercado externo, con exigencia de mayor competitividad, sin la previa reconversión del aparato productivo agrícola; disminución de la capacidad adquisitiva de la población, con efectos negativos sobre el consumo de alimentos.

Como consecuencia de los factores expuestos, el sector agrícola venezolano, que había mantenido una tendencia de crecimiento promedio sostenido durante casi cuatro décadas, presentó en el lapso 1989-93 una tasa decreciente, y el saldo acumulado de la balanza comercial agrícola fue negativo en casi 3 500 millones de dólares.

Durante esos años, la inflación en el precio de los alimentos fue mayor que la inflación general, contrayendo la demanda y aumentando significativamente la proporción del gasto en alimentos en el gasto total de los hogares. Al mismo tiempo, las restricciones para la importación y la disminución del poder adquisitivo redujeron la disponibilidad de alimentos per cápita, afectando tanto al consumo de calorías como al de proteínas, minerales y vitaminas.

Frente a la situación planteada, el actual Gobierno de Venezuela ha otorgado atención prioritaria al sector agroalimentario, con el enfoque de sistema. Para ello propicia acciones dirigidas a fortalecer el análisis, la

programación y la ejecución de estrategias y decisiones relacionadas con el funcionamiento de los circuitos por alimentos, con participación de los distintos agentes públicos y privados que intervienen en el proceso de producción, transformación, distribución y consumo.

Las metas fundamentales de la planificación agrícola del Estado en la actualidad se orientan al logro de una agricultura moderna, eficiente, competitiva y sustentable, que asegure un incremento de la producción compatible con las necesidades crecientes de la población y la agroindustria, que reduzca el nivel de las importaciones y el saldo negativo de la balanza comercial agrícola, estimule la generación de empleo y aumente los niveles de autonomía alimentaria. Todo ello en un marco de intercambio comercial que permita la reconversión y real competitividad del aparato productivo agrícola. Los resultados de la producción en los últimos dos años muestran una tendencia al crecimiento.

Entre las acciones más significativas que, en el contexto de las consideraciones anteriores, implementa el Gobierno de Venezuela, quisiera destacar:

La preparación, con asistencia técnica de la FAO, de un proyecto de ley para el desarrollo agrícola y la seguridad alimentaria, que asegure el enfoque sistemático agroalimentario, así como la continuidad de proyección a las políticas.

La creación y puesta en funcionamiento del Consejo Nacional de la Alimentación, presidido por el Ministro de Agricultura, y con la participación de otros ministros, presidentes de agencias oficiales involucradas y del sector privado, el cual tiene por objeto la evaluación y vigilancia del Plan Nacional de Alimentación, así como la coordinación de los distintos programas de asistencia alimentaria, existentes o por crearse.

La formación y coordinación de consejos consultivos por circuitos agroalimentarios.

El establecimiento del plan de alimentos estratégicos de bajo costo, orientado a facilitar el acceso de los estratos más pobres de la población a alimentos seleccionados por sus condiciones nutricionales y por las posibilidades de expansión de la oferta interna.

Somos conscientes, señor Presidente, de que los problemas fundamentales que confronta el mundo de hoy no pueden ser contenidos a cabalidad ni totalmente resueltos en los límites del Estado Nacional. La polución, las drogas, el deterioro de la ecología y también los desastres naturales y sociales reclaman una concepción y una praxis de solidaridad y respeto mutuo entre los pueblos, que está aún por construirse y consolidarse. La alimentación, como la vida misma, es un derecho que se adquiere en el momento de nacer, y aún antes. Y así como la vida trae consigo responsabilidades con respecto al grupo y a la sociedad, también la alimentación exige responsabilidades solidarias. Por ello, junto a la integración y apertura de los mercados, debe madurar y desarrollarse esta conciencia de responsabilidad global, con mayor razón frente a los problemas que el mismo proceso genera.

A lo largo de la historia, el hambre ha estado presente como un flagelo social. Sin embargo, en la antigüedad, la escasez de alimentos estaba vinculada a una escasez global de medios, por las propias limitaciones de la época y por los desastres naturales o de orden social que prevalecían. Hoy no es así, pero vemos cómo se incrementan la pobreza y el hambre por efectos del mal uso de medios, disponibles a veces en abundancia, y por intercambios abusivos o mal entendidos.

Presenciamos una revolución tecnológica y queremos creer que puede extenderse. Ella representa para quienes generan sus fundamentos y pueden controlar sus efectos una notable mejora en su productividad y nivel de vida, pero para otro segmento de humanidad constituye un factor de dependencia y transculturización, así como, en ciertos casos, una deformación en la racionalidad de la utilización de los factores productivos.

En los últimos treinta años la producción agrícola mundial se ha duplicado, y se ha triplicado el intercambio internacional de los productos agrícolas; pero, a pesar de los compromisos y de los horizontes fijados en eventos internacionales relevantes, no se ha podido vencer la desnutrición y el hambre en el mundo.

Venezuela comparte la convicción de que en la actualidad el problema del hambre y la desnutrición se centra más en la mala distribución de la oferta entre países, y dentro de cada país, que en la escasez de alimentos a nivel mundial. Asimismo, participamos del consenso que relaciona el hambre y la desnutrición con la



pobreza. Para los estratos pobres de la población en cualquier país no puede establecerse mejor política alimentaria que una más justa distribución del ingreso real.

Por otra parte, si se quiere aumentar la producción de alimentos, debe incrementarse la eficiencia productiva, lo que no necesariamente coincide con el aumento de los rendimientos físicos, sino que exige una optimización en las relaciones y utilización de los factores de la producción. Asimismo, debe estimularse a los productores de alimentos con precios remunerativos: en muchos países, con la intención de proteger a los consumidores, se presiona hacia la baja de los precios de los alimentos, se compromete al productor con precios insuficientes y se recurre a importaciones subsidiadas, e incluso a donaciones, todo lo cual resta estímulo a la producción, mientras que favorece, por igual o aún más, a los estratos de la población con mayores ingresos.

En los países más pobres debe apoyarse la ampliación e intensificación de la producción, dando énfasis a productos tradicionales subexplotados o subconsumidos, procurando la sustitución de aquellos alimentos no compatibles con las condiciones climáticas del país, o que exigen apoyo de tecnologías que representan una excesiva dependencia de insumos y equipos de importación. La demanda de alimentos de los pobres no se expresa adecuadamente en el mercado y toca a cada país, con eventual ayuda de organismos internacionales como la FAO, su evaluación y su atención, pero es indispensable trabajar por la vinculación entre producción y consumo. Países como el nuestro, que han estado sometidos a fuertes influencias comerciales y culturales externas, que han vivido etapas de importantes alzas en sus ingresos y que se han urbanizado aceleradamente, modifican sus hábitos en el consumo de alimentos, incorporando aquellos que no pueden económica e incluso materialmente producir, lo que contribuye significativamente a deteriorar la balanza de pagos, a aumentar la dependencia y a encarecer la dieta.

Si se quiere apoyar el acceso a alimentos en países en desarrollo, debe trabajarse intensamente en la puesta en práctica de sistemas y técnicas de producción compatibles con las condiciones y posibilidades reales de cada país, aumentando la participación de la oferta local en el consumo, disminuyendo los costos de producción y mejorando la rentabilidad de las explotaciones. Debe, al mismo tiempo, darse énfasis al control de las plagas y otras enfermedades, y a la incorporación de prácticas de manejo y conservación de los productos en la fase de post-cosecha, a fin de reducir elevadas pérdidas; así como también será necesario incidir sobre el proceso de transformación y distribución de los alimentos.

Al respecto quiera destacar la importancia de una adecuada relación entre la agricultura y la industria de alimentos. Esta deberá protagonizar un importante papel en el desarrollo de la oferta agrícola, garantizando a los agricultores, además de la colocación y precios de sus productos, financiación y asistencia técnica para la producción.

Para concluir, Venezuela reitera su respaldo a la realización de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación propuesta por el Director General, y me complace informar de la aceptación de nuestro Presidente, Dr. Rafael Caldera, para formar parte del Comité Internacional Patrocinador.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Dambuza LUKHELE II (Swaziland): Mr Chairman, Director-General of FAO, His Excellency Dr Jacques Diouf, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen: I wish to express my sincere and profound appreciation to be given this opportunity to address this very distinguished gathering. My appreciation also goes to the Italian authorities and the FAO Secretariat for the excellent arrangements that have facilitated my delegation's participation in this meeting.

Mr Chairman, this meeting stands out among many as one of the most significant in the history of the Organization. I say this because many of us gathered here today have just returned from Quebec City after celebrating the 50th anniversary of our Organization. For that I wish to pay special tribute to the Canadian Government for hosting such an historic event.

The second reason, why I believe this meeting is significant is that we will hopefully agree and set the agenda for the World Food Summit, which is planned for November 1996. Swaziland would like to congratulate the Director-General for his timely decision to convene the World Food Summit at this critical time in the history of mankind and that of FAO. We all know that if nothing is done now, billions of people will die in the future as a result of malnutrition and hunger. So Ministers of Agriculture and Heads of States must get this message loud and clear now, for tomorrow may be too late.

In celebrating the 50th anniversary of FAO, we need to honestly and critically review our performance in the areas of food and general agricultural production. We are told and we also observe that through the Green Revolution in developing countries and impressive advancement in science and technology in most countries, world cereals have leapt from 1.4 tonnes per hectare in the 1960s to twice this figure in 1989-91. We also note that global availability of food has increased from 2 300 kilocalories per day in the early 1960s, to about 2 700 kilocalories today. FAO can be proud to have contributed significantly to these achievements.

I, however, must hasten to caution that all is not well. We still face a bleak situation where 800 million in the world today are faced with chronic malnutrition. Unfortunately, of this total, 200 million are children under the age of five who suffer acute protein and energy deficiency. It is no secret that the bulk of the statistics on malnutrition that are quoted here largely refer to the desperate sub-Saharan African region. This sub-region has also missed the benefits of the Green Revolution, which has transformed so many developing regions of our Organization.

The same sub-continent, is faced with a huge increase in population leading to serious depletion of the soil resource base through overstocking, excessive cutting of trees, forests, and soil erosion.

We have also realized that these problems, particularly in the case of sub-Saharan Africa, require a radical review of our policies to agricultural and rural development. We need to ask ourselves the question as to why some continents and sub-regions have been sidelined by the scientific and economic advances in the area of food and agriculture when others have had their developments accelerated at a phenomenal pace.

We in Swaziland have had a fair share of the problems that I have just referred to. Our situation has further been aggravated by the drought, which appears to be intensifying. In last cropping season of 1994-95, for instance, production of our staple crop maize, was only 50 percent of the normal output, whilst cotton recorded only 23 percent. As if this was not enough, most streams and rivers are drying up and underground water tables are fast falling, thereby rendering vast human and livestock populations helpless. These problems have convinced us, as never before, that we need to intensify the programme of water resource development and conservation instead of relying on dryland cropping.

Our government has realized that in tackling these issues there is need to join forces with the private sector including the non-governmental organizations. Furthermore, it has become very evident to us that more research needs to be focused on drought-tolerant crops as well as those traditional livestock species that withstand such conditions. We have also realized that our extension services need to be strengthened, particularly in the areas of in-service training and extension management.

All this, cannot be possible unless the policy environment in agriculture is conducive. That is why my country is currently engaged in intensive consultations with all sectors of the population, including those at the grass-root level, with a view to getting a consensus on national economic policy including the vital area of agriculture and rural development. We certainly hope that the FAO and other international friends will assist us in the implementation of this programme, which we believe will have a strong and indigenous and national content.

Mr Chairman, my delegation wishes to reaffirm the Swaziland Government's support to the reform programme of the Director-General of FAO. It is our hope that the draft Programme of Work and Budget for 1996-97, once approved, will help accelerate this process. My delegation further endorses the recommendation of the 108th Session of the FAO Council to this Conference to approve the convening of the World Food Summit in Rome in 1996. We, however, request the Secretariat to clarify the functional relationships amongst the regional, sub-regional and country offices of FAO, particularly with respect to direct delivery of services to member countries.

Mr Chairman, before I finish, I would like to make a special appeal to our friends from the developed countries not to abandon the African continent in the area of development support. Most indications at our disposal are that investment support to developing countries appears to be diminishing at the time when these recipient countries are vigorously creating a better investment climate and increasing their efforts in solving the problems themselves.

For those of us who attended the Quebec Symposium, we experienced a new resolve to solve the food security problem amongst the 1 000 delegates who were there. The Symposium concluded that we need to pursue initiatives whose thrust should be the creation of opportunities for the poor and the hungry to help themselves. It is, therefore, my appeal that Africa must rise to the occasion and solve her food security problem. However, we all know we need to be reminded that the problem of food security is a problem of humanity, not of starving members of our societies alone.

Lastly, Mr Chairman, I wish to congratulate you and other members of your bureau on your election. We are very confident that with your able leadership, our meeting will yield fruitful results.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Sitaheng RASPHONE (Laos): Mr Chairman and Mr Director-General, honourable delegates, ladies and gentlemen. First of all, I would like to extend my deep sorrow and condolences to the Government and the delegation of Iraq for the loss of its Minister of Agriculture. I would like to join the previous speakers in congratulating you, Mr Chairman, and all Vice-Chairmen, on your election to such high and honourable posts, and to welcome the five new members of our Organization. It is a great pleasure for me to be able to address the 28th FAO Conference which corresponds to FAO's 50th anniversary. I congratulate FAO on the success of the symposium "People at the heart of development" and the Ministerial Meeting with its fruitful outcome as "The Quebec Declaration". It will be the prelude to many and diverse actions, large and small, on the way to the World Food Summit which will be held in November 1996.

In the past two years since the 27th FAO Conference in November 1993, FAO within its mandate has contributed to ensuring humanity's freedom from hunger. Major achievements have been made in food production, agriculture, fisheries and forestry, especially the Organization's work on international codes and standards, agricultural advice, integrated pest management, transboundary controls of pests and diseases, responsible fishing, genetic resource management, forest development, sectoral analysis and food quality control.

The Lao Government continues to place the highest priority on rural poverty alleviation among its policy objectives and is recognizing the overwhelming importance of agriculture to its economy. It is determined to accelerate broad-based agricultural and rural development as a major element of its fight against poverty. Other objectives which are closely interrelated to poverty alleviation include: improving food self-sufficiency, diversifying agriculture and livestock product exports, raising smallholders' incomes and promoting economic growth while conserving natural resources which was already reflected in our delegation's statement at the last Conference. This includes the implementation of six major national programmes, namely:

1. Food security;
2. Stabilization of shifting cultivation and protection of forests;
3. Promotion of commercial agricultural products;
4. Establishment of integrated rural development;
5. Development of irrigated agricultural production; and
6. Research and development.

Unfortunately, this year our country has suffered from typhoons (such as Irwin and Louise). Floods have occurred in six provinces along the Mekong River; many families had to be evacuated to higher places together with their animals and belongings. Apart from loss of some of the production and other properties of the people, many infrastructures, such as access roads and irrigation facilities, have been devastated. The estimated flooded area was almost 90 000 hectares, equivalent to one-fourth of the paddy fields, with a damage of more than US\$30 million.

To counter the flood situation, the government has set up a National Committee to relieve the consequences of the floods, headed by the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry. Efforts have been made jointly among the different Ministries coupled with assistance from individual donors and UN organizations, as well as NGOs. Now we have reached again a normal situation but there is still a great need to support farmers' rehabilitation with immediate assistance in the following matters:

1. Urgent supply of rice seed to small-scale farmers affected by the floods for the 1995 dry season;
2. Emergency repair to affected irrigation infrastructure;
3. Support to food production and diversification activities during the 1995/96 dry season;
4. Urgent control of infectious animal disease in flooding areas;
5. Urgent rehabilitation of small fish production;
6. Support to the intensification of lowland rice farming systems for the impending 1996 season, to support and moderate our own fertilization.

A project profile has been prepared for submission to the International Donor's Committee through the Special Relief Operations Service of FAO. We believe that this international relief assistance will contribute to these matters, ensuring food security and especially assistance in rice.

The Lao Government is in full support of the FAO Director-General's initiative to convene the World Food Summit. It is a means of focusing international attention on a serious and still growing problem which requires broad-based and concerted action at all levels, to address the persistent and often deep-rooted issues linked to the overall goal of achieving food security and ensuring availability of and access to food for all. It is suggested to open a special Trust Fund and to mobilize voluntary contributions from public and private sources to facilitate the preparation for and holding of the World Food Summit.

Before ending my statement, let me take this opportunity to say that we deeply appreciate the support we have received from the international donor community and the NGO community, as well as friendly countries, and especially from FAO who has significantly contributed to our socio-economic development and had gradually improved the well-being of our people.

There is a great need for increased coordination, cooperation and collaboration in terms of technical and financial terms for achieving food security in the LAO PDR.

Finally, I wish this Conference every success.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Jalal RASOOLOF (Iran, Islamic Republic of): I would like to extend my heartfelt condolences for the unexpected demise of late Excellency Khalid Abdul Moneem Rasheed, the Minister of Agriculture of Iraq. May God the Almighty bless his soul.

On behalf of my government and myself I take this opportunity to congratulate your election and the election of your honourable Vice-Chairmen and Chairmen and Officers of Commissions. I would also like to congratulate all the Member States on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of FAO.

I also thank the Secretariat for their efforts in organizing this very important Conference and preparation of reports of admirable quality.

I seize this opportunity to extend my sincere congratulations to our neighbouring countries, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Moldova and Georgia for joining the Food and Agriculture Organization.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Ministers, Mr Director-General, ladies and gentlemen. Since the election of the new Director-General FAO has undergone a vital change, and has stepped into a new era characterized by more efficiency, expedition of proper service delivery and more cost effectiveness. An outline of this change includes:

- Restructuring of the Organization
- Decentralization
- Initiatives for more effective cooperation among member countries
- Prioritization of the plans and activities

All the above fundamental changes were supported by member countries at the Council, specialized committees and regional conferences. The altered momentum of FAO has enabled it to address in a more efficient manner the essential food requirement, food security and sustainable agricultural development in its Member States, in particular those classified as low-income deficient countries. Another important feature resulting from these changes is the increased attention to human capacity building in the developing countries which is a prerequisite for economic growth and development. We view all these initiations as harmonious and concerted sets of actions reaffirming dedication to the principles on which the FAO was founded.

At this stage the most critical role of the member countries is to facilitate and support the proposed plans and activities that are viewed as vehicles contributing to the change.

Recent discussions in the Quebec Ministerial Meeting and the 109th Session of the Council show almost unanimous support for these changes as well as for the proposed programme of work of 1996-97. There is however some dissatisfaction among a few developed countries on the level of the budget. I would like at this point to mention that per minute defence expenditure of FAO's Member States is about 1.5 million dollars. In other words, if we all reallocate 15 minutes of our defence budget per year to food production through FAO, the issue would be resolved and billions of people in the developing world would enjoy its results. Let us do this while urging the Organization to undertake an in-depth study on ways and means of increased efficiency and more cost-effectiveness of the Organization for its future decisions.

Many developing countries are facing severe problems such as ecological limitations, shortage of farmland and water supply, rapid population growth, inadequate investment and natural resources degradation. However there are reasons to be optimistic in the future, if our integrated approach is to be adopted.

In this regard, the Islamic Republic of Iran has developed and commenced the implementation of specific strategies formulated under the first and second five-year development plans.

It may be useful to state that close to ninety percent of nutrients supplied in 1993, that is, the end of the first five-year development plan, was supported by domestic production.

As for other achievements of the first five-year plan, the average agricultural production has grown 6 percent annually, the value of exported agricultural commodities has increased by 13 percent of the plan's target of 3.8 billion dollars, and food imports have reduced despite continued population growth. As a result the import value of basic crops declined from 1.9 billion dollars to 900 million dollars. By the end of the first five-year plan, we imported only 2.5 million tonnes of wheat, which was two times less than what we imported at the start of the plan.

Iran's rate of annual rainfall is one-third of the world's average. This problem was addressed through establishing large and small dams on the one hand and improving on-farm irrigation efficiency on the other. This policy resulted in the supply of more than seven billion cubic metres of irrigation water, and the implementation of soil and water infrastructure plans on approximately 1.4 million hectares, agricultural land over a five-year period.

Long-term credit to farmers and insurance policies on agricultural products have increased by two and a half times.

In the second development plan, while investment in agriculture is expected to increase by 11.9 percent per annum, the expected annual growth rate for the sector is estimated at 4.3 percent.

Irrigation systems would be implemented on 2 million hectares of rainfed land.

Specific programmes on biotechnology and integrated pest management have been developed to reduce pesticides and chemical fertilizers used by at least 40 percent.

The targets set for production of basic crops are well above those anticipated in the first five-year plan. The actual production of wheat was 10.8 million tonnes in 1993, while this figure will increase to 15 million tonnes by the end of the second five-year plan. Other crops including horticulture products will face an increase from 53 million tonnes at the start of the plan to 75 million tonnes by the final stages of its implementation.

Mr Chairman, there is a wide belief that the newly established World Trade Order would lead to a fair, free and developed international trading system, which will soon govern all dimensions of international trade for both goods and services and will bring about new employment opportunities, increased incomes, efficient resource utilization, improved standards of living and general economic prosperity, the total net benefit of which has been estimated at more than 5 trillion dollars over a decade.

However, this is not to neglect the fact that in the short run this will lead to increased international agricultural commodity prices, which means an increase in hard currency expenditure to the net food importing nations. If a fair and just international trade atmosphere is to be maintained considerable technical assistance should be provided to the latter countries and FAO should play an important role in this respect.

Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I hereby once again stress my government's strongest support concerning the Programmes of Work and Budget 1996-97 and especially the principles of zero real growth for the budget and I hope that the same support will be asserted by all other Member Nations, as it has been well observed in all previous Conferences.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Pierre-Claver NAHIMANA (Burundi): Monsieur le Président, Mesdames, Messieurs les Ministres, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, c'est un grand honneur pour moi de prendre la parole à la tribune de cette Conférence, pour exprimer la position de mon pays sur la problématique agricole et alimentaire. Mais tout d'abord, au nom de ma délégation et en mon nom propre, je voudrais, Monsieur le Président, vous féliciter pour votre élection et pour la façon dont vous vous acquitez de votre charge.

Ma délégation se joint aussi à celles qui l'ont précédée pour exprimer ses condoléances les plus sincères à la délégation iraquienne.

Je voudrais aussi souhaiter la bienvenue aux nouveaux membres et leur assurer la coopération et la disponibilité de ma délégation.

Sans revenir sur la déclaration du chef de la délégation de la République gabonaise qui a si brillamment exprimé les opinions et les préoccupations du Groupe africain de Rome, je voudrais attirer l'attention de la Conférence sur son contenu et son importance.

Les opinions que nous avons exprimées collectivement dans cette déclaration sont nos convictions profondes sur le rôle et la mission des Nations Unies, sur la mission de la FAO au lendemain de son cinquantième anniversaire, sur l'importance de la solidarité et de la coopération entre les nations ainsi que sur les rapports et le respect des engagements internationaux des Etats. La délégation du Burundi réaffirme ici son adhésion à ses positions communes.

Je voudrais aussi féliciter la FAO pour le travail accompli tel qu'il est circonscrit dans la brillante déclaration du Directeur général et exprimer le soutien de la délégation du Burundi au Programme de travail et budget pour les deux années à venir tel qu'il est présenté à la Conférence. Il répond aux engagements que nous avons adoptés lors de la 106ème Session de notre Conseil et que nous avons réitérés à maintes reprises. C'est pourquoi la délégation du Burundi souhaite recommander à la Conférence de l'adopter ainsi.

Lors de notre dernière Conférence, la délégation du Burundi a fait état d'une crise politique et sociale grave qui devait comporter des conséquences désastreuses sur sa population qui est essentiellement agricole.

A l'heure actuelle, la crise n'est pas encore maîtrisée. Dans plusieurs régions du pays, de nombreuses familles n'ont pas encore eu la possibilité de rejoindre leurs exploitations pour s'adonner à leurs activités agricoles. Elles vivent dans des conditions misérables, sans espoir du lendemain, surtout en matière de satisfaction et de sécurité alimentaires.

Toutes les conséquences de la crise socio-politique qui a prévalu au Burundi pèsent lourd sur la population, en particulier sur les groupes vulnérables que constituent les femmes et les enfants.

Le Burundi ne connaît pas encore de famine, mais cela ne pourrait tarder si la situation continue à se détériorer.

Nous avons, lors de notre dernière Conférence, lancé un appel à la communauté internationale pour qu'elle aide mon pays, le Burundi, à sortir de cette crise. Celle-ci a répondu avec empressement à cet appel et je tiens à lui exprimer les sentiments sincères de gratitude du Gouvernement du Burundi.

Je tiens à souligner ici, de manière toute particulière, le rôle joué par la FAO dont l'intervention a contribué largement à relancer notre agriculture et continue à en assurer le soutien malgré les conditions de travail qui sont particulièrement difficiles.

Malgré toutes les contraintes que connaît mon pays, je voudrais signaler que le Gouvernement s'est engagé dans un vaste plan de reconstruction nationale. En particulier, pour le secteur agricole et alimentaire, une politique sectorielle agricole adaptée à la situation actuelle a été confectionnée par mon Ministère en collaboration avec plusieurs experts de divers horizons. Cette politique sectorielle qui sera bientôt adoptée par le Conseil des ministres vise surtout: le rééquilibrage des exploitations agricoles après la crise, le retour des familles dans leurs exploitations, la remise en place des mécanismes de soutien aux agriculteurs, la restauration de la fertilité des sols, la protection des sols, la fourniture d'intrants agricoles performants aux agriculteurs ainsi que les intrants d'élevage.

Nous comptons encore une fois sur le soutien de la communauté internationale, en particulier de la FAO, pour mener à terme ces programmes.

Malgré la perspicacité des stratégies que nous ne cessons de mettre en oeuvre, malgré l'engagement des pays et organismes amis à nos côtés, la profondeur de la crise que nous avons subie et que nous ressentons encore appelle à une solidarité encore plus active et soutenue.

Le Burundi abrite encore, en effet, de nombreux réfugiés étrangers et compte parmi sa propre population des milliers de déplacés, réfugiés qui vivent dans la misère et le dénuement. Des centaines de milliers de Burundais sont encore dispersés dans les pays voisins et vivent dans des conditions on ne peut plus précaires.

Face à cette situation, le Gouvernement du Burundi a mis au point un plan d'action pour assainir cette situation. Mais, sans le déploiement d'efforts similaires au niveau régional et sans le concours de la communauté internationale, ces initiatives de mon Gouvernement seraient vouées à l'échec - et des personnes continueraient à être emportées en masse par la faim, la malnutrition, la pauvreté et la misère - entraînant avec elles tout le patrimoine forestier et environnemental.

En terminant cette allocution, je voudrais réitérer la ferme volonté du Gouvernement de respecter les engagements pris à l'endroit des organisations internationales, et une en particulier, la FAO, malgré les problèmes que nous connaissons et qui, nous l'espérons, pourront être résolus avec le ferme soutien de la communauté internationale.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Toivo PALM (Estonia): Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. First, allow me to express our condolences to the Delegation of Iraq on the loss of their Minister of Agriculture.

I hereby have the honour to turn to the 28th Session of the FAO Conference on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Estonia.

First, I would like to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on your election. It is also a special honour and pleasure to greet the new Members of FAO. I am most pleased to forward the thanks of my government to the Director-General of FAO, His Excellency Jacques Diouf, for the keen attention he has given to requests for programmes and projects connected with Estonia.

Mr Chairman, Estonia became a Member of FAO four years ago, just three months after restoring our independence in August 1991. During these years of technical assistance projects have been started with FAO. Most of these programmes started up at the very beginning of our FAO membership and are now mostly successfully completed and every one of them has had its own positive effect on the restructuring of our agriculture and the Estonian economy as a whole in its progress from a centrally planned to a market oriented economy. But, the restructuring of our economy, and especially the agricultural sector, has turned out to be more complicated than was expected four years ago at the time of our joining FAO. Nevertheless, and in spite of some difficulties and setbacks, Estonia has had noticeable political and economic success - we are now an associate member of the European Union - and we were accepted to this status without the customary waiting period. We have a stable and convertible currency. Estonia has established no customs duties and it is thus open to free trade, to name another important factor.

Now some remarks about our problems. Due to the free trade situation, there are still problems with food quality control to protect our market from low-quality imported goods and I, therefore, sincerely hope that programmes with FAO to elaborate some effective food quality control will continue. This is one of the most vital matter for us.

A number of problems which are important for our agricultural sector are connected with the completion of an effective land reform programme. This also includes the problems of reforestation of the land now lying fallow and unused by tillage. This means that there is a clear need to develop extension services in this branch with the establishment of the corresponding institutions in areas where afforestation is needed. All this can be achieved much more effectively with the cooperation of FAO.

There are also serious problems in our fisheries sector. We have a large and ineffective fleet of trawlers which we inherited from the Soviet era and which it makes no sense for us to retain. We are receiving most effective advice from FAO in this sector. Other than that there is also urgent need to create new jobs and to educate people for near-shore fishing and processing of the catch, an important question for the local population who during Soviet times were not allowed into the near-shore areas due to Soviet army restrictions.



A most important group of projects, part of them already being started, are connected with a long-term prognosis for our agricultural sector. Our agricultural university and research institutes are fully involved with these projects.

At this stage in the restructuring of the economy, the Government of Estonia considers that it will be appropriate to elaborate the bill "A Forward-Looking Strategy and a Long-Term Prognosis for the Agricultural Sector". The main purpose of this bill will be to enhance the government's ability and confidence in choosing the most appropriate path for the future development of Estonia's agricultural sector. By future development we mean 10 to 15 years. We recognize FAO as an objective source for such a forward-looking strategy and it is for this reason that we have made a specific request to FAO to which FAO is already responding. We recognize the seriousness of this work and we hope that the results of the research will also be, due to the similarity in agricultural problems of other member countries, applicable and useful, especially in the postsocialist countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

The similarity of the problems in the agricultural sector in the region mentioned encourages us once more to propose the full support of FAO to the regional approach for the different areas.

We very strongly support the proposals made by some countries in the Council to develop the regional approach in FAO. Needless to say, we wish the Director-General full success in carrying out his plans and programmes in this direction.

I would also like to refer to the statement made by His Excellency Mr Luis Atienza, the Minister of Agriculture of Spain and Acting President of the Council of the European Union who appeals to strengthen the regional dimension of food security. According to our understanding, all projects supported by FAO, wherever they are implemented, have their main aim of strengthening food security. We believe that the first Council session in 1996 will be an appropriate time to begin a discussion about the possible regionalization of FAO including possible changes in the budget for the next biennium. This will allow sufficient time to consider and weigh all pros and cons concerning the regionalization of FAO's activities in a democratic way. And I am certain that every democratic decision which concerns FAO's consensus budget will strengthen the member countries' discipline and thus help FAO carry out its ideas and mandate in our small interconnected world.<sup>1</sup>

CHAIRMAN: I should like to remind you that the 9th Plenary Meeting will start tomorrow morning at 09.30 hours. The meeting is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 16.30 hours.

La séance est levée à 16 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 16.30 horas.

<sup>1</sup> Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

25 October 1995



منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

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

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

# CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Twenty-eighth Session • Vingt-huitième session • 28° período de sesiones

**NINTH PLENARY MEETING**  
**NEUVIEME SEANCE PLENIERE**  
**NOVENA SESION PLENARIA**

25 October 1995

The Ninth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.30 hours  
Ms Mária Kadlecikova,  
Vice-Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La neuvième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 30  
sous la présidence de Mme Mária Kadlecikova,  
Vice-Présidente adjointe de la Conférence

Se abre la novena sesión plenaria a las 9.30 horas  
bajo la presidencia de la Sra. Mária Kadlecikova,  
Vicepresidenta de la Conferencia

INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)

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

INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)

6. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture

6. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture

6. Examen del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS

- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION

- MANIFESTACIONES DE LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES

CHAIRMAN: May I open this session of the Conference and wish you all a successful day.

Johan SISAL (Suriname): Madame Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, first of all, I would like to start by congratulating you on your election to the Chair of this meeting. I am convinced that under your skilful leadership we will have fruitful discussions. I also congratulate the Director-General on the inspiring way he has led FAO during the past two years.

Fifty years ago representatives of 44 countries from all parts of the world decided in Canada to establish FAO, and now 171 countries are members. The increase from 44 to 171 reflects the importance these countries give to the excellent work of FAO.

In establishing the Organization, the primary goal was to eliminate poverty and hunger for all people. After two world wars, hunger and poverty are the biggest threats to world peace. Thanks to the global effort of FAO during the past 50 years, great progress has been achieved in eliminating hunger and poverty. With respect to this, I would like to mention the results of the "Green Revolution" in increasing food production, especially in the densely populated parts of Southeast Asia.

The development and introduction of new technology, rational and more efficient use of soil and water, sustainable exploitation of fishing grounds and forests have all led to a significant increase in food production in nearly every country of the world.

Therefore we have all the more reason to be happy with FAO. On behalf of the Government of Suriname, it is a great honour for me to congratulate the world community and the Director-General on 50 years of FAO.

Suriname has also received important assistance from FAO, in developing the agricultural, livestock, fishery and forestry sectors. We are very grateful to FAO and the donor countries for their support, and we do hope that in the future under your skilful leadership, Mr Director-General, FAO will keep on supporting us in the further development of the agricultural sector.

Fifty years of FAO gives us the opportunity to reconsider the main goals of the Organization. I have mentioned the great successes achieved during the past 50 years in the fight against hunger and poverty. Sadly, however, large groups of the world's population are still suffering from hunger.

I call your attention to the fact that, while in the rich industrialized countries many people are suffering from diseases due to overeating and there is an irresponsible waste of food, children in other parts of the world are still starving daily. According to recent figures, 800 million people are hungry and malnourished; of those, 192 million are children younger than five years of age, suffering from acute and chronic protein and energy deficiencies.

Fifty years is a short period in the history of mankind, maybe too short to solve completely the complex problems of hunger and poverty. We should, however, try to consider how to increase our support in

eliminating hunger and poverty. Having analysed the Programme of Work and Budget, we strongly support the activities of the World Food Summit and urge everyone to give their maximum support to FAO in order that we can eliminate hunger from our world.

If we look at the world agricultural sector, we can see that the rich industrialized countries subsidize certain agricultural products, while the developing countries are often forced by international financing agencies to stop subsidies to the agricultural sector abruptly. This has a negative effect on the developing countries' competitive position in the world market and thus decreases the urge to produce.

A frequently heard statement lately is that governments should limit their involvement in the agricultural sector and leave its development to private investors. I am pleased with this confidence in our private sector and we should give full support to their efforts. I believe, however, that government institutions in developing countries still have an important role to play in providing extended services in terms of crop protection, the introduction of better-adapted cropping systems, the efficient use of soil and water and facilities for upgrading the management level of our farmers. This is necessary because innovations are adopted by farmers in developing countries more slowly than by those in industrialized countries, and this relates to differences in education.

This takes me to the next item I would like to mention: the educational system. We are still not fully conscious of the fact that the basis for development and progress in developing countries is a more efficient use of livestock, fisheries and forestry. Young people in our countries still have limited opportunities to be educated as modern farmers. We may have enough universities and graduate training, but we lack schools for practical agricultural training.

One aspect of agriculture that is usually neglected in developing countries is agricultural research. We often fail to realize that agricultural research is indispensable for an increase in production. We should therefore increase the efficiency of research by means of national and regional collaboration between institutions.

In closing my presentation, on behalf of my Government I congratulate FAO again on its 50th anniversary and I hope that together we will be able successfully to eliminate hunger and poverty.

Yaacov TSUR (Israel): On behalf of the Government of Israel, allow me to congratulate the elected Chairman and wish him success in his distinguished position.

Many changes have taken place in FAO since the last Conference. Under the leadership of the new FAO Director-General, comprehensive reforms have been implemented in a much-needed effort to further the activity of FAO in high-priority areas, such as Eastern and Central Europe and Africa. Israel supports those changes already introduced and will be a party to all future efforts in these fields.

The last two years have signalled a breakthrough in the Middle East peace progress. Within this time-frame a peace treaty was signed with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and headway has been made in the process of implementing comprehensive peace with the Palestinians.

We are aware of the fact that the problem of food availability is a central issue in the activities of FAO, and this emphasizes the need constantly to step up efforts to solve the problems of malnutrition and hunger in various parts of the world.

At this Conference we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of FAO. The challenge facing the founders still exists. The goal of no more hunger and the objective of no more starvation or malnutrition have yet to be achieved. The gap in our world between those who have and those who have not is widening. We have to carry out our commitment to a better and more just world. Let God protect us from paying only lip service to those values and let us together dedicate all our efforts and all we have in order to implement those values for a better world.

Allow me to emphasize Israel's commitment to an active contribution to these efforts by sharing its know-how and experience in the field of agriculture. We are expanding our activities in providing instruction and advanced training to experts from developing countries within the framework of dozens of professional

courses held in Israel and in more than 60 developing countries. At the same time Israel is working on the establishment of a model farm for the application of advanced agricultural technologies.

Israel is willing to make available to developing countries the extensive know-how that it has acquired in agriculture particularly in the development of arid regions. This is also the best proof of the aspirations for peace in our region.

Another recent development has been to expand the involvement of agricultural research institutes in Israel in programmes for scientific-agricultural joint ventures with other assisting countries, based on joint financing. The emphasis in these programmes is on applied research for increasing yields and selecting plant varieties adapted to the special conditions of the recipient country. I would like to take this opportunity to emphasize the high level of agricultural experts from developing countries and their important contribution to this research.

It is noteworthy that, as a result of a number of seminars held in Israel, a new concept has developed both in Israel and in developing countries of the need to integrate private enterprise in the production system. One way to achieve this is by organizing cooperatives of small farmers. Interesting patterns have emerged in creating a satellite farming system, and Israel can also contribute its experience in this area.

I would like to underline Israel's support of the Quebec Declaration, approved only a few days ago by all FAO members. We are full partners in this aspiration to solve the problems of food shortage and hunger prevailing in various countries throughout the globe, problems which are closely connected with the level of income of rural populations. In this era agriculture alone cannot supply sufficient income to advance the rural areas. Israel is making extensive efforts to develop supplemental employment in addition to agriculture. The Government of Israel recently decided to lend greater momentum to this trend, and the Ministry of Agriculture has also assumed responsibility for rural development. The development of industry and tourism has proved especially beneficial in diversifying sources of employment in rural areas. Within the framework of FAO, Israel is ready and willing to contribute its experience and know-how to all countries interested in this type of development.

Far-reaching changes are about to take place in the system of trade in agricultural products. Israel has joined the new GATT agreement and supports the competitive trend which it embodies. Nonetheless, the exposure of agricultural products to free trade must be done in a regulated manner, to enable agricultural production to adapt to the new situation. The Israel Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is working on the changes stemming from the new international trade agreements while encouraging increased efficiency in the agricultural sector.

Since the previous FAO Conference, the peace process in our region has become a new reality. After years of peace between Israel and Egypt, we have reached a peace treaty with Jordan and with the Palestinians. These peace processes create a good chance for a peaceful Middle East and hope for cooperation. We must be aware that striving for real and comprehensive peace starts the day after the signature of the political agreements. The task is then imposed upon our leaders to translate the peace agreements into a way of life of cooperation between nations and peoples.

A leading role is designated for agriculture in the peace process, since it has the potential to raise the standard of living and guarantee the well-being of the nations and inhabitants of the region.

The road that we must choose therefore, is agricultural cooperation in research, know-how, technology and the proper use of water resources. We are striding on this path of cooperation together with our neighbours in Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinians. This is blessed and welcome cooperation which will guarantee a new Middle East for us and future generations; a Middle East in which animosity and hatred will be replaced by cooperation and in which the researcher, farmer and artist will take the place of the soldier and fighter. Together, let us cooperate and help to make this dream of generations a reality.

I will conclude with our traditional prayer, "May God in Heaven bring peace to us, to Israel and to the entire world".

Augustin IYAMURENYE (Rwanda): Madame le Président, permettez-moi tout d'abord d'exprimer au nom de mon pays, nos condoléances à la délégation de l'Iraq pour la perte de son Ministre.

Je voudrais aussi présenter mes félicitations au Président et aux Vice-Présidents pour leur élection à la tête des travaux de notre Conférence.

Madame le Président, Monsieur le Directeur Général de la FAO, Messieurs les Ministres, distingués délégués, Mesdames et Messieurs, c'est pour moi un grand honneur de prendre la parole devant cette auguste assemblée tout d'abord pour apprécier les efforts déployés par la FAO et ses Etats Membres qui se sont engagés depuis bientôt 50 ans à supprimer la faim et la malnutrition et à assurer la sécurité alimentaire pour tous. En second lieu, je ne peux laisser passer une si excellente occasion de féliciter et d'encourager notre Organisation, la FAO, qui n'a cessé d'appuyer les actions de lutte contre la famine et les déséquilibres nutritionnels en dispensant des conseils ainsi que des soutiens matériels et financiers aux pays qui en ont besoin.

Mais, malgré les efforts et la grande détermination de la FAO et des différents pays membres dans la défense des intérêts de l'agriculture, force est de constater que l'insécurité alimentaire cause encore de grands dommages partout dans le monde et tout particulièrement dans les pays à faible revenu. En effet, comme cela a été rappelé à plusieurs reprises sur une population mondiale de 5,7 milliards, 800 millions de personnes souffrent aujourd'hui de sous-alimentation chronique et 192 millions d'enfants de moins de 5 ans sont atteints de carences protéino-énergétiques.

En Afrique et dans la région des Grands Lacs, où se trouve mon pays, le Rwanda, les carences et les pénuries alimentaires persistent malgré le concours des pays qui ne cessent de nous apporter des aides alimentaires. Cette situation est due à plusieurs causes dont les plus saillantes sont principalement: les crises socio-politiques et économiques qui entravent l'exécution des actions de production agricole; la détérioration des cours des matières premières; l'évolution de la dette; la persistance du cercle vicieux de la pauvreté qui est à la base du faible pouvoir d'achat des agriculteurs; la destruction des ressources naturelles; la diminution de la superficie arable par personne suite à la démographie galopante et à la dégradation de l'environnement, qui rend certaines zones impropres à l'agriculture.

Avec un peu de recul, nous remarquons aussi que sur le plan mondial, les pays les moins avancés sont toujours défavorisés par l'effondrement des cours des matières premières et que ces Pays n'ont cessé d'analyser les faiblesses des clauses économiques. Aujourd'hui, nous pouvons affirmer que ces insuffisances sont bien cernées et que les politiques et les stratégies nécessaires pour les surmonter sont connues. Il reste seulement à les appliquer.

Tout en appréciant la politique, les stratégies et les mesures définies par la FAO pour lutter contre la faim et la malnutrition dans le monde, je voudrais vous annoncer que le Gouvernement rwandais est prêt à participer activement à la préparation du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation et à mettre en oeuvre les politiques et les stratégies qui seront adoptées par ce sommet en vue de contribuer à la réalisation de la sécurité alimentaire pour tous. Dans ce cadre, permettez-moi d'anticiper et d'évoquer certains aspects jugés prioritaires et indispensables pour donner une solution aux problèmes d'insécurité alimentaire que connaissent les pays à faibles revenus.

Certes, les approches de solution à ces problèmes varient en fonction des pays concernés, néanmoins, il existe quelques solutions communes qui passent principalement dans nos pays par la création d'un cadre de sécurité permettant un développement global, qui tient en compte la valorisation durable des ressources naturelles et le respect de l'environnement. Nous voudrions, par conséquent, lancer un appel pour que chacun de nous concourt au rétablissement de la paix dans les zones qui connaissent des conflits et qu'il s'attelle aussi à la recherche d'une stabilité politique indispensable à l'augmentation de la production.

Mais, comme nous le savons tous, la paix et la sécurité à elles seules ne suffisent pas pour développer l'agriculture, c'est pourquoi il faut créer un cadre commercial mondial qui permet le développement des économies des pays pauvres et qui donne la valeur réelle aux productions des pays du tiers monde.

La lutte contre la pauvreté, la malnutrition et la famine, implique aussi une solidarité et une adaptation aux mutations perpétuelles du monde. Cette solidarité doit d'abord se faire jour sur le plan économique où

la stabilité est menacée par l'incohérence des décisions prises séparément par les institutions financières, la libéralisation anarchique du commerce et la mauvaise redistribution des ressources financières qui ne sont pas régies par les règles de surveillance, de transparence et de partenariat pour un développement solidaire.

Aussi, pour mieux faire face à la faim et aux déséquilibres nutritionnels; l'aide accordée à l'agriculture des pays pauvres devrait augmenter au lieu de diminuer comme cela a été malheureusement le cas durant ces 13 dernières années au cours desquelles cette aide a chuté de 10 à 7,2 milliards de dollars américains. L'augmentation de cette aide irait de pair avec l'allègement et le rééchelonnement de la dette sans toutefois recourir à une assistance exclusive qui constitue souvent un obstacle à une prise en charge par les populations de leur propre développement.

Dans le cadre d'application de politiques et de mesures mises en oeuvre par les pays membres de la FAO en vue d'augmenter et d'améliorer la production alimentaire, j'aimerais mettre en exergue le cas particulier que vit mon pays.

Classé dans le groupe des pays les moins avancés à forte concentration de ruraux, le Rwanda accuse un déficit vivrier prononcé. Avec une production inférieure à 1800 Kcal, 38 gr. de protéines et 6 gr. de lipides par personne et par jour, l'agriculture rwandaise qui occupe plus de 90 pour cent de la population n'est pas actuellement en mesure d'assurer la sécurité alimentaire du pays. Les causes de cette situation sont nombreuses, les principales d'entre elles sont: la dégradation de l'appareil de production caractérisée par une diminution progressive de la fertilité des sols due à l'érosion, à la surexploitation des terres et à la faible utilisation des fertilisants; une forte concentration de la population dans le milieu rural avec un taux de croissance démographique très élevé (3,1 pour cent); la faible diversification des produits agricoles d'exportation qui sont essentiellement le café et le thé; le faible niveau de formation professionnelle de la population.

Cette situation provoquée, dès 1980, a été aggravée par les malheureux événements survenus dans notre pays en 1994. En effet, dans le sous-secteur des productions vivrières et des cultures d'exportation, les pertes de production dues aux malheureux événements survenus dans notre pays ont entraîné une chute jusqu'à 37 pour cent par rapport aux productions des années 1990. Le sous-secteur forestier a également fortement souffert avec la destruction de plus de 21 000 hectares de boisement, la dégradation d'une partie des forêts naturelles et des savanes du pays et l'anéantissement des peuplements semenciers.

De ce constat amer, il est clair que l'activité économique, sociale et surtout la production agricole ont fortement souffert de la guerre et le pays traverse actuellement une situation de pénurie alimentaire sans précédent dans l'histoire du Rwanda. Pour sortir de cet état problématique, un programme d'action d'urgences pour la réconciliation, la réhabilitation, la reconstitution, et la relance socio-économique du pays a été élaboré et contient plusieurs actions de réhabilitation et de relance du secteur agricole.

Ces actions sont déjà amorcées et le Gouvernement rwandais n'a d'autre choix que celui de réussir et nous comptons sur l'assistance de la FAO pour apporter au Rwanda et au peuple rwandais les secours pour sortir de cet état.

Permettez-moi, avant de terminer mon allocution de témoigner une fois de plus ma gratitude envers la communauté internationale, envers les agences des Nations Unies pour le concours massif qu'ils nous ont apporté lors des accidents survenus dans mon pays et de renouveler les félicitations au Président de la Conférence pour son élection et au Directeur général de la FAO pour la sagesse, le dévouement et la compétence avec lesquels il dirige notre Organisation.

Ryszaard KOŁODZIEJ (Poland) (Original language Polish): Madam Chairman, Mr Director-General, ladies and gentlemen. I should like from the very outset to congratulate you, Madam Chairman, on your election since this session of the FAO Conference is of very special significance.

The Quebec Ministerial Conference convened on the 50th Anniversary of the foundation of FAO has reaffirmed our commitment to the principles and basic goals of the Organization now that it looks ahead approaching the 21st century. And yet the FAO Conference session began in an atmosphere of uncertainty as

to the capacity of the Organization to implement its mandate in conformity with the needs and expectations of Member States.

Paradoxically, the Organization officially commended for positive change initiated by the Director-General is presently confronted with the prospect of a major financial setback which might seriously undercut the resource base of the Organization.

Poland belongs to the mainstream of countries convinced that FAO has a definite mission to perform and it is our joint duty to help make it possible. While we are prepared to support the budget, we also see, like the European community, the need to engage in a dialogue in search of further savings in order to achieve a consensus on the budget. We entirely agree that greater efforts to overcome the constraint of dues in arrears should be made, particularly in times of scarcity, and we ourselves are taking steps in this same direction.

Our positions at this Conference reflect varying perceptions of how countries should act when facing the often divergent goals involved in the global political economy of food. We are convinced that the growing demand for food, tighter connections among markets, greater reliance on new production technologies, as well as the uncontested imperative of sustainable development, have increased the importance of international adjustments and concerted action by nations. Poland strongly believes that international organizations, and first and foremost FAO, have an important role to play in the international system of agricultural production, distribution and consumption of food which is referred to as a global food regime, and in particular a role to play in the quest for world food security.

Our case for multilateralism and a strong, viable, effective and well targeted FAO stems from the recognition of both undeniable successes in boosting world agricultural production in the post-war era as well as from a realistic assessment of the entrenched problems and the gravity of the future challenge of adequate food production for the steeply increasing world population that we have before us.

With this aim Poland resolutely supports the idea of convening the World Food Summit in November 1996. The Summit should offer both a global vision of universal food security and a down-to-earth approach to concrete issues. In our view, this well prepared Summit and its follow-up should be action-oriented, be integrated with regular FAO activities, consolidate a universal dimension of food security and focus ultimately on regional and sub-regional levels of cooperation.

We believe that a broad approach to world food security going beyond just supply side factors and selected groups of countries will be the most effective way of dealing with these problems. To look at food security in terms of standard economic categories alone is to treat them superficially. Broader and deeper questions have to be posed as to why backwardness and poverty often perpetuate themselves, how to break the vicious circle of poverty as well as, in the words of His Holiness John Paul II two days ago, "to find ways to guarantee food for the whole world, through sharing the fruits of the earth in a rational way". We share the view that access to food, poverty and food security are strongly intertwined.

Therefore the wide spectrum of social, economic and political factors should be carefully looked at to work out effective long-term food security policies at national, regional and international levels. These policies should aim at greater stability and increased effective demand as well as strengthening regional production in relation to food aid.

When we speak about the main thrust of FAO activities, we should not overlook the fact that Poland consistently argues, as it already did at the 27th Session of the FAO Conference, in favour of greater involvement of the Organization in macro-economic adjustment and policy advice for Member Nations, rather than purely technical matters. I have the pleasure to point out that FAO technical assistance to Poland, in keeping with this approach, has been found most useful.

We are pleased to note that new approaches are more visibly reflected in the Medium-Term Plan 1996-2001, although the key issues related to world trade have not been in our view sufficiently covered in this document. Generally speaking, we support all high-priority areas, especially the emphasis placed on plant and animal genetic resource activities, as well as increased support for forestry and fisheries.



Poland belongs to those countries that have an equally strong interest in all areas of the FAO mandate, including fisheries and forestry. We have been most active participants in negotiations on the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, which I sincerely hope will be endorsed by this Conference. We also attach great importance to the forthcoming International Conference on the topic of "The Contribution of Sustainable Fisheries to Food Security".

Generally speaking, every effort should be made to consolidate FAO's comparative advantage in relation to other organizations active in the same domains, and one should make efforts, too, to avoid as much as possible overlap and duplication which are the main drawbacks of the UN System. FAO should indeed be, and act as, a universal agency but not necessarily as an all-purpose organization.

As regards new challenges, in our continent FAO has not yet offered an orchestrated, coherent response to the specific needs of its more and more numerous member countries from Central and Eastern Europe. Without belittling the value of the assistance rendered to these countries, Poland included, there has been no attempt to enhance the scope of this assistance, nor to identify clearly FAO's role and involvement in the transition process, with due account to be taken of the activities of other international organizations and financial institutions. I think we are entitled to make this remark since Poland has been making considerable efforts to assist FAO in elaborating an FAO subregional policy for countries in Central and Eastern Europe, and it is because of these considerations that Poland convened in September 1994 a Conference of Ministers of Agriculture from these countries in Warsaw.

We sincerely hope that the establishment of the FAO subregional office for the countries of Central and Eastern Europe will lead to greater involvement of FAO in this area which in no way should divert FAO's attention or funds from its global commitments and the priority needs of the developing countries and in particular low-income, food-deficit countries.

Lalleshwar K.N. SINGH (Guyana): Madam Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, it is both an honour and a pleasure to address this 28th Session of the FAO Conference. At the inception, I would like to take this opportunity to compliment the Director-General for the impressive start he has made since his appointment, and to assure him of my Government's support for the World Food Summit in 1996. We would also like to register our support for the proposals for a zero real growth budget.

Guyana takes note of the developments in international trade and pricing of agricultural commodities, particularly the steep increases in the prices of grains, consequent upon the tightening of supplies, and the reduction in food aid in cereals. We also take note of the possible impact of the Agreement on Agriculture which calls for phased reductions in domestic supports for agriculture.

Guyana, although being a low-income country with a massive debt burden is, nevertheless, in the fortunate position of being a net exporter of food. Our sugar and rice industries remain the backbone of our economy and this is expected to continue for some time. It is recognized, however, that these industries are dependent on preferential prices paid for the two commodities mentioned. The challenge which faces countries such as ours is to develop our agriculture to enable it to compete on the rapidly changing world market. The current buoyancy of the international market for grains is of course favourable to us, and our rice farmers have been responding remarkably well to these added incentives. In addition to the effect of global price changes, our agriculture has benefitted from the removal of many restrictions which had previously been placed on it, particularly in terms of the administration of producer prices. Added to this, the economy-wide liberalizations which have taken place - in particular the decontrol of the foreign exchange market and the trade regime - have all rebounded to the benefit of the agricultural sector. Our rice production and exports are the highest they have ever been, while sugar production has recovered to levels exceeding those achieved in the 1970s.

This is not to say that Guyana is unconcerned about the possible negative impacts of increased grain prices on the economies of food-deficit countries. Further, our own dependence on wheat imports is a factor which must concern us since our urban populations (as well as some rural groups) will be faced with higher prices for both commodities - domestically produced rice and wheat imports. Our economic regime does not allow us to depend on general subsidies; neither are we desirous of doing so, since we have seen the disturbing effects of such subsidies in the past. Rather, we aim at targeting disadvantaged groups, in terms of providing supplementary feeding programmes, food-for-work activities and community development measures. Our

Social Impact Amelioration Programme as well as programmes implemented by non-governmental organizations are concrete manifestations of this approach.

Previous policies in the agricultural sector (as well as macro-economic policies) brought about much damage to our productive capacity. The Government of Guyana has therefore taken the view that it is necessary to concentrate on the provision of support services, such as the rehabilitation of our extensive drainage and irrigation network, if the benefits from trade are to be fully captured. The Government has therefore withdrawn almost completely from involvement in direct production and trading activities in favour of building up the institutional capacity for the provision of key services. In addition to drainage and irrigation, major efforts are now being focused on the rehabilitation of the country's sea defences (particularly crucial since the main production areas are coastal and subject to flooding); the improvement of the rural road network; the enhancement of research and extension facilities; the improvements of land tenure; land markets and administration of public land, and the identification of new lands of settlement.

An important tenet of the Government's policies is the improvement in the level of participation of the farming and rural communities in the conceptualization and implementation of development projects. Our experiences have shown that projects conceived and implemented without the full participation of the ultimate clients - however well these projects may meet the standards of financial and economic analysis - are doomed to failure or, at best, gross under-achievement of their stated goals.

In the important area of land reform, the Government has taken the position that all legitimate holders of agricultural land should be assured full legal rights to such lands. We have also committed ourselves to improving access to land by all those who have the need and the capacity to use such lands. Thirdly, we have been moving towards the improvement of the market for all lands, whether these are owned by the state or by private interests. We very much value the current involvement of FAO in the formulation of our land policies and we wish that role to continue, particularly because FAO's role as a neutral technical body is extremely important in helping us to clarify a range of controversial issues.

We recognize that, despite the gains made in the production of our two major commodities, the remainder of the sector is not progressing at a fast rate. Other crops and livestock constitute a significant percentage of our total output and is derived mainly from small farms. Small farmers are efficient producers, within the context of their resource constraints, but they need appropriate infrastructure and technology if they are to capture wider markets. Thus, there is a need to address the basic needs of the sub-sector if we are to be guaranteed balanced development and if we are to maintain a degree of diversification which would serve to hedge against any future downturns in the major commodities.

For this reason, we have taken a decision to completely reorganize the institutional structures which support the producers of horticultural crops and livestock. We are of the view that these support services should be firmly based in the communities and should, in addition, be highly integrated. Thus, the new institutional framework will integrate research, extension, marketing services and agro-processing support. Again, this calls for a participatory approach to service delivery. It also calls for institutions which are flexible enough to become responsive to the needs of the communities in which they work and thus to structure their programmes in ways which bring about sustainable community-based development. In this, FAO can be of great assistance since, with its worldwide experience, it can bring to bear the lessons which have been gathered from many such efforts, both successful and unsuccessful.

For our fisheries we definitely have to improve our knowledge of the resources, the quality of our management and the welfare of those involved in the industry. FAO will soon be involved with us in the review of our fisheries legislation. We have produced a draft fisheries plan and intend to implement several investment projects and institutional reforms. Fisheries, we believe, can become the country's second largest industry but, for this to become a reality we must move quickly in conjunction with our neighbours, to implement a workable management regime.

While we recognize the importance of rationalizing the role of the public sector vis-à-vis the private sector, it still remains true that there are essential services which only the public sector can or is willing to provide. The implementation of development projects must be facilitated by the public sector, even if implementation is passed on to non-governmental agencies. There is therefore a need to ensure that the public sector is adequately equipped to carry out its essential tasks. The need to implement strict budgetary controls as part

of our structural adjustment programme has resulted in the compression of services traditionally delivered by the public sector.

The role of FAO in this regard is to advise countries on the ways in which they can bring about much needed reform of the public support institution, reducing the burden on the public purse while at the same time providing an environment in which maximum benefits are derived from public expenditure. We therefore call on FAO to become more fully involved in the strategic planning of member countries. FAO's participation in this regard is particularly welcome, since it would serve to provide impartial advice and propose strategies which would place governments in a better position in their negotiations with multilateral and other financing institutions.

Finally, I would like to record in this forum Guayana's deep appreciation for the recent visit by the distinguished Director-General, Dr Jacques Diouf. That visit, in itself, assisted in strengthening the ties between Guyana and FAO. It also provided us and the Director-General with the opportunity to discuss our development needs as well as our view of the future role of FAO in our development.

Ms Maria LAZAROVA (Bulgaria): Allow me to congratulate you on your appointment to this responsible post and to wish you useful work to the Conference.

The Bulgarian delegation considers that the 28th Session of the Conference is held at a remarkable time - a week ago the 50th Anniversary of the Organization was solemnly celebrated in Quebec, Canada. The assessments and recommendations made by the ministers in Quebec and the documents elaborated by FAO bodies for the Conference are in unison with the useful initiatives of the Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf, for increasing the efficiency of FAO. We think these will help the Organization to play its responsible role even more efficiently.

As you may be aware, Bulgarian agriculture is in a condition of profound restructuring. After the demonopolization, the liberalization of prices and the opening of possibilities for free initiative of companies in the production and business spheres of activity, we are at present in the process of the restitution of land and the privatization of state enterprises. By the end of 1995, there will be restitution of 61.6 percent of farm land, i.e., more than 2.5 million owners or their heirs will receive their own land.

The Government will have handed back, by the end of 1996, 94 percent of the land to its owners. It is also expected that about 60 agro- and industrial enterprises will be privatized in 1995 until now. More than 300 enterprises have been offered for mass privatization. The recently adopted Law for Farmers Protection will assure, through its fund, incentives for the rehabilitation and the development of this sector.

The strict observance of the embargo on Yugoslavia causes great damage to the Bulgarian economy and to the agricultural sector in particular, amounting to more than 25 percent of the GDP of the country. Bulgaria is the most hard hit of all countries, suffering indirectly from the sanctions. Our country expects to be compensated for the losses through its direct involvement in the so-called mini-plan Marshal for the post-war reconstruction of the economies of the countries of former Yugoslavia. The Bulgarian side will insist on being treated as a country-donor for participation in regional reconstruction projects.

At the present stage, Bulgaria must find a way out of the economic crisis in order to achieve long-term economic growth. In the agricultural sector the Government overcomes these difficulties through targeted financial support for the agricultural producers, by stimulating the establishment of voluntary unions, by setting up associations of mutual funds by building-up of new structures for sale of agricultural products and flexible import-export regimes in compliance with the agreed international commitments. This results in the revival of production.

Apparently the overriding of the increased mix of production will be influenced by the mix of products, producers' prices, governmental support, functioning of the information system, and of the unions of the producers and processors of raw materials. Of particular importance are the 2 700 groups of land producers who are members of this new association.

The Bulgarian delegation considers that the support of FAO for the elaboration and implementation of national and regional programmes for institutional construction, stabilization of production and establishment of just, equitable and mutually beneficial relations in international trade should be the basis of the activity of the Organization.

The possible recommendations and actions for the solution of these issues, however, should take into account the specific conditions in different countries or groups of countries, the necessity for closer contacts with other international organizations as well as the elaboration of concrete measures and proposals in the sphere of technology, resources, ecological agriculture, investments and credit.

We appreciate the inclusion of the issue of the world situation of food and agriculture for discussion at the Plenary Session. The problem of the balance of production, consumption and trade, the influence of the prices, food security, producers' income, trade regimes, the rational nutrition of the population, the increase of production are and should be the subject of utmost concern by the governments and the Organization. The tasks are numerous, complicated and often contradictory.

The FAO executive bodies and Secretariat cannot provide ready-made prescriptions for the solution of these problems. These problems become more difficult due to the differences in the production levels, the present infrastructure, the economic situation and the budget possibilities, the differences between the international and domestic prices, the product distribution and the scale of institutional building.

The assessment of the world food and agriculture situation is related to the World Food Summit in 1996. It would be appropriate to refrain from adopting documents of a general nature, which as recommendations of action may be useful but would actually have no practical value.

We therefore consider that, together with the message to the governments and the commitments that are expected from them, the task of FAO and other international organizations and institutions should be clearly defined. The most important of these could be broader development of the possibilities for international trade, measures for stimulating both national and foreign investment, new technologies, etc.

In this sense, we would welcome all initiatives of the Organization for direct support to countries and regions, including the countries from Central and Eastern Europe in order to solve the problems in this sector and to foster integration with the other European countries and the world.

Ghulam Mustafa JAWAD (Afghanistan) (Original language Dari): In the name of God, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful, I am pleased to offer the sincere compliments of the leadership, the people of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and of myself to you and all the distinguished delegates. May I also congratulate you, Madam Chairman, upon your election as Chairman of the 28th Session of FAO Conference, and to the other members on their election. I am fully confident that under your Chairmanship the deliberations of this Conference will be crowned with success.

I am very glad to convey our thanks to the Director-General and the staff of FAO for providing this opportunity to exchange experiences and views with regard to agricultural development strategies and policies that are applicable all over the world. Such gatherings are important, particularly for the developing countries, in discussing ways and means to raise the standard of living for people in general and small farmers in particular. Allow me to state briefly the problems we face in the Islamic State of Afghanistan concerning food and agriculture.

As you are well aware, Afghanistan is an agricultural country, and a large proportion of its population, directly or indirectly, is involved in this noble vocation. Agriculture is the backbone of the economy, and more than 60 percent of the Gross National Product comes from this sector. Agricultural and livestock production supports the agro-industry of the country. In the 1970s production capacities were high and met not only domestic requirements but allowed for some exports as well. Particularly in wheat and rice, self-sufficiency was almost reached.

Later, due to the invasion of the Red Army, the situation changed completely. Production levels dropped and the country had to rely on foreign products. The destructive and brutal war caused the loss of 1.5 million lives; 200 000 people were disabled, and 5 million more emigrated to neighbouring countries.

More than 80 percent of assets such as schools, bridges, roads, highways, buildings, irrigation schemes and agricultural and livestock projects in both the public and private sectors were destroyed.

Due to continuous destruction, forests were reduced from 1.9 million to 1.7 million hectares. Since most of these forests were commercial, such as pistachio trees, income levels and foreign exchange earnings were affected. In the meantime, loss of vegetative cover brought about an imbalance to the ecosystem. To a certain extent due to mismanagement, pasture lands changed to cultivated lands causing damage to livestock production.

Many farmers, livestock owners and other producers were killed or emigrated. Destruction of agricultural infrastructures, such as farm implements, machinery, tractors, draught animals and so on caused a great decline in production. Wheat and cotton production was reduced from 2.8 million to 1.7 million tonnes respectively. Livestock was reduced from 30 million to 20 million and the production of Urea fertilizer dropped from 108 000 to 22 800 tonnes. Due to bombing and planting of anti-personnel mines in the villages and agricultural regions, the annual cultivated area reduced by almost half, from 3.9 to 1.9 million hectares, from among which the oil crop area was reduced from 170 000 to 51 000 hectares.

Apart from the above, the rapid increase in prices has affected not only our country, but most others, particularly developing countries like ours which are suffering from severe economic hardship. The rise in the cost of food products and unfavourable climatic conditions have caused a reduction in agricultural production at world level. Our country, as one of the developing countries of the world, has been severely affected by the rise in the international price of food and means of production, such as chemical fertilizers, oil, pesticides, agricultural machinery, improved seeds, and improved cattle breeds. To keep the country's economic situation in balance, we have had to impose subsidies, which are unwelcome in the weak economic condition of the country.

It is our belief that a prosperous and just society, with abundant supplies of foodstuffs, a clean and a secure living environment is not a Utopia, but something achieved by humanitarian efforts utilizing the abilities of and moral and material investment by the developed nations.

If we had been able to start rehabilitation of our agriculture at the beginning of the Islamic Revolution, with assistance from fellow countries, the situation would have been much better now. It is regretted that interference from some other countries has delayed the reconstruction process and added to our difficulties. We are confident that day by day, with the help of Almighty God and with the assistance of our friends, enemies will fail and our lives will go forward in security, peace and prosperity.

It is worth mentioning that the Islamic State of Afghanistan has devoted a lot of time to the formulation and implementation of agricultural rehabilitation programmes. Many proposals have already been presented to the international organizations of the world and to friendly countries.

Our policy in agriculture is to increase productivity both intensively and extensively in order to reach self-sufficiency in a short space of time. Meanwhile the Islamic State of Afghanistan, in accordance with the prevailing rules and regulations, allows private investment to bring about the establishment of mechanized agricultural and livestock farms, large irrigation schemes, import-export and marketing of improved seeds, chemical fertilizers and agrochemicals. Of course, all this requires the assistance and cooperation of international organizations and friendly countries.

Our farmlands are planted with millions of anti-personnel mines. Houses and stables have been destroyed. Farmers are unable to acquire what they need: draught animals, tools and implements, fertilizers, improved seeds, agrochemicals, etc. Irrigation systems require reconstruction to allow farmers to cultivate their fields. Now that the autumn sowing season has started in most parts of our country, to date only 10 percent of the material needs of our farmers have been acquired. However, it is hoped that such conditions will not prevail in the spring sowing season, when cotton, sugarbeet, vegetables, etc., are cultivated and orchards and

vineyards are replanted. At this stage, it is not only difficult but impossible for the Islamic State to bear such a heavy burden imposed by the war.

Due to the war, Afghanistan has been almost destroyed, the population massacred, its agriculture wrecked and its infrastructures broken down. It is therefore the duty and responsibility of the international community, the United Nations System in particular and all friendly countries, to help the people of Afghanistan in the process of rehabilitation.

Today our people require food more than anything else. Therefore, the rehabilitation of our agriculture and its related infrastructure is of prime importance. We believe that to a certain extent some possibilities exist to promote agriculture, since we have vast cultivatable lands, wide deserts, unutilized water resources, a favourable climate for high qualitative and quantitative productivity and much genetic resource which could help world breeds. For instance, there are about 900 different local varieties of wheat with 9 to 16 percent protein content.

The previous regime allowed large areas of high quality land to be used for the growing of narcotic-producing plants. The Islamic State has begun the fight against cultivation, production, storage, utilization and traffic in narcotics and their derivatives. There again, it is necessary for other countries, as well as the United Nations, to help us because the narcotics would not remain within our boundaries, but would necessarily cross the borders. Assistance from the United Nations and friendly countries would enable us not only to prevent the cultivation of these illicit crops, but also to replace their cultivation by other essential and high-value crops. Obviously certain programmes are underway, the implementation of which will, we hope, considerably help in preventing the cultivation, production and storage of illicit crops and their derivatives.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan much appreciates the kind assistance of the United Nations, especially the sincere efforts of FAO towards our agricultural development and the extension of technical and other possible assistance to us. We hope that FAO, with the help of other donor countries and funding institutions, will help us in the formulation of a firm and sustainable agricultural programme so as to revitalize our agricultural sector on both a short- and long-term basis.

My delegation would like to take the opportunity once again to offer its compliments to you, Madam Chairman. We are sure this Session will come to valuable decisions under your Chairmanship.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan pursues humanistic policies and desires friendly relations with all member countries. We wish for mutual understanding, without prejudice, among all nations. We would like to develop good relations with all nations on the basis of the brotherhood of humankind. We request that the developed countries, in realizing the needs of our farmers, will come to our aid so that we may align ourselves with the other members of the international community. We are ready to put our resources and know-how together to bring about cooperative efforts, together with help from abroad, in order to achieve this desirable aim.

If I may, Madam Chairman, I would like to add a few more words in connection with the need to improve and develop food production. I must stress again - I have said it before - that this is the most paramount problem before Afghanistan at the present time, and we hope that appropriate programmes can be developed as soon as possible in the best possible way so that our country may gradually recover from the burdens of the recent past. Thus we aim to develop further friendly relations with all Member Nations. We aim to move forward hand in hand to achieve a better life for all in future, not only in our own country but in all those around the world which need help.

We have the greatest hopes for the success of this Conference. We hope that this Organization will be given the means to carry out its appointed task as agreed when we approved the Programme of Work and Budget now being discussed in Commission II and that a consensus will be achieved satisfactorily for the greater good of all Member Nations.

As I have said before, we very much appreciate the assistance extended to us already not only by FAO, but by other United Nations organizations. In particular we are very much concerned to formulate a development programme for agriculture which will ensure its sustainability and its continuing success in increasing productivity.

We have a great deal to contribute in these matters because in the country we have genetic diversity, the availability of good land and good water. With the help of all, therefore, and with the blessing of the Almighty, we shall be able to move out of our present state of misery, hunger, malnutrition and from infrastructures that lie in ruins about us, and build up our country once more. In this way our people will have the life that they all desire and that they certainly all deserve.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan very much appreciates the efforts of the international community. We are doing our best to reciprocate and, with the help of the Almighty, to make our own contribution.

Costas Petrides, Chairman of the Conference, took the chair Costas Petrides, Président de la Conférence, assume la présidence Ocupa la presidencia Costas Petrides, Presidente de la Conferencia

Péter SZERDAHELYI (Hungary): It is my great pleasure to greet, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Hungary, the ministers, delegates and guests attending the FAO Conference. I would like you, Mr Chairman, to accept our heartfelt congratulations on your election. The Hungarian delegation firmly believes that with you in the Chair this important meeting will be a success. The importance of our meeting lies not only in the weight carried by the biannual session of the highest governing body and its resolutions, but also in the half-century which has elapsed since the foundation of FAO. Just a week ago the ministers and plenipotentiaries of FAO member countries launched the Quebec Declaration, reaffirming a commitment to implement the original objectives of FAO.

Hungary has always agreed and continues to agree with the objectives and activities laid down 50 years ago in FAO's Constitution and fully concurs with the Declaration. Hungary also reaffirms its willingness to assist in the development of world agriculture, in gathering and spreading information and in offering technical assistance to member countries under the appropriate conditions. My country's determination is firm. The Hungarian Government is also convinced that the long-term management and solution of global food, agricultural, forestry and fishery issues should be kept within FAO, as the specialized agency of the United Nations.

A number of interesting documents have been tabled by the Director-General. The Secretariat is to be commended on the quality of those documents and the concise presentation of the problems. My delegation appreciates the publication of the Summary of the State of Food and Agriculture.

The FAO Secretariat and the great majority of the distinguished delegates are aware that before 1990, i.e. the era dominated by central planning and state property in Central and Eastern Europe, Hungarian agriculture was a success. One reason for that was its independence and profit motivation - greater than that of the economy's average - as well as a certain amalgamation of state, cooperative and private property.

In the years 1989 and 1990 international political and economic conditions changed and we wanted to put the Hungarian economy, agriculture included, on a private property and market economy basis.

At the end of 1994 the first stage of transformation was virtually completed. Ninety percent of agricultural land, more than 60 percent of state farms and forests, became private property. The updating of the Hungarian agriculture and food industries has also started. All this will result in my country's agro-economy becoming competitive, export-oriented, quality-minded, and a modestly subsidized economic sector relying heavily on the distribution of labour between small-, medium- and large-scale farms.

Like other countries with an economy in transition, Hungary has been paying a stiff price for agro-economic transformation and for its preparation for international integration.

In recent years the output of agriculture in its broader sense has continued to decrease and in five years it has dropped by approximately a quarter. Many causes may be cited but I shall only mention the most important ones: the difficulties in change of ownership, the loss of markets, deteriorating terms of trade, dwindling incomes and the long-lasting drought.

I could go on listing the negative factors, but I am pleased to inform you that, though in 1993 Hungarian agriculture reached rock bottom, in 1994 and, most likely this year, agricultural GDP will show a percentage increase; investments are increasing and more fertilizer and quality seeds have been used. The decrease in livestock numbers has also stopped.

The Hungarian Government has, many times and on many occasions, made perfectly clear its interest in full EU membership, which in no way contradicts the significance we attach to CEFTA. A number of important components of the forthcoming integration have accelerated since the Association Agreement came into force, such as: legal harmonization, the free flow of information, capital, labour and services. The integration of agro-economies may bring some disadvantages to both parties, but the mutual benefits will be overwhelming. The Veterinary and Plant Protection Equivalency Agreement will be signed in the near future, which should result in the improved quality of Hungarian products. It also fits the Director-General's concept, made public in the Medium-Term Plan, which points to the enhancement and coordination of veterinary and plant protection as one of the pillars of FAO activities between 1996 and 2001.

Encouraged by the documents prepared by the Secretariat, I would like to deal with the further development of relations between Hungary and FAO, and reiterate my earlier statement regarding the endeavours of the Hungarian Government to continue supporting the noble efforts of FAO and, at one and the same time, to be donor and recipient of this cooperation.

My delegation is gratified to find that the importance of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) is maintained by the Programme of Work and Budget recommended by the Director-General. Although the share of approximately US\$100 million of the TCP utilized in countries with so-called economies in transition does not exceed 5 percent, the seven already implemented and 13 small pipeline projects in Hungary have greatly contributed to the development of a number of quality aspects in, for instance, animal and plant health, EU conformity quality control, development of biotechnology, etc.

We were very pleased that the Director-General, supported by the Governing Bodies of FAO, has farther developed decentralization of the Organization as an essential element of its efficiency. As is well-known, five Sub-regional Offices will have the role of rendering FAO assistance more practicable, bringing it closer to the field. Making use of a democratic polling procedure, the Director-General also marked out Budapest to host a Sub-regional Office. We were happy to hear that announcement and I give you an assurance that my Government will do everything possible to secure the successful operation of the Sub-regional Office.

Ms Angela Thoko DIDIZA (South Africa): Mr Chairman, as I was coming up, I realized that when they switched from a Chairperson, they put up a board saying "Chairman"; so I am not sure, when it's women, it's "Chairperson", and when it's men, it's "Chairman". Nonetheless, I will continue with my intervention.

Mr Chairman, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, we join other governments in expressing our condolences to the Iraqi Delegation and Government on the loss of their Minister of Agriculture.

South Africa has undergone a major political change and is now translating that political change into economic change and broad-based development. Now that we have rejoined the FAO, we are looking forward to benefitting from its expertise and making a contribution towards its development.

Given the importance of international experience when undertaking such fundamental change, South Africa sees its involvement with the FAO as critical to the development of the agricultural sector. We are thus participating in FAO technical committees and have established an Agricultural Office in Rome, which has strengthened our capacity to deal with FAO matters.

We believe there are certain parallels between our experience and the restructuring process the FAO has undertaken. These parallels manifest themselves clearly in the areas of redefining the social and economic role of agriculture, financial restructuring including zero-budgeting, and the decentralization of the administration.

Restructuring in South African agriculture is located within a national development agenda, namely the Reconstruction and Development Programme, which aims to generate economic growth, eradicate poverty,



build a free and democratic society, and create national unity. In agriculture this has meant the formulation of new policies, institutional restructuring, and zero-budgeting, all of which require attitudinal change.

South Africa, in its Constitution, declared its commitment to equality, not only along the lines of race, but also in terms of gender. Our new governing system allows for the establishment of a Gender Commission, whose responsibility it will be to ensure that legislation and policy do not perpetuate discrimination against women.

In the agricultural sector we have redefined "the farmer" to recognize the fact that many of our farmers are, indeed, women, and in many cases also part-time producers. This, naturally, has raised challenges for the structuring and delivery of agricultural support programmes.

Mr Chairman, important structural changes in the marketing of agricultural products and trade policy are currently taking place. The deregulation of agricultural marketing schemes is in an advanced stage, and a policy of tariffication has replaced that of quantitative import control in an effort to move towards a more competitive, accessible, and free market. It is our belief that this approach is more conducive to the optimum utilization of our limited natural resources.

Trade liberalization that allows for the principle of comparative advantage to be employed in the production process will benefit food security through more efficient production and trade, not only in South Africa but in the southern African region as well.

While dealing with its own restructuring, the South African Government is deeply aware of the inter-relatedness of policies between countries at sub-regional level and regional level. The pursuit of better policies will thus be conducted within this context, and the FAO is a major international forum which can play a role in ensuring that countries' policies do not negatively affect other Member States.

Mr Chairman, our observation from our own experience is that during change in organizations there is a danger of the basic objective being clouded by efforts to rearrange the organization. This implies that we in the FAO must regularly revisit our stated vision; and, even if we change our strategies, we should ensure that the appropriate balance and sequence are achieved between the normative and operational actions. We believe that strong organizations are built and thrive on a clear common vision.

As we rejoin the FAO, we would hope that the vision agreed to 50 years ago at the Inaugural Meeting of the FAO, where South Africa was present, is still as evident today to all members, new and old, and that the basic objectives remain the same.

Having examined the FAO's Programme Implementation Report, Programme Evaluation Report, and Medium-term Plan as foundation documents for the Programme of Work and Budget, we would have no difficulty in supporting the main thrust of the proposed FAO projects for the next biennium and beyond that.

We support the proposal to broaden the mandate of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. This may be a rather idealistic approach for one single body to administer and manage efficiently. However, we believe that if the Commission could be supported and advised by sectoral working groups with appropriate geographical balance for plant, animal, forestry and fishery genetic resources, the broadened mandate could be attained. An additional separate working group for microbiological organisms should, however, also be recognized. The broadening of the mandate should be a cautious, step-by-step process and not impede the current activities on plant genetic resources. Commission sessions should be dedicated to specific themes, and duplication of functions with the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity should be avoided.

We support, in principle, the establishment and maintenance of pest-free areas as a basis for phytosanitary certification of plants and plant products. However, once such areas are established, it is essential that their status be confirmed by regular inspections or surveys.

With respect to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, my colleague the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism in South Africa has appointed a Fishery Policy Development Committee to formulate a

draft fisheries policy for South Africa. It would therefore be premature for South Africa to express a position on the Draft Code of Conduct proposed by the FAO until we have completed our own transitional process.

Mr Chairman, we support the convening of the World Food Summit and would be reluctant to downgrade it to a mere symbolic exercise. It should have the status to draw all people's attention to the importance of achieving food security and also provide an opportunity for individual nations to agree on how this is to be achieved.

Finally, we support the zero-based budget approach and the level of budget proposed by the Director-General. We wish to congratulate him and his staff on the savings of approximately 11 percent achieved from last year's expenditure. Budgetary savings require a substantial effort, but we would like to caution against severe budgetary cuts in an organization whose functions are as inter-related as those of the FAO. In our experience the social dimensions of development which include programmes targeted at women, youth, capacity-building, and communication suffer disproportionately higher cuts than technical programmes. This results in unbalanced development. The FAO should therefore adopt a consistent approach to rationalization, redeployment, recruitment, retraining, and reorientation of personnel in its streamlining process.

It is our hope that this Conference and all members present here today will support the proposed Programme and budget. I thank you for your attention.

#### OTHER MATTERS

#### QUESTIONS DIVERSES

#### OTROS ASUNTOS

27. Any Other Matters

27. Autres questions

27. Otros asuntos

27.1 FAO Fifth Anniversary Declaration on Food and Agriculture

27.1 Déclaration sur l'alimentation et l'agriculture à l'occasion du cinquantième anniversaire de la FAO

27.1 Declaración sobre la agricultura y la alimentación con ocasión del Cincuentenario de la fundación de la FAO

CHAIRMAN: We now move to the item on our Agenda related to the FAO 50th Anniversary Declaration on Food and Agriculture, which is Item 27.1 on the Order of the Day. The text of this Declaration was examined and agreed upon by the ministers in Quebec City on 6 October 1995, FAO's 50th birthday. It is reproduced in document C 95/21-Rev.1. In addition, I should draw your attention to the Resolution which is meant to accompany the Declaration in the Final Conference Report. The Draft Resolution is in document C 95/20-Sup.1, and the documents of the Resolution Committee are in document C 95/LIM/23.

To start our discussion, I will give the floor to the delegation of Canada, which has asked to speak to the subject.

Lyle VANCLIEF (Canada): First of all, I would like to express my appreciation for the kind remarks which delegates have made about last week's ministerial meeting and related events in Quebec City. We Canadians were as delighted to welcome you there as it appears so many of your were pleased to come.

In addition to the important role the Quebec events played in launching the World Food Security Summit, the 50th Anniversary celebrations provided an important opportunity to take stock of the past and to look to the future.

We reflected on the basic purpose of our Organization, its achievements, and the progress it has made in many fields. We also noted that part of its mandate remains unfulfilled as long as world food security remains unattained.

We also looked to the future. To meet the rising expectations of Member States and their populations, FAO must continuously adapt and refine its mission. In a rapidly changing world all organizations must be prepared constantly to re-invent themselves if they are to survive. In this respect we appreciate the restructuring which the Director-General has already undertaken, and we look forward to similar exercises on management structures and governance over the next couple of years.

Canada has worked hard during the redrafting of the Declaration on Food and Agriculture - now to be called the Quebec Declaration - to provide a vibrant and dynamic vision for the future of our Organization.

We believe the carefully negotiated text which the ministers endorsed in Quebec City is a useful and inspiring statement of purpose to guide us in the years to come.

I reiterate, Mr Chairman, Minister Goodale's endorsement of this Declaration and urge the Conference to adopt it formally.

CHAIRMAN: Is there anybody else who wants to get the floor? We have concluded, then, our discussion on this item. I am pleased that there is unanimous acceptance by all Member Nations of the Quebec Declaration.

As regards the accompanying Draft Resolution, can I take it that the Conference is willing to adopt the Resolution? Well, then, the Resolution has been adopted.

At this point we have concluded our Agenda for this morning. The meeting stands adjourned, and we will resume at 2.30 this afternoon, starting with the statement by the head of the delegation of Lesotho.

The meeting rose at 11.30 hours.

La séance est levée à 11 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.30 horas.

25 October 1995



منظمة الاغذية  
والزراعة  
للامم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

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

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

# CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Twenty-eighth Session • Vingt-huitième session • 28° período de sesiones

**TENTH PLENARY MEETING  
DIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
DECIMA SESION PLENARIA**

25 October 1995

**The Tenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.30 hours**

**Mr C. Petrides,**

**Chairman of the Conference, presiding**

**La dixième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 30**

**sous la présidence de M. C. Petrides,**

**Président de la Conférence**

**Se abre la Décima sesión plenaria a las 14.30 horas**

**bajo la presidencia del Sr. C. Petrides,**

**Presidente de la Conferencia**

INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)

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

INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)

6. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (continued)

6. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)

6. Examen del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)

- DECLARACIONES DE LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

Mopshatla MABITLE (Lesotho): Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, ladies and gentlemen. Allow me first, Mr Chairman, on behalf of my delegation to express our deepest sympathy and sorrow on the death of the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Iraq. May his soul rest in peace.

As we celebrated FAO's 50th Anniversary in Quebec City last week, we reflected on how far this Organization had gone towards fulfilling its mandate. Also, in March this year, the Ministers of Fisheries and Forestry met here and mandated FAO to strengthen its activities to address the problems related to forestry and fisheries and assist member countries in this area.

I would like to infer from these meetings that we were all renewing FAO's commitment to fight hunger, malnutrition and poverty.

In Lesotho the Government, in partnership with FAO, has done a lot towards the fulfilment of the mandate. However, in the past decade our efforts have been hampered by recurring drought. And this problem is continuing.

I also want to highlight the fact that it is not only drought that is impeding our progress, but there are other factors, factors which require continuing partnership between us and FAO. It is our understanding that similar problems are found in other parts of the world. We therefore hope it is imperative that FAO's technical capability and capacity be strengthened by approving the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget to assist us address the issues I have just highlighted.

At this juncture my delegation would like to register its support to the decentralization efforts and utilization of our national professionals. But we are convinced that the decentralized services will be effective and efficient only if the roles of each office can be streamlined in order to avoid duplication and unnecessary bureaucracy, while at the same time emphasizing collaboration through rationalization of the programmes.

I would like to conclude my brief intervention by again expressing our support for the Director-General's initiative to convene the World Food Summit here in Rome in 1996.

Refik NUMIC (Bosnia and Herzegovina): The Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina became a member of the United Nations on 6 April 1992. It became a member of the Food and Agriculture Organization on 8 November 1993, during the 27th FAO Conference in Rome.

Today, after two years, I have an opportunity to express most warmly gratitude on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Before the aggression on the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina our agriculture was insufficiently developed because of the following reasons:

- The state policy forced the development of basic industries and encouraged the unplanned depopulation of rural areas;
- rural areas were insufficiently developed;
- the surface of arable land was diminished by about 3 000 hectares every year;
- there were small farms owned by individual peasants and a number of parcels which were not allocated;
- the credit and monetary politics were unfavourable for agriculture;
- not enough attention was paid to agricultural research and experts;
- poor technical equipment of farms;
- poor genetic basis of plants and animals;
- low crop production;
- low livestock productivity.

Because of such a situation the only two alimentary products which Bosnia and Herzegovina could produce in sufficient quantities were sheep's meat and fresh plums. All other alimentary goods had to be imported annually (wheat: 500 000 tonnes, maize: 270 000 tonnes, vegetables: 180 000 tonnes).

Forests and water resources served mostly for the needs of industry and energetics and to a very small extent for agriculture.

Immediately after becoming a member of the United Nations the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina was brutally attacked by the Serbs and Montenegrins. The aggression, which is still going on, had catastrophic consequences on our people, on the economy and on the environment in general.

More than 200 000 persons were killed, over two million people have been displaced and sent away.

The registered number of violated little girls, young girls and women amounts to more than 30 000.

Damage which has been done to agriculture, forestry, water resources and rural areas cannot be expressed in money. Only after the aggression will it be possible to estimate precisely the consequences of the war destruction.

The territories in the war zones were destroyed and devastated while the soil was partially polluted.

According to estimations 40 percent of the total territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina has been damaged.

In those parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina where intensive military operations were going on, the water supply facilities were completely destroyed.

The aggressor has also completely destroyed and deliberately burnt all documents and information related to the water resources management.

Due to the war destruction, total cuttings, fires, pathogens and animal pests, our forestry has been devastated. This caused ecological imbalances, rapid storms, soil erosion and lower water supply. More than 50 percent of the forest's infrastructure and of the wood processing industry have been damaged.

In agriculture, damage caused 70 percent lower production of all plants while more than 50 percent of orchards and vineyards were destroyed.

The aggressor burnt over 40 percent of villages including peasant houses and farm buildings. Destruction of all facilities related to agricultural production, public health, education and other activities of rural life was a part of the ethnic cleansing plan.

50 percent of the agricultural machines were destroyed. Only one-third of livestock has survived. Damage caused to the food processing industry has been estimated at about 40 percent.

The intention of the aggressor was to destroy as much as possible of the institutes for research, faculties, scientific institutions and professional services. In Sarajevo the aggressor managed to destroy the Faculty of Agriculture, the Faculty of Forestry, the Institute for Investigation and Agriculture Development, the Institute for Water Research Management, a great number of the veterinary medicine stations, and many agricultural extension stations.

All the farms owned by the state and many agricultural cooperatives for peasants were destroyed.

Another serious problem is the fact that the number of local experts engaged in the FAO activities has diminished by 70 percent. Although the local agricultural production in 1992 was low, the inhabitants of Bosnia and Herzegovina could survive because of food and other commodities sent by the UNHCR, NGOs and various friendly countries.

The rehabilitation of the local agricultural production began in the spring of 1993, when the UNHCR and NGO donated seed. It continued in 1994 when fertilizers and pesticides were donated. In 1995 FAO supplied the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina with seed, fertilizers and pesticides, help equal to US\$9 236 972.

I wish to emphasize that from the beginning the Food and Agriculture Organization showed great interest and readiness to help Bosnia and Herzegovina. Thus, actually there are 18 projects for the urgent rehabilitation of agricultural production in Bosnia and Herzegovina under implementation.

The Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina has recently prepared the Basic Programme for Agricultural and Food Production in the territory of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Federation. The main scope of this Programme is to satisfy 80 percent of local nutritional needs by the year 2000.

Future scopes are:

- to produce as much food as possible in order to meet the needs of the population;
- to enable the return of displaced persons and refugees, employ them in agriculture and in the activities connected with the revitalization of rural areas;
- to transform the former farms owned by the state into centres for the production of plant seeds, fruit and vine seedlings and heads of breeding stock;
- to establish relations among forestry, water resources, management and other branches of the economy in order to obtain unpolluted soil, water and air, which are essential for the production of good quality food;
- to determine the agrobiotopes;
- to conserve germplasm and diversification of living organisms;
- to give preference to the production of organic food;
- to encourage small business enterprises taking into account the "economic threshold";
- to encourage new cooperatives in the rural areas.

The Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina expects the full engagement of FAO in creating the adequate strategy for the development of agriculture and other related activities within FAO's domain. We also expect

other international institutions to help in the rehabilitation of our agricultural and rural areas so that as soon as possible we might produce enough to feed our population.

In this respect we expect from FAO the concrete programme of technical and financial support for the rehabilitation and development of agricultural production in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I would like you to accept the proposals of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Jeannot HILAIRE (Haïti): Monsieur le Président, Excellences, honorables délégués, Mesdames et Messieurs, la délégation haïtienne salue l'élection de S.E. Monsieur le Ministre Costas Petrides à la présidence de cette vingt-huitième Conférence de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, et lui adresse ses plus vives félicitations.

Monsieur le Président, les efforts manifestes de la Direction générale de la FAO, tels qu'ils ont été exposés par le Directeur général devant cette Assemblée au cours de la 3ème séance plénière, le samedi 21 octobre 1995, ne sont pas passés inaperçus. Notre délégation constate que l'Organisation fait preuve d'imagination pour se restructurer dans le sens d'une efficacité maximale à un coût minimal, eu égard au mandat que lui a confié la Communauté des Nations.

L'individu ne détient pas l'initiative de sa propre naissance. Il se voit exister quand arrive le moment où il peut en prendre conscience. Il lui reste à apporter sa contribution pour se maintenir dans l'existence, en acceptant de respirer, de se soigner et de se nourrir, pour ne parler que des besoins intrinsèquement vitaux.

La durée dans l'existence dépend de la nourriture, de la qualité de cette nourriture, de sa quantité relative, et de la régularité avec laquelle cette nourriture est consommée. L'homme auquel le jeûne a été imposé, et qui salive dans la perspective d'un repas succulent néanmoins hors d'atteinte, est un homme coincé par rapport à la jouissance du bien le plus précieux: la vie; c'est un homme momentanément diminué de ses capacités physiques, intellectuelles et, à la limite, morales.

Au-delà de ces considérations à caractère philosophique, il reste à constater, pour reprendre ce qui a déjà été dit sous d'autres formulations, que le problème majeur pour 800 000 humains ne touche aujourd'hui ni l'horaire, ni la quantité, ni la qualité des repas. Il touche plus tragiquement l'absence de nourriture, ou la position hors d'atteinte de cette nourriture pour leur consommation, ce qui les condamne à une mort plus ou moins lente.

Certains pays ont réussi à résoudre le problème de la faim pour leurs citoyens, d'autres, pour des motifs divers, sont en difficulté pour y arriver. Ils s'époumonnent avec des moyens souvent dérisoires, pour des résultats en déphasage avec les besoins.

L'absence de perspective dans une gestion au jour le jour du potentiel agricole peut entraîner des catastrophes irréversibles pour l'environnement, surtout en milieu montagneux.

La FAO, qui a reçu de la communauté internationale le mandat de lutter contre la faim dans le monde, se voit en première ligne pour apporter aide et assistance technique aux communautés nationales qui en ont besoin. Au fond, tous les pays ont besoin de cette Organisation à des degrés divers. C'est un centre de formation avec le monde entier comme champ d'application. Elle est aussi un centre d'information.

L'impératif de sécurité alimentaire pour tous se pose comme un défi à relever dans les années à venir. La FAO, qui peut se présenter comme la conscience sensibilisatrice de la communauté des nations en matière d'alimentation et d'agriculture, a lancé le projet de réunir un Sommet mondial sur l'alimentation pour novembre 1996 à Rome. Les Ministres responsables des dossiers de l'agriculture et de l'environnement, réunis récemment à Québec, en ont été informés. Ils ont approuvé largement cette idée. La délégation haïtienne à cette vingt-huitième Conférence l'approuve également.

Monsieur le Président, Haïti, pays co-fondateur de la FAO, se préoccupe aussi des dangers qui planent sur cette institution, en raison d'une contrainte budgétaire voisine de la ligne de rupture entre la poursuite de



ses activités et l'arrêt pur et simple. L'Organisation qui nous accueille ici - notre Organisation finalement - a besoin des cotisations de tous ses membres.

Elle revendique des moyens adéquats bien en phase avec les impératifs du mandat que les différents Etats la composant continuent de vouloir lui confier. Des coupes autoritaires dans son budget ne vont pas précisément dans le sens des objectifs de ce mandat.

Que la gestion des fonds publics en régime démocratique impose des contraintes de transparence, et doive s'accommoder du droit de critique du citoyen vis-à-vis des détenteurs du pouvoir: la délégation haïtienne en est consciente. Eu égard à l'importance de l'enjeu, l'opinion publique, quelquefois réticente, peut aussi changer à la faveur d'une information ciblée sur des projets qu'on entend défendre avec conviction.

L'action de la FAO serait-elle de nature à ne pas mériter cette information ici ou là?

Pour conclure, Monsieur le Président, la délégation haïtienne saisit cette occasion pour renouveler son soutien ferme et entier à l'action courageuse et déterminée du Directeur général, M. Jacques Diouf, dans la conduite des destinées de l'Organisation. Nous exprimons le voeu, en cette année du Cinquantenaire, que tous les moyens statutairement attendus soient libérés et mis à sa disposition.

Monsieur le Président, je vous remercie.

Antonio Isaac MONTEIRO (Guinée-Bissau): Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général de la FAO, Messieurs les Ministres et chefs de délégation, Mesdames et Messieurs. Permettez-moi, Monsieur le Président, à mon tour, d'adresser mes profondes condoléances au Gouvernement et au peuple irakien pour la disparition de son Ministre de l'agriculture.

Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier la FAO et son Directeur général de nous avoir convié au Cinquantenaire de notre Organisation et à cette présente Session de la Conférence ministérielle sur l'alimentation et l'agriculture. Je me réjouis au nom de mon gouvernement de cette initiative et j'ai le plus grand plaisir de me trouver parmi vous.

Je voudrais aussi, Monsieur le Président, saisir cette occasion pour vous féliciter de votre élection à

la présidence de cette Conférence, en souhaitant, par la même, la bienvenue aux nouveaux membres de notre Organisation.

Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi, dans une première approche, de vous rappeler quelques faits importants et caractéristiques de notre agriculture. La Guinée-Bissau, à l'instar des autres pays africains, est un pays essentiellement rural; plus de 80 pour cent de sa population vit en zone rurale. Le secteur primaire (agriculture, forêts et pêche), contribue, pour plus de 50 pour cent en valeur, à la formation du produit intérieur brut. Le secteur primaire assure également 85 pour cent des emplois et 90 pour cent des exportations.

Toutefois, ces statistiques annoncées ici ne prennent pas en compte l'économie de subsistance qui concerne plus de 100 000 petites exploitations familiales réparties sur 4 000 villages et qui produisent la plus grande partie des cultures vivrières du pays. Le potentiel agricole du pays est de l'ordre de 1,2 million d'hectare de terres arables et plus de 2 millions de zones forestières, sur une superficie totale de 36 125 km<sup>2</sup> avec un peu plus de 1 million d'habitants.

La culture qui constitue la base de l'alimentation est le riz, et sa production est estimée à 125 000 tonnes par an. Toutefois, il existe d'autres cultures vivrières, notamment le mil, le maïs, le sorgho et les tubercules, qui jouent aussi un rôle important dans la sécurité alimentaire.

Quoiqu'il existe une augmentation moyenne annuelle de la production du riz de 5 000 tonnes et

de 11 000 tonnes pour les autres céréales, le pays reste encore déficitaire en céréales de l'ordre de 50

à 55 000 tonnes. Et c'est là tout l'enjeu de la problématique alimentaire chez nous.

Les années de lutte pour la libération nationale, suivies par renforcement dans la voie d'une économie étatique centralisée, font que la Guinée-Bissau cherche depuis peu un nouveau schéma de développement économique et social en se lançant dans le libéralisme économique. C'est en avril 1986 qu'a été lancé le premier Plan triennal de redressement succédant à des années difficiles.

Cette politique a été appuyée par la mise en oeuvre, en 1987, d'un Programme d'ajustement structurel, qui vise désormais à la concurrence et à l'économie de marché, le secteur privé, et à recentrer le rôle de l'Etat. Mais la baisse des cours mondiaux des produits d'exportation depuis 1983 handicape l'économie du pays qui doit aussi faire face à un remboursement de la dette durement ressentie.

L'analyse des fondements économiques des stratégies suivies montre également que le développement du secteur butte encore sur un certain nombre de goulots d'étranglement, liés principalement à la faiblesse des structures de gestion et de prise de décision, alors que tout ce qui menace la production durable de l'agriculture, des forêts et des pêches constitue une menace réelle pour l'économie globale du pays.

C'est pourquoi, après avoir établi un Plan cadre de formation en collaboration avec la FAO, nous sommes présentement occupés par la définition et l'élaboration de la Carte de politique agricole avec l'aide de nos partenaires internationaux. Sur ce plan, nous considérons comme d'importance capitale la participation active des différents intervenants dans le secteur dont l'engagement est indispensable à la réalisation des buts envisagés et à la consolidation des relations de coopération à différents niveaux.

Monsieur le Président, en effet il est nécessaire aujourd'hui de s'intéresser à l'ensemble de la politique nationale, car force est de reconnaître que le cadre global, institutionnel et réglementaire est au moins aussi déterminant pour la réussite d'une stratégie que les paramètres micro-économiques. De surcroît, l'implication des bailleurs de fonds au niveau des financements entraîne la nécessité de renforcer le dialogue et donc de discuter des orientations stratégiques.

Le Gouvernement reconnaissant le poids du secteur agricole dans l'économie nationale et face aux grands défis actuels de développement durable considère comme fondamentales dans son programme l'élaboration et l'adoption de ladite carte de politique agricole. Cette nouvelle politique est axée entre autres sur: la promotion et le développement des cultures de rente d'exportation, l'élaboration d'un programme pragmatique de recherche scientifique et technique sur nos écosystèmes, la vulgarisation des expériences et innovations agro-visant l'augmentation de la production, la dynamisation de l'économie rurale à travers les associations de producteurs, les ONG, etc., et la commercialisation des produits agricoles, l'amélioration de la gestion du système hydro-agricole, infrastructures, l'approvisionnement en intrants, l'organisation efficace du secteur forestier, la nationalisation de son exploitation par l'intensification de l'agriculture et de l'élevage (agro-foresterie, amélioration des jachères), l'adoption d'une nouvelle loi sur le foncier dont le projet sera soumis à la révision et à l'approbation de notre Assemblée nationale, enfin la mise en place d'un système de programmation et de gestion qui sert à assurer la coordination des diverses actions.

L'exercice d'application d'un tel programme d'action exige une grande concentration en ressources humaines, financières et une large période de préparation. Compte tenu de la portée d'un tel travail, le même engagement de tous les intervenants dans le secteur est souhaitable. Le Ministère du développement rural et de l'agriculture a souvent compté sur l'appui de la communauté internationale, notamment la FAO dont la contribution a été très valeureuse et appréciée.

Comme il a été souligné par les honorables chefs de délégation qui m'ont précédé, la stratégie de développement du secteur agricole, de la lutte contre la pauvreté et la faim visant la sécurité alimentaire, doit s'insérer dans la stratégie globale de développement pour laquelle la réduction, sinon l'élimination du déséquilibre entre la ville et la campagne doit constituer l'une des priorités fondamentales.

Nous rentrons dans une époque où le développement durable est au centre des préoccupations de tous les peuples. Et qui dit développement durable, dit conciliation dans la mesure du possible de l'optimum écologique, de l'optimum économique et de l'optimum social, c'est-à-dire concilier la croissance et les conditions qui en assurent la pérennité.

Dans notre planète en perpétuelle mutation, chaque jour il faut nourrir des milliards de personnes. Le défi est gigantesque, car il s'agit d'assurer la sécurité alimentaire planétaire. Notre organisation évolue donc

dans un contexte marqué par un nombre grandissant de défis, un monde de plus en plus complexe face à des ressources très limitées. Il est à craindre que l'insécurité alimentaire progresse sous l'effet combiné de la croissance de la population mondiale, de la pauvreté, de la rareté des ressources naturelles et de la dégradation des sols.

Les pays en développement, tributaires des recettes du secteur agricole pour leur développement, doivent maintenir et si possible améliorer leurs revenus par l'exportation des produits agricoles. Ceci n'est possible que si ces pays améliorent leur agriculture pour la rendre compétitive et développent en même temps une meilleure stratégie de coopération régionale et sous-régionale afin que la solidarité internationale puisse être mieux mobilisée et jouer au maximum.

Il est vrai que pour nous Sahéliens, la sécheresse diminue les potentialités de l'ensemble de la biomasse agricole, comme forestière et de ce seul fait augmente parallèlement la pression humaine sur l'espace.

Mais ce déséquilibre naturel devra être pour nous, un facteur susceptible en tous cas pour susciter des changements structurels constituant des réponses radicales à cette pression de l'environnement.

Puisque nous parlons de coopération, ce forum est le lieu de fonder un espoir pour que nos liens se renforcent davantage non seulement pour vaincre les conditions bioclimatiques adverses, mais également pour garantir le droit de nos populations à l'alimentation.

Je saisis l'occasion pour également marquer le soutien et l'appui formel de mon pays à l'initiative du Directeur général de convoquer un Sommet mondial sur l'alimentation en 1996 à Rome. A l'instar des autres chefs de délégation, nous appuyons le programme budgétaire proposé pour l'exercice 1996-97.

Je ne saurais enfin terminer sans remercier encore une fois la FAO et tout particulièrement nos amis de la communauté internationale qui apportent à notre développement un soutien toujours appréciable.

Je vous remercie de votre attention.

Roberto RODRIGUEZ PIOLI (Uruguay): Señor Presidente, señores ministros, señores embajadores, señores delegados, señoras y señores; permítaseme iniciar mis palabras expresando nuestras felicitaciones a usted, señor Presidente, por su elección para dirigir nuestros trabajos, así como a los vicepresidentes, los representantes de Túnez, Cuba y Eslovaquia.

Mi delegación se solidariza con la de Iraq por el fallecimiento del Señor Ministro de Agricultura de ese país.

Nos es grato dar la bienvenida a las delegaciones de Azerbaiyán, Georgia, Moldova, Tayikistán y Turkmenistán, nuevos miembros de la FAO, que con estas incorporaciones reafirman su universalidad.

Asimismo felicitamos al Director General por los denodados e inteligentes esfuerzos que despliega en el cumplimiento de su importante misión.

Señor Presidente, este 28º período de sesiones de la Conferencia general de la FAO se celebra cuando la Organización cumple cincuenta años de vida al servicio de la humanidad en el campo de la agricultura y de la alimentación. Durante ese medio siglo ha cumplido y sigue cumpliendo un papel protagónico en la lucha contra el hambre y la malnutrición y en los esfuerzos por el desarrollo agrícola en el marco del uso sostenible y el aprovechamiento óptimo de los recursos vivos de la tierra y del mar.

El Uruguay manifiesta su firme respaldo a la FAO en momentos en que esta Organización se enfrenta a la dramática situación de millones de hombres, mujeres y niños que no alcanzan los niveles mínimos de nutrición o, directamente, padecen hambre.

La seguridad alimentaria es, en consecuencia, el objetivo prioritario. La Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación, a la cual el Uruguay da su más amplio apoyo, será un llamado a la conciencia y a la acción de todos para el logro de ese objetivo.

Reiteramos la preocupación ya expresada por numerosas delegaciones acerca de las dificultades financieras de la FAO para el cabal cumplimiento de su mandato.

Aceptamos la fórmula de un crecimiento real cero, en el entendido que no se afectan los programas sustantivos.

Hacemos un llamado a todos los Estados Miembros para que cumplan plenamente sus obligaciones financieras con la Organización, en plena forma, en tiempo incondicionalmente.

Señor Presidente, el Uruguay es, esencialmente, un país agrícola, un país con vocación productiva. De los 18 millones de hectáreas de su territorio, 16 millones son cultivables. Ese maravilloso don de la naturaleza debemos saberlo aprovechar plena y racionalmente.

Nuestro Gobierno sitúa el desarrollo agropecuario, con orientación productiva y social, en un lugar de preferencia.

Ese desarrollo no puede lograrse si no asignamos importancia básica a la educación en el medio rural, la cual tiene exigencias especiales en el modo de transmitir los conocimientos. De ello depende el arraigo de los jóvenes en aquel medio, que evite el éxodo hacia las ciudades. Con igual propósito estamos encarando una estrategia crediticia y social, en coordinación con la entidad bancaria oficial y las organizaciones juveniles.

Consideramos de fundamental importancia el papel de la mujer en el desarrollo rural y, en ese sentido, apoyamos las actividades de la FAO, especialmente en relación con la condición jurídica, económica y social de la mujer, y la igualdad de derechos en la toma de decisiones en el acceso al crédito y a nuevas tecnologías, en la participación en cooperativas y otras formas de asociación.

El Gobierno, en la ley presupuestal, destinará 330 millones de dólares al apoyo del agro en caminería rural, en el desarrollo lechero y de las granjas, en un programa de riego que trata de aprovechar adecuadamente los recursos hídricos que posee el país, en la erradicación de la pobreza rural y en infraestructura vial y portuaria para el transporte de los productos del agro y su exportación, en particular del sector forestal.

Se crean, asimismo, distintos incentivos legales para la inversión en la explotación agropecuaria.

En materia de mejoramiento pecuario se han alcanzado índices muy significativos, que señalan un aumento de la productividad y la eficiencia del sector.

El área empraderada este año marcó un aumento del 20 por ciento respecto del año anterior, llegándose a las 440 mil hectáreas. Asimismo, el mejoramiento extensivo de pasturas alcanzó en 1995 a superar las 140 mil hectáreas, lo que significa una duplicación respecto de la inversión del año 94. Esto ha determinado un considerable crecimiento de los stocks ganaderos.

Todo ello asegura condiciones que garantizarán un incremento de la oferta faenable, es decir, de aumento de la materia prima para el sector industrial.

El Uruguay ha sido declarado libre de aftosa y en los más diversos foros se ha destacado no solamente la relevancia económica de este hecho, sino también su carácter ejemplar de emprendimiento conjunto de empresarios privados y del sector público.

Otro rubro de la mayor importancia es el lechero.

La calidad cada vez mayor de la leche que el Uruguay está en condiciones de producir por sus magníficas pasturas, por su alto nivel zootécnico y sanitario constituye una meta fundamental para el Gobierno y para los productores.

Mi país es también un productor de cítricos, rubro de creciente importancia en sus exportaciones. El desarrollo del sector se vincula con la erradicación del cancro cítrico, para lo cual se está reorganizando la campaña de la lucha contra ese grave mal.

La actividad granjera ocupa un número importante de uruguayos que hoy deben enfrentar varios problemas serios.

Para superar algunos de ellos, el Gobierno ha establecido fondos de garantías a fin de destrabar la situación crediticia de muchos pequeños productores y está dando impulso a un programa con cooperación internacional para prestar asistencia técnica y financiera especialmente a los pequeños productores o asociaciones de éstos, con vistas a su inserción en la economía de mercado y a la exportación.

Uno de los puntales del desarrollo agrícola radica en la política forestal que apunta a dos objetivos básicos: la conservación de bosques naturales del país a través de su uso, mediante planes de manejos aprobados y supervisados técnicamente para asegurar su sustentabilidad y la ampliación del área forestada mediante plantaciones, utilizando suelos predeterminados, de baja productividad agrícola y pecuaria y de alto rendimiento forestal, como base para el desarrollo de agroindustrias orientadas a los mercados de exportación.

A través de un paquete de medidas de estímulo el Estado fomenta por medio del sector privado el logro de estos objetivos. En este proceso han participado productores y numerosos inversores tanto nacionales como extranjeros.

Apreciamos la labor que la FAO, especialmente por la vía del Comité de Montes, realiza en esta materia y acompañamos sin reserva el consenso sobre Montes aprobado este año.

Una consideración particular merece la actividad pesquera. A partir de la entrada en vigor del Tratado del Río de la Plata y su frente marítimo que, entre otras cosas, determinó las jurisdicciones con la República Argentina, se produjo un importante desarrollo de la pesca que estuvo siempre encarado con un criterio conservacionista. La actual política pesquera tiende a desregular esa actividad sin olvidar que funciona con un recurso que debe ser administrado y, además, en su inmensa mayoría compartido, buscando dentro de esos parámetros alcanzar la máxima captura sostenible.

Al abordar este tema, deseamos destacar muy especialmente la importante labor que ha desempeñado y desempeña la FAO de cuya asistencia técnica se ha beneficiado el Uruguay y que este año, culminando un proceso iniciado en la Conferencia de Cancún, ha terminado la elaboración del Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable.

El Uruguay, que ha participado muy activamente en este proceso, espera que la Conferencia apruebe el Código por consenso.

Mi delegación asigna particular importancia a la conservación y uso sostenible de los recursos fitogenéticos para la alimentación y la agricultura.

El Plan de Acción Mundial que se está preparando al respecto y su negociación debe basarse en ciertos principios básicos, tales como los derechos soberanos de los Estados sobre sus recursos fitogenéticos y su responsabilidad de conservarlos y utilizarlos de manera sostenible; el acceso de todos los países a las tecnologías pertinentes; el reconocimiento de los derechos del agricultor y de los derechos de propiedad de los obtentores vegetales y la cooperación mundial y regional entre Estados.

Señor Presidente, el Uruguay es un país en desarrollo que necesita de asistencia técnica, y de la cooperación internacional para llevar adelante sus planes de expansión y tecnificación agrícola. Al mismo tiempo, ha alcanzado en algunas áreas específicas un alto nivel técnico y posee un rico patrimonio de experiencias y conocimientos que está dispuesto a compartir.

Compartir y cooperar son las directrices fundamentales que deben orientar e impulsar la acción internacional para lograr la seguridad alimentaria y el desarrollo sostenible de la agricultura en el mundo.

Para ello la FAO puede y debe seguir desempeñando el papel primordial que ha venido cumpliendo durante sus primeros cincuenta años, constituyéndose así, con sus principios y propósitos, en un pujante testimonio de fe en el trabajo y en la dignidad del hombre y, a través de ello, en un decidido aporte hacia la paz.

Leslie A.S.D. SCOTT (Sierra Leone): The Sierra Leone delegation first of all joins previous speakers in expressing extreme grief and in extending heartfelt condolences to the family of the deceased and to the Iraqi people for the sudden death of their Minister of Agriculture.

We would then like to congratulate the Chairman and the Vice-Chairmen on their elections, and thank them for the excellent way in which they have handled the proceedings of this Conference so far.

On behalf of our Head of State, Captain Valentine E. M. Strasser, the Government and the people, let me take this opportunity to express Sierra Leone's great satisfaction and profound appreciation of the manner in which the Director-General of FAO is conducting the affairs of the Organization. In the same spirit, I would like to reaffirm our unreserved support and to wish him and the Organization every success in pursuing the various goals that have been set.

More specifically, food security and sustainable development are of fundamental interest to us. In this regard we endorse the proposal to hold a World Food Summit in November 1996 and we will do everything we can to support it.

The state of food and agriculture in Sierra Leone remains rather bleak. Over the years, the country has been facing chronic food deficits, partly resulting from economic decline and compounded by an unprovoked rebel war from across the border with Liberia. This in turn has intensified rural poverty, malnutrition, infant mortality, and further reduced life expectancy. Our rural infrastructure remains poorly developed and we have a high percentage of illiteracy. With such a dismal picture, a lot of effort is needed to reverse the unprecedented negative trends and promote the desired economic growth. The good news is that Sierra Leone is endowed with substantial natural resources, hard-working people, and a favourable climate.

The national economy is characterized by agriculture and mining. Agriculture employs about 70 percent of the population, accounts for 37 percent of GDP and contributes 35 percent to export earnings. Of the 5.4 million hectares of arable land, approximately 10 to 12 percent is cultivated annually. Most of the cultivated area, about 80 percent, is put under food crops and the remaining 20 percent to cash crops like oil palm, coffee, cocoa and ginger. Agriculture is based mostly on shifting cultivation and is rain-fed, using minimum-input and low-output technologies.

A large proportion of the original tropical rain forest has been depleted. However, FAO is assisting with the National Forestry Action Plan and Natural Resources Conservation and Land Use Programmes. The country has an extensive coastline and vast marine resources that suffer from indiscriminate industrial exploitation and poaching, due to the lack of appropriate infrastructures and surveillance facilities. Rampant industrial fishing greatly inhibits the catch from artisanal fishing. The poorly developed livestock sector has also been further depleted by the ongoing rebel war.

Agriculture has remained on the government's priority list. Over the years donor interventions, buttressed by community initiatives, have gained momentum. In spite of all efforts, however, food and agricultural production has steadily declined to the extent that the country is in a worse situation today than two decades ago. In the case of rice, the staple food of Sierra Leone, we have moved from a self-sufficiency level in the late 1960s to substantial rice imports, at the expense of valuable foreign exchange each year.

Along with the general decline in food production, per capita energy availability has declined from 2 006 kilo calories to 1 840 kilo calories, and per capita protein availability from 32.7 to 38.4 grammes, all showing an almost 15 per cent deficit between supply and requirement. The statistics are all the more disturbing when one considers the fact that the country has enormous human, land, livestock, wildlife, water and fisheries potential, all of which have yet to be sufficiently harnessed.

In the face of a serious deterioration in the national economy, the Government has adopted the Structural Adjustment Programme with the expectation of bringing a lasting solution to the numerous problems in the long term. In the short term, however, the SAP has serious implications for our small farmers, who constitute over 90 percent of the farming population.

Removal of the subsidy on key inputs like fertilizers without adequate arrangements for credit and market facilities, for instance, has seriously limited the scope of small farmers to use improved packages. While

SAP remains on course, therefore, it is important that ways and means be found to cushion the rural poor or vulnerable groups. It is in this area that the assistance of the international community is most solicited. I pay particular tribute here to organizations like the World Bank, European Union, FAO, IFAD, WFP, UNDP, African Development Bank, NGOs and several friendly countries for their assistance to Sierra Leone.

Despite the numerous constraints the country faces, there are good prospects of Sierra Leone feeding itself after the war. The great hope is in sound policies, its people, natural resources and international good will. Currently, assistance from donor agencies has been very encouraging. The effective participation of NGOs in rural development activities is highly commendable.

I would like to underscore the role played by some donor agencies in food production activities and, more particularly, the FAO. Sierra Leone would like to express gratitude for the two consecutive Emergency Relief Programmes the FAO accorded our people, especially during difficult conditions brought about by the ongoing rebel war.

Even with the war situation, the government is not relenting its support to farmers and is promoting food production activities. Wherever security corridors exist, my department has taken positive steps to meet and work closely with farmers. In this way we have been able to promote the cultivation of cassava, sweet potatoes, vegetables and, to a certain extent, rice in areas of high population density and around displaced persons' camps. Without such efforts, our food and nutrition situation would have been catastrophic.

The new focus of our government is directed at diversified food production and improvement in rural income as a means of achieving food security. In this regard the successful implementation of various FAO initiatives will enhance our efforts to achieve that noble goal.

I wish at this stage to appeal to the donor community to provide the necessary financial resources to support FAO's Budget and to continue to assist poor countries like Sierra Leone, especially at this time of dire need. Very great donor support and international assistance is required for agricultural rehabilitation after the war. With the progress made so far in the peace talks and with the support of the United Nations, Commonwealth Secretariat, ECOWAS, ECOMOG and other agencies, we are hopeful that the war will soon come to an end.

We are aware of the tremendous expertise, experience and competence of FAO in food and agricultural matters; but we are also aware of the resource limitations of the Organization. However, we believe that, with genuine commitment by member countries and strong donor support, FAO has the potential to meet the several challenges of eradicating hunger, malnutrition and rural poverty around the globe.

Hasan HALILI (Albanie) (Langue originale albanaise): Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Mesdames, Messieurs, qu'il me soit permis de vous féliciter au nom de la République d'Albanie pour votre élection au poste de Président de la présente Conférence, assez importante dans l'activité de notre Organisation, qui débat de la situation et des perspectives mondiales de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation.

J'ai le plaisir particulier de saluer le Directeur général, M. Jacques Diouf, et de le féliciter également pour les efforts qu'il fournit et la contribution qu'il apporte dans la réalisation des objectifs de la FAO.

C'est un immense honneur en cette occasion, au nom du Gouvernement albanais, de formuler tous mes meilleurs vœux pour le 50<sup>ème</sup> anniversaire de la création de la FAO, la première et principale agence des Nations Unies pour sa contribution à l'allègement de la pauvreté du monde rural, à l'élimination de la faim et à l'accroissement de la production agricole dans le monde entier.

La Déclaration de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture à l'occasion du 50<sup>ème</sup> anniversaire de la FAO ainsi que d'autres documents présentés au cours des travaux de cette session sont bien fondés, avec un contenu d'importance vitale pour la solution des principales tendances et des politiques dans le domaine de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture mondiales, la mise en pratique des programmes d'actions nationales et internationales ayant pour objectif l'accroissement de la production et de la consommation agro-alimentaire et l'assurance de la sécurité alimentaire.

Indépendamment du fait que le monde doit aujourd'hui faire face à de nombreux problèmes importants et compliqués qui demandent une solution urgente, nous sommes convaincus que la FAO, grâce à sa longue expérience et à la contribution de son personnel, est et sera à même de concevoir des stratégies plus efficaces pour le progrès ultérieur de l'agriculture dans tous les continents.

Monsieur le Président, l'Albanie, après une isolation d'environ un demi-siècle, marche de façon certaine vers une économie de marché en mettant au point la réforme économique qui a été entreprise dans toutes les branches de l'économie nationale.

Considérant la période de transition d'une économie centralisée à une économie de marché comme la phase la plus importante, le Gouvernement albanais a conçu une stratégie et des politiques pour cette phase visant à une revitalisation rapide de l'économie agro-alimentaire et à l'accroissement de son efficacité.

Un indice du succès de la réforme économique en agriculture est l'accroissement sensible des indices macroéconomiques et la tendance positive de la transformation à des rythmes accélérés du milieu rural.

L'agriculture est considérée comme le secteur prioritaire et stratégique de toute l'économie du pays. L'élément fondamental du progrès de la réforme était la privatisation immédiate des terres agricoles, accompagnée par la destruction des coopératives agricoles et la désagrégation des fermes d'Etat. Le soutien des agriculteurs privés, représentant actuellement la structure de base de la production agricole, avec les intrants, des équipements agricoles, des semences pour réactiver la production, était un autre élément. Actuellement le secteur agricole est en accroissement sensible par rapport aux autres branches de l'économie nationale en assurant environ 50 pour cent du GDP. Il y a trois ans, il fallait importer 75 pour cent des denrées alimentaires, tandis que ce besoin est seulement aujourd'hui de 25 pour cent, et les autres produits sont assurés.

La restructuration de l'agriculture et la consolidation de la propriété privée ont rendu obligatoire un cadre législatif tel que ceux liés à la loi de la terre, à la production végétale, au service vétérinaire, à l'élevage, à la protection des plantes et de l'environnement des forêts, à la pêche, à l'alimentation, etc., ainsi qu'à l'élaboration de politiques pour une assistance sociale à l'ensemble des zones rurales et, en particulier, pour contribuer à alléger la pauvreté dans les zones rurales à faible développement économique.

Dans la première phase, prendre des mesures, en plus des subventions aux agriculteurs privés, était indispensable pour affronter une partie des dépenses engagées pour l'irrigation, la mécanisation, etc.

Avec les mesures prises, on remarque un accroissement de la production agricole, et la situation alimentaire s'améliore de jour en jour en Albanie.

Nous sommes actuellement dans la phase finale de privatisation des petites et moyennes entreprises de l'agro-industrie et on travaille pour essayer de soutenir les agriculteurs avec des crédits à long terme, pour renforcer l'efficacité du système d'irrigation et pour améliorer l'activité des entreprises des eaux, pour mettre en place des structures nécessaires pour la collecte, pour transformer et commercialiser les produits agricoles, pour organiser des associations de producteurs, transformateurs et commercialisateurs grâce à l'initiative de la libre entreprise.

L'Albanie jouit de riches ressources lui permettant de gagner une place importante de producteur de produits agro-alimentaires pour le marché intérieur et l'exportation en Europe. Dans ce contexte, les forêts et la pêche représentent une source potentielle du pays.

Nos objectifs visent à assurer, pour une brève période de temps et de façon considérable, la sécurité alimentaire du pays et à utiliser graduellement les aides et les crédits des différentes organisations internationales et donateurs pour le soutien des activités de production, l'amélioration des techniques, le développement rural des zones du pays, le soutien de la recherche, la formation des experts albanais, ainsi que le renforcement du service de vulgarisation pour les agriculteurs privés, etc.

Monsieur le Président, le Gouvernement albanais apprécie objectivement la contribution que la FAO a donnée pour le soutien des réformes et la restructuration de l'agriculture albanaise vers une économie de marché grâce à son assistance technique dans le processus de la privatisation, de la législation, du marketing, des



études effectuées pour l'évaluation des ressources en eau, des ressources forestières et de la pêche en Albanie, du service informatique, de la gestion des exploitations agricoles privées, de la participation active des femmes rurales, ainsi que de la participation des experts albanais dans les réseaux de recherche de la FAO.

Nous constatons et apprécions avec intérêt ce soutien en considérant comme très positives les activités de notre Organisation, dans le cadre de ces réseaux de recherche et des programmes techniques, et nous exprimons notre conviction que ces activités vont s'élargir dans l'avenir.

Monsieur le Président, la délégation albanaise apprécie les propositions présentées par le Directeur général concernant le programme de travail, les programmes et les objectifs de la FAO à court et à moyen terme qui répondent aux besoins des pays en développement qui évoluent vers une économie de marché. Ils répondent également aux besoins d'intensification des futures activités de notre Organisation pour l'accroissement de la production agricole, pour le renforcement de la protection du patrimoine génétique et de la diversité biologique - notre héritage commun - ainsi que de la protection de l'environnement pour le bien des générations futures.

La délégation albanaise est optimiste car elle pense que la FAO n'épargnera ni son assistance ni son aide (nous l'espérons) aux priorités accordées à l'Albanie qui est désireuse d'utiliser ses réserves matérielles et humaines pour le développement de la production agricole.

Nous sommes convaincus que la FAO comme toujours, même dans l'avenir, fera office de forum mondial de l'agriculture, de la politique agricole et de l'assistance en déterminant de nouvelles solutions dans la production agro-alimentaire.

Je vous remercie.

Afonso Pedro CANGA (Angola) (Langue originale portugaise): Monsieur le Président, Honorables délégués, Mesdames, Messieurs, je voudrais, au nom de la délégation, présenter mes condoléances au peuple et au Gouvernement irakien pour le décès de Son Excellence Monsieur Khalil Abdul M. RACHID, Ministre de l'agriculture. Je saisis cette occasion pour vous féliciter de votre élection à la présidence de sa vingt-huitième session de la Conférence ainsi que les autres membres du Bureau.

Nous voulons également féliciter le Directeur général de la FAO pour la façon efficace dont il conduit le destin de notre Organisation en lui garantissant appui et collaboration dans l'exercice de cette mission difficile et noble.

Monsieur le Président, la vingt-huitième session de la Conférence de la FAO se tient à un moment particulièrement important pour l'Organisation et pour plusieurs de ses pays membres.

Nous venons de commémorer les cinquante ans de la création de la FAO. Tout au long de ces années, nous avons obtenu beaucoup de résultats positifs dans plusieurs domaines de son intervention. Nous avons créé et diffusé les techniques et les technologies, nous avons créé et approuvé des normes et des codes de conduite. Les sciences agraires ont connu un avancement considérable. Nous nous réjouissons pour ces résultats.

Cependant, la situation alimentaire de beaucoup de pays reste grave et, loin de s'améliorer, elle ne fait que se détériorer de plus en plus. C'est le cas des pays africains.

C'est le moment, Monsieur le Président, de réfléchir sur la cohérence de nos politiques économiques face à l'impératif de nourrir le monde.

Mon pays, l'Angola, a connu, ces trois dernières décennies, des moments difficiles qui ont considérablement conditionné l'utilisation de ses ressources naturelles, qui sont riches, pour développer le secteur agricole et garantir aux populations une vie acceptable.

La guerre a détruit les infrastructures, a fait déplacer les populations, a rendu inopérant le système de commercialisation et de distribution, l'enseignement et la recherche agraire étaient presque inexistantes.

Avec le rétablissement de la paix, mon Gouvernement s'est engagé dans la réalisation de son programme économique, le secteur agricole étant l'une de ses priorités.

Ce programme vise la réhabilitation de l'agriculture paysanne et des infrastructures de production; il vise à stimuler l'investissement privé; il a fait revenir les populations déplacées; le système de commercialisation rural a été rétabli; il vise également à l'utilisation rationnelle des forêts et à la lutte contre la désertification. On trouve également dans ce programme la relance de la pêche artisanale et la volonté de rendre la dignité à la femme et à la jeunesse rurale.

Notre objectif à court terme est de réduire le déficit alimentaire, de garantir aux populations l'accès aux aliments et de promouvoir les communautés rurales.

Pour ce grand défi, nous voudrions compter sur l'appui de la Communauté internationale. Je profite de cette opportunité pour remercier à nouveau les pays et les organisations qui ont apporté leur appui au Programme de réhabilitation communautaire dans la Table ronde des donateurs qui a eu lieu à Bruxelles en septembre dernier. Nous voulons réaffirmer que ces fonds mobilisés seront entièrement utilisés dans l'exécution des actions prévues dans le Programme.

Monsieur le Président, c'est avec préoccupation que nous avons noté la situation financière de l'organisation qui s'est rendue difficile pour des raisons de plusieurs ordres, en particulier pour les difficultés que rencontrent plusieurs pays pour régulariser leurs contributions et leurs arriérés. Si cette situation se maintient, le programme de travail connaîtra des difficultés énormes dans son exécution. Face à la dimension des problèmes à résoudre dans nos pays en matière d'agriculture et d'alimentation, nous considérons ce budget modeste. Nous voudrions bénéficier d'un budget plus significatif pour appuyer les pays qui connaissent une grave situation.

Consciente que l'actuelle situation n'offre pas d'autre alternative, la délégation appuie le budget de 687,6 millions de dollars proposé par le Directeur général.

Monsieur le Président, nous ne pouvons pas avoir une augmentation de la production et de la productivité des terres si nous ne prenons pas soin de la formation et de l'organisation des paysans. La réalisation des programmes de vulgarisation rurale, de la recherche appliquée, des coopératives, constitue la pierre angulaire de la politique agraire de mon pays dans la mesure où elle crée les conditions qui permettent d'élever le niveau de vie des populations rurales et l'utilisation de leurs potentialités.

Nous nous félicitons en constatant que ces questions continuent à figurer sur les programmes de la FAO.

Nous profitons de cette occasion pour remercier la FAO de l'assistance que donne à notre pays pour lui permettre de réaliser plusieurs projets. Nous remercions également le Programme alimentaire mondial pour l'aide qu'il donne aux populations angolaises.

Enfin, pour terminer, nous voudrions féliciter les nouveaux membres de la FAO et nous sommes certains que leur expérience viendra renforcer l'efficacité de notre Organisation.

Nous souhaitons aussi aux participants à cette session beaucoup de succès et nous sommes certains des bons résultats de leurs travaux.

Joslyn WHITEMAN (Grenada): Mr Chairman, fellow ministers, other invited guests, ladies and gentlemen, I want to let you know that, first of all, I bring you greetings from the people and the Government of Grenada. I also want to let you know that in the last decade of our planet's history, we have witnessed a significant growth in the level of awareness regarding the need for the conservation and efficient use of plant genetic resources. More recently this awareness has been the recipient of an added stimulus as a consequence of the passage of the Convention on Biological Diversity. This Convention appears to be consistent with the provisions expounded in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development Agenda 21.

Underlying this awareness movement is the fundamental understanding that man is called upon in a very urgent way to take action that would ensure the sustenance of agriculture and his ability to feed a growing

world population. It is an undisputable fact that my part of the world, the western hemisphere, has the richest biodiversity. I am appealing, therefore, to all the members of the FAO family to support us in our preservation and conservation efforts.

Mr Chairman, we have just returned from the World Food Summit in Quebec. There we had the opportunity to appreciate what is required in order to ensure that we are able to adequately feed our growing world population through time. We have also agreed, at least in principle, that future investments in agriculture would have to be funded primarily from domestic savings at the farm and household level.

All this would have been perfect, had we had the ability to exercise control over all the factors that impinge on our agricultural activities. The stark reality is that we do not have total control.

In the last three years we of the western hemisphere have noticed the appearance and establishment of exotic pests and diseases in our region, pests and diseases that threaten the very efforts at conservation of plant genetic resources and our ability to be able to feed our populations adequately in the future.

Today, Mr Chairman, Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago are being strangled by the *Maconellicocus hirsutus* infestation. This dreaded agricultural plague has been ravaging over one hundred different plant species in Grenada. My country's economic well-being, which is based in large measure on agriculture, is under serious threat.

Its attack on our forestry and watershed areas have created grave concerns for our National Water Authority with regards to its ability, in the near future, to adequately supply potable water to its indigenous population and its tourism sector.

Preliminary estimates suggest that the present level of pest incidence in the affected watershed areas could result in additional costs of about US\$3 million just for rehabilitation activities in the very short-term period.

Since the month of May last, my country has been forced to suspend all trade in agricultural produce with Trinidad and Tobago. As a consequence of this action, Grenada has lost another US\$2 million since that suspension. But the loss is even greater when we consider some of the social characteristics of the traders affected.

According to the Grenada Traffickers' Association, 90 percent of the 300 traders are women. Many of them happen to be the head of single parent homes. In other words, the multiplier effect of this loss in earnings is immense. The effects on the health, the education performance, and the potential contributions of the children to the development of society have created grave concerns for both my Government and people. Forgive me for not being more quantitative in my presentation. However, very shortly, the Inter-American Institute on Agriculture will be assisting my Government in conducting an economic, social and environmental impact survey. They have recognized the problem in its hemispheric context and have come forward unhesitatingly to help.

Obviously, it would be remiss of me if I did not extend my thanks to the Food and Agriculture Organization. The FAO was the first organization to respond to our cry for help. At present, there is an ongoing FAO-funded project that is assisting Grenada with its National Spray Programme, the National Awareness Programme and the Biocontrol Programme.

My Government's policy is to continue fighting this scourge using an integrated pest management approach. However, I wish to emphasize that the biocontrol activities would be central in this strategy with other activities developing and revolving around it. I humbly ask FAO to consider a second phase to the existing project when it comes to an end in March of 1996.

I further wish to suggest that this second phase should address the following initiatives. First, in the second phase, the emphasis must be placed mainly on biocontrol. Secondly, the introduction of the parasitoids should be made out of India, given the fact that the introduction under the present project is being made from China.

There are two underlying reasons for this suggestion. One, because of the massive levels of infestation we would like to achieve some comfortable level of control in the shortest possible period of time. Consequently, the population increases of the parasitoid should occur both through natural multiplication and additional introductions. The second reason is that, although the parasitoids referred to here are the same species, it would be interesting to discover which one would establish itself more quickly. This would have positive implications not only for my national programme but for future use in other countries of the region, should the pest invade their geographic frontier.

I wish to also suggest that FAO provide assistance for the construction of an insectary that would have a capacity to address some of the needs of our neighbours who are already infested and others who are at risk. Training has to be an integral part of this assistance. We would want to have a cadre of officers trained through short-term courses and attachments so that they would develop a capability that could be utilized in the region.

Permit me to emphasize that this pest problem is regional in scope in that the countries in the region who do not have the pest today are still under serious risk. Thus, it is important for us to appreciate that regional approaches have to be adopted that would respond to the concerns and needs of that category of countries. It is this understanding that led to the convening of a series of technical and inter-agency meetings on the mealybug convened by Grenada with the assistance of IICA and CARDI on the 4th and 5th of this month.

Before closing, I wish to share with this patient audience what are some of the objectives established at this meeting to serve as guidelines for our Regional Action Plan. We recognize that our goal has to be cast in a long-term time horizon and we would have to address the sustainable control of the *Maconellicoccus hirsutus* in the Caribbean and the Americas.

We are of the strong conviction that this action plan would have to address the following: improvement in the region's identification capabilities of the mealybug and natural enemies; determination of the economic, social and environmental impact of the mealybug; development and implementation of a regional biologically-based and sustainable mealybug control programme; facilitating and providing confidence in fresh produce trade among infested and threatened countries; revival and protection of agriculture in affected mealybug areas in the region; rehabilitation and protection of forestry and the environment in affected countries; the establishment of effective institutional support mechanisms for the control process, and the revival of agriculture.

In closing, I wish to thank you for your audience. I have endeavoured to paint the objectives we hope to satisfy through our regional control plan. I hope you have also been given the opportunity to determine in which areas you are willing to assist. If we are to protect the efforts we have made so far to conserve our rich plant genetic resources and plant diversity, the control of this pest is of tantamount importance. But I think the most significant point is that, since the mealybug pest threatens not only Grenada but the entire region's agriculture and its social stability, it must therefore be accorded regional treatment.

Mr Chairman, I beg your support.

Kronyanh WEEFUR (Liberia): Mr Chairman, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, allow me to merge my voice with the many voices of delegates who have congratulated you on your election as Chairman to chair the deliberations of this eminent Conference of FAO.

Liberia, as one of the founding members of FAO, is happy to have made the sacrifice to be part of these exercises of this Conference, despite its six years of civil upheaval which has left most of its institutions devastated and has strangulated agricultural developments which were on the way up prior to the civil crisis.

My Government is equally pleased with the incessant efforts on the part of FAO, striving to live up to its charter, tirelessly exploring new means and methods, be it technological or otherwise, in the quest to improve the world's food production to meet the dire needs of millions who otherwise could die from starvation.

We in Liberia know the importance of food, especially since our national crisis. Had it not been for FAO's World Food Programme the death count resulting from our civil war would have exceeded what the world knows of it today.

To this end my Government, since our recent peace initiatives, has pledged its unequivocal support to the revitalization of the nation's agricultural sector.

In so doing, my Government is reviewing programmes initiated by FAO which were to serve as stimulants for our national agricultural growth prior to the war. The Government is now also reaching areas of the country over which they had no control during the war, sensitizing farmers who for fear of their lives had fled to areas of safety, leaving their farms to be plundered and the land destroyed by rebel groups.

In our attempt as a nation to cooperate with nations of the world in trying to eradicate hunger from the face of the earth, we find no better friend than FAO in helping us to qualify in the world's struggle for the eradication of hunger. We, in other words, are appealing to all sister nations of the world that have the means in terms of economic and technical know-how to put aside political and ideological differences in helping Liberia, and for that matter all nations that suffer food deficits and the unfortunate burden of war, to resuscitate the agricultural enthusiasm which once permeated our national atmosphere.

My Government appeals to FAO, the forerunner of all international entities well equipped with the expertise in agriculture, to make available to us experts who can better train our farmers in concrete food production, soil and forest preservation, animal breeding and fisheries which in so doing will better place Liberia in an adequate position to feed herself and other nations of the world.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate my delegation's congratulations to you on your election as Chairman of this body, and to applaud you for the democratic manner in which you are conducting the affairs of this Conference.

Mapopa CHIPETA (Malawi): Mr Chairman, the Director-General of FAO, Your Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Malawi delegation I take this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, and your vice-chairpersons on being elected to guide this important meeting. Permit me to register my delegation's heartfelt gratitude for the excellent conference arrangements the Director-General and his staff have made for us all. Malawi offers its full support to the Director-General and the FAO for the commendable work this Organization is doing in the field of food and agriculture.

We welcome the Director-General's initiative in convening a World Food Summit in November 1996. We believe that the time has now come for heads of governments and states to get together and reaffirm their commitment to resolve the problems of food and security and hunger which confront the world.

We note with a considerable degree of satisfaction the visible and positive steps taken by Dr Diouf in the restructuring of FAO. The difficult circumstances, particularly the budgetary constraints facing the Organization, notwithstanding, FAO's programmes presently are more focused and targeted at addressing those problems that need most concerted effort. We in Malawi join our sister nations that have spoken to welcome to specific programmes that have recently been launched by FAO. One is the programme on food production support, food security in low-income food-deficit countries, and the other is the one on transboundary disease and pest control.

Since the last Conference in 1993, fundamental, political and social changes have taken place in Malawi. Multi-party and democratic elections were held in May 1994, which brought into power a multi-party government. The new Government has moved very swiftly to take steps to improve the country's human rights record. Great steps have been taken towards establishing a vibrant democratic society. Freedom of speech and association has facilitated political, social and professional consultation and interaction amongst all Malawians to the extent that the planning and implementation process of developmental programmes has adopted wider community participation. In the agricultural sector, freedom of association and expression has encouraged the Government to adopt developmental strategies that are sensitive and compatible with the farmers' interests.

Malawi has also made real headway in advancing women's and children's rights. To this end, Malawi has unreservedly ratified the Convention on elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. Additionally, Malawi's present constitution embodies the principles and sanctity of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Bill of Rights contained therein incorporates all internationally accepted standards on human rights. Notably, the constitution has specific sections on the rights of women, which clearly propound gender equality.

The resolution of our country's political problems in turn has enabled us to create an enabling environment for tackling the scourge of poverty and hunger.

Malawi of course remains one of the five countries in Africa with the highest levels of malnutrition. About 50 percent of rural and 35 percent of urban children have chronic protein energy under-nutrition. Maternal under-nutrition is also prevalent in about 9 percent of mothers.

In addition PEU, micronutrient deficiencies of iodine and vitamin A are widespread in the population. Household food security and high levels of infectious diseases are the major immediate causes of under-nutrition. For a long time a number of factors have posed a real impediment to our efforts towards economic advancement and achievement of sustainable food security.

Our population has been increasing at a high rate. Land fertility and the environment have been deteriorating, while at the same time improved agricultural production is increasingly getting beyond the reach of the majority of our small-scale farmers. In the immediate past this situation has been compounded by frequent droughts which led to a rapid decline in the total output of our staple crops, principally maize.

Thanks to the generous support of the donor community, including FAO and WFP, our periodic food shortfalls have been overcome through food aid and other forms of humanitarian support. On behalf of the Government of Malawi I would like to express our deep appreciation for this assistance. Regrettably, for the period 1994/1995 we are continuing to face severe food shortages because of poor rains during the last season.

It is our hope that the international community will continue to provide much needed assistance. Malawi is fully aware that food aid and other forms of humanitarian assistance are only stop-gap measures aimed at addressing short-term problems. The new Government of Malawi is conscious of the urgent importance of creating conditions for sustainable food security, both at the national and household levels. We know that poverty is at the root cause of hunger and malnutrition.

It is for this reason that the Government of Malawi has developed as priority number one the alleviation and ultimate eradication of poverty. A poverty alleviation programme with expanded and diversified market driven agriculture production at the centre stage was launched in August 1994. The main theme of the poverty alleviation programme is to ensure that the population, especially the vulnerable groups, secure productive means to fulfil their basic needs of food, shelter, water and health, with special emphasis on education and social structure.

Since September 1994 a free primary education programme was launched. This is intended to improve our people's ability to come to terms with the imperatives of economic development. An action-oriented agricultural and live stock strategy and action plan has since been developed as a means for raising rural income in order to guarantee food security.

The key role in the development of the agricultural sector will be played by the private sector with the Government taking a facilitatory role. The strategy clearly defines the broad parameters for market reforms which entails the liberalization of the agricultural sector, the removal of price controls, subsidies and the privatization of state enterprises.

The ultimate objective is to create a favourable environment for the private investment to flourish. Indeed, opportunities now abound in Malawi's agricultural sector for private investors, both domestic and foreign, to realise their full potential. Vast opportunities exist for investment in agro-processing, dairy and beef production, floriculture and horticulture, grain and legume production.

As already noted, maize remains the main staple for the majority of Malawians and food self-sufficiency in the first instance is widely understood in terms of maize availability for the population. The country requires at least 2 million metric tons of maize annually, yet production at present has averaged around 1.4 million metric tons.

To address this perennial problem a special programme to double maize production is now in full steam. Emphasis is being placed on the use of low-cost technologies for the benefit of resource poor farmers. Other food sources, such as livestock and fish farming and various types of beans and other oil seeds which were neglected in the past are now being encouraged. To alleviate malnutrition the Government has developed a national plan of action on nutrition. This initiative is a direct outcome of the 1992 International Conference on Nutrition in December in Rome.

Given the unpredictable rainfall pattern which our part of the world is experiencing, the Government of Malawi is now convinced that irrigation provides the greatest opportunity for our country's future agricultural development.

The Government of Malawi is assisting smallholder farmers throughout the country in developing small-scale irrigation schemes in order to boost food and agriculture production. Malawi has at least 300 000 hectares of potential irrigable lands, yet only about 30 000 hectares are currently under irrigation.

We are, of course, mindful of the heavy toll these developments will take on our environment. Our country has taken appropriate measures to underline the importance of environmental impact assessment before any major development projects are implemented. We are conscious of the fact that long-term sustainable development is only possible if precautionary measures are taken to preserve and conserve our environment on a sustainable basis.

It is for this reason that we do attach equal importance to the need to preserve and protect our country's biodiversity. Our approach here is two-pronged. First, we have set aside up to 15 percent of our land surplus for national parks and game reserves. These are reservoirs for our country's plant and animal genetic biodiversity.

Secondly, the Government has demonstrated its commitment by establishing a major plant genetic resource centre at its central research station. Although Malawi is taking these measures in the field of biodiversity, our activities and accomplishments are being largely impeded by inadequate resources. The Malawi delegation wishes to concur with those recommendations which call upon FAO and Member Nations to assist developing countries like Malawi to strengthen their genetic resource capacity. Already the Southern African Development Community (SADC) has established a regional plant genetic resource centre in Zambia, and Malawi is an active member.

In conclusion Malawi sees a future of continued fruitful cooperation with FAO in our combined efforts to rigorously and creatively overcome food insecurity.

The constraints have been identified and plans and policies are now in place to effectively tackle the persistent problem of food shortages and the resultant malnutrition. Sustainable food security and improving the nutritional status of the population through the expansion of agricultural production while at the same time conserving and preserving our natural resources are the key elements of our long-term development strategy and action plan.

Namukolo MUKUTU (Zambia): The Zambian delegation is delighted to be associated with this 28th FAO Conference, which marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of this very important Organization.

In making our contribution to the review of the State of Food and Agriculture, we will limit ourselves to three areas: we will briefly outline our strategies for increasing food and agricultural production in Zambia; we will indicate areas where we need support; and we will comment on those issues of the Conference which require our specific decision.

It is now abundantly clear that most of the developing countries in sustained food production crises are those countries which adopted commandist policies - that is, countries where the State attempted to be involved in the production chain, including controlling the final price to the consumer.

We in Zambia have recognised the weakness, and have for the past four years been involved in a liberalization process that is beginning to bring positive economic results.

With the support of the Zambian public, we have re-articulated our agricultural policy objectives which stress the following in priority objectives which stress the following in priority order: assuring food security at the regional and household levels; conserving natural resources related to agriculture; (c) creating employment and raising rural incomes; supporting agro-industrial development and, (e) encouraging Foreign Exchange generation in support of balance of payments.

To realise our policy objectives, the strategies we have put in place emphasize the following: (a) diversifying crop production - moving away from maize monoculture; (b) encouraging fish and livestock production; (c) bringing women and youth into main stream agricultural development; (d) developing infrastructure in outlying areas; (e) emphasizing services to smallholders; (f) utilizing already cleared and available land; (g) utilizing fully Zambia's irrigation potential; (h) developing sustainable farming systems; (i) improving preparedness for natural disasters such as drought; (j) liberalizing marketing, and (k) re-enacting the legislation relating to agriculture and food production.

The fundamental policy issue is that our efforts must be supported by the correct macro-economic framework such as unfettered exchange and uncontrolled interest rates.

The government's role is merely to provide a level playing field, but acting to prevent cartels.

It is our government's view that these measures should improve food and agricultural production.

In this regard we look forward to a normal rainy season this year, which hopefully should be in contrast to the severe drought which has devastated our southern African sub-region during especially, the last three years.

Zambia needs the support of the Member States gathered here. Our spirit is willing but our flesh is weak. In other words we have created the correct policy environment, but we need investment. To be specific we need: technical know-how; management know-how, and indeed investment.

Over many years one of Zambia's main allies has been FAO, giving Zambia invaluable support in numerous technical areas. Some of the most outstanding assistance from FAO have been: (a) early warning/food security; (b) marketing and trade; (c) fisheries development (especially aquaculture); (d) community forestry; (e) plant protection and (f) crop pest emergencies control.

We still need FAO's support in the given areas.

We greatly appreciate the creation of the FAO sub-regional office, which is based in Zimbabwe, to serve the southern African region. We now wish to comment on the various conference specific issues.

The Zambian delegation appreciates greatly the progress report given by the Director-General to this august assembly. We welcome in particular the achievements made by the organization in the period under review. We also took particular note of the earnest appeal made to all Member Nations to contribute fully and on time their assessed contributions.

In supporting the 1996-97 programme of work and budget, the Zambian delegation bears in mind the just concluded ministerial session and fiftieth anniversary celebrations in Quebec, Canada which brought to the surface and stressed the challenges facing the international community and the central role of FAO with respect to food and agriculture. In this regard of high demands on FAO services, we give our support to the priorities contained in the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium.



We still find valid all substantive programmes and sub-programmes of FAO. The basic activities of FAO must be preserved to meet the basic expectations.

It is the Zambian delegation's view that in order to ensure FAO as a centre of technical and professional excellence it is important to maintain a critical balance between operational activities in the field. Much more resources should go to the field. We must be results-orientated at the field level. We want results. In this context, the drastic restructuring of FAO is supported if it leads to the strengthening of field activities in the chosen priority areas, and not to just a constriction of available resources.

FAO has produced a magnificent draft Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing. We support the draft resolution submitted to this Conference. The code of conduct whose aim is to promote compliance with International Conservation and Management measures by fishing vessels on the high seas, should go a long way towards sustainable utilization and protection of fish resources - especially that of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks.

The Zambian delegation supports the proposals made to update the International Plant Protection Convention. We also give full support to the forthcoming World Food Summit. We note in passing that the Summit might suffer from a level of very high ambition, but human beings being as wise as they are, when ambition levels are very high they say that is a sense of vision. If that is a vision, then we must put in place measures which will enable us to measure critically the adherence of our plant activities in the programme.

In conclusion, we wish to highlight the fact that with market oriented policies which we have put in place we are now on the path to agricultural and economic growth. To achieve this, however, we need support from all concerned by way of provision of technical and management know-how, together with investment packages.

We give our endorsement to the ongoing Key Results Areas of FAO and support the 1996-97 Programme of Work and Budget as tabled by the Director-General.

Yun Su CHANG (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, it is my great honour to make a speech on behalf of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in this significant and important Twenty-Eighth Session of the Conference, which was opened soon after the wonderful celebration of the 50th anniversary of the foundation of FAO.

First of all, in the name of my delegation I would like to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on your election as the Chairman of this important Conference, which I believe will produce good results under your skillful chairmanship.

I would like to welcome and congratulate the five new countries on their new membership of FAO. At the same time, I express my deep thanks to the Director-General and the Secretariat who have devoted all their sincere efforts for the successful preparation of the Conference.

It is a basic human right that everyone has access to adequate food for their survival and activities. Today, 800 million people are still chronically undernourished and 192 million children under the age of five are suffering intolerably from hunger and malnutrition.

Reality shows us that the most urgent problem for the present and future generations is to achieve food security for all through sustainable growth of agricultural products and rational distribution. It is the primary task which must be solved by the common efforts of all countries and international communities.

FAO plays a leading role in the United Nations system in regard to food and agricultural activities. During the 27 years since the 27th Session of the Conference, under the energetic guidance of the Director-General FAO has done a lot of work for agricultural development and world food security.

The proposal for reform and decentralization of the Organization initiated by the Director-General is an important measure to strengthen the function and role of the Organization, by which all the cooperative

activities of FAO can be carried out at regional and sub-regional level in conformity with the realities and demands of all countries.

All the programmes and activities of FAO (including rational conservation, utilization and effective use of plant, animal and fishery genetic resources, integration of women in the development and assistance for LDC) are contributing to the development of sustainable agriculture for global food security. The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea fully supports all the constructive measures and actions taken by the Director-General and the Organization. We appreciate every success achieved in agricultural development and world food security during the period under review.

World food security can be realized through agricultural development and food security at regional, sub-regional and country level. My Government has always paid great attention to and concentrated its efforts on agricultural development to achieve self-sufficiency in food, since 80 percent of its territory is mountainous and arable land is so limited. Under the wise leadership of Comrade Kim Jong II, the great leader of the Korean people, my Government is vigorously carrying out the new economic strategy which is giving priority to agriculture, light industry and trade.

On behalf of my delegation, I would like to express sincere thanks once again to the Director-General and FAO for providing the valuable technical cooperation projects which have much contributed to agricultural development in my country during past years.

Both last year and this, my country has been affected three times by very big natural calamities. Last August we suffered an unprecedented heavy flood affecting 5.2 million people in 145 counties and cities. About 100 000 families comprising 500 000 people lost their houses and properties. 1 195 million hectares of agricultural land were damaged by the flood, and the total loss of money so far calculated is US\$15 billion. We have requested the international community's emergency aid for the flood victims for the first time in its history.

Following the appeal and recommendation of the United Nations Joint Flood Assessment Mission, which visited my country, many countries and international communities including DHA, WFP, FAO, WHO and UNICEF have expressed their willingness to provide emergency aids. They are now sending us a lot of relief goods (including food and medical supplies) in a spirit of humanitarian cooperation. On behalf of my Government, I would like to take this opportunity to express our deep thanks to all those governments and the international community for providing their kind emergency aids.

The Director-General has initiated a World Food Summit in November 1996 in Rome, with the aim of renewing the commitment of world leaders at the highest level to the eradication of hunger and malnutrition and the achievement of food security for all through the adoption of concerted policies and actions at global, regional and national levels. This Summit initiative is both timely and pertinent in the light of the challenges facing individual countries and the international community in the food and agricultural field. We have no doubt that the Summit will be a most significant event and milestone in the history of FAO, ensuring food security for all.

In the name of my delegation, I fully support the Programme of Work and Budget for 1996-97 and the proposal by the Director-General for real zero growth, reflecting challenges and demands in the sphere of food and agricultural of the developing countries.

With regard to budgetary allocation for the next biennium, I wish that FAO would pay more attention to increasing the funds for TCP and TCDC which have been so highly effective in the past.

As in the past, so in the future, too; the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will make every effort towards agricultural development and increasing food production in order to contribute to world food security.

In conclusion, I believe that the Conference will achieve much through the active cooperation of all delegates under your skillful Chairmanship.

Alejandro GUTIERREZ (Chile): Permítame, señor Presidente, felicitarle, en nombre de la Delegación de Chile, así como a los demás miembros de la Mesa, por su elección para dirigir los trabajos de esta Conferencia de la FAO, que coincide con la celebración de su 50 aniversario.

Desde su fundación, Chile ha participado activamente en este importante organismo de las Naciones Unidas, y apoyado sus esfuerzos por resolver el problema del hambre, la malnutrición y la pobreza rural.

Los logros alcanzados en el desarrollo de la agricultura mundial, la producción agropecuaria, la transferencia tecnológica, las actividades normativas sobre los recursos naturales y la seguridad alimentaria mundial, son realmente considerables. A ello se debe el merecido prestigio de la FAO como organismo internacional que destaca por su empeño constante e incansable para erradicar el flagelo del hambre que afecta a millones de seres humanos. Los resultados son impresionantes, pero lo que falta por hacer y los desafíos que enfrenta la comunidad internacional son igualmente impresionantes.

El Director General nos ha dicho en Quebec que el mayor desafío es lograr producir más alimentos para satisfacer las necesidades de una población en constante aumento, y asegurar el derecho inalienable que tiene toda persona a la alimentación. A ello habría que agregar que no sólo se tendrá que aumentar la disponibilidad de alimentos, sino que los recursos naturales necesarios para ello se encuentran fuertemente degradados, y que, en consecuencia, la situación alimentaria de las generaciones futuras es extraordinariamente preocupante.

Los datos recientes sobre la producción alimentaria y agrícola mundial, especialmente a nivel de los países en vías de desarrollo, confirman nuestra preocupación respecto al futuro de la seguridad alimentaria del planeta.

En este contexto, quisiera referirme al rol de la FAO frente a las exigencias del nuevo orden político, económico y social que se ha generado a partir del término de la guerra fría y de los acuerdos de la Ronda Uruguay.

En primer lugar, queremos reafirmar la importancia de la FAO como expresión multilateral de la comunidad internacional, representada en Naciones Unidas, para ocuparse de los problemas relacionados con la agricultura y la alimentación. Ello conlleva necesariamente la obligación de todos sus Estados Miembros de asegurarle los recursos financieros que requiere, de manera permanente y en los niveles adecuados; si estamos convencidos de la necesidad de su existencia, tenemos que ser consecuentes con las obligaciones que asumimos. Chile desea reiterar su compromiso de apoyo continuado a la FAO, y de cumplimiento de los pagos de sus contribuciones.

En segundo lugar, creemos que el rol de la FAO, ya sea normativo o a nivel de campo, debe considerar las exigencias y prioridades que presentan las distintas regiones y países.

Creemos, en todo caso, que, como resultado de las negociaciones de la Ronda Uruguay, los efectos de las políticas de ajuste estructural y la mayor liberalización del comercio mundial, el sector agrícola y, en particular, los pequeños productores tradicionales, serán los que enfrenten los mayores desafíos.

La industrialización y modernización de la economía y la actividad productiva de las últimas décadas no ha sido suficiente para erradicar la pobreza. La pobreza rural se ha trasladado a las ciudades, que atraen a millones de personas que buscan empleo y posibilidades de subsistencia. La urbanización creciente de América Latina y de otras regiones en vías de desarrollo es un ejemplo de ello. El sector rural ofrece progresivamente menores posibilidades a su población, la cual emigra a los centros urbanos y, de manera constante, hacia los países que ofrecen mayor bienestar.

La liberalización del comercio agrícola mundial obligará a aumentar la competitividad productiva de nuestros agricultores y a una modernización y mayor eficiencia del proceso productivo, de los sistemas de mercadeo y de calidad.

La FAO debería otorgar la máxima prioridad al análisis y seguimiento de estos nuevos desarrollos, y asistir a los países para la adopción de políticas que permitan enfrentar con éxito estos efectos. De forma especial debería concentrar su asistencia para fortalecer la capacidad institucional de los países para la formulación de políticas y programas que puedan armonizar las exigencias de la seguridad alimentaria y la erradicación de la pobreza con las exigencias de la liberalización del comercio agrícola mundial.

En este mismo orden, consideramos que debe fortalecerse la labor del Comité del Codex Alimentarius, y asistirse técnicamente a los países para que puedan cumplir con las normas alimentarias internacionales, y facilitar así el acceso a los mercados de los alimentos que son objeto de comercio internacional, protegiéndolos contra discriminaciones arbitrarias o injustificadas. Permítame recordar que el acuerdo que establece la Organización Mundial del Comercio compromete a los países a cumplir con las obligaciones del Acuerdo sobre la Aplicación de las Medidas Sanitarias y Fitosanitarias, y con el Acuerdo sobre Obstáculos Técnicos al Comercio; en este campo, las normas del Codex Alimentarius tienen el carácter de normas de referencia para resolver los problemas o controversias que pudieran suscitarse.

Nuestro país considera que el comercio agrícola mundial debe ser regido por normas claras y aceptadas por todos, y que no pueden sustituirse las barreras arancelarias por barreras no arancelarias encubiertas o discriminatorias.

Reiteramos nuestra petición para que la FAO otorgue una alta prioridad a estos programas normativos y de asistencia técnica, muy especialmente en lo que respecta al fortalecimiento de la capacidad nacional para la formulación de políticas agrícolas adecuadas a las nuevas condiciones internacionales y de liberalización comercial.

En tercer lugar, señor Presidente, nuestro país considera de suma importancia las actividades normativas de la FAO, particularmente aquellas que reflejan la voluntad política de los países miembros. En tal sentido, la conclusión de acuerdos, como el Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable, sobre normas internacionales, sobre medidas fitosanitarias y del Codex Alimentarius, constituyen la mejor expresión del potencial que tiene la FAO como organismo técnico de apoyo para acuerdos internacionales relacionados con la agricultura, la alimentación y los recursos naturales.

Finalmente, señor Presidente, nuestro país desea expresar su pleno respaldo a la prioridad que ha otorgado el señor Director General a los programas relacionados con la seguridad alimentaria. El hambre es la expresión máxima de la pobreza, y su erradicación es una exigencia moral que nos obliga a todos por igual. Creemos, por ello, pertinente y oportuna la convocatoria que ha hecho el Director General para celebrar el año próximo una Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación, con la participación de los jefes de Estado y de Gobierno de todos los países Miembros de la FAO. Nuestro país le otorga la máxima prioridad a la erradicación de la pobreza, y, a nivel nacional, el esfuerzo del gobierno se traduce en políticas y programas concretos, que, por razones de tiempo, no explicaré en detalle. En lo que se refiere al sector agrícola, me permito hacer llegar a la Secretaría, un documento que refleja las políticas y planes sectoriales, para ilustración de los señores delegados.

Consecuentes con nuestra decisión para erradicar la pobreza, creemos que la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación debe ser una instancia en que nuestros gobernantes comprometan decididamente su voluntad para asegurar efectivamente el derecho de toda persona a los alimentos necesarios para vivir dignamente como ser humano.

Alejandro GUTIERREZ (Chile): Sr. Presidente, Sres. Ministros, Sres. Embajadores, Sres. y Sras. Reciban ustedes el saludo del Gobierno de Chile en este importante evento, que hoy adquiere una especial relevancia, ya que se celebran en este año los 50 años de la FAO, organismo que ha contribuido, sin duda, a mejorar el acceso y la calidad de la alimentación de los países en vías de desarrollo.

La agricultura de nuestro país se enfrenta, como nunca antes, a la necesidad de responder a una serie de condiciones nuevas, derivadas de la inserción internacional de nuestra economía. Quisiera referirme en esta ocasión a nuestra experiencia, que puede ser útil a otros países y a los desafíos que se nos presentan para lograr que la agricultura del siglo XXI sea una actividad económica importante en el desarrollo de nuestro país.

El sector agrícola, debido a su heterogeneidad, vive en Chile un proceso de transformación productiva en el que conviven dinámicas de crecimiento muy alentadoras junto a otras situaciones productivas con soluciones más difíciles. Por ello, nuestra estrategia, que apunta al largo plazo, tiene como propósito desarrollar aún más la exportación de productos silvoagropecuarios y, al mismo tiempo, lograr ser competitivos en los productos importables, que cubren importantes regiones de nuestro territorio nacional.

El resolver adecuadamente los desafíos que se plantean al sector agrícola debe compatibilizarse con los objetivos de política económica vigentes en nuestro país, y cuyo logro asegura la necesaria estabilidad para pensar el futuro. Estos objetivos apuntan fundamentalmente a fortalecer los dos pilares definidos como centrales para lograr un crecimiento sostenido: el incremento de la inversión y el desarrollo del comercio exterior.

Nuestro sector silvoagropecuario ha estabilizado su participación en el Producto Interno Bruto total en torno al 7 por ciento. Entre 1990 y 1994, el sector agrícola creció a una tasa de 5 por ciento anual, en tanto que la economía en su conjunto lo hizo en 6,4 por ciento anual.

Las exportaciones silvoagropecuarias, primarias y procesadas, presentan un gran dinamismo, que se refleja en una participación creciente en las exportaciones totales: de 12,3 por ciento en 1985, a cerca de 29,0 por ciento en 1994. Por otra parte, el comercio agrícola, importaciones más exportaciones, se ha incrementado a una tasa promedio anual de 12,3 por ciento, lo que es significativamente superior a la tasa promedio anual de crecimiento del PIB agrícola, que alcanzó en el mismo período a 6,5 por ciento.

El fortalecimiento del peso chileno y el alza de salarios de la economía obligan a incrementar fuertemente nuestra eficiencia, tanto a nivel microeconómico, como de las políticas y programas que más directamente inciden en el entorno sectorial: el desafío es incrementar sostenidamente la productividad.

La opción del Gobierno de Chile de profundizar su inserción en los mercados internacionales ha resultado exitosa, pero a la vez, durante el proceso de ajuste, ha provocado desafíos de rentabilidad y competitividad en los procesos productivos del sector agrario.

En el marco descrito, el Gobierno definió tres objetivos principales hacia donde apuntan las políticas agrarias vigentes: transformar y modernizar la agricultura; mejorar la calidad de la vida rural, y restaurar y conservar los recursos naturales. En el presente año, estas políticas fueron reforzadas con un conjunto de nuevas medidas e instrumentos para apoyar a los agentes productivos en la adecuación a las cambiantes condiciones del entorno económico nacional e internacional.

Los escenarios futuros que se abren a la actividad agropecuaria obligan a encarar decididamente los requerimientos de adaptación que se planteen. En efecto, un desarrollo agropecuario de mediano y largo plazo, efectuado con clara referencia a los mercados y sus comportamientos, supone con frecuencia cambios en los sistemas productivos; desaparición o disminución de actividades y prácticas largamente arraigadas; surgimiento muy veloz de nuevos productos y cambios tecnológicos de enorme magnitud. En este proceso de adaptación el que se busca apoyar con las políticas orientadas a la transformación productiva.

La política de investigación es considerada esencial para mejorar la competitividad del sector y ha recibido una atención especial de parte de nuestro Gobierno. Se ha constituido un Consejo para la Innovación Agraria, que coordina los esfuerzos públicos, privados y de las universidades, con el propósito de fortalecer las acciones en este sentido y propender a un uso más racional de los fondos de investigación, focalizándolos a los problemas más urgentes que se presentan en distintos ámbitos y a la identificación de nuevas alternativas rentables, que permitan ampliar el espectro de los productos que es posible producir y exportar.

Otra política a la que nuestro Gobierno ha concedido una gran centralidad es la que se refiere a la transferencia tecnológica, orientada a productos campesinos. Mediante uno de los organismos del Ministerio de Agricultura, el Instituto de Desarrollo Agropecuario, se coordina un amplio sistema privado de apoyo a la modernización de este sector, que representa una proporción muy significativa de los productos agrícolas. Las líneas principales de este programa incluyen convenios de investigación, capacitación técnica y en gestión, créditos de operación e inversión y apoyo a la reconstitución de las organizaciones campesinas, tanto productivas como gremiales. Cabe señalar que en este esfuerzo se ha incorporado a los programas tecnológicos, de crédito, capacitación y organizaciones, a las mujeres campesinas que lo soliciten.

En un momento como el actual, en el que los productores deben invertir para ganar en eficiencia y competitividad, el financiamiento de inversiones, del proceso productivo y de las etapas posteriores, como la elaboración y la comercialización, aparece como fundamental. Si bien en Chile una proporción de alrededor de un 70 por ciento del financiamiento agrícola se concentra en la banca privada, el Gobierno ha propiciado la

apertura de líneas especiales de crédito que permitan a los productores empresariales financiar proyectos que estimulen exportaciones, sustituyan importaciones y promuevan actividades regionales de agrotransformación.

Recientemente se ha implementado una línea de crédito reajutable en dólares, que tiende a facilitar el acceso a crédito, principalmente par agricultores cuya producción está orientada al mercado externo.

El financiamiento para los pequeños agricultores radica también en el Instituto de Desarrollo Agropecuario (INDAP), a través de líneas de crédito de operación, inversión y comercialización. Se ha reforzado esta acción a través de la creación del Fondo de Desarrollo Empresarial para Organizaciones Campesinas y de un Concurso de Proyectos para la Modernización de la Pequeña Agricultura. También se debe mencionar el Fondo de Garantía para el Pequeño y Mediano Empresario, destinado a suplir la falta de garantías frente a la banca privada.

Otro elemento que consideramos estratégico para lograr la readecuación de la agricultura es lo que se refiere a mejorar sustantivamente la gestión empresarial, aspecto que en buena medida definirá la suerte de los productores agropecuarios en los próximos años. En este aspecto, el Gobierno se ha asignado como tarea el desarrollo de sistemas modernos de información, que permitan a los agricultores tomar sus decisiones de producción con pleno conocimiento de las tendencias y perspectivas de los mercados, internos y externos.

El análisis y manejo de la información para la toma de decisiones, es una herramienta importante. Para ello se han desarrollado programas de información de mercados tanto internos como internacionales, que se han puesto a disposición de los productores.

En el área de perfeccionamiento de los mercados internos, el énfasis se ha puesto en elaborar o, en otros casos, en actualizar, reglamentos e instrumentos que buscan hacer más transparentes los precios de trigo, harina de trigo, azúcar, aceite, maravilla, raps, maíz y leche. Esta política se ha reforzado con un proyecto de ley para facilitar el funcionamiento de una bolsa de productos agropecuarios; con medidas de resguardo ante la competencia desleal proveniente del exterior; y con el fortalecimiento de la Fiscalía Nacional Económica, entidad que vigila el funcionamiento del mercado interno.

Para fortalecer el desarrollo de los mercados externos, se han arbitrado medidas como la creación de un Fondo de Promoción de las Exportaciones Agropecuarias; la articulación de una red básica de agregados agrícolas (Unión Europea, Estados Unidos, Japón, Argentina, lo que se ampliará en el futuro); un proyecto de ley de certificación de calidad para frutas y hortalizas, y un sistema de monitoreo de precios de productos hortofrutícolas en los mercados internacionales.

En el ámbito productivo quisiera referirme a dos áreas de gran importancia para el país. La primera, es la política de protección del patrimonio vegetal y animal, cuyo propósito es controlar y erradicar plagas y enfermedades y evitar el ingreso de aquellas que no existen en el país. Esta política ha dado a Chile grandes satisfacciones, permitiéndonos ampliar nuestros mercados. El país ha destinado cuantiosos recursos a mejorar este aspecto, modernizando los procedimientos y la institucionalidad pertinente.

La segunda se refiere al desarrollo y protección de recursos fitogenéticos, tema en el que nuestro país ha efectuado avances muy considerables en el último año. Respecto de los recursos mejorados, en noviembre de 1994 se dictó una ley que regula el derecho de los obtentores de nuevas variedades vegetales, modernizando en aspectos sustanciales una legislación anterior vigente desde el año 1977. Además, está terminando su tramitación en el Congreso Nacional, el proyecto de ley que autoriza la incorporación de Chile al Convenio Internacional para la Protección de las Obtenciones Vegetales - UPOV 1978.

De esta manera, se han generado las condiciones para proteger en mejor forma las nuevas variedades de origen nacional y para estimular, a la vez, el ingreso de nuevas variedades extranjeras al país, tanto para la modernización de nuestra agricultura, como para generar nuevas fuentes de ingreso por la utilización de nuestras especiales condiciones agrosanitarias en la multiplicación de semillas con fines de exportación.

El Ministerio de Agricultura ha desarrollado una línea de proyectos de Desarrollo Local Integrado, que apuntan a la superación de la pobreza rural y a la conservación de los recursos naturales y que benefician a poblaciones rurales específicas, tales como pueblos indígenas, comuneros y campesinos de sectores de secano. Para estos proyectos hemos tenido la cooperación de la FAO y de otras instituciones internacionales.

Como ustedes saben, en todo el mundo la pobreza se concentra en buena medida en los sectores rurales. Es por esto que, en el ámbito de las acciones hacia el campesinado, nuestro Gobierno ha definido dos campos de acción: el fomento productivo de la pequeña agricultura, para el segmento de la población rural con acceso a medios de producción, y el mejoramiento del hábitat rural, para éstos y también para otros sectores de la población con menores posibilidades de adecuada inserción laboral, suministrando acceso a vivienda, infraestructura y servicios básicos.

El Ministerio de Planificación y Cooperación Internacional, a través de un organismo especializado, denominado Fondo de Solidaridad e Inversión Social, ha focalizado también una importante proporción de sus recursos en el sector rural.

Adicionalmente, a través de programas de diferentes ministerios, se impulsa una serie de acciones destinadas a mejorar las condiciones de vida de la población rural, promoviendo un desarrollo rural sustentable. Entre ellos se pueden mencionar programas de vialidad; electrificación; educación rural pre-básica, básica y media; saneamiento de títulos de propiedad rural; subsidio habitacional rural; infraestructura de riego; atención en salud y alimentación complementaria; programa de inversiones y funcionamiento de un fondo de tierras y aguas para comunidades indígenas y reparación a campesinos marginados de la Reforma Agraria.

El Estado tiene un papel muy importante en este tema: debe regular la utilización de los recursos, de modo que las empresas incorporen en sus costos los eventuales efectos negativos de su actividad sobre el medio. Se deben definir instrumentos de intervención más eficientes, desde el punto de vista técnico, económico y social, evaluando la utilización de normas, subsidios, tarifas, derechos de uso, etc.

En esta tarea, asignamos una participación muy importante al sector privado, principalmente en la búsqueda de tecnologías ambientalmente eficientes; en la educación para promocionar el cuidado de los recursos y en la denuncia a las transgresiones a la normativa vigente.

Chile ha institucionalizado la Comisión Nacional del Medio Ambiente, la que ha generado una Ley Marco del Medio Ambiente, cuerpo legal que entre sus instrumentos más importantes incorpora la evaluación de impacto ambiental como exigencia a los proyectos privados y públicos.

A nivel del sector agrícola, se puede mencionar el perfeccionamiento de la normativa relacionada con el Plan Nacional de Conservación de Suelos; el Plan de Acción contra la Desertificación; la regulación de la expansión urbana y la pérdida de suelos agrícolas; la conservación de la biodiversidad; las regulaciones acerca del bosque nativo, entre las iniciativas más importantes.

Como ya se ha señalado, la integración de nuestro país con el exterior constituye un elemento esencial de nuestra estrategia de desarrollo.

La política vigente descansa en la idea de que un esquema de comercio internacional abierto, basado en la competencia y la utilización eficiente de las ventajas comparativas y competitivas, es la clave para el crecimiento económico y el desarrollo.

El fortalecimiento de un sistema internacional de comercio, basado en acuerdos multilaterales, lo consideramos de vital importancia. De manera complementaria, Chile persigue celebrar tratados bilaterales de libre comercio, como una forma de avanzar con mayor rapidez hacia un intercambio más libre y significativo, particularmente en el ámbito regional.

Nuestro país ha efectuado ya una trayectoria en el cumplimiento de esta política, que se ha materializado, a partir de 1991, en la firma de diversos acuerdos de libre comercio con México, Colombia, Venezuela, Argentina, Ecuador y Bolivia. En este momento, están en desarrollo conversaciones en la misma dirección con Perú y se han avanzado esfuerzos hacia la consecución de compromisos similares con importantes bloques económicos dentro y fuera de la Región: el MERCOSUR en el Cono Sur Latinoamericano; el NAFTA, en Norteamérica, y la Unión Europea. Adicionalmente, hace un año fue posible concretar la incorporación de nuestro país al Foro de Cooperación del Asia Pacífico, APEC.

Un segundo elemento de la mayor trascendencia en el área agrícola, es el Acuerdo sobre Medidas Fito y Zoonosanitarias, cuya aplicación tiende a evitar el uso encubierto de medidas técnicas con el fin de obstaculizar

el comercio. Como es de amplio conocimiento en el ámbito internacional, Chile ha logrado, a lo largo de los años, elevados niveles fito y zoonosanitarios por los cuales debe velar permanentemente. Para ello se ocupa constantemente de la suscripción de convenios con terceros, con el propósito de evitar el ingreso de enfermedades al territorio, así como lograr y mantener el acceso a nuevos mercados para los productos del sector.

Ante los acuerdos multilaterales de comercio, las obligaciones de Chile están siendo cumplidas. Dado que no tiene medidas internas descalificadas en el acuerdo, ni subsidia sus exportaciones, su único compromiso se refiere a una reducción arancelaria igual al 24 por ciento, que podría cumplir en 10 años, en su calidad de país en desarrollo.

Las posibilidades de acceder a nuevos mercados serán mejores que las anteriormente existentes. Resulta también evidente que la reducción progresiva de los subsidios a las exportaciones, particularmente en los países desarrollados, permitirá que los productos tradicionales de Chile, sustitutos de importaciones, aumenten sus precios en el mercado externo y ganen en competitividad en el mercado nacional. (Véase Cuadro adjunto).

La cooperación que organismos como la FAO prestan al desarrollo del sector agropecuario en países como el nuestro, es de gran importancia. Desde luego, es necesario plantear un reconocimiento al rol que ha jugado en sus 50 años de existencia, que constituye un patrimonio técnico e institucional que no podemos desperdiciar.

Por ello manifestamos la necesidad y el compromiso de Chile de sostener la contribución que el país realiza en este organismo. El Gobierno de Chile asegura una alta prioridad a la labor de la FAO en el ámbito del desarrollo agropecuario, la que se hace aún más necesaria en relación a la internacionalización creciente de la actividad agrícola.

La articulación institucional entre nuestros países, en el ámbito de la generación y transferencia de tecnología; de la gestión empresarial; de la información de mercados; de la formulación de políticas; del desarrollo del comercio intrarregional; de la defensa y expansión de nuestro patrimonio fito y zoonosanitario; del fortalecimiento de políticas de investigación silvoagropecuaria; de programas que integren a la mujer rural en las tareas del desarrollo, por citar algunos de los temas de mayor relevancia, son áreas de cooperación internacional y horizontal de gran interés.

Por último, quisiera referirme en especial al reconocimiento que mi Gobierno hace del trabajo que en estas cinco décadas ha desarrollado la FAO. En Chile este organismo ha prestado permanentemente una sólida asistencia técnica, que cuenta con un alto grado de reconocimiento y de credibilidad de parte de los sectores público y privado. Es más, en los últimos cinco años se han realizado en el país cerca de treinta proyectos en áreas como la forestación, la producción campesina y otros en el tema ambiental, con el apoyo de este prestigioso organismo.

En esta ocasión, la FAO ha premiado un proyecto innovativo presentado por nuestro Instituto de Investigaciones Agropecuarias, que se centra en el control biológico del pulgón ruso, insecto que ataca a importantes cereales. Quisiera agradecer este honor y, a la vez, felicitar a los investigadores que llevaron a efecto este importante trabajo.

En el nuevo escenario internacional, después de Marrakesh, le damos gran importancia al rol de la FAO en las normas técnicas del comercio internacional agrícola, silvícola y pesquero.

Espero que estos días culminen exitosamente y que nuestros esfuerzos se traduzcan en un mejoramiento de la acción de la FAO y en un mayor bienestar para nuestros pueblos.



INDICADORES MACROSECTORIALES					
Indicador	1993	1994	1995	Variación %	
				1994-93	1995-94
<b>Producto Interno Bruto*</b> (Millones de pesos de 1986)					
Nacional	5 616 414	5 855 011	6 241 442	4,2	6,6
Agricultura	389 575	416 399	439 301	6,9	5,5
Participación %	6,9	7,1	7,0		
<b>Comercio Exterior Silvoagropecuario**</b> (Millones de dólares)					
Exportaciones	2 703	3 275	3 980	21,2	21,5
Importaciones	684	807	980	18,0	21,4
Saldo Balanza Comercial	2 019	2 468	3 000	22,2	21,6
<b>Fuerza de Trabajo (Trimestre Ene.-Mar.)</b> (Miles de personas)					
Nacional	5 062	5 257	5 295	3,9	0,7
Agricultura, Pesca y Caza	877	848	825	-3,3	-2,6
Participación %	17,3	16,1	15,6		
<b>Tasa de desocupación (Trimestre Ene.-Mar.)</b> (Porcentaje)					
Nacional	4,5	5,2	5,4	16,2	5,1
Agricultura, Pesca y Caza	1,8	2,4	2,4	31,6	0,5
<b>Indice de Precios al Consumidor</b> (Base Abril 1989 = 100)					
Promedio General Septiembre	216,4	238,9	259,4	10,4	8,6
Promedio Alimentación Septiembre	231,3	250,4	274,4	8,3	9,6
<b>Indice de Precios al Por Mayor</b> (Base Junio 1992 = 100)					
Promedio General Septiembre	112,8	121,8	129,7	7,9	6,6
Promedio Agropecuario Septiembre	115,5	126,5	142,2	9,5	12,4
<b>Colocaciones en el Sector Silvoagropecuario</b> (Saldos a Febrero de cada año, Miles de UF)					
Agrícola	45 258	42 059	39 860	-7,1	-5,2
Ganadería	5 217	4 265	4 727	-18,2	10,8
Forestal	8 472	6 818	7 208	-19,5	5,7
Infraestructura Predial	427	309	301	-27,5	-2,6
Total Silvoagropecuario	59 373	53 451	52 097	-10,0	-2,5
Participación en Sistema Financiero (%)	7,2	5,7	5,2		
FUENTE Elaborado por ODEPA					
* 1995 Proyección lineal en base al crecimiento del primer trimestre.			** 1995 Estimación ODEPA.		

<sup>1</sup> Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa.

Mr TOLEAFOA (Samoa): Mr Chairman, Honourable delegates, ladies and gentlemen, My delegation joins those who have spoken before in expressing sincere condolences to the Government and people of Iraq on the sudden loss of its leader of Delegation. May I also express to you and to your Vice-Chairman our congratulations and good wishes on your respective appointments. You have our full support in carrying out this very important task.

Mr Chairman, we have just celebrated the 50th anniversary of FAO's existence. As we do so, it is incumbent upon us to take stock both of past achievements and failures, as well as the great challenge that still remains, namely the eradication of hunger and poverty from the world. Much has been done already, but we also know that despite our best individual and collective efforts, hunger and famine remain a fact of life, for millions of people around the world. My delegation is greatly encouraged by the demonstration so far of the willingness of FAO and the Member States to renew their commitment to continuing the fight against hunger and poverty. Clearly anything less would be a recipe for disaster for the future of mankind.

Like others, we want to commend the Secretary-General and the FAO staff for the steps that are being put in place to cut costs and waste, and to raise the organization level of performance in response to budgetary constraints and demand for more accountability on the part of international organizations. We encourage the Director-General to continue to lead the organization in this direction, to be able to win the hearts and full support of the Member States. In this regard, we also welcome some of the initiative and emphasis being placed by FAO on sustainable development and the environment, forestry and the new code of conduct for responsible fisheries. These are spheres of particular relevance and interest to small island states like Samoa. We are also especially delighted at the willingness of the Organization to further improve the delivery of resources and to establish better dialogue and consultation with more far-flung regions, through the establishment of sub-regional offices.

My government is particularly pleased that FAO will continue its presence in Samoa with the upgrading of the FAO office there to serve as the sub-regional office for our region. It is a decision which is entirely in accord with the wishes of the region's FAO members. My government will, of course, ensure that FAO's work in Apia will be given every assistance.

Like most of us here today, my delegation is fully mindful that our deliberations are being made against a background of budgeting uncertainty and retrenchment. In the end, the best laid plans will amount to nought without the necessary financial resources. Food security for all cannot be assured without commitment and perseverance on the part of everyone. It also cannot be achieved in a short time as our experience has clearly shown. We join others in expressing the hope that the 50th anniversary of FAO's existence will mark a renewal of commitment on the part of everyone to work together to achieve the vision which gave rise to this Organization.

The challenge is there still. By the end of the 28th Conference, we will all know whether the vision and the will to meet that challenge is also there.<sup>2</sup>

Evlogui BONEV (United Nations Development Programme): I have the honour to convey the special greetings of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Mr Speth, on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of FAO, the largest Specialized Agency in the United Nations' system and a major partner of UNDP since the inception of the latter.

Having said that, I would like to state before this august gathering that for over four decades now, my organization has enjoyed a very fruitful cooperation with FAO for the benefit of the developing countries. It is for this reason that UNDP follows the evolutionary developments of FAO with keen interest; it is for the same reason that we keep FAO and its governing bodies informed on all developments taking place in our organization and its governing body.

In recent years the world has been affected by profound and unrelenting forces of change. In a world increasingly characterized by global actors and global consequences, many development issues can no longer be addressed satisfactorily at the national level alone. Poverty and environmental degradation have never been confined by borders, and can only be understood and addressed as global issues.

<sup>2</sup> Statement inserted in the verbal records on request.

Despite many advances in development, human deprivation is still acute in many parts of the world. Global poverty is worsening, unemployment is on the rise and people are increasingly turning against their neighbours in brutal ethnic conflicts. The situation is compounded by crime, violence, pollution, environmental destruction and the evident breakdown of state machinery. It is mainly in response to these developments that a series of significant UN system conferences have been convened in the last few years which have shaped the development dialogue of the world community: the UN Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, in 1992; the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo, in 1994; the World Summit on Social Development, held in Copenhagen early in 1995; and the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995. Through these conferences, the nations entered into collective agreements and commitments on development issues of key importance from both a national and global perspective.

UN system organizations, each in its field of competence and mandate, have largely contributed to the successful outcome of these important events. They have been called upon to continue to support both national and global efforts to implement these commitments.

In order to respond most adequately to the new requirements and challenges, the entire UN system has undertaken appropriate restructuring and reforms, enabling it to help countries to progress further along the road of sustainable and people-centred development.

For UNDP, the last two years, 1994 and 1995, were marked by profound changes, laying down the foundation for a process of fundamental, long-term and sustainable changes in the organization. In brief, in 1994 the Executive Board of UNDP endorsed the Administrator's "Initiatives for Change", refining the mission and goals of UNDP; in June 1996 the Board approved two landmark decisions - one on the future of UNDP and the other on the successor programming arrangements. By these decisions, the Executive Board gave firm and positive direction to the future of UNDP, setting out the substantive priority areas and goals of UNDP activities and establishing the new and innovative framework to achieve these goals. The decision on the successor programming arrangements constitutes a major turning point for UNDP, replacing the programming system that has been in effect since the famous "consensus" decision in 1970. The new system is intended to provide greater flexibility in the assignment of resources, as well as greater incentives for the formulation of keenly focused, high-impact and high-leverage sustainable human development programmes.

Some highlights of the new system are as follows: First, a three-tier system for the management of country-level allocations of core resources. The target for resource assignments from the core, the so-called TRAC, replaces the current indicative planning figure system. Under the first TRAC line, 30 percent of total core resources will be allocated to countries immediately, using an agreed resource distribution methodology; and an additional 20 percent of core resources will be earmarked by region for subsequent application at the country level. The two sets of resources will be programmed jointly and simultaneously. A third line sets aside five percent of core resources for development activities in countries experiencing special situations. Second, a three-year, rolling resources planning scheme that replaces the current five-year, fixed cycle. Third, a set of programming procedures based on the formulation of a country cooperative framework, replacing the country programme document, coupled with a more flexible assignment of resources, and increased delegation of programme and project approval authority at the country level. Fourth, resources continue to be available to facilitate the provision of important policy and technical support services by United Nations system agencies. Fifth, the implementation of the new arrangements, for the programming of activities for the years 1997 onwards, took effect in July 1995 and is the subject of a comprehensive review by the Executive Board at the annual session in 1997.

To conclude, UNDP looks forward to active joint cooperation with FAO in the areas of sustainable agriculture and sustainable food security, as they closely relate to the UNDP major objectives of poverty eradication. In particular, UNDP sees in the joint sustainable food security initiative a viable instrument for focused work in programme countries. UNDP would also like to express its willingness to play an active role in the forthcoming World Food Summit.

CHAIRMAN: Before I adjourn the Tenth Plenary Meeting, I would like to say that the Delegation of Samoa has submitted its statement for inclusion in the records of the Conference. The Third Report of the General Committee, document C 95/LIM/25, is being distributed in all delegations' pigeonholes. I would like to advise all delegations that first thing in the morning, at 09.30, we will be formally adopting this Third Report of the General Committee. The first speaker for tomorrow morning, after the opening of the Eleventh Plenary Meeting, is going to be the Head of the Delegation of Malta. With this, I thank you very much and the meeting is adjourned and I wish you a pleasant afternoon.

The meeting rose at 16.45 hours.

La séance est levée à 16 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 16.45 horas.

26 October 1995



منظمة الاغذية  
والزراعة  
للامم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

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

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

# CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Twenty-eighth Session • Vingt-huitième session • 28° período de sesiones

**ELEVENTH PLENARY MEETING  
ONZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
11ª SESION PLENARIA**

26 October 1995

**The Eleventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.30 hours**

**Mr Costas Petrides,**

**Chairman of the Conference, presiding**

**La onzième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 30**

**sous la présidence de M. Costas Petrides,**

**Président de la Conférence**

**Se abre la 11ª sesión plenaria a las 9.30 horas**

**bajo la presidencia del Sr. Costas Petrides,**

**Presidente de la Conferencia**

Adoption of Third Report of General Committee  
 Adoption du troisième Rapport du Bureau  
 Aprobación del tercer informe del Comité

INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)

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

INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)

6. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (continued)

6. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)

6. Examen del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATION (continued)

- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)

- DECLARACIONES DE LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: As the distinguished delegates can see from the Order of the Day, there are 10 delegations listed to speak this morning. In addition, the Russian Federation has asked to make its statement and that will be added after we have heard the statement from Malta.

If there are still delegations which would like to make statements on this item they are requested to register with the Secretariat as a matter of urgency.

I now invite the first speaker to take the floor - the head of delegation of Paraguay.

Oscar CABELLO SARUBBI (Paraguay): Permítame, en primer lugar, felicitarle por su designación al cargo de Presidente de esta Conferencia General, y, en segundo lugar, expresarle nuestro firme convencimiento de que, dadas sus virtudes personales, sabrá conducir nuestros trabajos con todo éxito.

Asimismo, quiero felicitar, en nombre de mi Gobierno, a los Estados que se han incorporado a nuestra Organización, que, sin duda, ofrecerán su aporte positivo al logro de las metas que inspiraron a los fundadores de la FAO. Su ingreso, además, constituye un paso decisivo para alcanzar el ideal de universalidad que inspira a todo el sistema de las Naciones Unidas.

La celebración, hace pocos días en Quebec, del 50º Aniversario de la FAO debe llenarnos de satisfacción por el fructífero camino recorrido, desde sus humildes comienzos, por esta Organización; también esto debe ser, a la vez, motivo de profunda reflexión sobre su futuro.

Para mi delegación, que representa a un miembro originario de la FAO que a lo largo de estas décadas ha recibido continuos beneficios de la misma, no hay motivo de duda sobre la utilidad y actual vigencia de instrumentos institucionales como el que nos ocupa, puesto que llenan un vacío, insuperable de otro modo por los países en desarrollo, tanto por la cooperación que a través de ellos se nos proporciona, por el foro de discusión que constituyen, como por la preciosa información que por ellos se nos provee.

Si todos coincidimos en la vigencia de esta Organización, también debemos coincidir en que ésta debe contar permanentemente con los recursos necesarios para la continuidad de su labor, e incluso incrementarlos si fuera necesario, para que también pueda crecer la tarea tan útil que realizan.

Apoyamos plenamente los esfuerzos del Director General, Don Jacques Diouf, por racionalizar y aumentar la eficiencia de la Organización. En el relativamente corto período de tiempo que está al frente de ella ha realizado esfuerzos encomiables, y queremos felicitarle por ello, pero sabemos también que estos esfuerzos tienen su límite, alcanzado el cuál, la mayor eficiencia y el pleno cumplimiento de los compromisos adoptados

en su programa de trabajo exigen un adecuado nivel de recursos, que contemple los inevitables incrementos de costos a que estamos acostumbrados en la vida contemporánea de todas nuestras naciones.

Una preocupación principal, prescindiendo de las cifras que se barajan para el próximo Presupuesto Bienal de la FAO, es que éste contemple los recursos suficientes para que pueda ejecutar acabadamente todos sus programas. Toda reducción de gastos, de ningún modo puede significar el sacrificio de proyectos de cooperación ya aprobados por la Organización, en detrimento del interés de países o regiones.

Señor Presidente, nos inquietan las informaciones que nos llegan sobre el estado de la agricultura y la alimentación en el mundo. En las postrimerías del siglo XX existen segmentos amplios de población en el mundo que viven en permanente carencia o sufren las nefastas consecuencias de la desnutrición. Las causas de esta situación todas las conocemos: la desinformación, la falta de tecnologías, los precios elevados de los alimentos, su desigual distribución en el mundo, etc.

Por otro lado, no todos los países en desarrollo sufrimos todos los efectos de dichas causas, o lo hacemos en grados o en combinaciones diversas, lo que imposibilita la búsqueda de una fórmula única salvadora. Esto es lo que hace tan compleja la tarea de la Organización y tan difícil su comprensión por parte de la opinión pública en algunos países más avanzados, que son, precisamente, sus principales sostenedores económicos.

Se tiene la tentación de querer descartar, como ineficientes, programas que por su complejidad sólo pueden ofrecer resultados a largo plazo; o centrar los esfuerzos en situaciones dramáticas soslayando el esfuerzo sustancial de ayuda al desarrollo que debe ser siempre la meta final y el único modo de acabar definitivamente con estas situaciones de crisis.

América Latina, que en cierta medida ha sido escenario de grandes logros en agricultura en las últimas décadas, sigue careciendo del conocimiento tecnológico adecuado para el definitivo despegue de su actividad agropecuaria y la solución definitiva del problema rural. Como decía hace unos pocos días nuestro Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores ante la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, "Sin ciencias y tecnologías que impregnen a nuestras elites económicas, sociales y políticas no es posible el desarrollo. Es tan grande la brecha existente al respecto entre los países industrializados y los nuestros, que es de justicia y necesidad imperiosa reducirla. Sobre todo, se trata de que logremos una transferencia gratuita de tecnologías agrícolas alimenticias capaces de permitirnos vivir en paz social".

La celebración en Asunción, en julio de 1996, de la Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe, será una oportunidad para profundizar esta situación propia de la Región, y nos sentimos muy honrados porque nuestra capital haya sido elegida para sede de tan importante evento. Será también ocasión de recibir al Director General, que, una vez más, visitará nuestra Región para cerciorarse personalmente de nuestra realidad.

En el Paraguay, señor Presidente, la constante expansión de la frontera agrícola impulsada por la creciente demanda de tierras por parte de la población rural y el desarrollo de nuevos cultivos de explotación, como la soja y el trigo, ha permitido un aumento de la producción agropecuaria, que sigue siendo el principal sostén de nuestra economía y la principal fuente de trabajo para sus habitantes.

No obstante la disponibilidad de tierras, en un país con una densidad poblacional relativamente baja, la constante presión demográfica y la reserva de tierras con miras a la preservación de las especies y la protección del medio ambiente, que es una constante preocupación del Gobierno, hace necesario un aumento de la producción por la vía de una agricultura intensiva y desarrollada tecnológicamente, así como una diversificación de los cultivos y la cría de nuevas especies.

Dicha transformación agrícola supone un gran esfuerzo en materia de inversiones públicas y privadas, así como un aumento de la transferencia de tecnologías adecuadas, para lo cual el rol de la FAO es y será siempre indispensable.

Por ello, vemos con grave preocupación toda iniciativa que pueda significar una disminución de la solidaridad internacional hacia los países en desarrollo, precisamente en el momento en que se abre para muchos de ellos la posibilidad, con una cooperación oportuna y puntual, de encaminarse definitivamente hacia superiores niveles de vida.

Esa solidaridad encuentra su expresión, tanto por la vía bilateral, que mucho apreciamos, como por la multilateral, que nos permite, además, aportar soluciones de conjunto a problemas comunes. Por todo ello, señor Presidente, quiero ratificar, al concluir, nuestra plena fe en la FAO, instrumento insustituible, aun hoy como lo fue hace medio siglo, de concertación y ayuda entre todas las naciones en una materia clave para el bienestar de la humanidad.

Finalmente, pensamos que la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación, que se llevará a cabo en 1996, con la presencia de nuestros Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno, será la oportunidad para la adopción de trascendentales decisiones con las que deberán cimentarse mecanismos que ahuyenten para siempre el espectro del hambre y la desnutrición en el mundo.

Most Rev. Alois WAGNER (Observer for the Holy See): Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, distinguished delegates and observers, ladies and gentlemen: Taking the floor at this 28th FAO Conference, I wish to thank, first of all, all those who have participated at the Audience of His Holiness Pope John Paul II. I am sure the idea expressed by the Holy Father to celebrate the FAO's 50th anniversary in a different way is still fresh in our minds with an important task to accomplish: to free humanity from hunger.

The Holy See would like to be above all a witness in the common cause of man, caring for his needs, the first of which is the primary right to food, the right that tends to be neglected, or worse, constantly violated.

I'll touch on only a few points of my statement.

The recent meetings in Quebec have also shown the necessity to strengthen international action in the field of food and agriculture. In fact, the worsening of the situations of underdevelopment and poverty that lead to hunger and malnutrition makes it even more necessary to look towards the future in order to understand what could be the role of FAO in the coming years. This role could be strongly conditioned by the decisions of this Conference and the preparatory meeting taken by the World Food Summit of November 1996. The most stricken areas are those that already have an insufficient food security level, in particular the African populations, who have already suffered from heavy famines, civil wars, and droughts in the past decades.

The poorer countries therefore do not benefit from the favourable world economic situation and, at the same time, lack the essential means to satisfy the basic needs of their populations, also due to the reduction of investments arising from an organic international development generation.

The right of land is related not only to the enjoyment of peace and dignity but also to the right of favouring the family-run agricultural farm and especially the right of the rural women to integrate not only in the production process but also in decision-making.

The Conference should, in fact, discuss this last aspect that refers to the protection of human rights of the woman acting within the international community. I would like to stress the similitude between the FAO's point of view as to the role of the rural woman and the constant effort of the Catholic Church for the promotion of woman as mother and worker and especially as the most important person in the family management in rural areas.

The problem of food supplies and therefore of food security is directly connected with human mobility in its every form, against which no artificial barrier or frontier can be raised. It is urgent for FAO to strengthen its activity in this field in addition to all the mechanisms at its disposal used in case of emergencies.

Lastly, we cannot forget that among the factors involving FAO are the political choices and that quite a number of them remove the funds from agriculture and food production and use them for arms, trade, and improvement of war capacities of some countries.

The document treating the Budget of FAO shows a clear fall of finances, which is the direct consequence of the lack of financial contribution on the part of big donor countries. Cooperation is necessary. Cooperation, as we know, often imposes painful choices on the cooperating parties since it is not limited to a mere close



corresponding relationship, to give and to receive, but is open to an efficient solidarity, solidarity not only in name but in fact.

The fact that a series of rules for the guidance of countries practising in some of the main fields of FAO's competence has been submitted to this Conference is a positive sign of the growth of FAO's activity. It should be pointed out that the importance given lately to the sectors of fisheries and forestry shows the global perspective of cooperation of these two sectors in the agricultural one. Also, in this case, it is clear that FAO's aim is not only food production but also food supply and therefore food security.

Another item adding to the already complex activity of FAO is that of genetic resources and the task assumed by the Organization for their promotion. It is hoped to this end that the international rules on the subject are fully carried out and that the basic principles of justice, particularly that of making genetic resources available in common, are put into effect. Only thus could considerable support be given to the whole activity performed by the United Nations system in this field.

While celebrating the 50th Anniversary, we necessarily should look to the future, being fully aware that it is not only the future of FAO but of the whole of humanity that should be our focal point of interest. In fact, it is through FAO that humanity expresses its desire to cooperate in such a delicate and primary field as food and agriculture.

We should start with a new course, inspired by the Quebec Declaration, but bearing in mind that this act should not only be a celebration but should represent a programme outlining some essential scopes in the future.

It seems that we could come to the conclusion that to consider agriculture as a primary sector in an economy of countries does not mean a recession in the economic structure. It is an answer to a growing population and growing food demand. It becomes a compulsory choice for the developing countries with food shortages if hunger is to be overcome.

A direct involvement of the international community is essential as well as all the voluntary activities and the works of numerous NGOs, whose direct participation in the realities of hunger, poverty, and underdevelopment should be considered not only a logistic support but as an ideal and programmatic inspiration.

At the FAO Conference we are called to witness our faith in man with facts. Good intentions are not sufficient, even if supported by solemn declarations. In this way we can prepare our countries and various components of the international community for the World Food Summit to be held next year. We can look forward to this meeting not only as an event but also as a moment to decide on facts which could create other facts.

In this sense I would like to repeat that various organizations of the Church are always ready to collaborate with everybody in this important work. We should be convinced that by giving "to every man the possibility to be satiated, we participate in the great design of Creation.

M.C.P. MTUY (Tanzania): Mr Chairman, FAO Director-General, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen: I am both honoured and pleased to address this 28th Session of the FAO Conference for two reasons. Firstly, because this Conference is being held at a time when my country, Tanzania, is holding its first historical multiparty national elections, which will eventually put in place a new government for the next five years. Secondly, because this Conference comes at a time when the food situation in Tanzania is satisfactory. Total domestic food production is forecast to meet the cereal requirements of the nation for the 1995/96 marketing season except for wheat, which we normally import to supplement domestic production. Forecasts indicate an increase in the yield of all crops.

The total national food production for the 1995/96 marketing season is estimated to be 7.3 million tonnes, which is approximately 22 percent higher than the production of the last season. Cereal production is forecast to be 4.4 million tonnes compared to 3.3 million tonnes in the last harvesting season. The increase in food

production is attributed to favourable rains, increased use of fertilizers and improved seeds, and low incidence of factors affecting crop losses.

Following the good cereal harvest, Tanzania plans to export a limited amount of maize to neighbouring countries in an endeavour to enhance intraregional and border trade. Furthermore, the government plans to replenish its Strategic Grain Reserve through domestic procurement of 105 000 tonnes of maize.

The favourable food situation notwithstanding, about 37 000 people in 13 regions of the country are yet to recover from the previous years impact of drought and the continuing effects of refugees. Some 20 000 tonnes of maize and 2 000 tonnes of beans will be required as emergency food aid. The government is financially constrained and as such it will welcome any assistance to enable it to provide relief food. This relief food can be procured on the domestic market.

To improve and increase food production the government has launched a new extension strategy whose emphasis is on frequent visits to farmers by frontline extension staff, using group approaches and combining indigenous knowledge with improved farm practices. The government, with the assistance of the World Bank and the African Development Bank, has undertaken a major rehabilitation of the extension services and is now in a position to reach more farmers than in the past. Extension workers are equipped with extension kits and bicycles; they are better trained to solve farmers problems and promote modern agricultural practices. A large number of farmers have gained knowledge from Farmers Demonstration Plots established under the new extension strategy. Specific attention is given towards increased food crops production under the FAO-assisted Special Programme on Food Production in Support of Food Security, which is currently in its pilot phase. The Special Programme is being implemented in two regions and is expected to lead to increased yields and output of maize and paddy in the targeted areas. Allow me, Mr Chairman, to express our most profound and sincere thanks to the FAO Director-General for this very important and timely initiative and assistance. The response and morale of farmers in the target areas is high and as such we expect this programme to be a success.

The government has also taken the following steps to increase food production: it has established an Agricultural Inputs Trust Fund to facilitate importation and distribution of agricultural inputs through loans to importers and input stockists; it has also initiated the inclusion of credit components in donor funded projects to enable small farmers to gain access to modern agricultural inputs. Furthermore, the government is emphasizing the promotion of savings and credit societies in rural areas to provide financial services to rural producers.

Food production in Tanzania is continuously threatened by crop pests and diseases such as the quelea quelea, armyworms, cassava mealybug, the larger grain borer and the red locusts. While the cassava mealybug and the larger grain borer infestations have been contained to tolerable proportions, threats from quelea quelea, armyworms and the red locusts continue to pose a severe strain on the already constrained government budget. It is our sincere hope that donors will be understanding and willing to assist us in this area.

Apart from crop pests and diseases, livestock epidemics have occurred in the country, especially the contagious bovine pleuro-pneumonia disease, which affected seven regions in February 1995. Allow me again to express our appreciation and gratitude to the FAO Director-General for his timely assistance to contain the disease.

As regards forestry, Tanzania is committed to sustainable exploitation and conservation of forests and forest resources. We have now updated the National Forestry Action Plan and have started village district level planning.

Forestry development is, however, constrained by lack of updated data and assessment of the forest resources as well as inadequate funding.

Tanzania boasts an extensive beekeeping industry. Bees provide nutrition and income to our rural people, but they also play a major role in food production through pollination of agricultural crops.

As regards fisheries, Tanzania is endowed with many inland capture fisheries, which constitute 80 percent of the annual catch of about 350 000 metric tonnes. Over 95 percent of the catch is from artisanal fisheries

which have stagnated, and in some cases declined, because of prolonged exploitation of the nearshore waters due to lack of appropriate equipment and technology to reach the more distant resources. The cost of fishing equipment is high and prohibitive.

Fish is a major source of animal protein to our people but we are constrained with inadequate processing facilities as well as distribution. Fish farming is an important source of food and income in rural areas.

As a coastal state, Tanzania declared an Exclusive Economic Zone in 1989 but has not benefitted from this important resource due to inadequate human and material resources to operationalize the scheme.

Tanzania welcomes and supports, fully, the Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries.

As regards the Programme of Work and Budget for 1996-97, my delegation appreciates and commends the wide range of measures introduced by the Director-General to restructure the Organization, cut down costs and improve the efficiency of the Organization. We strongly support the Programme of Work and Budget for 1996/97 and are confident that the Director-General will continue with his efforts to make FAO more efficient and cost-effective.

With regard to the World Food Summit, Tanzania supports the recommendation to convene the Summit in November 1996, and the draft resolution on the issue presented in Document C 95/17.

Lastly, my delegation is firmly committed to the ideals and vision of FAO. Approval of the proposed budget will enable the Organization to implement the proposed Programme of Work, which is directed towards helping Agricultural, Forestry and Fisheries Officers to serve farmers and fishermen more diligently and effectively to increase food supplies, improve crop yields and boost income opportunities.

Zine El Abdine SEBTI (Maroc): Monsieur le Président, Mesdames, Messieurs, je voudrais tout d'abord exprimer nos condoléances les plus attristées à la délégation irakienne, ainsi qu'à la famille du défunt, notre collègue Khalid Abdul Moneem Rasheed, Ministre de l'Agriculture d'Irak.

Permettez-moi ensuite de vous adresser mes vives félicitations à l'occasion de votre brillante élection. Mes félicitations s'adressent également aux Vice présidents ainsi qu'aux membres du Bureau. Je tiens également à souhaiter la bienvenue aux cinq nouveaux membres qui ont été admis au sein de l'Organisation, sachant qu'ils viennent renforcer notre action.

Je ne saurais broser un tableau aussi expressif et vivant de la situation mondiale de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation que celui qui a été fait au début de notre session par Monsieur Jacques Diouf, Directeur général de notre Organisation.

Depuis sa création, en 1945, l'Organisation devait répondre au défi que constituait la faim et la malnutrition. Il lui était prescrit la mission de relever ce défi par l'accroissement de la production alimentaire et l'amélioration du niveau nutritionnel. Cinquante années après, alors que les niveaux de production connaissent des améliorations importantes, la faim ne fait que progresser et l'exclusion s'aggraver, la pauvreté ne se posant plus en termes de disponibilité de produits alimentaires, mais en termes d'accessibilité de ces produits par les populations au revenu érodé et vivant dans un état précaire.

L'initiative du Directeur général de convoquer un Sommet mondial de l'alimentation en 1996 constitue à notre avis la meilleure base qui permettra, en effet, de relayer les potentialités et de contribuer à la sécurité alimentaire des pays à déficit vivrier et à faible revenu. Un tel objectif ne saurait, bien sûr, être atteint s'il ne procédait d'une approche participative où les parties s'allient dans un partenariat clair et défini, et où la responsabilité partagée est clairement et surtout volontairement assurée.

La lutte contre la pauvreté est indissociable du développement mais la démarche reste multiple et complexe. En effet, alors que la disponibilité des produits alimentaires atténue la faim, le revenu du monde agricole, dans la majeure partie des pays en développement, les rend inaccessibles, celui-ci étant le solde d'opérations de plus en plus déterminées par les lois du marché.

Le Maroc accorde à l'agriculture toute la priorité qu'elle mérite dans ses plans de développement sachant que 50 pour cent de la population est rurale et que, sur 70 millions d'hectares de superficie globale, la surface

arable est de près de 10 pour cent. En dépit des énormes efforts consentis pour améliorer la production et la productivité, mon pays reste déficitaire en matière de céréales, d'huiles alimentaires et de sucre. La sécheresse et la désertification, les catastrophes naturelles et l'invasion acridienne constituent en fait des obstacles majeurs qui limitent sensiblement l'effet de notre action. En effet, l'avènement de la sécheresse, depuis le début des années 80, a lourdement pesé sur l'effort consenti jusqu'à maintenant. Je me contenterai de vous dire qu'au cours de la campagne 1994-95, la production de céréales a chuté de près de 65 pour cent par rapport à la campagne précédente, et le niveau de retenue des barrages n'est actuellement que de 30 pour cent de son niveau moyen.

Pour faire face à cette situation due aux aléas climatiques, le Maroc a pris plusieurs mesures dont, notamment, l'instauration de l'assurance agricole pour sécuriser les investissements en agriculture, précisément, les céréales, le lancement du Programme national de sauvegarde du cheptel associé aux aides qui sont accordées dans le cadre du fonds de développement agricole, la création d'un fonds de lutte contre les calamités naturelles, la priorité accordée, dans les zones irriguées, à la multiplication des semences afin de préserver les ressources génétiques adaptées aux conditions agro-climatiques du Maroc, et l'organisation, en septembre dernier, d'un référendum national visant l'amendement de la Constitution de manière à ce que la période d'adoption du budget annuel soit reportée de janvier à juillet de chaque année afin de prendre en considération les résultats de la campagne agricole.

Avec le lancement du Programme d'ajustement structurel depuis le début des années 80, le Maroc a opté pour la libéralisation de son économie et, dans ce cadre, les programmes de libéralisation, qui ont entraîné un changement profond des structures de production et de commercialisation, se sont concrétisés par la libéralisation des échanges extérieurs et l'adoption, en 1993, de la loi sur le commerce extérieur, la libéralisation des prix des intrants et les facteurs de production, la privatisation en cours, des établissements publics, et le désengagement de l'Etat des actions de prestation de service.

Ces différentes actions constituent le prélude pour garantir les engagements du Maroc dans le cadre de l'accord de l'Uruguay Round, dont mon pays a eu l'honneur et le privilège d'abriter la cérémonie de signature de l'accord final à Marrakech, l'an dernier.

Aussi, conscient du fait que l'ouverture des marchés extérieurs aura des répercussions importantes sur l'outil de production agricole dans la majorité des pays en développement, particulièrement dans les zones où les faibles potentialités ne les prédestinent pas à une bonne résistance sur le terrain de la compétition ouverte, le Maroc a déjà procédé à la libéralisation de la majorité des produits agricoles, et un calendrier pour libérer des produits sensibles tels que les céréales, les huiles alimentaires et le sucre, a également été arrêté pour 1996.

Par ailleurs, et en vue d'assurer la loyauté et la transparence dans les échanges internationaux, le Maroc est l'un des premiers pays à avoir adopté des normes en la matière depuis 1945, et un texte de loi visant à compléter cette mesure vient d'être adopté pour généraliser la normalisation à l'échelle de tous les produits, y compris ceux qui sont destinés au marché intérieur.

Je ne saurais vous parler de l'importance que revêt l'action de la FAO pour nos pays et du rôle futur qu'elle est appelée à jouer en vue d'aider nos pays à se préparer pour affronter le 21ème siècle. A ce sujet, mon pays qui a suivi et appuyé les réformes entamées par le Directeur général, attache une grande importance aux deux programmes spéciaux de sécurité alimentaire et de lutte contre les ravageurs et maladies transfrontières (EMPRES).

Au sujet du Programme EMPRES, ma délégation lance un appel à la communauté des donateurs afin d'apporter le soutien nécessaire à la bonne réalisation de ce programme et souhaite qu'il soit étendu à la région de l'Afrique du Nord et de l'Ouest en raison de la menace permanente que représente l'invasion acridienne dans les pays de cette région.

Ma délégation attend beaucoup du Sommet sur la sécurité alimentaire et souhaite que le Plan d'action qui en découlera permettra à la FAO, avec l'appui de la communauté internationale, de s'atteler à atteindre l'objectif de l'éradication de la faim, lié à l'objectif final qu'est la sécurité alimentaire.

Aussi, ma délégation approuve-t-elle les grandes priorités retenues dans le cadre du Programme de travail et budget pour 1996-97 et souhaite que tous les pays appuient le budget proposé. Nous estimons, à cet égard, qu'afin de permettre à la FAO de réaliser ses objectifs et de mener à bien la série de réformes déjà entamées,

il faudra lui donner les moyens financiers nécessaires sachant que le budget pour l'exercice prochain a été établi sur une base qui tient compte de la conjoncture économique de la plupart des Etats Membres, à savoir, une croissance réelle zéro.

Björn SIGURBJÖRSSON (Iceland): It may sound like a paradox that in my country, Iceland, which is located in the far north - in the cold North Atlantic region - that our main agricultural problems these days are overproduction and how to deal with surplus food.

Our farmers, who must live with average temperatures of ten degrees during the growing season and think fifteen degrees is a luxury, find it hard to believe when I tell them that people in warmer climates where fruits actually grow on trees - an unknown phenomenon in Iceland - are suffering from lack of food and actually are starving.

During the recent ministers' meeting on food security in Quebec and at this conference here in Rome it is safe to say that at least every second speaker has referred to the fact that 800 million people, including 200 million children, go hungry to bed every night.

They have usually also quoted one FAO manifesto or another announcing action to eradicate hunger from the world, actually one of the platforms of FAO at its founding fifty years ago. Freedom from Hunger. Food Security for All.

At the Vienna Conference on human rights a few years ago, FAO added yet another right for humankind - the Right to Food - and on Saturday we saw a video film of Henry Kissinger announcing at the Rome World Food Conference in 1974 that all hunger should be eradicated within a decade. We should not allow any man, woman or child to go hungry to bed after the decade.

On the other hand, I did not hear one delegate either in Quebec or here in Rome actually say that hunger should be eradicated from the world within a specific time limit.

Is it because we do not know the size of the problem or do not have the knowledge or the means to do it?

Since we seem to know the exact number of the starving in the order of 780 to 800 million, we must know where they are and how we are to bring them food or teach them how to produce it.

Our agronomic knowledge and technology would enable the doubling of yields in most of the regions affected, more than enough to feed all the hungry. We have also heard that there is actually enough food available in the world, if only the hungry had access to it. But how much does this cost? Could we agree that as a minimum it would cost one dollar a day per person to either bring the calorie intake of these people up to 2 500 per day together with the necessary vitamins and minerals, or as an investment to bring up local food production?

Either way this would cost some US\$8 000 million per day, US\$24 billion per month and US\$288 billion per year, almost US\$300 billion per year.

Let us look at another situation only a few years ago. A few countries perceived that the stability in the Gulf region had been upset. They quickly mobilized their forces, collected a few hundred million dollars and restored stability in the Gulf.

Are we willing to start an operation - not Desert Storm but rather Food Storm - of Hunger Eradication at the cost of US\$300 billion per year, or does the hunger situation not upset the stability in the world sufficiently to warrant decisive action?

Is it really true, and should one take it seriously, that the whole global forum of agricultural leaders gathered here in Rome is arguing over whether the budget of the only global forum for food and agriculture, FAO, should be US\$600 or US\$700 million for the biennium? Not even one dollar for each starving human being.

In their 50th Anniversary statement to the United Nations the Prime Ministers of the five Nordic countries declared their firm conviction that the world needs a strong and effective global and multilateral system. The Nordic countries have backed up their conviction by Nordic taxpayers paying five times the OECD average to the United Nations System. To paraphrase their statements, we cannot allow FAO to go limping into the next fifty years and expect it to carry out its global responsibilities with its back broken.

FAO is no better and no worse than we, the membership, want it to be. We elect its Director-General to carry out our wishes. The Secretariat, derived from citizens of our countries, draws up the programme and budget proposals and we, representing the owners of FAO, approve the final proposals.

It is surely below the dignity of the Member States to use budget costs as a punishment or a sign of dissatisfaction. In our numerous governing bodies - the various committees, the Council, the Conference and through the Permanent Representations - we have enough opportunity to influence and decide on the course of action to be taken in this Organization.

As the Nordic Prime Ministers concluded: "It is we, not anyone else, who must take responsibility for the United Nations."

We are now preparing for the World Food Summit in 1996. What message are we going to give to the world's heads of state?

We have an obligation as world leaders for food and agricultural matters to inform the assembled heads of state at the World Food Summit here in Rome of the tragic situation we face with hungry masses in our midst, the cost of eradicating this shame and to propose a set of priorities for an agenda of global action to actually eradicate hunger from the world.

Robert SAGNA (Sénégal): Le destin cruel a voulu que le Ministre iraquien, le général Khalid Abdul Moneem Rasheed, soit appelé à Dieu, ici à Rome, le 21 octobre 1995, alors qu'il conduisait la délégation de son pays à notre Conférence.

Aussi, voudrais-je, en présentant les condoléances du Gouvernement du Sénégal et de l'ensemble du peuple sénégalais, former le voeu que sa disparition regrettable guide nos pas dans la voie de la solidarité afin que nos décisions servent utilement les grandes causes de l'humanité.

A l'occasion de notre brillante élection à la présidence de notre réunion, il m'est particulièrement agréable au nom de la délégation sénégalaise et au mien propre, de vous adresser nos chaleureuses et sincères félicitations auxquelles sont associés les autres membres du Bureau.

Aux cinq nouveaux membres de notre Organisation, j'adresse également mes chaleureuses félicitations en les assurant de la constante détermination de la délégation sénégalaise à coopérer étroitement avec chacune des délégations respectives.

Le plaisir que j'ai de m'adresser à cette auguste assemblée pour parler de l'état de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture dans le monde est d'autant plus grand qu'au Sénégal nous rêvons d'un monde meilleur. Plus simplement, nous projetons sur le futur un regard serein, nourri à la sève de la foi en la capacité de l'humanité à éteindre dans un élan solidaire et équitable, la soif de mieux être qui s'exprime à travers le village planétaire auquel le monde d'aujourd'hui aspire profondément.

Ce rêve se justifie de plus en plus par les lueurs persistantes d'espoir pour l'instauration de la paix qui s'allume dans la plupart des pays.

Ces avancées politiques significatives sont confortées sur le plan économique par une plus grande détermination des pays du monde à abolir les obstacles à une circulation plus grande des biens à travers la planète. Elles sont également renforcées par une plus grande disponibilité à s'asseoir autour d'une table pour s'entretenir de questions aussi vitales que celles concernant la nutrition, l'environnement, le développement social et la situation des femmes.

Il est cependant paradoxal qu'au même moment des compartiments entiers de l'humanité se trouvent encore confrontés avec une dégradation réelle de leurs conditions d'existence.

En effet, l'objectif fixé par la Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation organisée en 1974 d'éliminer la faim et la malnutrition au cours de la décennie suivante est loin d'être atteint. En effet 800 millions d'hommes et de femmes connaissent aux côtés de 192 millions d'enfants une carence aiguë, voire chronique, en protéines et en calories.

Qui plus est, la malnutrition et la pauvreté coexistent toujours avec les excédents vivriers et l'abondance dans un monde où pourtant la science et la technologie ont enregistré d'importants progrès.

Fait encore plus inquiétant, dans le même temps, l'aide bilatérale et multilatérale, accordée à l'agriculture des pays en développement est en régression constante tandis que la part de l'agriculture dans l'aide totale au développement a été ramenée de 20 à 14 pour cent de 1980 à 1990.

De tout ce qui précède, il résulte qu'au vu des tendances actuelles de l'évolution démographique, si aucune mesure concrète n'était prise, le nombre de personnes souffrant de sous-alimentation chronique notamment en Afrique subsaharienne pourrait atteindre 300 millions en l'an 2010, soit près de la moitié du tiers monde. C'est comme pour conjurer cette perspective inacceptable pour l'humanité que nous venons de célébrer, avec une grande conviction politique, à Québec, le cinquantième anniversaire de la FAO.

Au cours de cet événement historique, nous avons souligné la nécessité, pour la communauté internationale, de prendre davantage conscience de ses responsabilités et d'oeuvrer à l'instauration d'un nouvel ordre mondial plus juste et plus humain dans un esprit exemplaire de coopération et de solidarité.

Dans cette perspective qui doit être le credo de notre réflexion au cours de cette session, nous devons admettre, avec ses fondateurs, que la FAO est un outil irremplaçable qui mérite d'être soutenu et aidé dans l'accomplissement de sa noble mission.

En adhérant complètement à cette démarche, la délégation sénégalaise est profondément convaincue que nous devons apporter notre total soutien aux programmes élaborés par la FAO ainsi qu'au niveau raisonnable de ressources proposées à cet effet.

Cependant, laissez-moi par ailleurs vous dire que le Gouvernement du Sénégal a élaboré, à diverses reprises des plans spécifiques visant à enrayer la dégradation du déficit céréalier et à améliorer la sécurité alimentaire. Le dernier en date est le Plan céréalier de 1984.

La Déclaration de politique de développement agricole de 1994, qui vient de recevoir l'approbation du Conseil d'administration de la Banque mondiale, prévoit l'élaboration d'un nouveau plan qui se fixerait un objectif de 60 pour cent de couverture alimentaire pour l'an 2000. Les grandes lignes de la stratégie sont les suivantes: la sécurisation et l'accroissement de la culture irriguée du riz et l'intensification des céréales pluviales; la mise au point et la vulgarisation de technologies améliorées pour accroître les rendements et la productivité; la mise en place d'un véritable partenariat entre la recherche, la vulgarisation et les organisations socio-professionnelles pour accélérer le processus de mise au point et l'adoption de technologies améliorées; la promotion et la transformation artisanale et industrielle des céréales locales; une politique libérale et incitative pour tous les acteurs économiques afin d'améliorer la réponse à la demande; enfin, une coordination de la politique céréalière associant l'Etat, les organisations socio-professionnelles et les partenaires au développement.

La mise en oeuvre de ces différentes stratégies donne déjà des résultats encourageants ayant permis la conclusion d'accords importants entre le Sénégal et ses partenaires. Dans ce cadre, le Programme d'investissement du secteur agricole, dont le volet sécurité alimentaire constitue une composante majeure, met un accent particulier sur la coopération sous-régionale et régionale.

La lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition dans le monde doit demeurer notre préoccupation essentielle, tant il est vrai qu'il n'y aura de paix et de sécurité internationales sans une politique cohérente et équilibrée de développement profitable à toutes les composantes de l'humanité.

La sécurité alimentaire, garante de la paix et de la sécurité, passe nécessairement par les étapes incontournables que sont la croissance économique, l'amélioration de la production agricole et l'accès de tous aux denrées alimentaires de première nécessité.

Cette conviction de la délégation sénégalaise l'amène non seulement à apporter tout son soutien à la FAO, mais aussi à encourager l'heureuse initiative de son Directeur général de convoquer, en 1996, un Sommet mondial de l'alimentation.

Concernant plus précisément le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, je suis d'accord avec un éminent Chef d'Etat d'une grande puissance pour dire, à l'image de la CNUED, de la Conférence de Vienne sur les Droits de l'homme, de la Conférence du Caire sur la population et le développement, du Sommet social et de la Conférence mondiale sur les femmes, que de telles rencontres qui constituent le meilleur don des Nations Unies au cours de ces dernières années permettent de mieux connaître les grands enjeux et défis du monde, en vue de trouver les meilleures solutions possibles.

Dans cette perspective, la délégation sénégalaise souhaite que le Programme de travail et budget pour l'exercice 1996/97 de la FAO présenté par le Directeur général soit adopté, car il est réaliste et offre à la communauté internationale, l'occasion de prouver sa bonne foi et sa sincère volonté d'aider les populations les plus déshéritées du monde à satisfaire leurs besoins les plus élémentaires.

En appuyant la déclaration faite dans ce sens, au nom du groupe africain, par le Ministre de l'agriculture du Gabon, je tiens à souligner, avec lui, que la paix et la sécurité internationales sont à ce seul prix.

Je comprends qu'aujourd'hui les difficultés connues par la plupart des pays soient telles que les programmes doivent être réajustés et s'il est important que les aides soient mieux coordonnées, certes, nous ne saurions conjurer les efforts des hommes et détruire les succès futurs. Une plus grande coopération et une plus grande solidarité s'imposent à ce niveau-là.

Je voudrais au passage remercier et féliciter le Directeur général qui a entrepris un périple pour saluer l'ensemble des efforts des pays africains et également des autres pays du monde pour enrayer la faim et la malnutrition.

Pour terminer, Monsieur le Président, je voudrais formuler le voeu que la sérénité, l'objectivité et l'esprit de dépassement marquent le déroulement des travaux de cette session, afin que la FAO soit renforcée et mieux soutenue dans ses efforts visant à la création de conditions favorables à un développement agricole durable et à l'amélioration de la situation alimentaire dans le monde.

Pour toutes ces raisons, notre délégation réitère son appel à toutes les délégations ici présentes pour que, dans un élan de solidarité, elles s'engagent à appuyer les louables efforts du Directeur général et à permettre à la FAO de s'acquitter convenablement de sa noble et importante mission.

Notre devoir moral est non seulement de rassurer des millions de personnes victimes de la faim et de la malnutrition mais aussi de nous inspirer de la sagesse humaine pour qu'à travers le monde coule un fleuve de lait où toutes les populations pourront s'abreuver en savourant les avantages de la paix, de la sécurité et donc le goût de la vie.

CHAIRMAN: Malta has informed me that the delegation would like to deposit their country's statement, which was going to be made by the Minister of Agriculture of Malta today. The Secretariat are agreeable that this statement can be included in the Verbatim Record of the Conference. The Statements of Eritrea and the Cook Islands will also be inserted in the Verbatim Record.

Censu GALEA (Malta): Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, I should like first of all to extend to you my warmest congratulations on your election to your high office at this important Session of the Conference, which follows immediately upon the conclusion of the meetings in Quebec commemorating FAO's Fiftieth Anniversary. My congratulations go also to the Vice-Chairmen.



Next, and before I proceed further, I wish to join previous speakers in offering our condolences to the Iraqi Government on the untimely death of the Iraqi Minister of Agriculture. Our deepest sympathy goes also to the Minister's family.

The current state of food and agriculture calls for adjustments in the plans of most governments and regional economic organizations, which often entail curtailment of expenditure on food and agriculture. However, today, perhaps more than ever before, agriculture needs the allocation of more resources. Four factors are as a rule indicated as exerting a major impact on the agricultural and rural sector. These are: (i) the need to take increasingly into account sustainability and environmental considerations in food and agricultural production and processing systems; (ii) the promotion of regional and sub-regional integration processes; (iii) the implementation of the GATT Uruguay Round Final Agreement, and (iv) the introduction of structural changes in the sector. All these factors call for a substantial increase in investments in the sector as well as a measure of support for disadvantaged areas. These issues and their particular relevance to the European Region were addressed during the 28th and 29th Sessions of the European Commission on Agriculture in Malta and Slovenia respectively and were also subject of debate during the 19th FAO Regional Conference for Europe in Killarney, Ireland in 1994. Malta has a special interest in these issues.

You are doubtless aware of the unique and unprecedented situation in the EU grain market that is now making a direct impact on the world's grain market. For almost the first time since the conception of the Common Agricultural Policy, world market prices are higher than EU support prices and the EU is exporting grain without export refunds. Malta is a traditional importer of the EU grain and the impact of this situation is very serious indeed. The substantial increases in the prices of grain on the world market would have unprecedented repercussions on the Maltese economy. The inflationary effect could render both the tourist industry and Malta's industrial base uncompetitive. High import costs of grain would also contribute towards the worsening of the country's balance of payments. High grain prices would have significant detrimental effect on the livestock sector, whose viability depended on relatively low grain prices. So far the Government has been able to cushion the impact of the current grain situation through the operation of a price stabilization fund which was being dismantled in order to induce a more market-oriented industry. The re-introduction of consumer subsidies would cause a serious budgetary deficit and could divert public funds from the much needed investments in infrastructural development. The small size of the islands prevents the production of grain locally. The poor United States' wheat harvest, Russia's worst harvest for 30 years and the significant long-term growth in demand from China and Southeast Asia suggest an impending world shortage of grain.

It appears that, as a matter of urgency, grain-producing countries should endeavour to adapt their policy reforms to the new situation that has arisen, taking into consideration the needs of grain-importing countries, in order to enable a gradual transition from a dependency on relatively low grain prices to higher market-oriented prices.

In 1994, Malta signed the GATT Uruguay Round Agreement, becoming an inaugural member of the World Trade Organization. As from 1 January of this year Malta removed all quantitative barriers to trade in agricultural products, retaining however a number of protective tariffs in order to restrict as far as possible the dumping of agricultural produce, surplus to the requirements of the exporting countries at very low prices. Considering Malta's small size, the market can be very easily flooded, resulting not only in severe hardship on the farmers but may also lead to waste. It is with this in mind that Malta retained relatively high import levies on a few items of produce that are important for Maltese agriculture. Any further dismantling of protection would have a significant negative effect both on the agricultural sector and the landscape, which is Malta's main asset and which attracts a significant number of tourists to the island.

The Government is still deliberating in order to find an appropriate balance between a transitional protection of our domestic agricultural sector and its adjustment to international competition. We have already moved away from trade barriers to the support of our farmers by introducing a number of fiscal incentives. For example, the Government refunds full-time farmers 50 percent of their social security contributions. We are currently considering further fiscal concessions specifically designed to support the income of farmers and fishermen. Malta has introduced Value Added Tax this year. Special care has been taken in order not to adversely affect food production. Food is not subject to VAT while farmers receive a refund on all VAT paid by them on the inputs required.

It is widely recognized today that agriculture does not only have an economic function but also others impose. Social and ecological services will only be delivered if farmers and fishermen earn income comparable with

other sectors and population groups. In our community, these non-production functions of the agricultural sector assume a very important dimension. Unlimited free trade in agriculture may be harmful not only due to distorting dumping practices but also due to difference in ecological and health standards. In this connection Malta supports the adoption of the draft decision on phytosanitary standards as proposed by the Council. More harmonized international standards for phytosanitary measures would contribute towards trading patterns which would not be distorted through unreasonable measures that may be adopted and at the same time would offer sufficient protection against the introduction of pests and diseases in importing countries.

While we agree that, in principle, state intervention in the agricultural sector should be reduced as far as possible, in certain circumstances, such as in the guaranteeing of sufficient supplies of inputs of the right quality and at the right price, some state intervention may be justified. Farmers have little possibility to influence prices. They can only react to prices both for inputs as well as for outputs. An alternative to state intervention would be the strengthening of producers' organizations. Such organizations however still need the support and encouragement of governments. It is perhaps in this field that international organizations could in the immediate future develop policies and guidelines. The role of producers' organizations cannot be looked at solely as the creation of countervailing powers for the producers but also as the prime actors for such necessary activities as research and extension.

Regional integration processes offer possibilities for rapid introduction of new technologies in the agricultural sector that would speed up the structural adjustments that would be required. However such process must take into account the need to adopt differentiated solutions corresponding to the specific conditions of each country. My Government, like all governments, is duty bound to provide food security. In our country's circumstances this cannot be achieved without the cooperation of other countries. World food security cannot be achieved without the cooperation of all countries and world food security is essential for worldwide peace and justice and for the development of all peoples. It is in this perspective as well as that I express my country's support for the Director-General's timely initiative to propose the World Food Summit. It is extremely important that heads of state and government get together to deliberate on a Plan of Action on Universal Food Security and to relate it to the challenges facing their own countries in respect of the implementation of internal agricultural policy measures.

I also wish to commend FAO for completing the elaboration of the Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries, which we are to adopt at this Session. The Code will, I am sure, be a determining factor in furthering the proper management of the world's fishery resources, and thus contribute in no small measure to global food security.

Finally, Mr Chairman, we would like to encourage the Director-General in the implementation of his Programme for the next biennium, and we trust that FAO will be assured the means to fulfil its mandate as reaffirmed in the Quebec Declaration.<sup>1</sup>

Tesfai GHERMAZIEN (Eritrea): Allow me at the outset to express my desire for a fruitful and successful Twenty-eighth Session of the FAO Conference. I further wish the delegates to seriously deliberate the Session's agenda items and come out with decisions that will enhance food security and nutrition.

The Conference is taking place at a time when world population is sky-rocketing but unfortunately the production of food is not increasing in the same proportion. Thus, the magnitude of the task that FAO or this assembly is currently facing as a leading world body to see that all human beings are fed properly is immense, to say the least. This enormous responsibility of feeding the population of the world certainly demands sincere and critical thinking, and commitment of all developed and developing countries not only in terms of food production but also in terms of controlling population growth.

Mr Chairman, in our part of the world, the IGADD Region, we are endeavouring to promote peace and stability for it is a prerequisite for any economic development in the area. Our heads of state have envisaged that the region could tremendously benefit from the cooperation in the areas of agriculture and environment, economic cooperation in general, and in conflict resolution and management. It is the belief of the Member States, provided this cooperation is consummated, that food security and the environmental situation will

---

<sup>1</sup> Statement inserted in the Verbatim records on request.

improve; communication, transportation, trade, etc., will be enhanced; and conflict and its consequence will at least be diminished. Thus, the strive to achieve regional cooperation is progressing well.

Mr Chairman, if we look at Eritrea, when the country was totally liberated in May 1991, the scene in front of the Eritrean Government was, to say the least, disastrous. The population was totally dependent on food aid; the land was hopelessly degraded; peasant and commercial farms were abandoned; infrastructure decimated; and institutions were non-functioning. In short the picture was dismal. Today, in Eritrea, due to efforts exerted during the last four years of independence, although there is much more left to be done, the food situation is improving; vegetative cover of the land is regenerating at a fast rate; institutions are established and some are in the process; and communications, transportation and infrastructures are exhibiting marked transformations.

In the agricultural sector particularly, most of the programmes are internally funded. The soil and water, afforestation, animal health and production, and research and extension services are progressing well. Additionally, in collaboration with FAO, an agricultural sector review was completed; a vegetable and natural resources development project was completed waiting for funding; and project documentation for a national livestock programme is underway. Further, an IFAD-funded Wadi Development Project is under implementation. Capacity building projects funded by NORAD, FAO-Italy Technical Panel, and other projects assisted by DANIDA, NGOs and other donors are also underway. Mr Chairman, allow me to use this occasion to express my gratitude to FAO and to all donors who came to our assistance.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, if I may, I wish to suggest that we cease hearing statements from member countries during this Conference. Instead, statements could be presented on a regional or sub-regional level in a pertinent and relevant manner. This change will enable us to devote more time to deliberate on issues that can make a difference in our world, consequently, make the Conference more interesting. With this remark, Mr Chairman, again wishing this Conference a success I conclude my speech and thank you.<sup>2</sup>

Inatio AKARURU (Cook Islands): Mr Chairman, Mr Secretary-General, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

The Cook Islands is pleased to join with other members in commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization. Born in the ashes of World War II, FAO over the years has had many accomplishments of which it should be justly proud and which have made a lasting contribution to the betterment of the human condition.

Time constraints do not permit me, of course, to do more than touch upon one or two recent accomplishments that are of particular importance to the Cook Islands. As a small, developing island country in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, the protection of our fishery resources is of the utmost importance to us. We consider the code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries that will be adopted by this Conference to be a major accomplishment, and we congratulate the FAO Secretariat on its outstanding work in bringing the Code to fruition. Together with other international instruments, the Code can well make a significant contribution to the protection and sustainable development of the ocean's fisheries for the benefit of all mankind.

In this regard, and because of the importance of fishery resources as a source of food for a large portion of the world's population, particularly the peoples of the Pacific Ocean and other small island States, the Cook Islands associates itself fully with other FAO members in calling for an increased emphasis on sustainable fisheries management in the Organization's work programme.

The Cook Islands also fully supports FAO's focus on world food security in all of its aspects. Last month, Heads of State and Government of the 16 Member States of the South Pacific Forum, including the Cook Islands, met in Papua New Guinea to discuss the theme "Securing Development Beyond 2000" in its various modalities, including food security. Among the decisions taken, regional leaders lent their formal support for the World Food Summit to be convened by FAO next year. We look forward to participating actively in both preparations for the Summit as well as in the Summit itself, with a view to ensuring food security both in the island countries and territories of the Pacific as well as in the world as a whole. Given the very scarce

---

<sup>2</sup> Statement inserted in the Verbatim records on request.

resources that we will need to dedicate to our own national preparations for the Summit as well as in participating in the deliberations themselves, we urge all concerned to make every effort to ensure that the outcomes of the Summit are not just simply hollow victories and declarations the product of talk fests which are quickly forgotten or ignored but rather are realistic, positive results which will contribute to a genuine improvement in world food security. The Cook Islands will play its full role in that task.

The Forum of Leaders to which I referred just now, in fact, paid considerable attention during their discussions to the place of agriculture, including fisheries, in the future development of the Pacific region. The Forum supported a number of national policy measures and regionally-based activities which would contribute to the aim of Securing Development Beyond 2000. These included:

"Recognizing the valuable contribution of the agricultural sector to domestic food security, export development, incomes and employment and the need for positive measures in support of agricultural development, including minimizing price distortions and promoting agricultural research and information dissemination, for both marketable and subsistence crops."

Measures such as those just mentioned, our leaders have decided, are to be taken with a view to realizing a "Vision" for enhancing regional cooperation for the next 25 years. That vision articulated by Pacific leaders included a future in which

"Resources, including fisheries, forestry,... water and land, are developed with proper regard for conservation, the legacy of past generations and the future;" and "International economic cooperation through trade, investment and other exchanges, strengthens subsistence and commercial agriculture, industrial development and competition, leading to growth - with equity, broadly-based participation and capacity building for self-reliance. "

Those measures to be adopted both at the national and regional levels - as well as the Forum's Vision of the Future - are, of course, fully consistent with the overall and sectoral mandates of this Organization, and the Cook Islands urges the FAO to seek ways in which it can make a significant contribution to securing Pacific development beyond 2000. That contribution, we would stress, could be realized most cost-effectively in many cases by the Organization working in partnership with the South Pacific family of intergovernmental organizations, including Islands Development Program at the East-West Centre in Hawaii, the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme and the region's University of the South Pacific headquartered in Fiji and with its Agricultural College in Western Samoa.

In the remaining time available, I would like to offer some comments on agriculture, fisheries and related activities from the Cook Islands' national perspective, as well as administrative developments within FAO.

Much work has been done within the Cook Islands in recent years to develop the agricultural sector. In 1993, for example a comprehensive agricultural policy was adopted by the Government, based on an assessment that the general picture was one of much opportunity and substantial potential for growth in agricultural output, linked in large part to the burgeoning tourism industry. Two of the basic ingredients for agricultural output and increased production - land and water - were both available, and agricultural activity could be stimulated by bringing unused land under cultivation, increasing irrigation and fertilizer use, and convincing farmers that they stood to gain by doing so.

Numerous steps have already been taken to implement that policy. Tax concessions for example, have encouraged many Cook Islanders, especially on the main island, Rarotonga, to take an increasingly active role in commercial agriculture. This has served to promote closer linkages between producers and the tourism industry. The Government has also established an attractive marketplace in the main urban area to which consumers are naturally and where any producer can sell his products conveniently and without undue constraints.

With the establishment of that market it has become increasingly noticeable to all concerned that women play a major role in the marketing of agricultural produce. In fact, of course, women have also traditionally played a fundamental part in food production throughout the Cook Islands. Their contributions have been recognized by the Government which is formulating plans to assist them in deriving even greater benefits from their efforts than they have to date.

Cook Islanders, like most other Pacific Islanders, have a great attachment to their land, not only as a source of wealth but also as the basis of their cultural identity and history. It is impossible to buy land in the country, although parcels may be leased for up to 60 years for commercial ventures or house sites. This situation has sometimes posed obstacles to the freeing up of land for agricultural purposes, particularly for those Outer Islanders migrating to the main island, Rarotonga, to seek employment. Often lacking inherited rights to land on the main island, they can be precluded from diversifying into agricultural production through lack of access to even unused land on the Rarotonga. To examine these and other land-related problems, the Government has recently established a Commission of Inquiry, which will report on its investigations and hopefully propose broadly-acceptable solutions to current problems, including the freeing-up of more good agricultural land for production.

Historically, the greatest and most secure employment opportunities in the Cook Islands have been in the public sector. However, because of the limited ability of that sector to expand, employment opportunities must be created in the private sector, particularly agriculture and fisheries and in the Outer Islands, not only for new entrants into the labour force but also to reduce the size of the current public service. To accomplish the latter, a comprehensive public sector reform programme is now being implemented, which includes the formulation of plans to encourage public servants to move into agricultural and fishery pursuits that offer promising prospects of good remuneration. Although the process of transforming the Cook Islands' economic will be painful, difficult, time-consuming and require the taking of hard decisions, we are confident that we are on the right path and one of the benefits will be enhanced opportunities and production in both agriculture and fisheries.

In the latter regard, may I close by saying that, like the Cook Islands, FAO faces severe resource constraints and problems to be overcome in its own reform process and day-to-day operations. My Government is very pleased with the promising changes effected by the Director-General in the organization and operation of FAO as highlighted in his Statement to this Conference. That being said, it is essential that the momentum be maintained throughout the next biennium, with activities being pursued only on the basis of objective needs and priorities as articulated by this Conference and the Council and staffing appointments being made only on the basis of qualifications and the assessed, objective contributions of appointees to the work of the FAO.

The Cook Islands congratulates the Secretariat on its work over the past two years and wishes FAO continuing progress in the years to come. My Government looks forward to working with the Secretariat towards that end.

Thank you.<sup>3</sup>

V.A. ZVEZDIN (Russian Federation): Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, my delegation joins other speakers who have expressed their condolences to the delegation of Iraq.

May I also congratulate you, Mr Chairman, and all the participants of this Conference on the 50th anniversary of the Organization. In those five decades FAO has done a significant amount of work to achieve noble goals, yet a lot more has to be done.

Like many other countries, Russia shares the concern about the world food security situation, especially with the decrease in world grain production and stocks. At the same time we fully agree with the forecast contained in the Medium-term Plan prepared by the Secretariat that the group of countries of Central and Eastern Europe and of the former USSR by the year 2010 will become a negligible importer of grain, and even a net exporter. We express our confidence that successful implementation of agrarian reform in Russia will allow it to ensure self-reliance in food production and to become a grain exporter even earlier. It is our hope that the forthcoming World Food Summit will become a key event at the highest political level, and lay a sound basis for consensus to achieve lasting food security for all. This Summit is another step in the row of major United Nations conferences on all cross-sectoral issues held in recent years.

The achievement of food security is seen as an integral component of a sustainable development concept. The forthcoming Summit should be of a universal nature and decisions adopted should take fully into account

---

<sup>3</sup> Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

decisions adopted at preceding UN fora. The specific needs of all groups of countries, including economies in transition, should be reflected in the outcome of the Summit. Russia is in favour of speeding up the process of preparation of the Draft Declaration and Plan of Action on Universal Food Security. It is certainly important to make full use of documents of a cross-sectoral nature and the expertise of other UN bodies and specialized agencies during the preparatory process.

Our delegation welcomes the proposal to broaden the mandate of the FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. We consider it necessary that decisions and relevant FAO documents on plant and animal genetic resources should comply with the Convention on Bio-Diversity, Article 15 of which provides that conditions to facilitate access to these resources should be created and that such access should be provided on a mutually agreed basis. Russia follows the work on updating the International Plant Protection Convention, and actively participates in it.

We also welcome the agreement reached on the Draft Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and hope that it will be adopted by this Conference.

The approval by the Conference on Guidelines for Pest Risk Analysis and Requirements for the Establishment of Pest-Free Areas, as well as the Code of Conduct for the Import and Release of Exotic Biological Control Agents, will be an important step in furthering useful international cooperation in these areas.

A new version of the Plan of Action on Integration of Women in Development pays due regard to the decisions of recent major UN conferences, in particular the conference in Beijing. We are glad to note that FAO is conducting many activities in support of women's participation in development.

Russia greatly appreciates the work of the World Food Programme in the field of food relief. We take this opportunity to express our Government's gratitude to the WFP, its Executive Director, Ms Catherine Bertini, and donor countries for the relief assistance to Russian citizens who suffered in connection with events in Chechnya, as well as for the readiness of the WFP to continue its emergency activities in that region of the Russian Federation. We also appreciate the WFP's assistance to a number of our partners in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

With regard to the item "Implementation of UNGA Resolutions 48/162 and 47/199: the transformation of the CFA into Executive Board and Revision of the General Regulations of WFP", we reiterate the position already clearly expressed on that issue on behalf of Eastern European States at the resumed organizational session of ECOSOC in New York on 6 June 1995.

We consider the decision on the allocation of seats to the regional groups to be a concession on the part of Eastern European states, made in a spirit of compromise and to reach a consensus, which would allow the reform of the Governing Body of WFP to be effective from 1 January 1996. We emphasize strongly the interim nature of that decision and we believe that provisions of ECOSOC and resolutions at this FAO Conference will ensure the reconstitution of seats in accordance with the original mandate of Resolution 48/162 by 1 January 2000. We reiterate that the above-mentioned allocation of seats creates no precedent for the composition of other UN bodies of limited membership.

Our delegation positively evaluates FAO activities in 1994-95. At the same time we share the opinion that its special programme to ensure food security for low-income food-deficit countries deserves more active efforts. We also express our satisfaction with the fact that the problems of countries in transition are on a priority list of FAO programmes.

The Russian delegation supports FAO's activities in Europe, including the ESCORENA network, and we believe that FAO and ECE would find common ground to renew the agricultural mandate of the ECE. We are sure that this Sub-Regional Bureau for the countries of Central and Eastern Europe will soon become operational.

Our country will continue to develop close cooperation with the Organization on advanced techniques and technology in such areas as the sustainable development of agriculture, forestry and fishery; new high-production plant varieties and animal breeds; food security; environmental protection, including cultivation and the rational management of land, water and forest resources, as well as plant and animal

genetic resources; plant protection; veterinary science; the development and improvement of information systems; the promotion of world trade, etc.

Russia, on its part, is prepared to intensify the use of its significant scientific and technological potential to assist FAO in achieving its goals. In order to fulfil these goals, FAO, as with other United Nations' specialized agencies, could pay more attention to improving the effectiveness of its delivery to the countries of the world. Allocating more resources to the Organization's core programmes would definitely pay off and raise the Organization's image in major donor countries.

We would also note here the need to provide to all members of the United Nations unimpeded access to FAO's documents and publications.

It is well-known that the former Soviet Union was one of the founders of FAO. We are glad to inform the participants of this Conference that Victor Chernomyrdin, Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation in his welcoming address to the FAO ministerial meeting on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Organization in Quebec expressed confidence that "Russia steadily following the path of democratic transformations will become a full member of that Organization in 1997".

Ms Teresa GUICCIARDI (Observer for the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions): The belief of a generation of financiers and right-wing politicians in the almost superhuman forces of the markets has benefited a few rich and has thrown innumerable people in developing and industrialized countries alike into misery. Development was not achieved by putting growth first, fair distribution later; the stop to inflation first, employment creation later; free trade now, industrialization later; or by advocating "buy now, pay later".

Structural adjustment programmes have produced very poor results in the food sector owing to their over-reliance on market liberalization. As in other areas of basic rights and needs, the complexity of food production and trade must be matched by responsible national and international policies. The Uruguay Round of GATT trade negotiations will push up food prices - a welcome result for producers but meaning that in the short-term food import bills will increase. This is a very serious problem, particularly for countries which are net food importers.

There are encouraging signs that these costly errors may be reversed. Priorities have been set right by the World Summit for Social Development earlier this year by calling for people-centred sustainable development. The governments of the world have recognized that economic progress has to be socially beneficial.

FAO has recently launched a Special Programme for Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries (LIFDCs) and in a year's time will be organizing the next and last of a series of summits - one on food security.

This Conference is also to adopt a Declaration on Food and Agriculture on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of FAO. The ICFTU feels it should emphasize - as FAO already has by introducing the special programme for LIFDCs - that equal priority must be given to domestic supply and international trade in agriculture. The Food Security Summit should also make such a commitment.

In line with the World Summit for Social Development, the FAO Summit should put in the centre of all policies for food security the people who produce food - farmers and agricultural workers. The vast majority of agricultural and plantation workers are on the bottom line: they feed the world but are the least able to afford to feed themselves. Focus must also be laid on the consumers who need access to food; for the greater part they are working people and their families. They have to be able to rely on safe employment and decent wages if they are to have access to food through purchasing power. This implies that they are free to form and join unions that conduct collective bargaining on their behalf.

Success can primarily be achieved by the political will based on national consensus and the participation of the people in the democratic, economic and social life of the country.

The partnership called for by the FAO and underpinned by the two action plans for the integration of women and for people's participation, must therefore be founded on governments' respect for freedom of association.

This is the basic pre-condition for representative and effective organizations, capable of contributing to development. In fact, the ICFTU trusts that at the Food Summit, just as at the World Summit, governments will again commit themselves to the basic rights and interests of workers according to relevant ILO Conventions. These would include Convention 87 concerning freedom of association, Convention 98 on free collective bargaining and particularly, in this instance, ILO Convention 141 of 1975, the Rural Workers' Organizations Convention. This specifically includes cooperatives, women's organizations and the self-employed. The Convention states that all categories of rural workers, whether wage earners or self-employed, shall have the right to establish and to join organizations of their own choosing; that the organizations "shall be independent and voluntary in character and shall remain free from all interference, coercion or repression"; and that the law of the land shall not be such as to impair these guarantees. It also requires that national policy shall aim to facilitate the establishment and growth of voluntary independent rural workers' organizations.

The ICFTU takes every opportunity to promote the Convention. We do so regularly at the FAO Conferences because many agricultural and plantation workers and their union representatives continue to have their rights denied. They are frequently persecuted and even killed. Food security will not exist as long as the security of the workers and small producers is not guaranteed and enforced by governments.

As stated earlier, there are encouraging changes of approach. The ICFTU, together with its affiliates at the national level, have consistently worked for the IMF and the World Bank to become more responsive to social needs in their programmes and to involve trade unions. For the first time, the World Development Report 1995, "Workers in an Integrated World", endorses the value of trade unions.

Even energetic efforts to alleviate poverty and to achieve food security will generate only slow results and two major problems will continue to grow: child labour and migration of people. The ICFTU appeals to you to give special attention - and also at the Food Summit - to those policies which would help eradicate the exploitation of child labour, and to those which give equal rights to migrant workers and their families.

G.S.T. MAGAZIRE (International Federation of Agricultural Producers): As the President of Zimbabwe Farmers' Union and Vice-President of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, Chairman of the Standing Committee of ACP Countries, Vice-Chairman of the African Committee in Agriculture and the representative of the Southern Africa farmers' unions, it gives me great pleasure to address the FAO Conference on behalf of the world's farmers.

Fifty years ago, world governments and farmers faced a great challenge. As the world emerged from the Second World War, there were serious fears of unstable food production and food shortages in the future. Bitter memories of the past were still alive. World governments, farmers and all related institutions came together with a unity of purpose. Food and agriculture became a high priority for the world. Those who joined hands succeeded, and even over-succeeded, in this challenge. Farmers' fields yielded more food than humanity had ever achieved before.

Today, the challenges we face in food and agriculture are no less than the challenges faced at that time. There are, however, far greater difficulties on our way. The first difficulty is the world's disinterest in food and agriculture. Sadly, food production today is taken for granted. Agriculture has fallen very low on the development agendas of the world. Even in the grand parade of world summits, food has unfortunately come last in the series. Even the development assistance going to Third World agriculture has fallen drastically - from 18 percent to a mere seven percent over the last decade - without provoking any outcry at all.

The second difficulty concerns the lack of unity of purpose between world governments, the United Nations institutions, and the world farms. Just as food production is taken for granted, those who produce it are also forgotten. Especially in the context of developing countries, neither farmers' representative organizations nor their important contribution to society are recognized.

Because of a lack of dialogue with farmers, the whole agricultural system is disjointed. Consultative mechanisms at all levels are weak and fragile, contrary to the climate which reigned in the immediate post-war period.



To succeed in the challenges of the next century, we must say to the world loud and clear: Do not take food production for granted. Do not take your farmers for granted. These are the two fundamental issues which will make the World Food Summit a true gateway for a better world.

In the previous summits our Federation has played a major role in ensuring due attention to agriculture, farmers, and farmers' organizations. At the Earth Summit of Rio, it was IFAP which ensured the inclusion of farmers in the greater group. At the Social Summit in Copenhagen, IFAP ensured recognition of farmers' organizations as one of the principle pillars of civic society, alongside employers' associations, trade unions, and cooperatives.

At the Women's Summit, FAO and IFAP ensured the emphasis on women's dialogue in agriculture, but the World Food Summit signifies an entirely different occasion. As world farmers, we shall treat it as such. Food is a special commodity grown by a special species of mankind in the world. These dedicated men and women will without doubt manage the population of the world only if the resources and tools of the trade are put to their disposal, i.e., land, water management, water conservation, finance which is affordable - affordable inputs, skills, training - and a free and fair world market. Governments and the international organizations must play their critical role of facilitating a supply of goods and services and creating an atmosphere conducive to encouraging enterprising activities. Farmers worldwide have a heavy responsibility to eradicate poverty and free people from hunger. The World Food Summit will succeed to the extent that we do not spend our time during the Summit debating as to who are farmers and which are farmers' organizations. Farmers fully accept their responsibility of growing food. We are partners, and therefore the World Food Summit is a welcome directive action and, indeed, we look at it as a prescription for future visions and missions.

Today, we have a real opportunity for ensuring the accordance of higher priority for food and agriculture. We have a real opportunity to restrengthen dialogue and partnerships between the governments, farmers, and United Nations institutions for achieving a true food security for generations to come. This will require the recognition of farmers' organizations at the highest echelons of the United Nations System. As partners in development and being in an economic sphere of division of labour and responsibility, constant consultation will bear handsome and positive results for our mutual benefit.

In many countries, particularly the developing countries in the world, more and more farmers' organizations are coming into being, consolidating their structures and, to the extent that they are recognized, working in harmony with their respective governments. It is this that the United Nations System should be in line with.

From the foregoing, Mr Chairman, it is only proper and, indeed, in our mutual interests to propose to FAO and the World Food Summit Secretariat that the declaration and plan of action for this Summit strongly recognize the existence of farmers' organizations. As farmers, we are particularly encouraged by the high level of commitment obtained from the Summit by heads of governments. We particularly wish that this valuable support and commitment continues during the phase of implementation. Farmers, through their worldwide organization IFAP, are currently discussing a new policy perspective for agricultural development. This new policy will be adopted in France in 1996. We believe these farmers' agendas for agricultural development will provide an important input from farmers into the UN World Food Summit in November 1996.

In conclusion I would like to reiterate that the World Food Summit is an historic opportunity to develop a new policy perspective for agricultural development. This new perspective for making progress in world food security commensurate with population growth will give a central role and more responsibility to farmers and farmers' organizations working as partners with governments and intergovernmental organizations. The opportunities of success appear real where the key objective is participatory development in rural areas. The skeletal challenges given to the farmers need to be heavily clothed. There must be a package portfolio for investment in people, water development, management, research, extension services, markets, inputs, information, infrastructure, and trust.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Representative of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers. I now call upon the last Speaker of the day, who is the Head of the International Cooperative Alliance.

Lino VISANI (Observateur de l'Alliance coopérative internationale): Monsieur le Président, Messieurs les délégués, cette année, à l'occasion du Centenaire de l'Alliance Coopérative internationale et de la Journée internationale de la coopération promue par les Nations Unies (que la FAO a voulu souligner par une belle affiche), le Congrès de l'ACI, qui s'est tenu à Manchester, a pris d'importantes décisions concernant les valeurs et les principes auxquels un mouvement coopératif libre et démocratique doit se conformer, compte tenu de l'époque actuelle. Le Congrès a aussi décidé de l'engagement de l'ensemble du mouvement coopératif mondial afin de devenir une force efficace du développement humain, dont les femmes sont une des composantes essentielles. Ces deux éléments doivent aller de pair face aux grands changements qui traversent la société mondiale et qui touchent les agriculteurs et le système agro-alimentaire, comme il est mentionné dans le document de la Conférence.

Pour la troisième fois, l'ACI a réexaminé les valeurs et les principes fondamentaux de la démocratie coopérative pour les adapter aux changements de la société.

Demandons-nous comment il est possible de s'opposer à la réduction des bases productives agricoles -surtout dans le tiers monde - au dépeuplement rural croissant et à l'émigration due à la dépendance alimentaire croissante et aux moyens techniques adaptés des pays en développement, à l'interdépendance et à la concentration du marché agro-alimentaire qui frappe également les soi-disantes agricultures riches.

Comment est-il possible de s'y opposer sans un mouvement coopératif fort et suffisamment structuré comme force d'entreprise libre vouée à l'élévation et à la participation sociale des agriculteurs et des travailleurs agricoles, surtout des plus faibles, comme le Congrès de l'ACI l'a proposé?

Ce sont les lignes directrices du Sommet mondial sur la sécurité alimentaire, auquel nous participerons, forts des 750 millions de membres, femmes et hommes, et des coopératives du monde entier. Nos membres représentent 20 pour cent de la population entre 15 et 60 ans des pays en développement, 39 pour cent des pays en transition, et 33 pour cent des pays industrialisés.

Le Centenaire de l'ACI n'a pas seulement été une célébration d'un passé glorieux mais aussi l'engagement de renouveler l'action coopérative pour un développement au niveau local et international qui soit plus juste et générateur de paix. Dans cet esprit, nous renouvelons notre proposition de collaboration avec la FAO pour que le système agro-alimentaire puisse devenir un facteur du développement global, équilibré et durable.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Representative of the International Cooperative Alliance. At this point all the statements of the member countries have been delivered, and the statements also of the non-member organizations - they have also been delivered.

Before I adjourn the 11th Plenary Meeting, I have an announcement to make: Eritrea requested that their statement be included in the records of the meeting, and they can do that.

The meeting rose at 11.15 hours.

La séance est levée à 11 h 15.

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.15 horas.

27 October 1995



منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

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

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

# CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Twenty-eighth Session • Vingt-huitième session • 28° período de sesiones

**TWELFTH PLENARY MEETING  
DOUZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
12ª SESION PLENARIA**

27 October 1995

**The Twelfth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.45 hours**

**Mr Costas Petrides,**

**Chairman of the Conference, presiding**

**La douzième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45**

**sous la présidence de M. Costas Petrides,**

**Président de la Conférence**

**Se abre la 12ª sesión plenaria a las 09.45 horas**

**bajo la presidencia del Sr. Costas Petrides,**

**Presidente de la Conferencia**

Adoption of Fourth Report of General Committee  
 Adoption du quatrième Rapport du Bureau  
 Aprobación del cuarto informe del Comité General

SECRETARY-GENERAL: May I invite the delegates to look at paragraphs 8 and 9 of document C 95/LIM/28. The information received by the General Committee this morning led it to recommend that Afghanistan and Cambodia, the Dominican Republic and Liberia be struck from paragraph 8 and added to paragraph 9. In the case of Cambodia and the Dominican Republic, please also add an asterix indicating that they have also proposed instalment plans. Accordingly paragraph 8 should read, in the second sentence "One Member Nation (Djibouti) has not requested restoration of voting rights or advised that payment was in process. Then paragraph 9 should be amended to read "Fifteen Member Nations had requested special consideration under Article III.4 of the Constitution, Permission to Vote". And as I said, to that list should be added Afghanistan, Cambodia, the Dominican Republic and Liberia.

In the same way, paragraph 10 should now read "The General Committee recommends to the Conference that the fifteen above-mentioned Member Nations be authorized to vote at the Conference".

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Secretary-General. I take it that we have noted the changes. Are there any comments or questions?

I will now put the question. Does the Conference adopt the Fourth Report of the General Committee printed in document C 95/LIM/28, as amended by the Secretary-General just now?

There being no objection, I declare this Report adopted.

Adopted  
 Adopté  
 Aprobado

Adoption of Third Report of Credentials Committee  
 Adoption du troisième Rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs  
 Aprobación del tercer informe del Comité de Credenciales

CHAIRMAN: We will now adopt the Third Report of the Credentials Committee as indicated in today's Order of the Day. May I ask the Chairman of the Committee to present his report?

Fotis G. POULIDES (Chairman, Credentials Committee): Third Report of the Credentials Committee: the Credentials Committee held its third meeting on 27 October 1995 at 9.15 hours to examine the additional credentials of delegation members and/or of representatives of international organizations to the 28th Session of the FAO Conference.

It is to be recalled that at the two previous meetings the Credentials Committee found valid the credentials of 149 delegations. In accordance with Rule III.2 of the General Rules of the Organization and the criteria established by previous committees, the Credentials Committee examined the credentials of delegation members of two Member Nations and of representatives of the participating international organizations, and found them to be valid.

The FAO members of the international organizations concerned are shown in the attached lists, Appendixes A and B. Seventeen Member Nations have not yet presented credentials to date; see also Appendix A. It is recalled that seven countries have announced that they will not attend this Session.

The Committee wished to recall satisfaction at the number of credentials deposited by Member Nations which had been signed by Heads of State or members of governments of the highest rank. I will read only the additional Member Nations whose delegations have presented credentials found to be in order: The Gambia and Mongolia, a total of two Member Nations.

The list of Member Nations which still have not deposited credentials is the same, the previous seventeen Member Nations. The list of the United Nations Specialized Agencies and related organizations whose delegations have presented credentials found to be in order is: the United Nations Organization, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Food Programme (WFP), and specialized agencies and related organizations are: the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ambassador Poulides.

Are there any comments on this report? As there are none, I take it that it is adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)

NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS (suite)

NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)

24. Election of Council Members

24. Election des membres du Conseil

24. Elección de miembros del Consejo

CHAIRMAN: We now pass to the first item of the Agenda, Item 24, the Election of Council members. The reference document is C95/LIM/18, the General Committee report that we had approved on 24 October. It lists the names of all nominations received for election to the Council. Paragraph 4 of that document refers to the nominations of Burundi and Gabon and, in particular, to the need for confirmation of these candidatures before the election on the morning of 27 October, in other words today.

Will the Secretary-General inform us of the situation, please?

SECRETARY-GENERAL: I have been informed that the necessary payments have been received from Gabon and therefore Gabon is eligible to stand for election to the Council. Unfortunately, the necessary payments have not been received from Burundi. Therefore Burundi is not eligible to stand for election to the Council and its name will be cancelled from the ballot papers that voters will be receiving.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr Zenny, for this information.

The nomination of Gabon is confirmed; that of Burundi is not valid. May ask whether any country wishes to speak in the light of the information we have just heard?

Teleki RAMOTSOARI (Lesotho): This is good news about Gabon. Therefore, Lesotho would like to withdraw its candidature for the Council.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Lesotho, for your statement which greatly facilitates the task of the voters.

Does any other country wish to withdraw its candidature? If not, I would like to request Mr Zenny to explain to us the procedure for these elections.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Mr Chairman, the Journal of the Conference for today includes on its front page a specimen ballot paper for the election of Council members with fictitious country names showing the manner in which the ballot papers, which will be distributed to you, are to be filled. The first phase will concern the election for those seats to be filled for the period November 1995 to 31 December 1998.

The Conference is requested to elect five Member Nations for Africa, three for Europe, five for Latin America and the Caribbean, two for the Near East and two for North America. For two regions, Asia and Southwest Pacific, there are no vacancies during this period.

We will conduct as many ballots as are necessary. Once this first phase is completed, we will proceed with the second phase, that is, the election for the period 1 January 1997 to November 1999. We will again conduct as many ballots as are necessary. In accordance with Rule XII paragraph 9(a) of the General Rules of the Organization, the election of Council members will be decided by secret ballot. This applies even when there are not more candidates than vacancies.

In order to vote, each delegation will receive ballot papers for each of the individual regions which seats are to be filled. Each ballot paper must be filled in accordance with the instructions contained thereon. The majority required is specified in paragraphs 3(a) and 3(b) of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization. I should remind that the number of vacancies varies from region to region and, in order to validate the ballot paper, a cross should be placed in the box against each one of the countries you wish to elect to the vacant seats, as shown in the specimen on today's Journal.

In accordance with Rule XII paragraph 11(a) of the General Rules of the Organization, each elector, unless he wholly abstains, will cast one vote for each elective place to be filled. Any ballot paper which is not in conformity with these requirements will be declared defective.

In accordance with Rule XII paragraph 4(c) of the General Rules of the Organization, any ballot paper left blank will be recorded as an abstention.

In accordance with paragraph 4(d) of this same Rule XII, ballot papers must carry no other notation or mark than those required for the purpose of indicating the vote. Any ballot paper carrying votes for more countries than there are vacancies to be filled will be considered defective. Similarly, any ballot paper carrying votes for less countries than there are vacancies will also be considered defective. What this means is that for a ballot paper to be a valid it will carry the same number of crosses as there are vacancies.

I take the liberty, honourable delegates, of reminding you that, in accordance with paragraph 9(f) of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, any delegate who makes an error in completing his ballot paper may request a clean one from the Election Officer.

The first election will have as many ballots as are necessary. We will proceed along the same lines for the second election.

Finally, may I draw your attention to paragraph 14 of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, which specifies that, once voting has commenced, no delegate or representative may interrupt the voting except to raise a point of order in connection with the voting.

**CHAIRMAN:** We will now vote to fill the Council seats for the period November 1995 to 31 December 1998. I should like to remind you that Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization lays down that the quorum for this election is the majority of the Member Nations; that is 88. I am told that at least 91 delegations, increased now to 93, are present in the room.

Before we proceed to the vote, are there any questions? If not, I would like to appoint four tellers to assist the Secretariat in the election process. I am going to ask the delegations of New Zealand, the Netherlands, Kenya and Thailand to serve as tellers. If there are no comments, the Secretary-General will now commence the full voting procedures.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL:** Once the name of a delegate country is called by the Assistant Secretary-General, he or she is kindly requested to proceed to the voting booths where he or she will receive ballot papers from the elections personnel. Once voting is completed delegates are kindly requested to place their completed ballot papers in the wooden ballot box and return to their seats.

Vote

Vote

Votación

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No.	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: AFRICA REGION
	1	ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: 11.95 - 31.12.98 REGION AFRIQUE ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION AFRICA

1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	135
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	11
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	124
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	5
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	620

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	104
------------------------------------	-----

Elected - Elus - Eligidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos			
ALGERIA	124				
CONGO	124				
GABON	124				
GHANA	124				
MAURITIUS	124				

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature P. KORSIEPORN (THAILAND)  
Firma .....

Signature E.J. BROUWERS (NETHERLANDS)  
Firma .....

27.10.95  
Date .....,  
Fecha

B. Linley, GICO  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No.	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: EUROPE REGION
	1	ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: 11.95 - 31.12.98 REGION EUROPE ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION EUROPA

1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	135
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	5
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	130
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	3
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	390

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	98
------------------------------------	----

Elected - Elus - Eligidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos			
PORTUGAL	113	IRELAND	93		
		ROMANIA	93		
		MALTA	91		

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escurtadores

Signature G.E. NZUVA (KENYA)  
Firma .....

Signature J.P. PALMER (NEW ZEALAND)  
Firma .....

27.10.95  
.....  
Date  
Fecha

B. Linley, GICO  
.....  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones



REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No.	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION
	1	ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: 11.95 - 31.12.98 REGION AMERIQUE LATINE ET CARAIBES ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION AMERICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE

1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	135
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	11
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	124
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	5
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	620

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	104
------------------------------------	-----

Elected - Elus - Eligidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos	
BRAZIL	112	URUGUAY	86
MEXICO	107	CUBA	81
		COLOMBIA	74
		BARBADOS	73
		SAINT LUCIA	44
		COSTA RICA	43

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature E.J. BROUWERS (NETHERLANDS)  
Firma .....

Signature P. KORSIEPORN (THAILAND)  
Firma .....

27.10.95  
Date .....,  
Fecha

B. Linley, GICO  
.....  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No.  1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: NEAR EAST REGION ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: 11.95 - 31.12.98 REGION PROCHE-ORIENT ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION CERCANO ORIENTE
---	--------------	--

1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	135
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	5
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	3

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	127
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	2
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	254

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	85
------------------------------------	----

Elected - Elus - Eligidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos			
KUWAIT LEBANON	127 127				

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature P. KORSIEPORN (THAILAND)  
 Firma .....

Signature E.J. BROUWERS (NETHERLANDS)  
 Firma .....

27.10.95  
 Date .....

B. Linley, GICO  
 Elections Officer  
 Fonctionnaire électoral  
 El oficial de elecciones

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No.	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: NORTH AMERICA REGION ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: 11.95 - 31.12.98 REGION AMERIQUE DU NORD ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION AMERICA DEL NORTE
	1	

1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	135
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	9
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	6

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	120
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	2
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	240

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	81
------------------------------------	----

Elected - Elus - Eligidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos			
CANADA	120				
USA	120				

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature G.K. NZUVA (KENYA)  
Firma .....

Signature J.P. PALMER (NEW ZEALAND)  
Firma .....

27.10.95  
.....  
Date  
Fecha

B. Linley, GICO  
.....  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

CHAIRMAN: From the results it seems that we proceed and we will have a second ballot for two regions, Europe for the remaining two seats, and Latin America and the Caribbean to fill the three remaining seats.

Vote Vote Votación

CHAIRMAN: While the votes are being counted the meeting will be adjourned and we will reconvene this afternoon at 2.30 when we will read the result. Before you leave, I want to congratulate the countries selected for the period November 1995 to 31 December 1998. At 2.30 we will announce the result of the second ballot.

The meeting rose at 12.45 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas.

27 October 1995



منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

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

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

# CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Twenty-eighth Session • Vingt-huitième session • 28° período de sesiones

**THIRTEENTH PLENARY MEETING**  
**TREIZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE**  
**13° SESION PLENARIA**

27 October 1995

**The Thirteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.30 hours**

**Mr Costas Petrides,**

**Chairman of the Conference, presiding**

**La treizième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 30**

**sous la présidence de M. Costas Petrides,**

**Président de la Conférence**

**Se abre la 13° sesión plenaria a las 14.30 horas**

**bajo la presidencia del Sr. Costas Petrides,**

**Presidente de la Conferencia**

- IV. APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)
- IV. NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS (suite)
- IV. NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)
- 24. Election of Council Members (continued)
- 24. Election des membres du Conseil (suite)
- 24. Elección de miembros del Consejo (continuación)

SECRETARY-GENERAL: The report of the ballot is as follows:

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No.	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION
	2	ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: 11.95 - 31.12.98 REGION AMERIQUE LATINE ET CARAIBES ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION AMERICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE

1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	134
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	6
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	128
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	3
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	384

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	97
------------------------------------	----

Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos		Eliminated - Eliminados	
		CUBA	84	SAINT LUCIA	30
		URUGUAY	82		
		COLOMBIA	77		
		BARBADOS	75		
		COSTA RICA	36		

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature E.J.N. BROUWERS (NETHERLANDS)  
Firma .....

Signature  
Firma

P. KORSIEPORN (THAILAND)  
.....

27.10.95

.....  
Date  
Fecha

Mr B. Linley, GICO  
.....  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No.	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: EUROPE REGION
	2	ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: 11.95 - 31.12.98 REGION EUROPE ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION EUROPA

1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	134
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	5
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	129
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	2
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	258

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	87
------------------------------------	----

Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos			
IRELAND	88	MALTA ROMANIA	85 85		

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature      G.K. NZUVA (KENYA)  
Firma            .....

Signature  
Firma

J.P. PALMER (NEW ZEALAND)  
.....

27.10.95  
.....  
Date  
Fecha

Mr B. Linley, GICO  
.....  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones



SECRETARY-GENERAL: During the lunch period we were asked by the delegation of St. Lucia to inform the Plenary Session of Conference that St. Lucia withdraws its candidacy for a position on FAO Council for the periods November 1995 to 31 December 1998 and January 1997 to November 1999 for the Latin America and Caribbean Region.

Arpád SZABO (Czech Republic): I have been asked to intervene in my capacity as Chairman of the European Group. As you may know, Mr Chairman, earlier there were discussions regarding nominations for the vacancies in our region. In this connection, I would stress that one of the countries, Romania, is eligible for a seat belonging to Central and Eastern Europe. May I draw the attention of the whole membership of the Organization to the fact that it is important that Central and Eastern Europe should keep the Seat. There are only two seats for 21 countries so the loss of a seat could endanger the position of the other countries.

David Edwards BORBON (Costa Rica): Señor Presidente, mi país desea retirar su candidatura, en favor del país centroamericano que está postulado, Honduras.

CHAIRMAN: Now that we have heard the results, a third ballot is needed to fill one seat in the Europe Region and three seats in the Latin America and Caribbean Region. St Lucia and Costa Rica have withdrawn. In the Latin America and Caribbean Region the four remaining countries are Cuba, Uruguay, Colombia and Barbados for three seats.

Mrs Hannelore A.H. BENJAMIN (Dominica): I would like to bring to your attention, Mr Chairman, that Trinidad and Tobago are not running in the election for Council seats. In CARICOM if one country goes out the others rotate. Therefore, we have given all our support to Barbados and would like to let you know that one Council seat really belongs to the sub-region of CARICOM. I beg you all to support us in our effort.

Vote

Vote

Votación

The meeting was suspended from 15.00 to 16.00 hours

La séance est suspendue de 15 à 16 heures

Se suspende la sesión de las 15.00 a las 16.00 horas

CHAIRMAN: The report of the ballot is as follows:

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No.	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: EUROPE REGION
	3	ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: 11.95 - 31.12.98 REGION EUROPE ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION EUROPA

1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	134
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	2
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	132
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	1
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	132

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	67
------------------------------------	----

Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos			
ROMANIA	72	MALTA	60		

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature      G.K. NZUVA (KENYA)  
Firma            .....

Signature      J.P. PALMER (NEW ZEALAND)  
Firma            .....

27.10.95  
.....  
Date  
Fecha

Mr B. Linley, GICO  
.....  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No.	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION
	3	ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: 11.95 - 31.12.98 REGION AMERIQUE LATINE ET CARAIBES ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION AMERICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE

1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	134
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	11
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	123
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	3
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	369

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	93
------------------------------------	----

Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos			
URUGUAY	100	BARBADOS	92		
CUBA	96	COLOMBIA	81		

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature E.J. BROUWERS (NETHERLANDS)  
Firma .....

Signature P. KORSIEPORN (THAILAND)  
Firma .....

27.10.95

Date  
Fecha

Mr B. Linley, GICO  
.....  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

CHAIRMAN: Having heard the results it is evident that we go to a fourth round of voting for the Latin America and Caribbean Region between Barbados and Colombia.

Vote

Vote

Votación

The meeting was suspended from 16.15 to 16.40 hours

La séance est suspendue de 16 h 15 à 16 h 40

Se suspende la sesión de las 16.15 a las 16.40 horas

CHAIRMAN: I have been informed that we do not have a Fifth Round! I give the floor now to the Secretary-General to announce the result.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Report of ballot for election of Council members for Latin America and the Caribbean Region:

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No.	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION
	4	ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: 11.95 - 31.12.98 REGION AMERIQUE LATINE ET CARAIBES ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION AMERICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE

1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	132
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	131
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	1
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	131

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	66
------------------------------------	----

Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos			
BARBADOS	85	COLOMBIA	46		

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature J.P. PALMER (NEW ZEALAND)  
Firma .....

Signature G.K. NZUVA (KENYA)  
Firma .....

27.10.95  
.....  
Date  
Fecha

Mr B. Linley, GICO  
.....  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

Oscar CABELLO SARUBBI (Paraguay): Gracias señor Presidente. En calidad de Presidente del Grupo Latinoamericano quería anunciar que he decidido aceptar la solicitud de la Representación de Colombia de retirar su candidatura y que, por lo tanto, no participarán para el segundo período de elecciones del Consejo.

Quiero aprovechar también esta oportunidad para agradecer en nombre de todo el Grupo Latinoamericano a la Delegación de Colombia por este gesto que, sin duda, ayuda a todo nuestro trabajo.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: In the same way, the delegation of Malta has asked me to announce that it withdraws its candidature for a Council seat for the period 1 January 1997 to November 1999 - i.e., the next round of the voting.

Rawle C. EASTMOND (Barbados): I would like on behalf of the delegation of Barbados, and indeed of the CARICOM Region, to thank all those distinguished delegates who offered my Ministers encouragement and support in the recently concluded election. I want to thank you for the confidence you put in the sovereign state of Barbados.

CHAIRMAN: With those results announced, the countries elected to the Council for the period November 1995 to 31 December 1998 are the following:

For the Africa Region: Algeria, Congo, Gabon, Ghana, and Mauritius.

For Europe: Ireland, Portugal and Romania.

For Latin America and Caribbean Region: Barbados, Brazil, Cuba, Mexico, Uruguay.

For the Near East: Kuwait and Lebanon.

For North America: Canada and the United States.

I congratulate all these countries and I call them to prepare for hard work.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: For this second period, that is to say 1 January 1997 to November 1999, delegates are kindly reminded that they will elect four Member Nations for Africa, three for Asia, four for Europe, one for Latin America and the Caribbean, three for the Near East and one for the Southwest Pacific.

Please note that there are no vacancies during this period for the North America Region.

We will proceed with the vote on the same basis as this morning.

Vote

Vote

Votación

25. Appointments

25. Nominations

25. Nombramientos

25.1 Appointment of the Independent Chairman of the Council

25.1 Nomination du Président indépendant du Conseil

25.1 Nombramiento del Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRMAN: While we are awaiting the results we will continue our business with Item 25.1 which is the appointment of the Independent Chairman of the Council.

There is one nomination only - Mr José Ramón López Portillo, as stated in document C 95/15. In accordance with the provisions of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, the quorum required for the election is a majority of Member Nations of the Organization. This means that at least 88 Member Nations must be represented in this hall at this time. A count has been carried out and I am told that there are at least 90 delegations present.

May I remind you that, in accordance with paragraph 12 of Rule XII of the General Rules, once voting has commenced no delegate or representative may interrupt the voting except to raise a Point of Order in connection with the voting.

In accordance with paragraph 7 (c) (i) of Rule XII, the Chairman of the Conference appoints two tellers from amongst the delegates or representatives or their alternates. I therefore suggest that the delegates from Brazil and from the Philippines serve as tellers for this election. In accordance with the provisions of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization we will now proceed to the vote.

Vote

Vote

Votación

The meeting was suspended from 17.40 to 18.00 hours

La séance est suspendue de 17 h 40 à 18 heures

Se suspende la sesión de las 17.40 a las 18.00 horas

24. Election of Council Members (continued)

24. Election des membres du Conseil (suite)

24. Elección de miembros del Consejo (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: I call the meeting to order. I have the results of the vote for the Council elections for the second period, that is from 1 January 1997 to November 1999. I will ask the Secretary-General to read them.

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No.	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: AFRICA REGION
	1	ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: 1.1.97 - 11.99 REGION AFRIQUE ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION AFRICA

1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	130
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	2
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	127
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	4
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	508

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	102
------------------------------------	-----

Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos			
MAURITANIA	127				
SENEGAL	127				
SOUTH AFRICA	127				
UGANDA	127				

Tellers/Scruteurs/Escrutadores

Signature J.P. PALMER (NEW ZEALAND)  
Firma .....

Signature G.K. NZUVA (KENYA)  
Firma .....

27.10.95  
Date  
Fecha

Mr B. Linley, GICO  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones



REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No.	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: ASIA REGION
	1	ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: 1.1.97 - 11.99 REGION ASIE ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION ASIA

1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	130
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	1
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	129
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	3
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	387

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	97
------------------------------------	----

Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos			
MALAYSIA	117	SRI LANKA	55		
PAKISTAN	112				
INDIA	103				

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature J.P. PALMER (NEW ZEALAND)  
Firma .....

Signature G.K. NZUVA (KENYA)  
Firma .....

27.10.95  
.....  
Date  
Fecha

Mr B. Linley, GICO  
.....  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No.	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: EUROPE REGION
	1	ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: 1.1.97 - 11.99 REGION EUROPE ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION EUROPA

1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	130
2. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	10
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	120
5. Votes against Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	4
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	480

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	97
------------------------------------	----

Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos			
DENMARK	120				
FRANCE	120				
ITALY	120				
UNITED KINGDOM	120				

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature E.J. BROUWERS (NETHERLANDS)  
Firma .....

Signature P. KORSIEPORN (THAILAND)  
Firma .....

27.10.95  
.....  
Date  
Fecha

Mr B. Linley, GICO  
.....  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No.	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION
	1	ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: 1.1.97 - 11.99 REGION AMERIQUE LATINE ET CARAIBES ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION AMERICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE

1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	130
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	4

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	126
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	1
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	126

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	64
------------------------------------	----

Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos			
HONDURAS	126				

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature E.J. BROUWERS (NETHERLANDS)  
Firma .....

Signature P. KORSIEPORN (THAILAND)  
Firma .....

27.10.95

Mr B. Linley, GICO

.....  
Date  
Fecha

.....  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No.	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: NEAR EAST REGION
	1	ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: 1.1.97 - 11.99 REGION PROCHE-ORIENT ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION CERCANO ORIENTE

1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	130
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	4
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	125
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	3
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	375

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	94
------------------------------------	----

Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos	
EGYPT	125		
SAUDI ARABIA, KINGDOM OF	125		
SYRIA	125		

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escuradores

Signature E.J. BROUWERS (NETHERLANDS)  
Firma .....

Signature P. KORSIEPORN (THAILAND)  
Firma .....

27.10.95  
.....  
Date  
Fecha

Mr B. Linley, GICO  
.....  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No.	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC
	1	ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: 1.1.97 - 11.99 REGION PACIFIQUE DU SUD-OUEST ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION PACIFICO SUDOCCIDENTAL

1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	129
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	3

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	126
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	1
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	126

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	64
------------------------------------	----

Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos	
AUSTRALIA	126		

Tellers/Scruteurs/Escurtadores

Signature E.J. BROUWERS (NETHERLANDS)  
Firma .....

Signature P. KORSIEPORN (THAILAND)  
Firma .....

27.10.95  
.....  
Date  
Fecha

Mr B. Linley, GICO  
.....  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

SECRETARY-GENERAL: It appears that a number of delegations are in doubt about the item after the appointment of the Independent Chairman of Council.

May I draw the attention of delegations to the Journal of Conference. As you will see, we expect to adopt the Report from Commission II on Item 16, Programme of Work and Budget 1996-97. Once Commission II has debated its Report, that Report will come here for adoption by Plenary.

We have heard from the Chairman of Commission II that if all goes well he expects to have the approved Commission II Report before Plenary at about 20.00 hours tonight. It is clear that this is going to be a long session, as it concerns the approval of the Programme of Work and Budget which is of some importance.

25.1 Appointment of the Independent Chairman of the Council (continued)

25.1 Nomination du Président indépendant du Conseil (suite)

25.1 Nombramiento del Presidente Independiente del Consejo (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: The Secretary-General will now read the result of the ballot for Independent Chairman of Council.

Vote

Vote

Votación

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No.	ELECTION OF THE INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL ELECTION DU PRESIDENT INDEPENDANT DU CONSEIL ELECCION DEL PRESIDENTE INDEPENDIENTE DEL CONSEJO
	1	

1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	125
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	1
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1

4. Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	119
5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	4
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	123

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	62
------------------------------------	----

**José Ramón LOPEZ PORTILLO**

is accordingly appointed Independent Chairman of the Council.

est nommé Président indépendant du Conseil.

ha sido nombrado Presidente Independiente del Consejo.

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escurtadores

Signature Ms K. GODINHO GILABERTE  
(BRAZIL)  
Firma .....

Signature Ms M.L. GAVINO (PHILIPPINES)  
Firma .....

27.10.95

.....  
Date  
Fecha

Mr B. Linley, GICO  
.....  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

CHAIRMAN: May I be the first one to congratulate Mr López Portillo on his election to this important position in the Organization.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I would like to join my voice to yours in congratulating the Independent Chairman of Council on his election with such a high majority. I would also like to pledge to continue to work with him in the same spirit of cooperation in serving our countries and in particular the body that he will be heading which is so important in our world - the Council. Again, congratulations on such a brilliant election.

José Ramón LOPEZ PORTILLO (Presidente Independiente del Consejo): Muchas gracias señor Presidente. Señor Director General, Excelencias, distinguidos delegados, señoras y señores, estoy conmovido y, a la vez, estimulado por este voto de renovada confianza al reelegirme ustedes, distinguidos representantes, para otros dos años en la Presidencia del Consejo y por las expresiones de afecto y de apoyo que he recibido a lo largo de los últimos dos.

Estoy consciente de que su decisión es un tributo a mi país y a sus principios de solidaridad y conciliación internacionales. Por eso, agradezco al Gobierno de México por mi nominación y apoyo para este segundo período. Mi agradecimiento también a usted, señor Director General, Jacques Diouf, con quien me unen, no sólo lazos de colaboración, sino también de admiración y de amistad por su búsqueda para que la FAO sea una institución más cercana a los problemas de la seguridad alimentaria y de un desarrollo agrícola sostenible. Además he recibido por parte de sus colaboradores apoyo y cooperación invaluable en el ejercicio de mis funciones.

A usted, señor Presidente, Excelentísimo Ministro Costas Petrides, mi reconocimiento por la manera precisa, respetuosa y brillante con la que ha dirigido los trabajos de esta Conferencia, reciba todo mi aprecio por la amistad de apoyo con que me ha honrado.

A los Miembros del Consejo les expreso mi agradecimiento por facilitar la realización de debates serenos y creativos y por su disposición y empuje para transformar al Consejo en un Órgano más eficaz y más ejecutivo.

A los nuevos miembros les felicito por su elección y les ofrezco continuar manteniendo un clima de armonía y de ejecutividad. Reconozco plenamente que mis prerrogativas como Presidente Independiente del Consejo sólo pueden emanar de mi máximo esfuerzo por cumplir bien mis obligaciones.

A todos les reitero mi renovado esfuerzo para que el Consejo continúe siendo un ejemplo de activa diversidad dentro de un propósito unitario que es el de mantener muy en alto el mandato de la Organización y sus objetivos y, verificar la eficacia y transparencia de sus funciones y acciones.

En ese sentido, me uno a aquellos -y permítanme extenderme sólo un poco- que consideran que la función del Consejo debe reforzarse. El Consejo es un órgano subrogado de la Conferencia; debe, por tanto, tener junto con los comités técnicos la flexibilidad suficiente para aplicar y hacer operativas las resoluciones de la Conferencia y prepararla para nuevas decisiones.

Sólo así la Conferencia será la culminación de un proceso de trabajo y de la maduración de proyectos futuros.

Por razones de costos se han recortado los períodos de sesiones del Consejo, a pesar de que su agenda sigue siendo tan abultada como siempre; ello se ha compensado con mayor ejecutividad en su tratamiento. No obstante, llevar esta situación al extremo de la inoperancia no contribuye ni al logro de los ahorros ni tampoco a una mayor eficacia en los debates y en las decisiones del Consejo: celebrar reuniones nocturnas, preparar y adoptar los informes de manera precipitada, no cumple con los propósitos que, como órgano rector, le han sido encomendados.

Confío en que prevalezca la intención de restablecer la efectividad del Consejo y de su papel rector en esta Organización. Pienso que debemos encauzarla a través de la participación plena y balanceada de sus miembros, y de fórmulas flexibles para el tratamiento de temas delicados y de mecanismos de contacto y negociación, según la naturaleza y gravedad de dichos temas. Esto no exige necesariamente reformas estructurales de los órganos rectores, que conllevarían cambios en los puestos básicos; se pueden seguir utilizando las instancias ya creadas, tales como el Comité de Programas y de Finanzas, dándoles, como he mencionado, la flexibilidad casuística necesaria.



En todo evento, la función plena y útil del Consejo y de sus comités exige de un flujo de información confiada, suficiente y transparente, a fin de poder tomar decisiones informadas, razonadas y oportunas. El Director General ha dado importantes pasos en este sentido y, obviamente, los Estados Miembros están igualmente interesados en debatir con toda responsabilidad y con miras al entendimiento. Garantizar las diversas instancias del diálogo y mantener informados a los Miembros y observadores del Consejo es preocupación manifiesta del Director General y, obviamente, del Presidente del Consejo.

El examen de los métodos de trabajo de los órganos rectores no debe estar regido por meras consideraciones de reducción de costos; debe partir de una identificación precisa de los problemas y de un reconocimiento cabal de lo que se ha avanzado y de lo que es conveniente o impropio cambiar. Antes de consolidar un cambio, creo que debemos experimentar y comprobar que cumpla con sus propósitos, en beneficio de los Estados Miembros y de esta Organización.

Podemos seguir avanzado para que los debates se concentren aún más en los puntos a tratar, se agilice la toma de decisiones, se eliminen duplicaciones, se reduzcan costos y se orienten los informes hacia la formulación de recomendaciones claras, descripción de consensos e identificación de discrepancias relevantes. Además, ello le permitiría a la Secretaría de la FAO racionalizar, hacer más eficaz y modernizar los documentos de organización de trabajos del Consejo.

Considero que un factor esencial es el estímulo a una mayor iniciativa de parte de los Estados Miembros, con miras al consenso y al fortalecimiento de nuestra Organización. A lo largo de su historia, la FAO ha crecido, se ha reestructurado, se ha adaptado, ofreciendo y obedeciendo a procesos normativos y graduales, así como a circunstancias críticas. Hoy se combinan ambos: por una parte, la voluntad de cambio del Director General y un clima internacional que exige reformas radicales a todo el sistema de las Naciones Unidas; por la otra, una situación financiera delicada que obliga a tomar decisiones severas sobre lo que hace la Organización, sobre cómo lo hace y cómo lo reporta.

El sistema de las Naciones Unidas, y la FAO dentro de éste, compiten ciertamente por recursos financieros escasos y por espacios de credibilidad en una opinión pública internacional y nacional más crítica. Y compiten también con poderosos intereses comerciales y políticos que no ven en estos organismos necesariamente los medios idóneos bajo su control para promover sus productos y servicios y asegurar sus intereses. También compiten con organizaciones que representan fracciones de la sociedad civil y que desconfían de los poderes intergubernamentales.

Con todo, es difícil vislumbrar que puede sustituir a foros multilaterales con representación equitativa y procedimientos democráticos, con la finalidad de diluir efectivamente controversias y encontrar convergencias entre las naciones y pueblos del mundo y fincar los marcos normativos y operativos que prevengan situaciones críticas extremas.

Lo han repetido ustedes: si la FAO no existiera tendría que inventarse, si tuviera una fecha de expiración, tendría que reformularse sobre bases muy probablemente similares de representación y de procedimientos democráticos. Pero esto no es necesario, lo que importa es que los mecanismos de comunicación sean suficientemente flexibles para llevar a buen término las acciones que concilien intereses distintos para asegurar la conquista del problema del hambre y de la sostenibilidad del desarrollo agropecuario y pesquero.

En todo esto, no perdamos de vista que el mundo de palabras en el cual nos movemos debe empatarse y servir eficazmente al mundo de las fatigas y de la acción de los agricultores y pescadores y, sobre todo, a superar la agonía y la ignominia de quienes padecen hambre y desnutrición. Eso, considero yo, es lo único que le da sentido a todo este complejo aparato en el cual nos movemos. De igual manera, el presupuesto que ustedes van a aprobar seguramente dentro de unos minutos, es sólo el medio que debe garantizar que la FAO haga cosas útiles y significativas para la agricultura y la alimentación.

Yo lamento que este ejercicio de definición presupuestaria haya tenido que responder sólo hasta ahora, a cinco para las doce, a planteamientos pocos claros y sorprendentemente divergentes, que obligaron a jugar con el Programa de Labores de la Organización como si se tratara de una subasta. No sabemos aún qué tanto de dicho programa podrá ejecutarse y, en consecuencia, qué partes estarán ustedes aprobando y cuáles recortando o adelgazando. No obstante, hay un aspecto positivo en todo esto: este presupuesto será, o es, posiblemente, producto de enormes esfuerzos de conciliación que hacen de la FAO un ejemplo preponderante de concordia y de conciliación que se proyecta al futuro.

El mandato de la FAO y sus funciones son más grandes que circunstancias difíciles como ésta. Pensemos en el futuro de la Organización, a largo plazo, para hablar de los recursos financieros institucionales y políticos que amplifiquen sus objetivos y multipliquen sus acciones, sobre la base de la credibilidad, confianza y transparencia de sus operaciones y de la función eficaz de sus órganos rectores.

Muchas gracias.

Mario MOYA PALENCIA (México): Muchas gracias Señor Presidente. La delegación de México desea agradecer a la comunidad internacional aquí representada por la forma en que ha decidido reelegir al Dr. José López Portillo Romano, un valioso mexicano, como Presidente Independiente del Consejo. La delegación de México atribuye esta decisión a las capacidades y cualidades personales del Dr. López Portillo, que tan bien ha demostrado en estos dos años, en que ha ejercido el cargo, y por si fuera poco bastaría recordar las palabras que el Señor López Portillo dijo al principio de esta Conferencia y estas profundas y maduras palabras pronunciadas hace apenas unos momentos, para ratificar su calidad humana, su preparación política, su solidez académica y la experiencia diplomática que ha adquirido en estos últimos años.

La delegación de México también felicita al Dr. López Portillo por su merecida reelección. Los dos últimos años pasados no han sido años fáciles para él ni para la Organización, no lo serán tampoco los dos próximos años. Pero si, como él ha dicho, hacemos todos un esfuerzo para ratificar los principios y los objetivos de la FAO y para cumplir, todos los Estados, nuestras obligaciones internacionales en un ámbito de nuevo entendimiento, de cooperación y de conciliación, todo será posible.

La FAO es más grande que sus propios problemas.

Carlos ARANDA MARTIN (España): En nombre de mi país, y creo hacerme eco de los países y de la Unión Europea, cuya presidencia ostenta España en estos momentos, queremos adherirnos a las felicitaciones al Presidente Independiente del Consejo, Dr. José Ramón López Portillo.

Pero, Señor Presidente, nuestra felicitación es particularmente especial por dos motivos: en primer lugar, por su ejemplar Dirección de los debates del Consejo, por su dinamismo y, cómo no, por sus acertados resúmenes, y la prueba está en su reelección, unánimemente podríamos decir, por todos nosotros; en segundo lugar, Señor Presidente, nuestra satisfacción es doble, por tener la satisfacción de oír su cálido acento mexicano en estos debates por un mínimo de dos años más.

Adel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): I do not really need to speak in order to congratulate our colleague, Mr López Portillo. The decision to that effect was taken when we first elected him. The decision was taken then as it has been now: by the developed and developing countries alike.

On behalf of the Group of 77, however - the developing countries in this Organization - I should like to congratulate him as a colleague, as a friend, as a neighbour and as the wise leader and Chairman of our deliberations. Thanks to his wisdom we have been able to conduct positive and fruitful discussions to the benefit of FAO and all member countries, developed and developing alike.

As the representative of Egypt and on behalf of the Group of 77, I congratulate him once again.

Oscar CABELLO SARUBBI (Paraguay): En nombre de mi país, y del Grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe, quiero extender al Embajador López Portillo nuestra felicitación por su elección para este cargo tan importante de nuestra Organización; y también quiero expresar nuestra gran satisfacción de que un ciudadano ilustre de un país de nuestra región haya sido seleccionado para tan alta responsabilidad. Estamos seguros, porque lo conocemos y conocemos sus cualidades personales, de que podrá dirigir el Consejo nuevamente con la competencia con que lo ha hecho en el pasado.

The meeting was suspended from 18.45 to 20.45 hours

La séance est suspendue de 18 h 45 à 20 h 45

Se suspende la sesión de las 18.45 a las 20.45 horas

CHAIRMAN: I call the meeting to order. We proceed right away with the adoption of the Report from Commission II on Item 16, the Programme of Work and Budget for 1996-97. The document is C 95/REP/1 and also REP/2, which is not distributed because it was adopted in Commission II half an hour ago.

I would like to ask Mr Laureau, Chairman of Commission II, to be kind enough to introduce this Report.

ADOPTION OF REPORT ADOPTION DU RAPPORT APROBACION DEL INFORME

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART I (from Commission II)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - PREMIERE PARTIE (de la Commission II)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE I (de la Comisión II)

Jacques LAUREAU (Président, Commission II): J'exprime toute ma gratitude aux Etats Membres de la Commission II puisque nous sommes parvenus, après une discussion difficile que nous avons prolongée dans un Groupe de contact entre le groupe de l'OCDE et le Groupe des 77 - j'ai calculé que nous avons tenu des réunions pendant plus de quarante heures - à définir un niveau budgétaire de 650 millions de dollars accompagné d'un certain nombre de dispositions visant à garantir que les engagements de dépenses et les paiements n'excéderaient pas les ressources prévisibles, notamment les contributions.

Ceci a été négocié par le Groupe de contact et je tiens à remercier, au-delà des membres du Groupe, les pays qui ont fait quelques mouvements afin que se dégage un consensus et qui s'exprimeront certainement tout à l'heure, y compris ceux qui avaient des réserves à l'égard du montant que nous avons défini.

Je remercie en particulier les deux présidents des deux groupes du G 77, j'ai nommé M. Aboul-Naga et du Groupe de l'OCDE, j'ai nommé Mme Régine De Clercq.

Je suis désolé de ne pas pouvoir disposer dans l'immédiat de la traduction du REP/2 mais comme toutes les délégations ont participé à la Commission II, je pense qu'elles ne seront pas surprises par les quelques amendements qui ont été apportés au cours de cet après-midi sur le REP/2. Mme Forthomme, qui a été la Secrétaire efficace de nos travaux et que je tiens à remercier vous lira le texte de manière à ce qu'il n'y ait pas de difficultés.

Monsieur le Président, je pense que vous pouvez rapidement faire approuver les différentes parties. Certaines parties peuvent être d'ailleurs adoptées en bloc, c'est le cas du REP/1. Quant au REP/2, il conviendra de le relire pour que chacun puisse les porter sur la documentation qui leur a été diffusée à l'instant puisque nous ne pourrions pas avoir de texte définitif avant lundi matin. Pour des raisons de courtoisie, les amendements seront relus par le Secrétariat.

CHAIRMAN: I propose that we adopt the Report C 95/REP/1. Are there any comments on that? I consider Report C 95/REP/1 adopted.

Draft Report of Plenary, Part I, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière, Première partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la plenaria, Parte I, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART II (from Commission II)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - DEUXIEME PARTIE (de la Commission II)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE II (de la Comisión II)

Paras 1-6 (including Draft Resolution)

Les par. 1-6 (y compris projet de résolution)

Párrs. 1-6 (incluido el proyecto de resolución)

Ms Claude FORTHOMME (Secretary, Commission II): The first amendment is placed at the end of paragraph 2. It reads: "It recalled the recommendations of the 109th Session of the Council respecting a management review, taking fully into account the measures already taken by the Director-General".

The second amendment concerns paragraph 3. It comes in the second line in the English text in the first sentence after "effective governance arrangements," where you have to add "and it endorsed the recommendation of the 109th Session of the Council in this respect. This work will build on the measures already taken", and the sentence continues as in the text.

A new paragraph was added after paragraph 4 to read as follows: "The Conference expressed its concern regarding the possibility of a shortfall in contributions for 1996-97. The Conference urgently calls upon all Member Nations to make every effort to pay their contributions on time. It also requested the Director-General to pursue his commitment to protect the financial viability of the Organization, which he so agreed to do." Paragraph 6 then starts "Accordingly the Conference adopted the following Resolution ..." and then you have the text of the Draft Resolution which is contained in C 95/II/REP/5-Sup.1..

CHAIRMAN: You have heard the amendments. Are there any comments on the Report C 95/REP/2? If there are no comments, I consider that Report C 95/REP/2 has been adopted.

That concludes the adoption of the Report but, as we agreed, we now have to vote on the Resolution. This Resolution relates to the Programme of Work and Budget and budgetary appropriations for 1996-97, document C 95/REP/2. It was contained in REP/5 of Commission II. This requires a two-thirds majority and consequently a roll-call vote.

José Ramón LOPEZ PORTILLO (Presidente Independiente del Consejo): Perdón, señor Presidente, pero antes de que aprueben este Proyecto de Resolución hay una pregunta que el Consejo debe conocer. Se refiere a lo siguiente. En el párrafo 1 se habla de que se aprueba provisionalmente, subrayo provisionalmente, el Programa de Labores. Luego en el párrafo 3, se autoriza al Comité del Programa y de Finanzas en su próxima reunión conjunta, a que apruebe los criterios para ajustar el Programa de Labores.

Yo creo que hay una contradicción de carácter legal aquí. El Comité del Programa y de Finanzas no tiene la facultad legal para aprobar el Programa de Labores que se presenta provisionalmente. Hay dos posibilidades: una, eliminar la palabra "provisionalmente" en el párrafo 1, o modificar el párrafo 3, de tal suerte que sea el Consejo como órgano subrogado de la Conferencia el que apruebe el Programa que se le presente provisionalmente.

CHAIRMAN: I will read the Draft Resolution for adoption by the Conference. The amendment in paragraph 1 is as follows: "approves a total effective working budget of US\$650 million for the financial period 1996-97 and provisionally approves, subject to paragraph 3, the Programme of Work proposed by the Director-General for 1996-97 as follows ..." and it continues in the form of the text which you have in front of you. Do you have any comments on that? Then we proceed with the Report as it has been amended.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: We are to have a roll-call vote on the budgetary appropriations for 1996-97. In accordance with Rule XVIII-5 of the Constitution, decisions on the level of the budget shall be taken by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast. According to Rule XII.7A of the General Rules of the Organization, a vote by roll-call shall be taken if a majority of two-thirds is required by the Constitution. According to Rule XII.3C of the General Rules of the Organization, when a two-thirds majority of the votes cast is required by the Constitution for a decision to be taken by the Conference, the total number of the affirmative and negative votes cast shall be more than one-half of the Member Nations of the Organization. The number of votes cast for or against should then be at least 88. The Secretariat has advised that there are far more than 88 delegations present for this roll-call vote. According to Rule XII.7A of the General Rules of the Organization, voting by roll-call shall be conducted by calling in English alphabetical order the names of all Member Nations entitled to vote. The name of the first nation to be called shall be designated by lot drawn by the Chairman. The Member Nation designated to cast the first vote is Namibia. The vote will therefore begin with Namibia. The delegate or representative of each Member Nation shall reply "Yes", "No" or "Abstention" when his or her country is called. At the conclusion of the roll-call the names of Member Nations whose delegates or representatives fail to answer shall be called again. The vote of each nation participating in any vote by roll-call shall be inserted in the verbatim record of the meeting. We will now proceed to the vote.

## RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

SHOW OF HANDS VOTING VOTE A MAIN LEVEE VOTACION A MANO ALZADA
---

ROLL CALL VOTING APPEL NOMINAL VOTACION NOMINAL
---

Vote on BUDGETARY APPROPRIATIONS 1996-97  
 Vote sur L'OUVERTURE DE CREDITS POUR 1996-97  
 Votación para LAS CONSIGNACIONES PRESUPUESTARIAS 1996-97

Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	108
Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	0
Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	3
No reply Aucune réponse Ninguna respuesta	38

Number of votes cast Nombre de suffrages exprimés Número de votos emitidos	108
--	-----

Majority required Majorité requise Mayoría requerida	72
--	----

ADOPTED ADOPTEE ACEPTADA
--------------------------------

Date ..... Elections Officer  
 Fecha ..... 27/10/95 .....  
 Fonctionnaire électoral ..... B. Linley .....  
 El oficial de elecciones

## RULE XII - 13(A) GRO

If a vote is equally divided on a matter other than an election, a second vote shall be taken at a subsequent meeting to be held not less than one hour after the conclusion of the meeting at which the equally divided vote occurred. If the second vote is also equally divided the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

En cas de partage égal des voix lors d'un vote ne portant pas sur une élection, on procède à un deuxième vote au cours d'une séance ultérieure, qui ne peut avoir lieu moins d'une heure après la fin de celle à laquelle s'est produit le partage égal des voix. Si les voix restent également partagées lors de ce second vote, la proposition est considérée comme repoussée.

Si hubiera empate en un asunto que no sea una elección, se repetirá la votación en una sesión subsiguiente la cual no deberá celebrarse hasta que haya transcurrido una hora, por lo menos, desde la conclusión de aquella en que se produjo el empate. Si en la segunda votación hubiera también empate se considerará rechazada la propuesta.

28th Session of the Conference

ROLL CALL VOTING AND ISSUE OF BALLOT PAPER REPORT

28ème session de la Conférence

APPEL NOMINAL ET DISTRIBUTION DE BULLETS

28º período de sesiones de la Conferencia

VOTACION NOMINAL Y DISTRIBUCION DE PAPELETAS

Vote on BUDGETARY APPROPRIATIONS 1996-97

Vote sur L'OUVERTURE DE CREDITS POUR 1996-97

Votación para LAS CONSIGNACIONES PRESUPUESTARIAS 1996-97

MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR	MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR
AFGHANISTAN				X	CROATIA	X			
ALBANIA				X	CUBA	X			
ALGERIA	X				CYPRUS	X			
ANGOLA	X				CZECH REPUBLIC				X
ARGENTINA	X				D.P. REP. OF KOREA	X			
ARMENIA				X	DENMARK	X			
AUSTRALIA	X				DOMINICA	X			
AUSTRIA	X				DOMINICAN REP.	X			
BAHRAIN	X				ECUADOR	X			
BANGLADESH	X				EGYPT	X			
BARBADOS	X				EL SALVADOR	X			
BELGIUM	X				ERITREA	X			
BENIN				X	ESTONIA				X
BOLIVIA	X				ETHIOPIA				X
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA				X	FIJI				X
BOTSWANA	X				FINLAND	X			
BRAZIL	X				FRANCE	X			
BULGARIA	X				GABON	X			
BURKINA FASO				X	GAMBIA	X			
BURUNDI	X				GEORGIA				X
CAMEROON	X				GERMANY			X	
CANADA	X				GHANA	X			
CAPE VERDE	X				GREECE				X
CENTRAL AFRICAN REP.	X				GRENADA				X
CHAD	X				GUATEMALA	X			
CHILE	X				GUINEA	X			
CHINA				X	GUINEA-BISSAU				X
COLOMBIA	X				GUYANA	X			
CONGO	X				HAITI	X			
COSTA RICA	X				HONDURAS	X			
COTE D'IVOIRE	X				HUNGARY	X			
	24			7		22		1	8

MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR	MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR
ICELAND				X	NETHERLANDS	X			
INDIA	X				NEW ZEALAND	X			
INDONESIA	X				NICARAGUA	X			
IRAN, ISLAMIC REP. OF	X				NIGER	X			
IRAQ				X	NIGERIA	X			
IRELAND				X	NORWAY	X			
ISRAEL				X	OMAN	X			
ITALY	X				PAKISTAN	X			
JAMAICA	X				PANAMA	X			
JAPAN	X				PARAGUAY	X			
JORDAN	X				PERU	X			
KENYA	X				PHILIPPINES	X			
KOREA, REP. OF	X				POLAND	X			
KUWAIT	X				PORTUGAL	X			
LAOS				X	QATAR				X
LEBANON				X	ROMANIA	X			
LESOTHO	X				RWANDA				X
LIBERIA	X				SAINT LUCIA				X
LIBYA	X				SAUDI ARABIA, KINGDOM OF	X			
LITHUANIA				X	SENEGAL	X			
LUXEMBOURG	X				SIERRA LEONE				X
MADAGASCAR	X				SLOVAKIA	X			
MALAWI	X				SLOVENIA	X			
MALAYSIA	X				SOUTH AFRICA	X			
MALDIVES				X	SPAIN	X			
MALTA				X	SRI LANKA	X			
MAURITANIA	X				SUDAN	X			
MAURITIUS	X				SURINAME				X
MEXICO	X				SWAZILAND	X			
MOLDOVA				X	SWEDEN	X			
MONGOLIA				X	SWITZERLAND	X			
MOROCCO	X				SYRIA	X			
MOZAMBIQUE				X	TANZANIA	X			
MYANMAR				X	THAILAND	X			
NAMIBIA				X	THE F. Y. REP. OF MACEDONIA	X			
NEPAL				X	TOGO	X			
					TONGA	X			
	21			15		32			5



MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR	MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	X								
TUNISIA	X								
TURKEY				X					
UGANDA	X								
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	X								
UNITED KINGDOM			X						
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA			X						
URUGUAY	X								
VENEZUELA	X								
VIET NAM				X					
YEMEN	X								
ZAIRE				X					
ZAMBIA	X								
ZIMBABWE	X								
	9		2	3					

Paras 1-6 (including Draft Resolution) as amended, approved

Les par. 1-6 (y compris projet de résolution), ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Párr. 1-6 (incluido proyecto de resolución) así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Commission II - Part II, as amended, was approved

Le projet de rapport de la Commission II - Deuxième partie, ainsi amendé, est approuvé

El proyecto de informe de la Comisión II - Parte II, así enmendado, es aprobado

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Mrs Melinda L. KIMBLE (United States of America): The United States would like to recognize the extraordinary spirit of cooperation, openness and goodwill evidenced by all Member States in arriving at a decision on FAO's 1996-97 Programme of Work and Budget. We would like to express particular appreciation for the tireless efforts of all members of the Contact Group and especially its Chairman, Ambassador Laurean of France, in facilitating our work. We welcome this positive outcome. Now, more than any other time in recent memory, Member States are working together at FAO. Such active engagement is a prerequisite for fundamental change throughout the UN System. At FAO we are on our way.

The United States abstained on this budget because we cannot predict the outcome of our on-going legislative process, nor can I offer any concrete assurances of payment as I was able to do when we adopted the 1992-93 Programme of Work and Budget. I want to emphasize, however, that the United States will do everything it can to request and secure full funding for FAO in support of the 1996-97 Programme of Work and Budget. Given the budget stringencies we will likely face in the foreseeable future, it is of paramount importance that FAO and all other UN agencies continue to seek more efficiencies and economies. This effort will also necessitate better priorities.

The Director-General has already undertaken important streamlining initiatives and we are confident that this effort will continue as we implement this programme. Reform is a dynamic process and flexibility is essential to its success. We, and other Member States, have offered a number of suggestions for cost-saving measures that maintain the core programmes of the Organization. FAO should actively pursue these suggestions as the next step in this effort. Our major task ahead is to plan for the future. Implementing this programme is only one challenge we face. As Member States we need to develop clear programme priorities so we are better prepared to provide guidance to the Director-General on the next Programme of Work and Budget. Management reviews and regular programme evaluations are among the tools we need to aid both the Director-General and Member States in our ongoing efforts to revitalize FAO.

I want to assure that the United States looks forward to working constructively and cooperatively with all our partners - Member States, the Director-General and the Secretariat - as we lay the necessary foundation for international cooperation on food and agriculture in the 21st century.

J.C. MACHIN (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom attaches the highest importance to the United Nation's financial and budgetary reform in the context of the wider UN reform process. We attach top priority to UN agencies doing what they do best - to prioritizing their activities, to maximizing efficiency savings and to allocating resources to the most efficient programmes. Equally it is clear that UN agencies must live within their means on the basis of realistic expectations of income and in accordance with transparent budgetary procedures. I have to say that concerns in this latter area, Mr Chairman, influenced my authorities' views on the proposed level on the 1996-97 budget.

During the last two weeks my delegation has reiterated its view that an acceptable budget would be in the region of between US\$620-630 million. Our starting point at the June Council was a figure of some US\$600 million. In moving to a higher figure of US\$630 million we believed that such a budget level could be fully funded and enable FAO to carry out a programme in line with its core activity. It is against this background, Mr Chairman, that I have been instructed to accept a budget level of no higher than US\$630 million.

Given the important and constructive development today, however, by the membership as a whole in working to reach a consensus, and the welcome commitment of the Director-General to find additional efficiency savings in order to accommodate a budget of US\$650 million, my authorities will not oppose such a budget and have instead instructed me to abstain as I did.

At this point I would like to express our gratitude to the Director-General for the important leadership role he himself has played in this process of reaching consensus and to all the other key players who helped to make it possible too. I also want to reiterate that my authorities will continue to work closely, constructively and openly with him in continuing further to reform and strengthen FAO. A truly effective and well-focused FAO, which operates on the basis of sound financial principles, is clearly in all our interests. The United Kingdom will do all it can to help the Director-General and the membership further to achieve that priority goal.

Finally it is essential for the United Kingdom that the new budget figure which has just been agreed leads to the further reforms and savings we hope and expect of FAO. We do believe that there is more to be done not least in the area of the budgetary process. Further major change will, of course, take time but should start now. My authorities will be looking carefully at progress in these areas over the course of the coming biennium.

Meanwhile, we congratulate FAO and its membership on the important decisions taken today in such a spirit of cooperation and partnership.

Jürgen OESTREICH (Germany): My delegation belongs to those who are very satisfied, that, after one week of intensive - sometimes difficult but always constructive - discussions, the 1996-97 budget of our Organization has been approved without any vote against it.

Although some may not be fully satisfied with the figures, the fact that this budget is adopted without any vote against it is an expression of confidence in this Organization and in its Director-General. In our view, this counts perhaps more for the successful work of our Organization and some higher budget figures. It is promising for the Organization that, throughout the negotiations of the last days, we were very well assisted by the Secretariat and also by the Director-General himself and especially by Mr Wade, and there was also a common effort from all groups and all negotiators to keep as many members as possible of the Organization on board for the budget. The cooperative spirit in which it was adopted at this late hour is a remarkable achievement.

My delegation is grateful for the spirit in which it was conducted and wants to express a special thanks to the Chairman of Commission II, my friend Ambassador Jacques Laureau, for the way in which he has guided these negotiations.

We all know the UN System as a whole is passing through difficult times, and is not only faced with serious financial constraints and problems caused by shortfalls and uncertainties on the income side. My government has always taken very seriously its obligations in the UN System and in the institution and intends to do so also in the future. That is why we feel obliged, in the specific situation of the UN System as a whole, to request in the FAO budget negotiation certain precautionary measures which will ensure that the Programme of Work and Budget which we adopt is fully financed.

My government made different proposals in this respect. Unfortunately they did have several reasons, including some technical ones, which we will explore in the future. Therefore we did not find unanimous support in this Conference, and that is why despite the fact we have no problem with the budget level of US\$650 million and despite considerable efforts made here in Rome, and also in Bonn at the high political level, to find a commonly agreed language for these necessary methods, we felt obliged to abstain in the vote of this evening. These measures we have proposed are not measures directed specifically towards FAO. These measures are important to us in the framework of the budget negotiations of all United Nations agencies.

My country, despite the abstention of today, will continue to give its full support to this Organization and can count also in the future, as in the past, on Germany as a loyal partner of this Organization.

Hiroaki KISHI (Japan): Japan joined the majority because I believe the outcome is the result of hard but positive and painful but constructive efforts. This is a result of good will to revitalize and to strengthen this Organization.

This is an important step to our building a more efficient and effective Organization on the continued track of the initiative taken by the Director-General. The need for the expertise of this Organization would be further increased under the growing pressure of the food security. We must meet the need in a more effective and efficient manner than ever before. This exercise will be a long process. We must cope with hardship coming out of the process with the spirit of partnership, the importance of which was expressed by the Chairman of Commission II and broadly supported. I sincerely hope the partnership will facilitate the fruitful outcome of the exercise.

Finally Japan reiterates its position that its support to this Organization remains unchanged.

My delegation also appreciates the Chairmanship of the French Ambassador, Mr Jacques Laureau, in achieving such a successful conclusion.

Add Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): Firstly allow me to express my personal satisfaction because we have managed to reach consensus on the budgetary level and the PWB for the Organization for the biennium 1996-97, a consensus reached after lengthy negotiations, tiring sometimes, led with wisdom, mastery and patience by the French Ambassador; negotiations in which all parties participated in a responsible spirit; where each party expressed its own point of view whilst accepting and understanding the points of view of others until finally we reached the resolution we have just adopted.

The meaning of consensus is by definition that each one gives in a little bit and I know full well that my Group, the Group of 77, had large hopes of having a high level of budget, hopes which we have not achieved. However, and despite that, we have created a spirit of understanding of partnership, of responsibility amongst all Member Nations to support this Organization, to support its leadership in order to provide the least amount of required resources enabling us to implement the priorities we are agreed upon and the results we expect. I think that this consensus is extremely valuable. It almost compensates for the shortfall in the level of budget we expected.

Allow me to congratulate all Member Nations for the spirit of consensus which they have expressed, which we have achieved after the common effort of us all. I hope that we will be able to maintain that spirit of consensus since it is the foundation of our future activities.

I would like to thank the French Ambassador for his efforts and all members of the contact group, be they members of developed countries or of the Group of 77 of whom I am very proud. Allow me also to put on record our appreciation to the Secretariat for the efforts put into the success of our work.

I would also like to thank the Director-General for his positive response to our proposals which in fact means extra work for him and for his collaborators and the Secretariat in order to achieve the positive results despite the lower level of budget. But we are confident in his stewardship. We are sure he is fully able to achieve these objectives in the interests of all Member Nations.

Jean Robert GOULONGANA (Gabon): Je voudrais, au nom du Groupe africain faire un bref commentaire en commençant par remercier l'Ambassadeur Laureau pour les efforts soutenus qu'il a consentis tout au long de ces dernières 48 heures afin de nous aider à progresser vers un niveau de budget acceptable. Je tiens également à remercier les membres du Groupe de contact qui n'ont ménagé aucun effort et qui ont fait preuve d'un grand dévouement dans leur tâche. Alors que tout le monde s'accorde à reconnaître que l'éradication de la faim demeure un défi majeur pour l'humanité et que l'on souligne dans ce contexte le rôle irremplaçable de la FAO, le Groupe africain ne peut manquer d'exprimer une certaine perplexité face au niveau des moyens mis à la disposition de l'Organisation pour le prochain biennium. Nous aurions par ailleurs préféré qu'en dépit de ce niveau un accord unanime puisse se faire sur le budget, compte tenu de l'esprit d'ouverture dont a fait preuve le Groupe des 77 auquel nous appartenons qui est au niveau ou plutôt à la mesure de l'ampleur des besoins qui nous interpellent. Toutefois, après avoir écouté les arguments développés par les pays qui n'ont pu se joindre au consensus et qui se sont donc abstenus, et parmi lesquels figurent d'importants contributeurs, notre vœu est que les divergences que nous avons pu noter restent des divergences ponctuelles et qu'elles n'entament en rien leurs engagements ainsi que l'engagement de l'ensemble des Etats Membres à soutenir l'Organisation et ce, pour le plus grand bien de millions de personnes qui souffrent de la faim dans le monde. A cet égard, les propos que nous avons entendus de la bouche des délégués des Etats-Unis, du Royaume-Uni et de l'Allemagne nous confortent dans ce vœu.

Per Harald GRUE (Norway): I want to express our satisfaction that we have been able to arrive at a broad, general consensus decision on the budget with no country voting against it. We regret, of course, very much that three countries were not able to join the consensus. We would like, however, to underline how much we appreciate the spirit of constructive cooperation and compromise that has prevailed during this difficult process. We have reason to be proud of the result achieved.

The Programme of Work and Budget we have just received will put heavy demands on all of us, the Director-General, the Secretariat and the member countries. We all share their responsibility for utilizing the resources available in the most efficient manner possible. In this situation it is more important than ever that we honour the obligations we have taken upon ourselves by paying assessments promptly and in full.

This statement has been prepared in consultation with the other Nordic countries present here tonight, Denmark, Finland and Sweden.

Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago): It is not my intention to detain the house much longer than they would wish to be here but it would be remiss of me if I did not take this occasion to make a brief statement on behalf of the fourteen member countries of the CARICOM sub-region of Latin American and the Caribbean.

First of all under the astute leadership, guidance and wisdom of the Chairman of Commission II this Twenty-eighth Session of the Conference has approved a Programme of Work and Budget for the 1996-97 biennium with a budget level reflecting what has been variously referred to as a near consensus, or to use a modernism, a virtual consensus. So we have reached a magical figure of US\$650 million for the coming biennium.

Our aspirations are not entirely satisfied by the decision that we have taken here today. For us, therefore, it is but a bitter-sweet occasion, bitter since we are concerned that we have adopted a budget which is some US\$23 million less in nominal terms than the budget for the current biennium, and this in the context of the increasing demands being made on the Organization, the expanding membership over the last several biennia and the critical issues and challenges which confront FAO.

The concern that we have is how we so pared the resources level as to impair fundamentally the organizational capability to deliver what we expect it to deliver for us, particularly us small and island developing countries of the sub-region to which I belong.

Notwithstanding that, we are gratified that we have voted on a budget with no votes against, reflecting our revitalized spirit of cooperation and spirit of working together in the interests of ensuring the long-term viability of this Organization.

It is my sincere hope, therefore, that the US\$650 million that we have agreed upon is the level that we have referred to so often as the assured level of funding that this Organization can significantly and with great expectation and assurance build into the programme and have its activities conducted on over the next biennium.

Chairman, we are pleased at the comments made by the three delegations that have abstained, and in particular we identify with the view that the reforms that have already begun to be initiated are part of a dynamic process and that flexibility should inform us on how we move in the future.

Having regard to the level of the budget that we have voted, Chairman, we would expect that, in the context of the encomium showered upon the Director-General for his leadership and for his astuteness over the last biennium, we allowed the fullest measure of flexibility within the context of the Rules of the Organization so that the Organization, the Director-General and his management can get on with the job over the coming biennium of delivering what we so sorely require and need in our development for several countries.

We thank the House for voting in the way it has voted.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Monsieur le Ministre et Président de la Conférence, Monsieur le Président indépendant du Conseil, Honorables Ministres, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, nous voici donc arrivés au

bout d'un processus qui n'aura pas été des plus faciles et qui nous a conduit aujourd'hui à adopter sans opposition, le Programme de travail et budget qui va déterminer notre action pour les deux années à venir.

Ce Programme, nous l'entamons au moment où nous venons de réfléchir sur l'évolution de notre Organisation et sur ses perspectives dans le cadre des cérémonies du cinquantième anniversaire au Québec. Mais ce Programme, nous allons l'entamer aussi au moment où nous demandons aux plus hautes autorités de nos Etats de réfléchir sur la situation alimentaire mondiale et de nous guider dans nos efforts pour relever le défi - ô combien important! - que nous aurons à relever à la fin des années 90 et au début du siècle prochain. Je dois avouer qu'exécuter un budget de 650 millions de dollars quand on parle d'un budget qui, il y a deux ans, se situait à 673 millions de dollars, n'est pas une chose aisée lorsque l'on prend en compte le fait que non seulement il y a l'inflation, non seulement il y a des programmes nouveaux considérés comme prioritaires, comme le Programme de sécurité alimentaire et le Programme de lutte préventive contre les maladies transfrontières et les fléaux des animaux et des plantes, lorsque l'on doit mettre en oeuvre un Sommet mondial de l'alimentation et lorsque l'on doit aussi tenir compte des différents besoins de nos Etats Membres et des évolutions qui pourraient résulter des discussions en cours au niveau de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies. Mais, lorsque j'ai pris mes fonctions je ne l'ai pas fait dans la perspective d'avoir à réaliser un travail facile. Je suis donc prêt, comme je vous l'ai promis au cours de la réunion du Conseil, à appliquer loyalement les décisions qui ont été prises ici.

Je vous avais indiqué au cours du récent Conseil que, quel que soit le niveau du budget, votre Secrétariat le mettrait en oeuvre en essayant d'éviter au maximum les impacts négatifs sur le Programme. Mais je dois dire qu'au-delà des chiffres ce qui est important c'est l'esprit. Au-delà des chiffres, ce qui est important c'est notre commune volonté d'entreprendre ensemble et de réussir ensemble.

Le processus qui a été mené ici sous la direction éclairée de l'Ambassadeur Jacques Laureau, et cela ne doit être une surprise pour personne puisqu'il est un héritier de ce brillant diplomate qu'était Talleyrand, ce processus, dis-je, a montré que les différents Etats Membres savaient dépasser leurs préoccupations particulières et savaient être capables de se retrouver sur ce qui est essentiel. Lorsque l'on a la responsabilité de diriger le Secrétariat d'une institution internationale, l'outil mathématique le plus important est l'arithmétique. Il s'agit de savoir calculer les plus petits dénominateurs communs. Et aujourd'hui, il apparaît que le plus petit dénominateur commun, c'est ce niveau de budget qui permet de préserver l'universalité de l'Organisation, qui permet d'entraîner l'ensemble de nos Etats Membres dans la même aventure.

En moi, vous trouverez toujours un Directeur général qui aura la franchise de vous dire ce qui n'est pas possible. Lorsqu'il m'a été proposé de faire des économies supplémentaires qui ne touchent pas les programmes, je vous ai indiqué qu'après être parti d'un budget de plus de 734 millions de dollars E.-U. pour passer à un budget de 698 millions de dollars E.-U., il n'était pas possible de faire ce qui était demandé.

Cet exercice budgétaire va donc toucher les programmes et nous allons faire des propositions au Comité du programme et au Comité financier. J'ose espérer que le même esprit d'entente, le même souci de coopération, la même volonté de trouver des solutions acceptables pour les uns et les autres vous conduiront à m'accorder toute l'aide nécessaire pour que je réussisse la lourde mission que vous m'avez confiée.

A vous tous et à vous toutes, qui avez permis aujourd'hui que ce budget et ce programme soient adoptés sans opposition, je voudrais vous exprimer toute ma reconnaissance et tous mes remerciements pour cette confiance. Et j'ose espérer qu'au cours des deux années prochaines, nous travaillerons ensemble pour que la FAO vive, pour que la FAO puisse être à la mesure de son idéal qui est fiat panis.

The meeting rose at 22.00 hours.

La séance est levée à 22 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 22.00 horas.

31 October 1995



# CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Twenty-eighth Session • Vingt-huitième session • 28º período de sesiones

**FOURTEENTH PLENARY MEETING  
QUATORZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
14ª SESION PLENARIA**

31 October 1995

**The Fourteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours**

**Mr Costas Petrides,**

**Chairman of the Conference, presiding**

**La quatorzième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 heures**

**sous la présidence de M. Costas Petrides,**

**Président de la Conférence**

**Se abre la 14ª sesión plenaria a las 10.00 horas**

**bajo la presidencia del Sr. Costas Petrides,**

**Presidente de la Conferencia**

## PART IV - APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)

## QUATRIEME PARTIE - NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS (suite)

## PARTE IV - NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)

## 25. Appointments

## 25. Nominations

## 25. Nombramientos

## 25.2 Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee

## 25.2 Nomination des représentants de la Conférence de la FAO au Comité de la Caisse des pensions du personnel

## 25.2 Nombramiento de Representantes de la Conferencia de la FAO en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal

CHAIRMEN: Paragraph 8 of document C 95/16 specifies the actual requirement of the Conference. We must appoint one member and one alternate for a term of three years from 1 January 1996, the outgoing member and alternate being Mr McAteer of the United States and Mrs Abdallah from Syria. Secondly we must appoint one member and one alternate for a term of three years from 1 January 1997. In this instance, the outgoing member and alternate are Mrs Dubra from Uruguay and Mr Marguerite from France.

A.T. Slater (Director, Personal Division): You have before you document C 96/16, Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee. The United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund provides retirement, disability, death and related benefits to the staff of the United Nations and related organizations such as FAO. It is administered by the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board, with staff committees in each of the particular organizations. The Board's membership is drawn from those committees whose members and alternates are chosen by the governing body, the executive head of the organization and the participating staff in each organization.

In the case of FAO, Conference appoints three of the nine members and three of the nine alternate members of the FAO Staff Pension Committee. It is brought to the attention of the Conference that only the Conference has the authority to appoint members and alternate members to the FAO Staff Pension Committee.

Paragraph 8 of document C 95/16 states that appointment is needed for one member and one alternate member to serve starting 1 January 1996 until 31 December 1998, and one member and one alternate member to serve 1 January 1997 until 31 December 1999.

The Secretariat has been informed that the following candidates have been proposed to serve as members and alternate members representing the FAO Conference on the FAO Staff Pension Committee. For the period 1 January 1996 to 31 December 1998 the candidate for member is Mrs Kaija Ilander, Permanent Representative of Finland to FAO. The alternate member proposed is Her Excellency Mrs Souad Abdallah, Permanent Representative of Syria to FAO.

For the period 1 January 1997 to 31 December 1999, the candidate proposed as member is Miss Gabriela Vassallo Consoli, Alternate Permanent Representative of Peru to FAO, and the alternate member proposed is Mr Olivier Marguerite, Alternate Permanent Representative of France to FAO.

You may wish to ask the Conference to consider these candidates, Mr Chairman, and, if it finds them acceptable, to proceed with the appointment of the persons just named to become members and alternate members of the FAO Staff Pension Committee.

CHAIRMAN: You have heard the proposals. You have four names to fill the four vacant positions. May I take it that the Conference agrees to these appointments?

Since there is no objection, I declare these four persons duly appointed.



26. Date and Place of the Twenty-ninth Conference Session

26. Date et lieu de la vingt-neuvième session de la Conférence

26. Fecha y lugar del 29º período de sesiones de la Conferencia

SECRETARY-GENERAL: The dates proposed for the next Conference are Friday 7 November to Thursday, 20 November 1997, and the place would be FAO Headquarters in Rome.

CHAIRMAN: Does Conference agree that its Twenty-ninth Session be convened from 7 to 20 November 1997? Is there any objection?

Since there is no objection, it is so decided.

27. Any Other Matters

27. Autres questions

27. Otros asuntos

- In Memoriam
- In Memoriam
- In Memoriam

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Since the last Conference Session, the following staff members died while in service:

Al-Saleh, Z.S.A.

Ardagna-Milazzo, S.

Avelar Avila, S.O.

Biabatantou, P.M.

Cesbron, Pierre

Chapman, C.R.

Denen, Hetty

De Wild, Michel Anton

Gjerum, Lars

Gonzalez-Palmou, J.P.

Hidalgo-Quezada, C.

Kamara, Mohamed

Kayitesi, B.

Loutsch, C.F.F.

Maambo, Patrick T.M.

Maestre, Leonardo

M'Bai, Elfeke

Mgunda, Bryceson Malio

Ndatsva, Patrick

Ongati, Zachary Siteki

Owusu, O.

Petrelli, G.

Puccio, G.C.

Rutagengwa, R.

Sambaka, Judith W.

Sanusi, N.A.

Vanderghem, J.

Woinshet, Tafesse

Xenos, C.

CHAIRMAN: May I request the assembly to stand for one minute of silent tribute to those staff members who have died since our last Conference?

One minute's silence

Une minute de silence

Un minuto de silencio

- Climate Agenda
- Action pour le climat
- La acción para el clima
- Delegates' Comments on Information Documents listed in Conference Agenda
- Observations des délégués sur les documents d'information figurant dans l'ordre du jour de la Conférence
- Observaciones de los delegados sobre los documentos de información indicados en el programa de la Conferencia

J.S. CAMARA (Director, Office for External Relations): The Report of the Director-General is contained in Document C 95/INF/20, entitled "Collaboration within the United Nations System and with Other Organizations", submitted to the Conference at its present session.

I would like to bring to the attention of members of Conference two matters involving inter-agency coordination within the UN system.

The first relates to a resolution entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations", adopted by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at its substantive session of 1995. A brief summary of this resolution is contained in paragraphs 27 and 28 of the document to which I have referred. In this resolution, governments were encouraged to ensure coherence in guidance given to the governing bodies of the relevant organizations and programmes, with a view to helping them improve the coordination and effectiveness of the humanitarian assistance delivered. Furthermore, the resolution acknowledged that differences and limitations exist in the capacities of the various actors within the United Nations to address effectively and in a comprehensive and coordinated manner the need for preparedness and humanitarian response as well as prevention, rehabilitation, recovery and development in accordance with their mandates.

Consequently, the Secretary-General of the United Nations is requested to provide the Economic and Social Council with a comprehensive report on this issue. The report should contain an in-depth analysis of the responsibilities and capacities of the United Nations system, as well as options and recommendations for strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to respond to needs for humanitarian assistance. ECOSOC has yet decide on the deadline for the submission of this report.

In order to facilitate the process of preparing the report however, the governing bodies of the United Nations system organizations are urged to consider, during the period 1995 to 1997, a list of issues concerning the role and operational responsibilities as well as the operational and financial capacities of their respective organizations to respond, within their mandates, to humanitarian crisis. The first progress report will be submitted to the 1996 substantive session of ECOSOC.

The Department for Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) has been designated by ECOSOC to coordinate this exercise. FAO awaits farther information from DHA on how this exercise will be coordinated and conducted. This matter will be placed before FAO Council at its 111th Session in October 1996.

The second matter to which I would like to draw attention is the Integrating Framework for International Climate-Related Programmes, also called the Climate Agenda. This Agenda was prepared by the Coordinating Committee of the World Climate Programme, in which the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural

Organization (UNESCO), the International Oceanographic Commission (IOC); the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU), and FAO participated.

FAO participation in this initiative is motivated by the fact that climate is one of the main factors determining the variability of agricultural production in developed and developing countries and, as such, is a major determinant of food security.

The Climate Agenda aims at better utilization of resources available within the UN system through the harmonization of climate-related activities. It addresses inter alia the reduction of the impact of climate variability, especially extreme events such as drought, and increasing the resilience of climate-sensitive sectors against climate variability, including man-made climate change.

A document on the Climate Agenda will be submitted to the 111th Session of FAO Council in October 1996.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr Camara. Are there any comments or questions?

If there are none, does any delegate wish to comment on the information documents? Do I take it then that we have concluded the items on our Agenda?

Horacio M. CARANDANG (Philippines): We should like to know how you intend to proceed and when you expect the Conference to finish and when the Council will begin. We would very much appreciate information regarding the timetable of the following agendas and the Council. Thank you very much, Mr Chairman.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Representative of the Philippines. The whole thing was discussed in General Committee this morning, and we meet at 12.30 again - the General Committee, I am talking about - and at that meeting we are going to decide when we are going to conclude, to see the difficulties and generally the procedures which we have to follow to be in the legal framework of the Organization and the Conference. Thank you.

As I said, at this point we have concluded the items on the agenda of this morning's session; but since we have some time, we are going to proceed with the adoption of the Report of the Commissions, and I call the Chairman of the Commission III to come to the podium in order to adopt C 95/REP/4 and C 95/REP/5, which are reports which we are supposed to adopt this afternoon. Thank you.

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued) ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite) APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART IV (from Commission III)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - QUATRIEME PARTIE (de la Commission III)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE IV (de la Comisión III)

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART V (from Commission III)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - CINQUIEME PARTIE (de la Commission III)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE V (de la Comisión III)

Thomas A. FORBORD (Chairman, Commission III): Thank you, Chairman. We are examining C 95/REP/4 and C 95/REP/5, the reports to the Plenary from Commission III on Legal and Administrative Affairs. The Draft Reports from this Committee were approved by the Committee en bloc without change. They contain very short introductions to very important resolutions.

The first is the amendment to the General Regulation of the World Food Programme converting the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes to an Executive Board as part of a broad reform effort within the United Nations system.

The second resolution is an agreement between the Organization of African Unity and the Food and Agriculture Organization to increase cooperation and joint activities between the two organizations.

The third agenda item is the Audited Accounts of the FAO and the World Food Programme for 1992-93 and the Report on Action taken by these organizations as the result of recommendations by the External Auditor for those fiscal years.

And finally, the fourth agenda item is the approval by the Council of the scale of contributions for 1996-97, a scale which is based on the UN system adjusted for slight differences in the membership of the two organizations. It would be my hope that this body, like Commission III, would be able to approve all four agenda items en bloc.

CHAIRMAN, PLENARY: You have heard the Chairman of the Commission III. Do you have any comments on the Report of the Commission or on the items of it? Well, if there are no comments, then I consider the Report on Constitutional and Administrative Matters to have been adopted. Thank you.

Draft Report of Plenary, Part IV, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière, Quatrième partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte IV, es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary, Part V, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière, Cinquième partie, est adopté

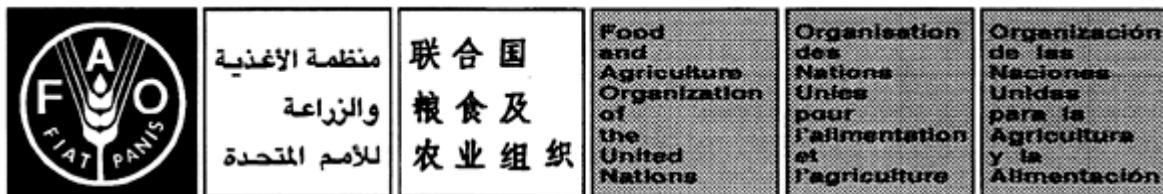
El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte V, es aprobado

The meeting rose at 10.30 hours.

La séance est levée à 10 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 10.30 horas.

31 October 1995



# CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Twenty-eighth Session • Vingt-huitième session • 28° período de sesiones

**FIFTEENTH PLENARY MEETING**  
**QUINZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE**  
**15ª SESION PLENARIA**

31 October 1995

**The Fifteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours**

**Mr Costas Petrides,**

**Chairman of the Conference, presiding**

**La quinzième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45**

**sous la présidence de M. Costas Petrides,**

**Président de la Conférence**

**Se abre la 15ª sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas**

**bajo la presidencia del Sr. Costas Petrides,**

**Presidente de la Conferencia**

CHAIRMAN: Welcome to the Fifteenth Plenary Meeting. We will proceed this afternoon as follows. First, we will proceed with the adoption of Report C 95/REP/6 which is the third and final Report of Commission III. We will then proceed with the adoption of Report C 95/REP/3 which is the last Commission II Report. After we conclude with Commissions II and III, we will adopt the Report of Commission I. Those Reports are 7, 8 and 9. Finally, after a short break, we will resume at a later time to adopt Reports 10, 11, 12 and 13, which are the Reports from Plenary as well as LIM/42, which is the last General Committee Report to the Plenary for adoption.

We now start with C 95/REP/6. I give the floor to the Chairman of Commission III.

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART VI (from Commission III)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - SIXIEME PARTIE (de la Commission III)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE VI (de la Comisión III)

Thomas A. FORBORD (Chairman, Commission III): REP/6 contains our Commission's Report on two agenda items. The first is the financial position of the Organization, including the status of contributions and the Commission's action on a recommendation to eliminate the discount scheme. That recommendations was not accepted by the Commission.

The second agenda item is information and an address to the Commission by a Representative of the Staff Organizations. The full address is available in the Verbatim Report of the Commission.

These are short reports and I hope they can be adopted en bloc. However, before you take that action, let me publicly thank the rapporteur of Commission III, Mr Ly of Senegal, for preparing such short, concise reports, the bureau of the Commission for their support to me in the operation of the Committee and all those who participated in making it what I felt to be a very efficient operation.

CHAIRMAN: Do you have any comments on this report ? If there are none, we consider the report adopted.

Draft Report of Plenary - Part VI (from Commission III), was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plénière - Sixième partie (de la Commission III), est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte VI (de la Comisión III), es aprobado

CHAIRMAN: We now proceed to the adoption of C 95/REP/3 and I give the floor to the Chairman of Commission II.

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART III (from Commission II)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - TROISIEME PARTIE (de la Commission II)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE III (de la Comisión II)

Jacques LAUREAU (Président, Commission II): Monsieur le Président, chers amis, je voudrais moi aussi exprimer mes remerciements au Président du Comité de rédaction, M Aboul-Naga, qui exerçait en même temps la lourde responsabilité du Groupe des 77, et à tous les membres de la Commission qui ont fait part, les uns vis-à-vis des autres, de l'attitude la plus constructive possible.

Bien entendu, l'événement de cette Commission II a été l'adoption du budget et du Programme de travail 1996-97, auquel nous avons procédé sous la forme de l'acceptation d'une résolution, vendredi tard dans la soirée. Ceci a été le résultat, je le rappelle, d'un travail long de compromis réciproques.

Mais je voudrais souligner que d'autres aspects des travaux de la Commission II sont également importants. Il n'y a pas que le budget du biennium à venir. Il y a aussi deux points importants sur lesquels des décisions ont été prises.

D'abord, en ce qui concerne l'exécution du budget 1994-95, l'importance du suivi et de l'évaluation en tant qu'instrument de gestion a été soulignée et acceptée par l'ensemble des membres de la Commission, ainsi que la notion de synergie entre le Programme ordinaire et le Programme de terrain, notamment en ce qui concerne les activités normatives de la FAO.

Un certain nombre de remarques de détails ont été faites par ailleurs sur l'insuffisance de l'exécution d'un certain nombre de thèmes qui avaient été mentionnés antérieurement à l'exécution du Programme.

Sur la question du Plan à moyen terme 1996-2001, il y a un accord général pour reconnaître que le document présenté par le Secrétariat et le Directeur général était un document concis et utile. Le principe proposé par le Directeur général d'un terme de six années pour ce Plan à moyen terme, avec une révision tous les deux ans, a été accepté, tandis que l'utilité par ailleurs d'un Plan à long terme, qui pourrait être établi après le Sommet mondial de novembre 1996 sur l'alimentation - d'autres disent: la sécurité alimentaire - a été évoquée et implicitement ceux qui se sont exprimés avaient à l'esprit de tenir compte de facteurs lourds d'évolution, comme la démographie, le réchauffement du climat, toutes sortes de facteurs qui dépassent largement l'évolution à moyen terme. Donc cette idée a été également non seulement envisagée, mais de fait acceptée.

Je soumetts donc à l'approbation de la Conférence les points 14 et 15, c'est-à-dire l'exécution du budget 1994-95, et le Plan à moyen terme 1996-2001, puisque le point 16, c'est-à-dire le budget, a été approuvé vendredi dernier.

CHAIRMAN: Do you have any comments on the Report?

Paragraphs 1-2 approved

Les paragraphes 1-2 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1-2 son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 3

PARAGRAPHE 3

PARRAFO 3

Thomas A. FORBORD (United States of America): There is just a small oversight in paragraph 3 of item 14. It now indicates that the Programme Committee has recommended a change in timing for the Programme Implementation Report. That should refer to the Programme and Finance Committees, because both have made the recommendation. It says in the second sentence of that paragraph that the report should be submitted to the Programme Committee. That also should read "Programme and Finance Committees" as the Finance Committee has responsibility for looking at the budgetary implementation of the Programme.

CHAIRMAN: Do you have any other comments on it? If not, the Report of Commission II, which is C 95/REP/3, is adopted.

Paragraph 3, as amended, was adopted

Le paragraphe 3, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El párrafo 3, así enmendado, es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary - Part DI (from Commission II), as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plénière - Troisième partie (de la Commission II), ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte III (de la Comisión II), así enmendado, es aprobado

CHAIRMAN: I have an announcement to make which comes from the Peoples Republic of China through its Mission to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture in Rome: "Mr Chairman and Secretary-General, you are kindly requested to recall the stand of the Chinese delegation on the budget level for 1996-97 as expressed earlier during the debate in the Second Commission. The Chinese delegation supports any proposal on the budget level for 1996-97 through consensus. Therefore, the Chinese delegation would like to confirm our agreement and support to the Programme of Work and Budget level of US\$650 million for 1996-97 based on consensus.

The Chinese delegation expresses its regrets for not having been present at the Plenary Meeting held on the evening of 22 October 1995 due to unforeseen circumstances. With personal regards, Chinese delegation".

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART VII (from Commission I)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - SEPTIEME PARTIE (de la Commission I)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE VII (de la Comisión I)

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART VIII (from Commission I)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - HUITIEME PARTIE (de la Commission I)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE VIII (de la Comisión I)

Thomas YANGA (Président, Commission I): J'ai l'honneur de présenter à la plénière de la Conférence le projet de rapport de la Commission I qui porte la cote C 95/REP/7, portant sur les points de l'ordre du jour 8, 9 et 10, sur l'ajustement agricole international, l'élargissement du mandat de la Commission des ressources phytogénétiques, et les normes phytosanitaires.

Le deuxième document, le C 95/REP/8, porte sur les points 11, 12 et 13 de l'ordre du jour concernant le code de conduite pour une pêche responsable, la version révisée du Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement et rapport d'activité, et l'objectif de contributions au Programme alimentaire mondial ONU/FAO pour 1997-98.

CHAIRMAN: Do you have any comments on these two reports? If you have no comments, the two reports of Commission I have been adopted.

Draft Report of Plenary - Part VII (from Commission I), was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plénière - Septième partie (de la Commission I), est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte VU (de la Comisión I), es adoptado

Draft Report of Plenary - Part VIII (from Commission I), was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plénière - Huitième partie (de la Commission I), est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte VIII (de la Comisión I), es aprobado

Thomas A. FORBORD (United States of America): The Conference has approved a resolution urging Member Nations to complete the ratification process of the Flagging Agreement. It is my pleasure to announce that last week, just after Commission II approved that resolution, the United States Congress gave final authorization to the US acceptance of that agreement. President Clinton has announced his intention to sign that authorization into law very shortly. My Government expects to deposit its ratification instruments before the end of November.



DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART IX (from Commission I)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - NEUVIEME PARTIE (de la Commission I)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE IX (de la Comisión I)

Thomas YANGA (Président, Commission I): J'ai l'honneur de présenter aux Membres de la Conférence le document C 95/REP/9 relatif aux points 7 (Sommet mondial de l'alimentation) et 13 bis (La situation du criquet pèlerin et les mesures à prendre) de l'ordre du jour.

Ce document comporte, à la page 3 du texte français, un projet de résolution relatif au point 7, qui concerne le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, projet qui a fait l'objet de longues discussions et de très laborieuses négociations au sein de la Commission pour parvenir à un consensus.

De même, en ce qui concerne le point 13 bis, il comporte un projet de résolution qui a été adopté par consensus au sein de la Commission I.

Paragraphs 1 to 8 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 8 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 8 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 9 to 13

PARAGRAPHES 9 à 13

PARRAFOS 9 a 13

Nasreddine RIMOUCHE (Algérie): Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi de prendre la parole pour attirer l'attention de la Conférence sur une erreur qui s'est glissée dans la page de garde du document C 95/REP/9 où il est dit, au titre du point 13 bis de l'ordre du jour: "Sommet mondial de l'alimentation". Il faudrait remplacer ce titre par "La situation du criquet pèlerin et les mesures à prendre".

Paragraphs 9 to 13, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 9 à 13, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 9 a 13, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary - Part IX (of Commission I), as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plénière - Neuvième partie (de la Commission I), ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte IX (de la Comisión I), así enmendado, es aprobado

The meeting was suspended from 15.20 to 18.00 hours La séance est suspendue de 15 h 20 à 18 heures Se suspende la sesión de las 15.20 a las 18.00 horas

CHAIRMAN: Before we proceed with the adoption of the reports I have an announcement to make from the Irish delegation. I am going to read the text as it was given to us by the Irish delegation. The Irish delegation has asked me to inform the Plenary that, when the vote for the adoption of the budget of FAO for the biennium 1996-97 was called, Ireland did not reply. The Irish delegation is now in a position to give its support to the budget level of US\$650 million.

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART X

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - DIXIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE X

Moussa BOCAR LY (Sénégal): A la fin du paragraphe 25 de la version française, il faut ajouter l'Ukraine après "aux Gouvernements du Belarus, de la Fédération de Russie".

CHAIRMAN: Are there any other comments? As there are no other comments, C 95/REP/10 is adopted.

Draft Report of Plenary, Part X, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, dixième partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, parte X, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART XI

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - ONZIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE XI

SECRETARY-GENERAL: With regard to C 95/REP/11., paragraph 6 on page 2, there is an error on the last line where it states that the Head of the Iraqi delegation had passed away on Friday 19 October. It was in fact Friday 20 October. Please correct that mistake.

Ekoué Kandé ASSIONGBON (Togo): Au premier paragraphe de la première page, il est question d'une déclaration qui figure à l'annexe, mais le numéro de l'annexe n'est pas porté. Je ne sais pas si on peut l'adopter comme cela en attendant d'avoir le numéro.

CHAIRMAN: We will enter the number later. Are there any other comments? Then I consider C 95/REP/11 adopted.

Draft Report of Plenary, Part XI, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, onzième partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, parte XI, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART XII

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - DOUZIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE XII

CHAIRMAN: We will proceed to C 95/REP/12. Do you have any comments? Then I take it that C 95/REP/12 has been adopted.

Draft Report of Plenary, Part XII, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, douzième partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, parte XII, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART XIII

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - TREIZIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE XIII

CHAIRMAN: We go now to the last report, C 95/REP/13. The Secretary-General has a comment to make and a correction.

PARAGRAPH 3

PARAGRAPHE 3

PARRAFO 3

SECRETARY-GENERAL: May I draw the attention of the honourable delegates to page 2, paragraph 3? It is proposed that paragraph 3, which is so brief as not to be of any real use, be struck out and replaced by the single paragraph on C 95/INF/20, which I propose to read so that you will know exactly what we wish to be inserted.

I will repeat: paragraph 3 as it stands is struck out and replaced by a new paragraph 3 which reads as follows: "The Director of the Office for External Relations introduced document C 95/INF/20, "Collaboration within the UN System and with other organizations". In his introductory statement attention was drawn to the integrated framework for international climate-related programmes, also called the Climate Agenda, and to ECOSOC resolution "Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations".

"The Conference was informed that both matters would be placed before the FAO Council at its 111th Session in October 1996. The Conference took note of the document."

Mr Chairman, that is the paragraph we propose as the new paragraph 3.

CHAIRMAN: After this statement, do you have any other comments? If there are no comments, I consider report C 95/REP/13.

Paragraph 3, as amended, approved

Le paragraphe 3, ainsi amendé, est approuvé

El párrafo 3, así enmendado, es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary, Part XIII, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, treizième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, parte XIII, así enmendado, es aprobado

CHAIRMAN: We now proceed to the report C 95/LIM/32 which is the last report of the General Committee.

FIFTH REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

CINQUIEME RAPPORT DU BUREAU

QUINTO INFORME DEL COMITE GENERAL

SECRETARY-GENERAL: You will see that this is the fifth report of the General Committee in which the General Committee recommends that the Conference adopt a resolution on the appointment of the independent chairmen of the Council, in accordance with the provision of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization: that on page 2 the General Committee confirms its recommendation to the Conference on the amount of US\$525 000 as the sum payable by the EC for the biennium 1996-97.

Under the Item "Payment of Contributions", the General Committee calls on the Conference to adopt 11 resolutions for the following countries: Afghanistan, Bolivia, Cambodia, Dominican Republic, Gambia, Grenada, Jamaica, Liberia, Niger, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Suriname and Yemen, containing payment plans to liquidate their arrears.

However, given the financial situation of the Organization, the General Committee recommends that the Conference encourages these members to make every effort to accelerate their payment of arrears, with a view to paying in full over a shorter period of time, preferably over two years.

The Conference would therefore request the Director-General to continue to work with these members to accelerate the payment of their arrears. This is basically what is contained in C 95/LIM/32.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Secretary-General. After the Secretary-General's explanation, and having read the report, do you have any comments?

Kenji SHIMIZU (Japan): It seems to me there is a technical mistake on page 2 with respect to the payment of contributions for Afghanistan. Paragraph 1 line 2 reads: "Through the payment often equal instalments". It seems to me that this is a technical mistake.

CHAIRMAN: There is a space between "of" and "ten". Are there any comments?

Abdesselem ARIFI (Maroc): Dans le texte français, page 8, au sujet du règlement de la contribution du Suriname, je ne comprends pas ce que signifie le paragraphe 2: "le défaut de paiement de ce montant rendra le plan nul et non avvenu". En ce qui concerne le Suriname, il ne s'agit pas d'un plan. Je propose de biffer ce 2.

CHAIRMAN: Paragraph 2 reads: "the first instalment" before "payable". We are talking about one instalment. It is not a plan; it is an instalment plan with one instalment. That is the explanation given to me. Are there any other comments on that?

The Fifth Report of the General Committee was adopted

Le cinquième rapport du Bureau est adopté

El quinto informe del Comité General es aprobado

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Mesdames, Messieurs les Ministres, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs.

Au soir de nos débats, lorsque tout le monde est fatigué, je veillerai à faire une intervention courte, essentiellement pour vous remercier de la qualité des travaux de cette Conférence.

C'est ma première Conférence en tant que Directeur général, et je dois dire que j'en sors réconforté, j'en sors encouragé, surtout par l'atmosphère qui a prévalu tout au cours des débats.

Je le disais il y a quelque temps, certaines décisions vont être difficiles, mais nous vivons dans un monde difficile, et il faut que la FAO donne l'exemple d'une capacité d'adaptation à un environnement difficile. Nous le ferons, comme je l'ai indiqué, avec toute notre volonté de bien faire, avec toute notre loyauté dans l'application de vos décisions.

Nous vous demandons aussi de vous aider, dans la mesure où, comme vous le savez, les besoins de nos Etats Membres sont importants, les défis auxquels nous sommes confrontés sont grands, et la situation des pauvres dans le monde est de plus en plus difficile.

Donc, au-delà du budget, nous comptons sur votre coopération à travers vos contributions volontaires.

Nous comptons sur votre coopération à travers votre participation aux activités de l'Organisation sous forme d'experts, et les Programmes de coopération entre pays en développement sont un exemple de contribution à l'activité de l'Organisation.

Nous comptons sur votre coopération à travers le soutien que vous apportez au fonctionnement de nos bureaux nationaux, régionaux ou sous-régionaux, parce que les pays qui reçoivent ces bureaux contribuent à leur fonctionnement.

Nous comptons sur votre coopération à travers la participation de vos chercheurs, de vos universitaires, dont nous avons besoin pour garder le niveau d'excellence de cette institution.

Mais au-delà de la question des ressources, qu'elles soient humaines ou financières, nous avons surtout besoin de votre soutien politique, parce que cette institution repose sur votre solidarité, cette institution repose sur votre désir de coopérer, votre désir de travailler ensemble, votre désir d'un commun vouloir au profit de ceux qui n'ont pas accès à ce qui est disponible tous les jours pour certains.

Encore une fois, tous mes remerciements pour votre soutien, tous mes remerciements pour m'avoir fait confiance dans les discussions, pour m'avoir consulté, pour avoir considéré que je suis le Directeur général de tous les Etats Membres. Je puis vous assurer que je continuerai d'exercer mes fonctions dans l'esprit d'universalisme qui caractérise cette Organisation et dans le souci de veiller à ce que cette Organisation soit à la hauteur des idéaux de nos pères fondateurs.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Thank you Director-General. I will now ask you to be patient while I make my own statement. This is the last statement of the Conference.

Director-General, distinguished delegates, with the approval of the General Committee Report we have concluded the Agenda which we approved on the first day of this Conference on 20 October 1995. This means that the Conference has ended two days ahead of schedule.

Two years ago the delegates of the 27th Conference Session recommended reducing the period of the Conference to two weeks, rather than three weeks as in the past. On the first day of this session of the Conference, I pointed out to you that, although we had a shorter period in which to conclude our work, there were many important agenda items to be examined and decided upon.

Today, thanks to your cooperation and the hard work of the Secretariat, we are able to say that we have successfully performed our task. I wish to express my deep appreciation to all delegates for their cooperation and understanding. The successful completion of the Conference was only possible with your support. Special mention is also given to the approval of the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium by consensus.

Although shorter than previous sessions, the work of this Conference was of equal importance. We had the privilege of welcoming to the Organization five new members to whom I wish every success in the development of their agricultural sectors and the improvement of the living conditions of their rural population.

All delegates will recall we had the benefit of listening to the very interesting and inspiring 19th McDougall Memorial Lecture delivered by Professor Mugnozza of the University of Tuscia, Viterbo, Italy.

The election of Mr José Ramón López Portillo as Independent Chairman of Council was also significant. He has successfully guided the work of the Council for the last two years and his re-election to the post was only natural. While congratulating and thanking him for the wise remarks he made during his acceptance speech, I wish him every success in the forthcoming period. I also thank him most warmly for the support he has extended to me during my Chairmanship.

Special thanks are also due to the three Vice-Chairmen for the supporting role they have played as Vice-Chairmen of the Conference. It is obvious that whilst we were discussing the world food situation in

Plenary, the three Commissions were busy. They had the good fortune of having three distinguished people as Chairman, namely, Mr Yanga of Cameroon as Chairman of Commission I, Mr Jacques Laureau of France as Chairman of Commission II, and Mr Forbord of the United States as Chairman of Commission III. I am convinced that it is to the credit of the Commissions that the Reports which they presented to the Plenary were accepted without too much debate. I take this opportunity to express my congratulations to the Chairmen of the three Commissions for the excellent work accomplished.

Finally, I thank the members of the Secretariat who have been instrumental in helping me to overcome any difficulties during the Conference. I want to say a special word of thanks to the Director-General himself, Mr Diouf, to the Deputy Director-General Mr Hjort, to the Secretary-General Mr Zenny, to the Assistant Secretary-General Mr Röbbel, to the Chief of Conference Operations Mr Linley, to Legal Counsel Mr Moore, and all those from the Secretariat who gave me the fullest possible support.

I extend my thanks to all those persons who have worked behind the scenes and the secretaries who have worked late hours to prepare all the documents which have come before us every day. I thank the interpreters and the messengers for all their willingness to help us communicate with each other.

We will meet again in two years. As we decided we will be in Rome from 7 to 20 November 1997. Our Organization is now 50 years old with a fine record of achievement. Let us try to help the Food and Agriculture Organization to achieve an even more productive performance in the years to come so that hunger and malnutrition will be eliminated from the world. Goodbye and God bless you all.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Adel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): On behalf of my country's delegation, as well as the delegations of the Group of 77 - and your beautiful country, Cyprus, is a member of the Group of 77 - I would like to express our great gratitude, thanks and appreciation to you, Mr Chairman, for your wise leadership and sagacity during our deliberations at the 28th Session of the General Conference of FAO.

There is no doubt that we have arrived at a historical point for this Organization. We celebrated its 50th Anniversary and there is no doubt at all that the decisions we have taken are going to have a profound effect both in the short- or medium-term of this Organization. We would like to thank you once again, Mr Chairman, and your Vice-Chairmen, for achieving all those matters in such a short span of time.

I take this opportunity to thank all the delegations for the spirit of cooperation and solidarity we have achieved in dealing with all the matters we have looked at. I would like to express my own personal thanks and those of the Group of 77, to the Director-General for his cooperation and for the tremendous effort he has exerted, together with his Secretariat, so that we were able to reach a consensus on all the matters dealt with at this Conference. Further effort will need to be exerted after we have finished our work here in order to give flesh to the resolutions and decisions we have agreed upon, especially those which relate to the Programme of Work and Budget, although the level of the Budget was less than the one we had agreed upon.

Mohamad Walid AL-TAWEL (Syria) (Original language Arabic): Allow me to speak on behalf of Mrs Souad Abdallah, the Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Syria at the FAO. She offers her apologies for not appearing here personally because she is not feeling too well.

On behalf of the delegation of the Arab Republic of Syria and on behalf of the countries of the Near East, which my country heads, I thank the Chairman of the Conference for the successful direction of our deliberations here, as well as the Director-General and the Secretariat for exerting every effort to guide this Organization and the circumstances it is going through and in rationalizing expenditure, all in order to serve the interests of members, especially the developing countries.

We thank the Secretariat for the excellent documents submitted to us: we thank the interpreters and the translators - everybody who has participated in making the Conference successful. We applaud the spirit of cooperation and solidarity which led us to the consensus we are witnessing and which helped us to achieve such tremendous results. This is ample witness to the trust we have in the person of the Director-General and in the Organization itself. Even though the Budget we have agreed upon is less than we had hoped for, I thank everybody who contributed to the consensus, especially His Excellency the Ambassador of France and the President of the Group of 77.

We have every confidence in the Director-General. We know the Organization will deal with those funds in an ideal manner so that all of us can benefit, especially the developing countries amongst us.

The World Food Summit has been convened for next year. This will be a very important factor and I am sure all countries will honour their financial obligations to the Organization. This is our Organization. It is the lighthouse and the hope of the poor and hungry in this world.

The future will be a rosy one, a happy one, if we can cooperate - whether we be advanced or developing countries.

I would like to thank all of you. We wish the Organization every success and may you return to your countries peacefully and in safety.

Jorge FIGUEREDO FRATTA (Paraguay): La Delegación de Paraguay hace llegar su felicitación y agradecimiento al Presidente de la Conferencia por su brillante labor y conducción de la Conferencia de la FAO. También desea augurar éxito al Director General y expresa también su agradecimiento al Secretario General, señor Röbbel, y a todas las personas que han colaborado en el desempeño de esta Conferencia. Muchas gracias a todos.

Inatio AKARURU (Cook Islands): I cannot go back to the South Pacific without expressing the gratitude of all the delegations that have come from that area to you, Mr Chairman, the Director-General, the members of the staff of the Secretariat, the leaders and the members of all the delegations who have attended this Conference, for the manner in which the business of this Conference has been conducted. We thank you, Mr Chairman, most sincerely and we also thank the Director-General for the reduction of the number of days of our meeting. Three weeks away from our countries, as was the case before, is a very long period, especially for those of us who come from the other side of the world.

Through me, therefore, they wish to express to you, Mr Chairman, to the Director-General and to all the staff of the Secretariat, their gratitude for shortening our Conference and for the hospitality which has been extended to all those who have come from the South Pacific. We wish those who are returning to their own countries well, and may God bless each and every one of us.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, delegate of the Cook Islands.

With that statement by the delegate of the Cook Islands, the work of the Twenty-eighth Session of the FAO Conference is concluded.

I thank you all. Have a good trip back home.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

The meeting rose at 18.45 hours.

La séance est levée à 18 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.45 horas.