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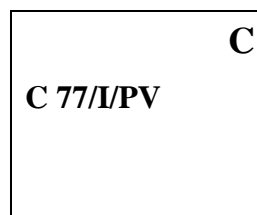
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Nineteenth Session
COMMISSION I

Dix-neuvième session
COMMISSION I

19° período de sesiones
COMISION II

Rome, 12 November - 1 December 1977

**VERBATIM RECORDS OF MEETINGS OF COMMISSION I OF THE CONFERENCE
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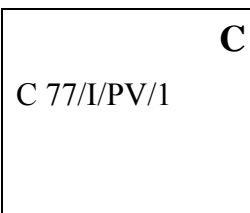
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Nineteenth Session
COMMISSION I

Dix-neuvième session
COMMISSION I

19° período de sesiones
COMISION II

FIRST MEETING
PREMIERE SÉANCE
PRIMERA SESION

(16 November 1977)

The First Meeting was opened at 14.50 hours
J.C. Vignaud, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La première séance est ouverte à 14 h 50, sous la présidence
de J.C. Vignaud, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la primera sesión a las 14.50, horas, bajo la presidencia
de J.C. Vignaud, Presidente de la Comisión I

EL PRESIDENTE: Queda abierta la primera sesión de esta Comisión I del 19° período de sesiones de la Conferencia.

En primer lugar deseo agradecer, muy profundamente, la designación que ha recaído en mí como Presidente de esta Comisión I. Este agradecimiento lo formulo principalmente en nombre de mi país, Argentina, y también en nombre de la región latinoamericana. Agradezco esta designación, como digo, en nombre de mi país, ya que esta Presidencia constituye una distinción hacia él que a la vez que empeña nuestra gratitud significará una motivación adicional y un incentivo de gran valor para que participemos cada vez más activamente y con el espíritu constructivo de siempre en las actividades de FAO.

Desde el punto de vista personal, esta designación implica el haberseme conferido un honor y confiado una responsabilidad que trataré de sobrellevar con la mayor eficiencia posible y con la mayor dedicación, con la mayor objetividad y con el mejor espíritu conciliador.

Nuestra agenda, señores, no tiene muchos temas, pero sí creo que todos ellos son de trascendental importancia. Tengo la firme esperanza de que con la participación de todos ustedes en los debates podremos aunar criterios que permitan dar recomendaciones a la comunidad internacional y también orientaciones concretas y positivas al Director General a fin de que la FAO continúe haciendo aportes cada vez más efectivos para que la insidiosa presencia de la escasez y del hambre desaparezcan de la faz de la tierra.

No tengo la intención de hacer un discurso, sino simplemente quisiera agregar una reflexión y un voto para nuestras deliberaciones. La reflexión, que vivimos en un momento histórico caracterizado por la industrialización de una parte del mundo y por las frecuentes negociaciones para asegurar el suministro de energía para esas industrias a través de la utilización de lo que todos llamamos oro negro, mientras que otra parte del mundo sigue sumida en la pobreza. Tratemos entonces de que esta Conferencia culmine con las acciones positivas que posibiliten asegurar a los hombres pobres del mundo el oro blanco que necesitan, para así poder tener también ellos la energía que como seres humanos necesitan para llevar una vida digna y acorde a su condición de persona humana.

El voto que deseo formular es para que nuestras deliberaciones pongan de manifiesto la existencia de una auténtica voluntad política de cooperación entre los países y también una auténtica vocación en favor de la definitiva implantación y respeto de la justicia distributiva internacional.

Y ahora felicitar al Sr. Rittershaus por su nombramiento como Relator de los debates que se celebren en el plenario de esta primera Comisión y seguidamente ceder la palabra al Sr. Director General, quien entiendo que hará una introducción en relación con el temario, que tenemos la responsabilidad de analizar en nuestras sesiones.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Mr. Chairman, firstly I should like to apologize for not being able to stay after delivery of this statement. I am obliged to go from here to Plenary and then to attend to some urgent matters. I hope, however, to be able to return at a later time.

My interest in the discussions of this Commission on the major trends and policies in food and agriculture has prompted me to make an introductory statement.

You have four items on your agenda, each of which is of major importance.

As I indicated to the Council a year ago, I consider that the state of food and agriculture lies at the very heart of FAO - it is what FAO is all about - and I shall therefore address most of my remarks today to your agenda item on the world food and agricultural situation.

As regards the other items on your agenda, the prevention of food losses is a matter of global concern which has been discussed in a number of international fora, including the World Food Conference and the Seventh Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

As the Commission knows I have attached high priority to an FAO initiative for the formulation of a programme to tackle this largely avoidable loss of food in a hungry world.

The approach to this programme and the action proposals that have been developed have received general support from the Committee on Agriculture and the Council, and are now before the Conference.

Another major agenda item is my report to the Conference on progress in international agricultural adjustment.

You will recall that the last Conference Session approved a strategy for international agricultural adjustment. It requested the Director-General to prepare an assessment of progress in the achievement of the agreed objectives and policies of adjustment, for consideration by the present Conference session.

You have before you my report, which seeks to analyse the different ways in which the world has adjusted during the last three years in agricultural production, food consumption, agricultural trade, external assistance, and food aid.

The remaining agenda item concerns developments in the regime of the sea.

In my view they have major implications for the future development of the world's fisheries.

In fact, we are already feeling the effect on fish catches of various national decisions on territorial and other limits.

While all these items are important, I would like to concentrate now on our assessment of the world food and agricultural situation. I hope that this will set the stage not only for your discussion of item 6 but also in a more general way for all of the deliberations of the Commission.

You have before you the usual two documents to assist you in your deliberation on item 6. The "Mini-Sofa" (C 77/2), which was circulated in advance, assesses the world food and agricultural situation as of late July. It is brought more up to date (to late October) by the supplementary document (C 77/2 - Sup.1) that has been tabled during the session.

I have already spoken briefly about the situation in my opening speech to the Conference. I should like now to go into a little more detail including some new information that has become available.

The latest information largely confirms our earlier assessment, that, although the world food and agricultural situation has considerably improved, many serious problems remain.

As regards production, we now have the first preliminary world and regional estimates for 1977. Both for developing countries and for the world as a whole, the latest figures indicate an increase of only 1 to 1.5 percent in food production in 1977 and 1.5 to 2 percent in total agricultural production.

World cereal production is now estimated at about 1 per cent below the record crop of 1976. These figures are slightly revised as compared with those in the supplementary document.

Both at the world level and in the developing countries, the increases in food and agricultural production in 1977 are less than population growth;

The immediate situation would have been less favourable than it was a year ago, but for the welcome rebuilding of cereal stocks that began in 1975/76.

Even so, the generally small production increases in 1977 are disappointing and are causing severe difficulties in a number of countries.

The large production increases in the developing countries in 1975 and 1976 and the replenishment of world stocks owe a great deal to the fact that we have generally been blessed with better weather in the last few years.

At the same time, it is also evident that many new government programmes, started during the crisis years, are beginning to show results.

But these efforts must be stepped up still further if any real progress is to be made over the longer term.

This is readily apparent if we look at the recent performance in relation to some of the goals and targets that the international community has set for itself.

The most basic of these targets is the 4 percent annual average increase in the agricultural production of the developing countries that is called for in the international development strategy for the second development decade.

This target was reaffirmed, in respect of food production, by the World Food Conference three years ago.

The developing market economies as a group actually met the target in the three years 1974, 1975 and 1976.

But over the longer period from 1970 to 1976, except in the Near East, the rate of increase in food production in the developing countries as a whole was considerably below the target of 4 percent. It was even lower than that achieved in the previous decade of the sixties and will be reduced still further if our preliminary figures for 1977 are confirmed. What is even more disturbing, the production trends have been least satisfactory in the poorest of the developing countries. For Africa, the rate of increase was the lowest and the MSA countries are again facing large deficits this year. As we all know, one of the worst failures in relation to the targets of the International Development Strategy concerns development assistance.

As regards official commitments of external assistance to agriculture, there was an encouragingly large increase in 1974 and a smaller one in 1975.

But this trend was sharply reversed in 1976, and commitments for agriculture declined both in absolute terms and as a share of the total flow of assistance.

Even with the establishment of IFAD, falls below the requirements for external assistance would be considerable.

If this state of affairs were to continue, the impact of FAO's expended efforts to assist countries in the preparation and implementation of investment projects could be seriously blunted. As a consequence, the development efforts of the poor countries would be considerably retarded.

One of the targets set by the World Food Conference related to commitments of food aid of a minimum of 10 million tons of cereal. FAO's latest estimates indicate that commitments of food aid in cereals for 1977-78 have reached 9.6 million tons, which fall short of the minimum target.

The most ambitious of all the international targets is the goal of the World Food Conference virtually to eliminate hunger and malnutrition from the world by 1985.

The new information available in FAO's Fourth World Food Survey, however, indicates an increase during the early 1970s in the appallingly large number of people suffering from severe hunger and malnutrition.

I believe, therefore, that we must act with a greater sense of urgency to adopt and implement a strategy that is both feasible and politically acceptable, for the rapid reduction of hunger and malnutrition.

What is needed is of course much more than just an accelerated rate of investment and a faster increase in production, crucial as this is. Concerted efforts must be made to ensure a more active involvement of the rural poor in the development process and to secure a more equitable distribution of incomes and access to land and other productive resources.

These and unrelated issues will no doubt be considered in depth at the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.

One of the more sensitive features of the present world food agriculture situation, and yet paradoxically one of those on which international action is most urgently required, concerns world stocks of cereal. There has been an increase in stocks in recent years. This will amount to 166 million tons by the end of the 1977/78 crop season. Despite this increase the stocks represent only about 18 percent of annual world consumption, which is the minimum required to safeguard world food security. Moreover, they are concentrated in a few major producing countries. Abundant supplies at present provide a unique opportunity to establish an internationally coordinated system of national stocks envisaged in FAO's international undertaking on world food security. I urge that food security be given the fullest consideration in the current negotiations on the International Wheat Agreement which have now reached a crucial stage. I have transmitted to the negotiators the recommendations - of the Committee on World Food Security as well as the views of the developing countries. In the absence of the necessary framework, countries are prone to take unilateral action.

I mentioned in my opening speech the recent decision of the United States, the world's biggest agricultural exporter, to introduce a set-aside programme for wheat for 1978 crops, as well as a farmer-owned food reserve. I was glad to note the assurance given by Secretary Bergland in the plenary session this morning that the set-aside, as well as that newly announced for coarse grains, would be subject to review in the light of the changing supply situation. The Commission will no doubt be interested in hearing further details, particularly about the United States' proposal to set up a special international

emergency food reserve, for use in non-commercial food aid, nutritional programmes and meeting United States food aid obligations under the International Reserves Agreement. I earnestly hope that this proposal will soon be given concrete shape and lead the other countries to join in this initiative. I recall here the resolution of the World Food Conference, which urged all donor countries to channel a more significant proportion of food aid through the World Food Programme.

I have concentrated my remarks on some of the highlights which I know are of very serious concern to Member Nations and especially to the many developing countries. There was an improvement in agricultural export earnings of developing countries in 1976. However, this is far from adequate in relation to the requirements and the foreign exchange resources for development. The gains have not been shared by all. The most seriously affected countries continue to face serious balance of payments difficulties. The fundamental problems of instability of commodity prices, unacceptably high barriers to trade and the threat to natural products from completing synthetics remain unsolved. I need hardly emphasise the urgent need for intensified efforts in international negotiations to improve the trade prospects of developing countries.

Finally, I should like to say a word on the arrangements for the Report on the State of Food and Agriculture, since these have recently been discussed by the Programme Committee and the Council. I am gratified that my proposals in this regard have been accepted, including a flexible approach to the contents each year designed to produce a development-oriented, practically useful publication. Last year's report contained a special survey of the important subject of energy and agriculture. This year's report will include a special chapter on the state of natural resources and the human environment for food and agriculture. We hope to have copies of a preliminary version of this chapter in your hands before the end of this session for your information.

I hope that this not so brief introduction, together with the documentation we have prepared, will assist you in having a useful discussion. I shall follow your deliberations with the keenest interest.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias a usted, Sr. Director General. En primer lugar, gracias por habernos acompañado en la apertura de nuestras deliberaciones. Nos damos cuenta de que usted tiene otros compromisos que no le van a permitir acompañarnos siempre, pero tenemos la esperanza de verlo con nosotros lo más frecuentemente posible. Gracias también por haber inyectado nuevos elementos a nuestra discusión además de los elementos que ya tenemos en nuestros documentos de trabajo.

Yo creo que usted ha señalado varios puntos que estoy seguro que las delegaciones tendrán presentes cuando hagan sus intervenciones; particularmente, lo que usted ha dicho en relación con la falta de, diría yo, de proporción entre el aumento de la población del mundo y el aumento de la producción agrícola.

La preocupación que usted señala de que, precisamente en los países en desarrollo, es donde los niveles de producción son menos satisfactorios; su nueva cita o insistencia sobre el alto número de población que sufre hambre y malnutrición; que el aumento de las exportaciones de productos agrícolas no ha sido suficiente para satisfacer las necesidades de divisas que tienen los países en desarrollo; es esto una cantidad de elementos que yo creo son muy valiosos y que todas las delegaciones tendrán en cuenta. Gracias.

Señores; antes de continuar quizá convenga tener presente que el Comité General ya recomendó al Plenario la aprobación del Programa para las sesiones de la Conferencia, donde por cierto está incluido nuestro Programa y nuestro Calendario. De manera que si no hay comentarios al respecto, continuaré indicándoles que en lo que respecta a la constitución del Comité de Redacción, he celebrado ya algunas consultas con delegaciones, y particularmente con los coordinadores de algunos grupos regionales, y que a la mayor brevedad les haré conocer una propuesta de constitución del Comité de Redacción. Tengo la intención de hacer un Comité de Redacción lo más reducido posible para que sus deliberaciones sean lo más rápidas y concretas posible.

Deseo comunicarles, señores delegados, que hemos recibido en este momento la nominación de los Vicepresidentes de esta Comisión I que se sometió al Comité General y luego pasó a consideración del Plenario, quien acaba de aprobar los siguientes nombres: S.A.H. Alshakir, Embajador de la República de Irak ante la FAO, Nayen Ben Mohamed, Director de la División de Cooperación y Coordinación Técnica del Ministerio de Agricultura y Reforma Agraria de Marruecos, el Sr. T.J. Kelly, Primer Secretario Adjunto de la División de Desarrollo del Departamento de Industrias Primarias de Australia, y el Sr. Shiva B. Nepali, Director General del Departamento de Agricultura de Nepal.

À la vez que deseo felicitar a los cuatro Vicepresidentes que me acompañarán en esta gestión, deseo decirles que tengo la convicción de que podré contar con la muy valiosa colaboración de todos ellos y que cada uno, en alguna ocasión, pueda tomar este lugar en alguna de las sesiones que en los próximos días vamos a celebrar.

PART I - MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

PREMIERE PARTIE - PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET QUESTIONS DE

POLITIQUE EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE

PARTE I - PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLÍTICAS DE LA AGRICULTURA

Y LA ALIMENTACION

7. Prevention of food losses

7. Prévention des pertes alimentaires

7. Prevención de pérdidas en alimentos

EL PRESIDENTE: Según la Agenda y el Calendario que fue propuesto por el Comité General y aprobado por la Conferencia, el primer tema que pondremos a consideración es el tema 7, cuyo documento es el C 77/19, que se refiere a la Prevención de Pérdidas de Alimentos.

Antes de dar la palabra al Profesor Bommer, que va a introducir este tema en esta Sala, quisiera decir que el tema 7 tiene particular importancia, a mi juicio, porque precisamente se vincula con algo que las delegaciones han insistido en los últimos dos años, y es la necesidad de dar a la FAO aptitud suficiente para que esté en condiciones de dar respuesta inmediata a los requerimientos de asistencia por parte de los países. Un ejemplo ha sido el Programa de Cooperación Técnica, que creo que funciona bien, y otro ejemplo podría ser esta nueva propuesta que ahora nos presenta el Director General.

Analizando el documento, quizás ustedes habrán visto que las cifras que se pierden, tanto antes de las cosechas como durante o como luego de las cosechas, son altísimas y que quizás el conocimiento de esas cifras aconseje tomar una decisión al respecto, es decir, aconsejando que esta acción que nos propone se implemente con la mayor urgencia y sobre todo que aconseje que tratemos también de llegar a un consenso sobre esta iniciativa.

D.F.R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): The proposed Action Programme for the reduction of pre-harvest and post-harvest losses in the first issue is of major importance and is to be considered by this Commission which deals with major trends in policies in food and agriculture. As emphasized by the Director-General, a strong and determined attack on avoidable losses will be one corner-stone of FAO's priorities in the years to come. As mentioned by the Director-General in his introduction, the subject of food losses has been on the agenda of many meetings of FAO and other bodies since the World Food Conference in 1974 drew attention to it and to the possibility of increasing food availability by drastically reducing losses.

The FAO Council at its 70th Session in November-December 1976 recalled the Resolution passed by these bodies, in particular that of the 7th Special Session of the UN General Assembly, calling for a 50 percent reduction of post-harvest losses by 1985. The Council requested the Director-General to prepare an Action Programme to reduce pre- and post-harvest losses and to present a proposal for a \$20 million fund for this purpose.

The Action Programme was discussed at length by the 4th Session of the Committee on Agriculture, which made valuable suggestions to improve it. The FAO Council at its 71st Session unanimously approved the Action Programme, as endorsed by COAG, and a large majority of the Council also agreed with the proposal for an FAO Special Fund for the reduction of food losses. A resolution to establish the fund, presented by the Finance Committee, was discussed by the Council, which deferred a final decision to its 72nd Session. At that Session last week the Council considered the revised draft, resolution which was transmitted to the Conference with some amendments.

The present discussion therefore represents a combination of a series of discussions of food losses. These series of reviews have been valuable in defining ideas and in defining more clearly the point of emphasis, the point of importance on which Member Countries, FAO and other agencies should focus in their future activities. I will not at this stage repeat these points. They are to be found in the Reports of COAG and the relevant Council Sessions and are embodied in document C 77/19 before you.

'The present discussion provides an opportunity in a wider forum for Member Countries to review their present activities in preventing food losses; to consider the broad strategy to be adopted in increasing these activities; to discuss further the FAO Action Programme, its priorities and emphasis in the perspective of the total strategy, and to consider the Resolution to establish a special fund for the reduction of food losses.

It must, of course, be recognised that projects financed from the fund would form only an initial stage of the total efforts to be undertaken. This requires a full commitment of respective governments to amend their national programmes and for mobilization of additional assistance from the international community. It is our concern to begin the Action Programme as soon as possible and wherever possible to spearhead large-scale action by all concerned. It is imperative that we go forward quickly and courageously with this Programme. It must be carried out by each individual country with the largest possible international cooperation and assistance, as only the combination of individual and cooperative effort can ensure lasting success in our fight against preventable food losses.

EL PRESIDENTE: Quizá el Sr. Relator desea ahora informarnos sobre lo acontecido en el Plenario para poder así contar con nuevos elementos para analizar en nuestras discusiones sobre este tema 7.

L. RITTERSHAUS (Rapporteur, from Plenary to Commission I) This afternoon I will report on the first session of the General Discussion in the Plenary Meeting. I will restrict my report to statements relevant to Item 7 of the Agenda, the prevention of food losses.

The prevention of food losses was at the centre of the first and second days of the Plenary. The Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Narasimhan, stressed the importance of the prevention of food losses in general and said that they have already aroused considerable interest in the United Nations General Assembly. He welcomed international cooperation in this field and the fact that areas of future collaboration towards a reduction of these losses were already being explored.

The delegate of Switzerland, who opened a number of country statements, fully supported FAO's policies on food losses but questioned the need for a separate fund, and in this context criticized what he called the present tendency towards dispersal of resources. While Switzerland was ready to collaborate in FAO's activities Uniting food losses, he believed that a special fund would set a regrettable precedent. The Swiss Government would prefer voluntary contributions to the Regular Programme over and above the level of ordinary contributions.

The delegate of Saudi Arabia expressed the view that the proposed financial fund for the reduction of post-harvest food losses was a good case illustrating the danger of unnecessary dispersal of efforts and human resources. Rather than having new programmes, existing programmes should assume this and other tasks.

The delegate of Belgium supported the examination of the proposal to establish a fund for the reduction of food losses during this Conference, and so did the delegate of Tunisia.

The delegate of Nigeria likewise welcomed the programme aimed at the reduction of food losses, while the delegate of Japan mentioned that Japan has for many years given economic assistance in the field of better food processing. He recommended that developing countries should also carry out basic research on food preservation and that FAO should provide technical assistance which could be coordinated with national efforts.

In the same vein Morocco welcomed the Director-General's programme concerning the reduction of food losses; and so did the Turkish delegation.

The delegation of Morocco estimated that grain importing countries could save some 871/2 million a year on imports only.

The Danish delegation went one step further and suggested that the proposed programme for the reduction of post-harvest losses should receive top priority as it could reduce losses of precious foodstuffs of an order of \$5.8 billion a year, roughly the amount the developing world is at present lacking in resources to attain the objective of the Second Development Decade.

The delegation of the United Kingdom supported the programme for the reduction of food losses and expressed the view that a post-harvest loss effort was acceptable with a reservation concerning the raising of the necessary contributions. The principles of voluntariness should be maintained. A similar view was voiced by the Austrian delegate.

The French Minister of Agriculture added that in his view crop losses and their reduction were a most crucial problem. Losses up to 40 percent of harvest volume in some countries were unacceptable, but as for the financing of the operations aimed at reducing food losses, a suitable formula still had to be found.

The debate continued this morning and will be reported in the next Session.

EL PRESIDENTE: Pongo a consideración de ustedes el tema 7.

E. SAENZ (Colombia): Gracias por darnos la oportunidad de hablar de primeros en este tema. Trataremos de ser breves, lo más breves posible, siguiendo aquel refrán pugilístico que dice que quien golpea primero, golpea dos veces. Entonces, esperamos que esta intervención nuestra tenga una doble repercusión en beneficio del tema que abordamos.

Permítame, Sr. Presidente, igualmente felicitarlo a usted por la posición que ocupa; es como usted lo dice, la representación de América Latina en la Mesa directiva, y nos honramos de tenerlo a usted como Presidente de esta Comisión.

Agradecemos y felicitamos también a la Secretaría por el documento tan bien elaborado que nos presenta, el C 77/19, y antes de iniciar nuestro tema central queremos darle un saludo a nuestros colegas, dándoles la bienvenida a esta Casa como países miembros de FAO, a quienes ofrecemos la colaboración total de nuestra delegación. En diversas reuniones anteriores la representación de Colombia ha venido participando en la discusión de este Tema 7: "Prevención de pérdidas en Alimentos" en el seno de esta Comisión I. La delegación de mi país desea reiterar su más pleno apoyo a este asunto y la forma en que el Director General ha propuesto flexiblemente que se inicie el Fondo Especial para llevar a cabo esta iniciativa.

Consideramos que el dinero proviene del resultado de la diferencia de cambio utilizado para este Fondo, que representa grandes beneficios para los países en desarrollo. Si no logramos la totalidad de los 10 millones de dólares, tantas veces repetidos, para este Fondo de pérdidas durante y después de las cosechas, debemos intensificar nuestros esfuerzos para buscar una fórmula y los términos aceptados por los países interesados, que faciliten un acuerdo en plena cooperación y sin inútiles confrontaciones.

Eh esta oportunidad nos limitaremos a decir para terminar ya, que ese Fondo dará la posibilidad de aumentar la productividad agrícola al evitar sus pérdidas en las cosechas luchando enérgicamente con el interés común de la lucha contra el hambre y la malnutrición.

A. ANDERSON (Sweden): Food losses can occur at many points between the initiation of production and the delivery of food to the consumer. This applies more or less in all countries, and it is a very big problem in the developing countries, as shown in the document we have before us, C 77/19.

We all agree that the crop losses profiled are, from a technical point of view, well illustrated in that document. We can learn a lot from the picture on page 2 which clearly illustrates that crop losses are a regular part of the normal production process. We really do appreciate that the FAO Secretariat have put harvest losses as a natural occurrence. With this background, my delegation wishes to stress, as we did at the Fourth Session of COAG, that a strategy for the reduction of food losses in general ought to be similar to a strategy for raising the results of production. It means that the activities in food loss prevention must last for a long time; it affects all producers, large and small, and all those who collect, transport, store and deliver food. In other words, FAO's activities in food loss prevention will be an integral part of the regular programme as well as the field programme. Here I would mention advisor training, applied research, etc

We also believe that the post-harvest losses programme and the scheme for food security have a great deal to do with each other.

Having said that, my delegation would like to underline that we have two problems to tackle in connection with the prevention of food losses. The first is to get a springboard in line with a campaign to grow more food and save food. We could call this campaign, for instance, 'reduced losses'. Sweden said earlier, and it says today during this Conference, that with this background we can accept the Director-General's action programme earlier approved by the FAO Council at its 71st Session.

The second problem is to prevent food losses in the production process in the long run. We must not forget this detail when we now discuss the actual proposal for a good start. We must also find a cure for the second and, as we see it, bigger problem. My delegation feels that food losses should be given a higher priority and more resources in the future, both in the regular programme and the field programme.

What we say today when we start this action programme is, of course, very important, but what we do in the future will be still more important.

I. A. IMTIAZI (Pakistan): We welcome the increased attention being given to this problem because prevention of food losses is a relatively quick and inexpensive way of increasing total availability of food supplies. If such losses between production and consumption could be reduced or prevented, the food picture would be infinitely brighter.

This subject is receiving due recognition in my country. Realizing the gravity, the enormity and the complexity of the problem, the government of Pakistan has already commissioned a number of studies to formulate a feasible action plan. Our agricultural university is currently undertaking a major study on post-harvest losses in primary food grains in response to a suggestion from FAO, and that study is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

The government of Pakistan has also established a Vertebrate Pest Control Centre with FAO/UNDP assistance, and with the participation of WHO. It has been estimated that in my country crop losses from vertebrate pests alone are about 40 to 60 percent in extreme oases and are valued at about \$10,000,000 per year. The Centre is paying particular attention to rodent control techniques, both in the field and in food storage. The Centre, which is probably the first of its kind to be developed and supported by FAO, apart from research, undertakes training of agricultural extension workers and farmers—it also undertakes demonstrations, field trials and investigations, and provides advice to various agencies including the Food Department. The Centre is now in a position to provide the foundation of trained staff and knowledge as a basis for a comprehensive and cohesive national strategy for minimizing food losses and health hazards. The government of Pakistan would be happy if these results and facilities at this Centre could be provided to other developing countries, and we invite the FAO to use this national institution for promoting its activities in this field.

The lack of adequate storage accommodation for food grains is one of the primary factors responsible for food losses in Pakistan. We have under way a master plan for the storage of agricultural produce, particularly with reference to food grains. We are doing this in collaboration with the government of Canada. The comprehensive terms of reference prepared for the Canadian mission include a study of storage losses and the extent to which they could be reduced through the development of proper storage. Improved storage at the farm level is also engaging our attention, particularly low cost structures using indigenous material. Towards this end, Chinese-type clay silos are being experimented with and, if found suitable, would be duplicated on a large scale.

Turning now to the contents and the proposals in the document, which my delegation has read with great interest and which it fully supports, we have a few points to make. We believe that FAO must assume leadership in this campaign and play a pivotal role in the development and implementation of national programmes based upon its experience in professionally operating and coordinating the ISCEED, IPS, etc. Major inputs will have to be through investment in manpower, investment in finances and investment in physical resources.

While endorsing the proposed FAO action programme, we would suggest that this "be kept as simple as possible so that it remains economical and flexible. My delegation also supports the mechanism for the implementation of the FAO Programme and the criteria proposed by the Director-General for approval of projects. As regards the financing of the team, my delegation fully supports the Director-General's proposal for the establishment of a special fund and the mode of its financing. We do recognize that the programme proposed by the Director-General is intended to be catalytic and is meant to serve only as a model to stimulate further assistance and investment. We would hope that such assistance would be forthcoming in adequate measure from multilateral and bilateral sources. We would further hope that the International Fund for Agricultural Development will, as soon as it has become operational, also pay attention to assisting the developing countries to reduce and prevent their food losses as much as possible.

A.R. SIAFFA (Sierra Leone): First of all I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for giving me the floor and also to congratulate you on your appointment as Chairman of this Commission.

My intervention at this stage is of a general nature. I wish to commend the Director-General and his assistants for the preparation of the excellent document which is the basis of our discussions in this Commission.

I must also congratulate the initiative of FAO for concentrating special attention on this all-important matter of measures that can be taken to reduce crop losses and measures that can reduce food losses.

The subject of the report, self-sufficiency in food, is very dear to the heart of my delegation as we have been doing all we can to attain the goal of self-sufficiency in rice. Sierra Leone is the biggest consumer of rice in the West African region, and we have been plagued by the problems of post-harvest crop losses, especially in grain. We do hope that this Commission, after its deliberations, will come up with worthwhile recommendations leading to the reduction of food losses.

We cannot afford to be complacent on the issue of food losses either pre- or post-harvest losses. It would give the small farmer considerable incentive for further production if he could reduce his crop losses both in the field and after harvest. The marketable surpluses of food produced are determined to a considerable extent not only by the yield per unit area in the field, but also by what the farmer can harvest and process either for home consumption or for the market.

On investment, in most developing countries like Sierra Leone, for example, a substantial investment is made in crop production through the use of improved seeds, fertilizers etc. In some of our countries these inputs are expensive and heavily subsidized if the small farmer should be in a position to benefit from their use. All these exercises and investment will come to naught if the high yield in the field is depleted or nullified by loss of the harvest, because of the lack of adequate processing and storage facilities.

As to multiple cropping - quite often improvement in one area brings a number of new problems. Where suitable soil and water combination exists it has sometimes been possible for the farmer to take more than one crop from the same piece of land per year. While the purpose of this multiple cropping is to get the most out of the land, sometimes some of the crops come to harvest at a critical time of the year, for example rice in the rainy season where the farmer has not got the drying facilities to dry the crops during this time of the year which is very wet and humid. Losses are bound to be heavy under these circumstances.

Now the location of stores at strategic points in suitable areas either to be used on a cooperative or an individual basis is highly recommended. The siting of stores should be determined or dictated by effective needs, not merely by political considerations.

Even where pesticides or crop protection chemicals are available and within the purchasing power of the small farmer, he is quite often not in a position to obtain effective results from their use due to the lack of trained extension workers to guide him in their application.

We should also ensure that every package deal agricultural project should provide for inputs such as supervised credit to enable the purchase and application of crop protection chemicals, stores, etc.

G. DEL MONTE (Italie): La délégation italienne désire avant tout exprimer son appréciation pour la mise au point de la part de la FAO dans le document soumis à l'examen C 77/19, dans lequel sont exposés de façon synthétique tous les principaux éléments concernant les problèmes des pertes alimentaires après la récolte, particulièrement dans les pays de la zone tropicale, ainsi que les moyens à mettre en oeuvre pour réduire ces pertes dans tous les sens possibles.

Tout le monde reconnaît qu'aux fins de la disponibilité des produits tout ce que l'on fait pour réduire les pertes irréversibles vérifiées dans les aliments de base entre la récolte et l'introduction dans la consommation est également méritoire vis-à-vis de l'accroissement de la production. Même vis-à-vis des coûts, parce que sur le plan de chaque économie, en particulier de l'économie générale, il est intéressant de réduire, plus que le coût proportionnel aux quantités produites, le coût relatif aux quantités effectivement disponibles pour la consommation. C'est pour cela que la Délégation italienne donne toute son adhésion, en lui reconnaissant son caractère de haute priorité, au programme d'action visant à réduire les pertes d'aliments de base après la récolte.

Cela d'autant plus que le programme susnommé peut être inséré de façon valide et spécifique dans les plus vastes plans de l'assistance pour la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et la stabilisation des prix et du Programme alimentaire mondial.

En ce qui concerne ce dernier, qu'il me soit permis de mentionner que l'Italie, qui a une expérience scientifique et technique remarquables en matière de prévention des pertes alimentaires, a eu l'occasion de donner de façon concrète sa collaboration dans le domaine de la défense des denrées alimentaires en offrant son hospitalité au mois d'avril 1975 auprès du laboratoire spécialisé du Ministère

de l'agriculture à Rome, aux pays désirant des cours de formation consacrés à ce problème pour le personnel du PAM. L'Italie sera heureuse de renouveler sa collaboration. Enfin, la délégation italienne se permet d'attirer l'attention sur un point mentionné au point 10 du document C 77/19 dans lequel il est possible de vérifier les pertes après la récolte: celui de l'emballage.

Des récentes études exécutées en Italie et ailleurs dans le monde ont montré comment on peut atteindre des résultats concrets de défense de l'attaque des insectes en utilisant des matériaux convenables pour stocker, conserver et commercialiser les denrées alimentaires.

LI YUNG-KAI (China) (interpretation from Chinese) : The main problem of the third world countries as regards food is the insufficiency of their food production. The fundamental solution therefore lies in actively removing the various constraints affecting food production and bringing about a rapid increase in production. Production is the basis. While giving priority to the development of production it is of course necessary to take effective measures to reduce post-harvest losses so as to increase the total amount of food for consumption.

For this purpose FAO has submitted an experimental work programme and proposes to establish a special fund to finance model projects in the coming biennium. That is all right, but one must keep a sense of priority and view this programme in its proper perspective.

We made some comments on the subject at the last two sessions of the Council. Now we should like to add a few remarks in connection with these specific conditions of our country.

We have all along attached importance to the reduction of food losses from grain cultivation, harvest, storage, up to transportation and processing, proper measures are taken at every stage to reduce food losses. These measures are economical, effective and easy to popularize, as they are suited to the different circumstances prevailing in the locality to the various kinds of grain that are handled, and to the different traditions in processing and consumption.

To cut pre-harvest losses to a minimum we abide by the principle of putting prevention before treatment. We have established and improved, early warning systems to forecast disease and insect pests, and make great efforts to reduce the incidence of insect infestation, and birds and animal attacks at an early stage.

To minimize food losses during the harvest we take care to make rational use of manpower during harvest, improve harvesting equipment and technique, and lose no time in harvesting, transportation and storage. Besides, we advocate the principle that every ear of grain should be brought home, and we carry out intensive harvesting and careful threshing. To reduce loss in storage and transportation we pursue the policy of storing grain among the people.

We encourage communes and production brigades to use local materials to build simple warehouses, that are small, inexpensive and practical, so that grain can be stored where it is produced.

As to marketable grain and grain reserves for cities and industrial or mining areas the state sees to it that warehouses are rationally located and that grain is transported in a planned way and properly stored. Quite a lot of state warehouses are free from pests, rodents, birds, moulds and accidents. Much attention is paid to improving food processing technology and making small simple processing equipment suited to various local conditions particularly to the needs of communes and brigades. While ensuring the quality of processed food we try to increase the rate of food output from grain and use the by-products as animal feed or industrial raw material so as to make the best use of grain. At present we are strengthening scientific research on food loss production and frequently organize exchanges of experience in order to further reduce food losses. From our own experience we feel that the reduction of food losses is not just a matter of technology and management but also involves a number of social and economic problems. Each country has its own crops and climate, moreover, cultivation, harvesting storage, transportation, processing and distribution vary in scale and method from country to country. Therefore, the strategy and methodology used to reduce food losses in different places cannot be exactly the same. In our view with regard to plans and projects for reducing food losses each country should be encouraged to rely on its own efforts. At the same time when aid is to be offered in this respect account should be taken of the actual conditions and specific requirements of the recipient countries. FAO's model projects in regard to their scale, technology and cost should be such that recipient countries will find them simple and effective, easy to learn and inexpensive to operate so that they will be able to extend them by their own efforts. "What merits special attention is how to really benefit the small farmers through a reduction of food losses, as they constitute the majority of the rural population in most Third World countries.

In sum we think that in tackling such a complicated problem, all these aspects should be taken into consideration and frequently provided for. It certainly would not be appropriate to impose a uniform solution.

M. LIMAN (Nigeria): My delegation would like to start by congratulating the Secretariat for producing a thought-provoking comprehensive paper C 77/19 on a subject which we regard as of considerable importance to my country and indeed to all developing countries. I share the paper's concern that while a great deal has been said and done about pre-harvest losses relatively little has been done to save whatever it has been possible to produce. In Nigeria assuming a conservative 10 percent post-harvest losses the quantity of grain lost every year runs into well over 1 million tons.

No doubt, Mr. Chairman, a programme in which the international community makes a massive financial and technical input is long overdue. My delegation therefore supports in general the proposals put forward in this paper.

We agree, for example, that there are three major constraints in this area; lack of information; lack of the necessary infrastructure; and lack of capital for investment. It is amazing how very little is known about the magnitude of losses which actually occur after harvest and the most critical areas in this long chain of losses. In some cases therefore we think a study which identifies the points where the major losses are occurring and prepares an inventory of available storage, processing and transport facilities, will be necessary. This study quickly conducted, will provide a sound basis for an action programme.

I should also add that the model projects cited in the document appear to us well conceived.

I should like to stress however, that at least in the experience of my country, Nigeria, it would certainly be more economical and indeed more practical to introduce improvements in the village level storage system rather than impose on the rural community and alien system which is new and most likely expensive. Done in this way the programme will not only be cheaper but more easily adopted by the family. This point has already been made by the delegate of the People's Republic of China.

The document also suggests that the main emphasis of the programme should be on food crops. This my delegation supports whole-heartedly.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, with regard to the establishment of the fund, judging by the enormous scope of the problem of post-harvest losses; the \$20 million suggested by the Director-General would appear to be the minimum funds required immediately if a valuable impact is to be made in this vital long-neglected area. My delegation therefore supports the establishment of the fund unreservedly. The only issue of concern is the procedure being suggested. While the need to support the programme is undoubtedly urgent we think it is necessary for this Commission to work towards a generally acceptable means of making available to the fund the \$10 million recommended by the Director-General which will guarantee the support and cooperation of all member countries of the FAO. Whatever we do, however, Mr. Chairman, my delegation would like to implore this Commission not to allow bureaucratic red tape to prevent the early establishment of the fund.

B.E. MATAMOROS HUECK (Nicaragua): Deseo, Sr. Presidente, felicitarlo a usted y a los otros miembros de esta Comisión que han sido elegidos a la Presidencia y Vicepresidencia respectivamente. También, Sr. Presidente, trataré de atender sus sugerimientos a fin de facilitar la tarea a los intérpretes y a las otras delegaciones.

El tema que estamos tratando reviste para mi delegación particular importancia, pues consideramos que el primario objetivo de los países en desarrollo no es solamente el incremento de la producción agrícola, sino también evitar las pérdidas derivadas durante la cosecha y posteriormente a la cosecha, pues influyen directamente en la disponibilidad alimentaria que existe en nuestros países.

En un documento que fue sometido al estudio del Comité de Agricultura se indicaba que para 1985 la demanda de los países en desarrollo en producciones cerealícolas iba a ser aproximadamente de 979 millones de toneladas. Sin embargo, en ese mismo documento se ponía en evidencia que la capacidad de producción de nuestros países iba a alcanzar solamente 853 millones de toneladas, de lo cual se derivaba un déficit neto de nuestra demanda alimenticia de cereales de aproximadamente 76 millones de toneladas. Se calculaba a este efecto, Sr. Presidente, que las pérdidas netas de producciones de cereales eran aproximadamente de un 10 por ciento, lo que implicaba aproximadamente una pérdida de 85 millones de toneladas en cereales. Solo en nuestras producciones, en términos globales, y dándole un precio ponderado de 176 dólares por tonelada, implicaban la cifra grandísima de 7 500 millones de dólares.

Por lo tanto, Sr. Presidente, si consideramos que solamente nos refiremos a los productos cerealícolos, esto da la magnitud del problema que nosotros estamos aquí enfrentando.

El Gobierno de mi país ha tenido particular preocupación de este problema y ha tratado de emplear las infraestructuras de almacenamiento que puedan cubrir en parte nuestras necesidades, y actualmente hemos logrado alcanzar una capacidad de almacenamiento en el orden de 3.4 millones de quintales de granos básicos. Sin embargo, consideramos que estas actividades y las metas que hemos alcanzado aun no son suficientes y en muchos aspectos se asemejan mucho a los problemas que tenemos todos los países en desarrollo.

Específicamente en relación al documento C 77/19, mi delegación considera que hay tres aspectos fundamentales que se refieren a la producción, el aprovechamiento y el almacenamiento de estos productos, así como a su comercialización. Creemos que la FAO en este sentido puede desarrollar una actividad muy importante en el reforzamiento de los planes nacionales ya existentes, así como también en lograr integrar la coordinación de las actividades de los órganos regionales que en este sentido ya se están operando. Concretamente también, creo que en estas actividades ya la FAO participa a nivel multilateral y en cooperación con otros países que donan asistencia bilateralmente. Podrían ampliarse también a nuestras regiones, pues en los documentos que mi delegación ha tomado no se hace mención de América Latina, si bien ya existen programas de actividades a este respecto en los países en desarrollo.

También deseo referirme a la observación hecha por la delegación de Nigeria y de China en cuanto al nivel de capacitación y la creación de infraestructuras. Consideramos que es muy importante que sea dada a nivel de pequeño productor agrícola y mediano productor también porque todos sabemos que los procesos de elaboración y de consumo de los alimentos vienen en su mayoría en forma directa, y yo creo que las actividades de capacitación influirían en una forma muy grande a reducir las pérdidas mismas.

Concluyendo, Sr. Presidente, mi delegación desea dar su apoyo a la creación del Fondo Especial propuesto por el Director General con la disponibilidad de una cifra de 20 millones de dolares de los Estados Unidos. Sin embargo, si bien apoyamos el principio de la creación de los Estados Unidos. Sin embargo, si bien apoyamos el principio de la creación de este Fondo, también consideramos que debido a la magnitud de las necesidades de los países en desarrollo, es solamente para cubrir las necesidades iniciales. Para poner en marcha este programa, también consideramos que se debe constituir un mecanismo regular para continuar la seguridad de las actividades, que a ese respecto van a constituir el programa, que esperamos, que logremos un resultado satisfactorio al respecto durante el curso de nuestras deliberaciones."

Z. OWIRI (Kenya): Mr. Chairman, first of all I would like to offer our keenest congratulations to you on being elected Chairman of this Commission. Kenya welcomes this opportunity to express her support for the broad objectives and principles of the strategy for the prevention of food losses as outlined in Conference Paper C 77/19. We would like to congratulate the Director-General on producing such a paper, which in our view contains the most important factors to be considered in the prevention of the food losses, especially post-harvest losses.

Having expressed my delegation's support for the document, there are a few observations that my delegation would like to make. Those observations may on the surface appear as matters of detail but in our view they are of sufficient importance to deserve due consideration by this Conference, as they also directly relate to the provision of food and basic needs for a large portion of the low income groups of our population in general and of the rural poor in particular.

The document we are discussing has directed itself mainly to the prevention of post-harvest losses in food grains. This is perfectly understandable as the majority of the human population depend on grains as the source of their basic food. However, there is a substantial part of the rural population which depends solely on livestock and livestock products as their basic and only source of food. In this case I am referring to the rural population in large parts of the marginal and dry lands of the developing countries, of which Kenya is one, which depend solely on meat and milk from various forms of livestock, such as cattle, sheep, goats and camels, for their food. My delegation would like to see this fact recognized and given sufficient attention by FAO by its inclusion in the programme for prevention of food losses. We have in mind such ways and means of preserving meat and milk at the village farm level for use by the farm family during periods of scarcity.

Similarly, my delegation would like to see the problems expanded to include a wide spectrum of root food crops, especially potatoes, in addition to yams, which are already included in the document. In our situation, vegetables and other easily perishable horticultural crops, form an important source of food for the farm family.

My delegation would like to propose some degree of flexibility in the document so that if the need is recognized and specific projects are identified they also can be included in the programme.

Fish has been completely omitted from the document. The majority of the population inhabiting our coastal waters and along the lakes and rivers eat mainly fish. The programmes should therefore cover these people as well.

My delegation fully welcomes the establishment of the Special Fund for the Reduction of Food Losses. We also welcome the proposal for the establishment of national committees, to be charged with the primary responsibility of assessing the magnitude of food losses and initiating the necessary measures for the prevention of such losses. In this context, however, it is our view that where they exist due recognition should be given to the existing national institutions, which can also carry out the additional responsibility of the prevention of food losses. In our situation there are already in existence various agricultural committees, beginning from the farmer-village level up to the national level. Such institutions can under our conditions very well handle this added responsibility.

My delegation would like to make one observation of caution when it comes to the preparation of specific projects for implementation and investment. There have been instances where investment in personnel, in the form of experts and consultants, has taken up more than a fair share of the investment in the project. We trust that this will be avoided in the future, to ensure that the bulk of the investment in this regard reaches the rural poor.

In conclusion, my delegation notes with profound appreciation the efforts already being made by the Commonwealth Secretariat in organizing regional workshops on post-harvest losses. The first such workshop was held in Accra, Ghana, in April 1977 and I understand that another similar workshop is scheduled for the East African countries early next year. It is our hope that such regional conferences will help us adopt a regional approach to post-harvest losses and identify specific problems for investment in areas which will yield the highest returns and benefit the greatest number of our people.

We have also benefited from the work being carried out by the Tropical Products Institute of the United Kingdom. We hope that this cooperative programme will continue and will be expanded to include all the factors concerning the production of food losses.

With those remarks, Kenya would like to re-state her support for the proposals contained in the document.

F. WILA (Gabon): Je tiens tout d'abord à féliciter le délégué de l'Argentine pour son élection à la présidence de cette Commission. Je suis sûr que sa contribution sera d'une grande importance pour la réussite de nos travaux.

Les causes et l'ampleur des pertes d'aliments de base tant avant qu'après la récolte sont bien connues de tous. Une stratégie adéquate s'impose pour nous, Etats Membres de la FAO, pour prévenir les pertes après récoltes qui contrecarrent tous les efforts réalisés par une augmentation appréciable de la production. La délégation gabonaise depuis le début des discussions cautionne le programme du Directeur général sur la prévention des pertes alimentaires ; elle appuie tous les critères mis en oeuvre dans la création du Fonds spécial qui doit jouer le rôle de catalyseur dans lesdits programmes. Comme l'a si bien déclaré notre chef de délégation à la présente conférence, le Gouvernement gabonais souhaite vive ment que la Conférence entérine les positions du Directeur général et plus spécialement la disponibilité du Fonds spécial résultant des gains réalisés par le Fonds d'après les taux de change, soit 10 millions de dollars.

J. CHAMI (Liban) (interprétation de l'arabe): Je voudrais me joindre à mes collègues qui vous ont félicité pour votre élection à la tête de cette commission.

Je suis certain que les travaux de cette commission seront couronnés de succès compte tenu de votre compétence et de votre expérience.

Notre délégation a pris connaissance du Programme d'action et du document particulier qui s'y réfère. Nous sommes heureux d'exprimer notre approbation à M. le Directeur général ainsi qu'au Secrétariat car ils ont considéré la question de la prévention des pertes alimentaires comme une priorité essentielle de leur travail, et cela conformément aux résolutions du PAM des Nations Unies.

Nous avons pris connaissance du rapport de la Commission de l'agriculture au travers duquel nous est apparue toute l'ampleur de ces pertes. Je ne rentrerai pas dans le détail de ces pertes qui sont estimées globalement à plus de 7 millions de dollars par an. Nous avons discuté de cette question au cours des réunions du Conseil de juin dernier.

A l'issue de ces débats, le Conseil a décidé à l'unanimité le Programme de travail que le Directeur général a proposé pour la prévention des pertes alimentaires par l'entremise de l'établissement de projets au niveau des différents pays, grâce à l'aide extérieure, toutes les fois que cela est nécessaire. Le Conseil a décidé de soumettre cette question à notre conférence afin que nous adoptions la résolution définitive et adéquate à l'égard de ce sujet.

En vue de pouvoir appliquer ce programme au plus tôt, notre délégation appuie complètement et totalement la création d'un Fonds spécial pour la réalisation de cet objectif. Ce Fonds sera alimenté par le transfert de 10 millions de dollars du compte en suspens des années 1976 et 1977 comme un premier pas, sans parler des donations volontaires qui seront présentées par les Etats Membres.

M. le Président, nous estimons et nous croyons qu'il est nécessaire que les débats concernant cette question soient empreints d'un esprit positif car nous veillons tous ici à appliquer un noble objectif, à savoir assurer l'alimentation nécessaire aux pays du tiers monde.

Ce Fonds est de nature à contribuer de façon efficace au règlement du problème de la lutte contre la famine et la malnutrition.

F.C. COLOTAS (Cyprus): Mr. Chairman, may I also in my turn congratulate you on being elected to the Chair.

Let me say straight away that the delegation of Cyprus feels that the current discussion on this subject is of considerable importance and it is certainly a step forward, however small it might seem at this stage, towards increasing and maintaining world food production. This is, in our opinion, of particular significance since, in the last years at least, not enough attention has been placed internationally on this aspect, and we are very grateful to FAO and to other organizations for bringing this up for discussion and action. Nevertheless, my delegation wishes to highlight a number of points that could conceivably enhance the value of the proposed programme.

In the first instance, and whilst certainly we do not wish at the very least to detract from the significance of the well prepared document we have before us (C 77/19), and feel that the Director-General and the Secretariat should be congratulated, we nevertheless feel that the magnitude of the biological post-harvest losses, at least for the food grains, are considerably under-estimated. This is undoubtedly the result of inadequate information on this subject, which is well highlighted in the Report.

In this connection I think we should not forget that we are dealing here basically with two kinds of losses. We have the quantitative losses which are to a certain extent easy to assess, to establish and to quantify. We also have the qualitative losses which are - at least with the developing countries - much more difficult to quantify. Taking these two factors into consideration, we are of the opinion that such losses combined are nearer to 20 percent than to 10 percent, which of course emphasizes the necessity for initiating such a programme as soon as possible.

Under the circumstances my delegation strongly recommends that in view of the current unavailability of reliable data on post-harvest losses, a priority project within the overall programme should also be set up by FAO aimed at establishing the extent of such losses in a number of representative developing countries' staple food crops. Such a project in our view should also evolve or better still adopt and standardize the necessary methodology for such studies which subsequently could be applied by other countries and, secondly, used for monitoring the results of the proposed programme.

Secondly, I would like to draw this Commission's attention to the target date set by the UN General Assembly, which is indicated in paragraph 1 of the document before us, that is the year 1985, by when it is proposed that crop losses - storage losses should be reduced by 50 percent. This target appears to my delegation to be rather unrealistic, perhaps over-ambitious, with perhaps again a small chance of fulfilment, bearing in mind of course the present and past experience and the long preparation and execution periods often associated with investment projects. We merely list these lest this programme prove disappointing at some time in the future in view of possible over or underestimates of difficulties, delays, etc.

Perhaps certain shortcuts to speed up investment in this field are in order and I will try and touch upon these in a moment.

My delegation is also to a certain extent apprehensive about the multi-disciplinary committees for food and food loss prevention advocated in paragraph 21 of the document before us. It is our experience in Cyprus that such committees tend to be cumbersome, slow and bureaucratic, to say the least. In our

judgement, and bearing in mind that personally we know the problems associated with post-harvest losses, consequently we know the priorities in the field, or we can easily establish them. Thirdly, the technology for the prevention of such losses is already available.

We believe that what we need is an Action Programme to commence straight away covering such aspects as extension, demonstrations and large-scale investment in the field aimed at the gradual reduction of current losses, perhaps commencing with the examples set out in paragraphs 59-67 of the document before us.

Having made this point, I would like now to say that my delegation fully supports and endorses the programme proposed in the document, and we are in full agreement in that the projects proposed there in are, at this stage, at least merely models which are to be applied, expanded, modified and repeated as the case may be. For such models, to have any significant impact on post-harvest losses, however, they need to be viewed merely as the catalyst for subsequent and significant investments in the field of food storage and extension, if the full benefit of the programme under discussion is to be realized. To achieve this the following prerequisites are, in our opinion, indispensable: (a) at the appropriate time, and in most cases this is now rather than tomorrow, there should be available, nationally and internationally, the capacity for the preparation of suitable investment projects as well as the financing needed for their implementation; (b) the present programme, as proposed in paragraph 43 of the document under discussion, recommends that all inputs supplied through the project should be charged at cost. It is my delegation's view that in the initial stages of the programme at least, inputs to all participants should be provided at subsidized prices thus facilitating the early take off and hence the benefits from such a programme. Of course, in parallel with this, special emphasis needs to be given to the aspects of training.

I should also add that I am in agreement with the comment made by my Swedish colleague in that certain aspects of the ongoing Food Security Scheme could very well be tied in with the proposed programme.

The issue before us is an important one. It is also one involving a basic and fundamental principle. For instance, should we encourage increasing production through large and expensive projects for land reclamation, etc, or should we at least take steps, in parallel, to safeguard - certainly at lower cost - today's production? My delegation has no doubt whatsoever that under certain conditions the socio-economic benefits to be derived from the latter approach will prove significant, and hence this proposal merits very careful consideration.

I have dwelt on these issues at some length, and I do apologize for having taken so much of the Commission's time, but my delegation feels that the programme under discussion is of utmost importance to world agriculture and to our fight against malnutrition and starvation. As a result, we fully support the concept for the number of issues which, in our opinion, need further discussion, and which could make the programme more attractive with a higher degree of success.

K. ANDERSEN (Denmark): The Danish delegation has studied the report entitled Prevention of Food Losses with great interest, and we support the initiative taken by FAO in this important area. We fully support the statement made by Sweden, and we should just like to add a few supplementary observations.

First of all, we would like to emphasize, as we did in the last meeting of the Agriculture Committee, the importance of action at the farm and village level, that is investment in Projects A, B, and C mentioned on page 10 because, according to the information given, approximately 60 percent of the total production of grain is stored and consumed at the village level, and the scope for improvement is therefore very great.

Correspondingly, we would like to put less emphasis on investments in grain warehouses of the type mentioned in Project D. To the extent that such warehouses are established, we would underline the need for a proper food control system in order to avoid unnecessary losses in these warehouses.

One aspect which is not underlined in the report is the contribution that cooperative structures could provide to the implementation of projects to reduce food losses at the village level and in a wider context. We should like to stress the importance of this element when the programme and the projects are prepared and implemented.

Finally, we should like to draw attention to the food losses that occur at the household level. We therefore recommend that sufficient and suitable information and advisory services are included in the budgets to reduce losses also at this household level.

H. ABDALLAH (Egypt) (interpretation from Arabic): My delegation would like to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on being elected Chairman of this Commission, and we should also like to congratulate the Vice-Chairmen on their election. We are sure that this Commission will achieve fruitful results thanks to your enlightened chairmanship.

Those who have spoken before me have already stressed the important aspects of our subject and the part to be played by the Special Fund in the project proposed by the Director-General. The question of food losses is a very important one, and it has a direct result on food supplies to developing countries, and consequently on the status of nutrition.

We should also like to mention the problem that we have with certain non-food projects such as cotton, which is subject to insects, before and after harvesting. In Egypt, we have the problem of the bollworm which attacks cotton, and we have organized a national campaign to combat that insect. I give this example in order to show the importance of dealing with products other than foodstuffs within the framework of the Special Fund.

Post-harvest losses are due not only to insects but to other causes as well. We think the Chinese experience in this field might be extremely useful to all of us, and we have listened with great attention to the information given by the delegate of the People's Republic of China in that respect.

We should also like to say that climatology plays an important part in causing food losses at various stages, be it during transport or during storage, and we think there could be cooperation between FAO and the World Meteorological Organization in this respect.

The delegate of Kenya referred to the fact that the programme suggested to us does not concern itself with the problem of fish and fisheries. We entirely agree with him. We think that in spite of the enormous possibilities for productivity of fish resources, in Lake Nasser one of the essential problems we have to solve in Egypt is not the increased productivity of fishing, but the preservation of fish and delivering it to consumers in a marketable state.

The decision of the FAO Council on the setting up of the Special Fund gains our full support. We hope that it will be set up as soon as possible so that it can start work as soon as possible.

SOEGENG AMAT (Indonesia): It is a great pleasure for my delegation and for me personally to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, an old and distinguished friend from the Argentine, on having been elected to chair this very important Commission. I should also like to extend my congratulations to the Vice Chairmen of this Commission.

My delegation welcomes the great emphasis being given by this 19th Session of the FAO Conference to the subject of the Prevention of Food Losses. While it is not easy to determine and hence also to agree on the exact management of food losses, there is no doubt that the prevention of food losses, both pre-harvest and post-harvest, is of crucial importance to the achievement of the objectives of food security at the national as well as the world level.

A successful reduction of such losses by half - and here I limit myself to basic foodstuffs like food-grains - would mean for many countries the difference between hunger and malnutrition and the achievement of self-sufficiency in food.

Pre-harvest losses have been recognized in Indonesia as a major cause in the curtailment of crops, especially of foodgrains. As the Indonesian delegation stated in Plenary Session yesterday, the incidence of pests and diseases on a wide scale has contributed to the slackening in the production process of foodgrains in our country. In 1976 about 1.2 million hectares of rice were affected by pests and diseases, that is about 14 percent of the total area of harvested rice, of about 8.9 million hectares.

To combat these pests and diseases, crop protection branches have been established and we now have 56 such branches operating in the country assisted by more than 15,000 teams spread over the whole archipelago.

As far as management of losses is concerned, a survey undertaken in 1976 suggested that rice crops treated with pesticides could yield on average 0.6 tons of paddy per hectare, or 18 percent more than untreated paddy. Increased use of pesticides, however, would not automatically cause a reduction of losses. This has been demonstrated by the fact that, in spite of the manifold increase in the use of pesticides - more than a five-fold increase, as a matter of fact - in the use of pesticides, since 1973 the incidence of pests, and likewise the loss incurred because of these, has remained at a very high level and even tended to increase. This suggests that other factors besides the use of pesticides are

of importance. I might mention, for instance, the resistance of various varieties to different diseases. This also suggests the crucial importance of closer cooperation in crop protection measures among countries concerned, especially at the regional level. In the region of ASEAN, that is the association of countries in Southeast Asia consisting of Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia, an inventory has been initiated of all the available facilities in the region: for the effective protection of crops. This inventory, which will shortly be completed, will provide a strong and adequate basis for an effective programme in the near future. Such a course would most likely also indicate the possibility of assistance from organizations like FAO and others.

In the case of post-harvest losses - and we agree that the greatest emphasis at this stage should be put on these post-harvest food losses - we recognize it is not only of equal importance but it is of greater urgency to be tackled by all the countries concerned, and in particular also by FAO.

In Indonesia, again as an example, in the field of rice a number of case studies suggested that the magnitude of postharvest losses could be of the order of 25 percent. If we take the national crop of rice per year, of improved rice, one can imagine the loss the country incurs every year in the post-harvest system. In addition to this quantitative loss there is also the qualitative loss due to the processing, handling and storing. This qualitative loss includes also nutritional losses. Efforts to reduce losses in the post-harvest system are hampered by lack of accurate data. While it is agreed a so-called systems approach may be more satisfying than a systematic approach, it is recognized that a systems approach is often quite difficult to undertake. This is because the post-harvest system covers a multi-disciplinary field of activities and touches on the competence or failures of government institutions and departments.

If you take for instance storage, bulk storage or storage on a large scale usually belongs to the responsibility of government agencies or government commodity corporations. Such storage is likely to be given more prompt attention than other kinds of storage.

Again take an example in Indonesia within the framework of the undertaking on national food security, the government has started on a storage programme by setting up 3,100 units of storage facilities of 3,500 tons capacity each, totalling 1.1 million tons since 1974/5. This programme is now almost completed and with the completion of the storage programme it can be envisaged that with bulk storage or storage on a large scale, losses at this stage could be reduced by at least 50 percent. However, we have to recognize and bear in mind that storage at farm level or in villages is not less important but may be even more important because 75 percent of harvested products actually remains on the farm or in the villages. Then the spread of the so-called high-yielding varieties of rice has in many cases increased the complexity of problems faced by countries like Indonesia, for instance, problems of harvesting, drying of the product, etc.

In our efforts to improve and to bring about a more efficient technology in a post-harvest system, Indonesia has been fortunate to receive external assistance from various sources, notably IDLC Canada, Canadian CIDA, the US AID and the Profitable Products Institute of the UK. The UNDP have also assisted in a number of projects. More recently, in December 1976, Indonesia has entered into a cooperative programme for determining post-harvest systems in South-East Asia the headquarters of which is at Los Baños, in the Philippines. A number of coordinating agencies cooperated in this programme. We have also a comprehensive ASEAN food handling project in collaboration with Australia which is not limited to food grains products but other commodities such as, fish etc.

As I said earlier, the lack of adequate data is an important constraint in our efforts to reduce losses. We therefore feel the urgent need for a national survey to assess the losses at the various stages of the system. Such a survey would not only be helpful to us in determining which of the stages incurs the highest loss but also in locating the regions or policies in which such high losses occur. This would enable us to direct our priorities to the most vulnerable and at the same time the most promising stocks systemwise as well as geographically. The emphasis of such a survey, which for the time being may be limited to food grains, could best be undertaken with the help of FAO.

Such a project and similar projects could possibly be carried out in other developing countries and would well serve the need for FAO and all of us to develop guidelines for the most suitable methodology to assess losses at various stages of the post-harvest system. It would enable us to use the same terminology and language in the measurements of qualitative and quantitative losses. Such adopted methodology and terminology would greatly facilitate FAO and all of us in evaluating the progress we are making towards achievement of the goal and objectives as recommended by the UN General Assembly, specifically a reduction of the loss of 50 percent by the year 1985.

In conclusion, my delegation would like to reiterate and emphasize the following points, first, that Indonesia strongly supports the proposed setting up of an FAO action programme to help developing countries in strengthening post-harvesting systems with respect to stable foodstuffs, particularly food grains, and so increase the national food supply. Such a programme should be conceived from the very outset as a long-term activity endeavouring to achieve the objective as recommended by the UN General Assembly to reduce such losses by 50 percent by the year 1985.

We also would like to support the setting up of a Special Fund and the other criteria that are being proposed here for the approval of projects. It is the understanding of my delegation that a more specific proposal will be tabled shortly on the proposed financing of this programme and we would like to make comments later on when this detailed proposal is presented.

S. JUMA'A (Jordan) (interpretation from Arabic): May I first congratulate you, Sir, on your being elected to chair this Commission. Also I would like to congratulate our four colleagues appointed by the Plenary Session as Vice-Chairmen.

I would say at the outset I do not have a written prepared text because this subject matter was scrutinized at great length during the past week, which made it possible for us to learn the whole subject inside out and by heart, and in view of the fact that we are repeating these discussions again and again and again I think it is really quite unnecessary to go into all the details of this topic, particularly as it is getting rather late.

I think there is a general consensus here between the developed and developing countries, to say that this is one of the most vital and important subjects for discussion before this Conference this time. There is also agreement as to the prevention of food losses being something that is of great concern, particularly to developing countries. I think all delegations agree when we say that the Organization can play a very essential role in this whole area. I think there is also true harmony between all members here with respect to the Special Fund proposed by the Director-General, a special fund financed by voluntary contributions. Consequently, this fund should not be a matter of compulsory contributions. We are sure all countries, developed and developing, will all participate whole heartedly and contribute to this Special Fund if the Conference were to adopt the principle of its setting up. Although we are a delegation representing a developing country, we support the Director-General's proposal aiming at the setting up of a special fund and we would reconsider our further position if all countries were to arrive at a compromise solution, which should be a flexible one, enabling the Director-General to start as soon as possible with the implementation of this programme, and if possible at the beginning of next year.

My last point refers to the comments by the delegate of Egypt. He pointed out that the prevention of food losses should also cover other food products because in some developing countries which are above all agricultural whose economy depends to a large extent on agriculture, they only produce certain commodities of foodstuffs, such as Egypt, for instance. It would be useful to extend the coverage of this special fund to other agricultural projects, enabling thus the Director-General to be totally flexible so as to help certain countries such as Egypt in their efforts towards prevention of non-foodstuff item productions.

T.M.NARAIN (Mauritius): First of all let me congratulate you on behalf of the delegation of Mauritius on your election as Chairman of this Commission.

My delegation has carefully studied the very interesting paper regarding the prevention of food losses which is contained in document C 77/19. We have also listened with attention to the Director-General's opening statement this afternoon. The Rapporteur has also informed us that at the Plenary, reduction of food losses was very much a matter of concern for many countries. We fully recognise the importance of preventing food losses. I would like to say that my delegation supports fully the action programme of the Director-General. That such a programme which aims at reducing losses by 50 percent by 1985 should be set up as early as possible is no doubt something which is to be highly recommended. It is true that many countries are already engaged in prevention of food losses either with or without the help of other specialized agencies such as the TPI of the United Kingdom for dealing with such problems. But it is also true that some form of international action such as that being proposed by the Director-General will confirm our determination in reducing food losses. Individual countries can best be helped technically and financially towards the commendable objective.

A majority of countries have supported the Director-General in the special manner of creating the fund for implementing the action programme. Voluntary contributions towards the fund would no doubt be forthcoming as all countries are in agreement with the action programme but we must be realistic.

It takes time for governments to contribute voluntarily and time is crucial. We therefore support the proposal of the Director-General to transfer from the Suspense Account a sum of \$10 million towards the creation of a special fund so that the implementation of the action programme can be undertaken as early as possible.

A.W.M. AL-DAHIRI (Iraq) (interpretation from Arabic) : The works mentioned in the document, "storage", and "marketing" in connexion with the losses suffered in developing countries at the post-harvest stage are much greater than those suffered in the course of harvesting. In Iraq we have carried out many experiments and checks with losses, particularly with barley, and we notice that losses during harvesting operations range from 20 to 30 percent and this is due to the fact that there is not the necessary equipment and machinery and we noted that the losses were very great and were greater than post-harvest losses. Therefore, this programme is not so useful for small countries particularly countries that cannot feed themselves. This programme is useful for countries that have surplus production of foodstuffs and who would like to store them. That is what this whole operation is mainly geared to. For instance, storage in poor countries is very difficult indeed. In Iraq we fully support the document but we would nevertheless wish to have the operation cover a wider scope and with respect to the fund in question we feel that there are other means and possibilities which could fulfil the finding of such money rather than having it in other additional funds.

S. DARANYI (Hungary): I would like to express my best wishes and appreciation upon you having been elected to the Chairmanship of Commission I. I am convinced that this Commission will perform an efficient and successful work under your able chairmanship.

The document C 77/19 is comprehensive and well founded. I should like, however, to offer some comments on it. The food losses in developing countries only as far as cereals are concerned were estimated by previous documents to be as high as nearly 100 million tons per year. Should this estimate be correct one can only agree with the argument included in paragraph 19 of the document i.e. a fifty percent reduction in food losses in developing countries would result in a very significant additional food supply, opening up new possibilities for import reductions and savings in foreign exchange expenditures. In this context the importance of reduction of losses is equivalent to that of production increases.

From the professional point of view one can argue whether the dichotomy of pre- and post-harvest losses is right or not. According to our views it would be useful to discuss losses that occur before, during and after harvest. Taking this grouping we feel the losses might be more easily identified and specified. The different forms of losses are tackled uniformly by the document. As far as plant protection goes it would not be fully justified to talk about the reduction of losses since some of the more recent FAO documents such as the "Registration and Unification of Pesticide Requirements" have pointed out the role that plant protection played in increasing production. Taking the process of agricultural production, pesticides are as important as, for example, fertilizers. My delegation would like to suggest that losses occurring during the harvest be given greater attention. These losses actually might be rather important both in quantity and in quality. Both mechanical and bio-chemical losses may be recorded during the harvest.

The relative weight of wheat for instance decreases by an average of 1 percent every day after the full ripeness. Resulting from this a loss of about 15 percent may easily be suffered. We feel the technical suggestions put forward in the document before us in order to prevent and reduce food losses are acceptable. The general principles, however, should be adapted to regional and national levels, taking into full account all local conditions. We attach very high importance to the adequate storage of high-value commodities such as seeds. We feel therefore the project proposals listed in the document may be supplemented with the following protection of cereals in store against micro-organisms. We think these ideas might be utilized in finalizing the programme.

EL PRESIDENTE: Quisiera darle la palabra a la representante de una organización no gubernamental, la Señora Monica Tupay, que es la Presidente de la Federación Internacional de la Economía del Hogar, quien desea referirse a este tema.

Ms. M. TUPAY (Observer, International Federation for Home Economics): Distinguished delegates, the International Federation of Home Economics is pleased to see the priority that FAO is placing in this Conference on the problem of food losses, in particular post-harvest food losses, and gives its full-hearted support to the establishment of special funds for this purpose. We are convinced that the high

percentage of food loss and waste occur at the household level and that home economists can make a great contribution to this programme because knowledge of what can be done to reduce these food losses has not reached the family level and in particular the women who in many countries play a critical role in food production, food storage, food processing and food utilization in the family.

Home Economists can make an important contribution to these food problems through research, training and action programmes, and could help to develop new and improved practices. Furthermore, home economists can assist in the development of appropriate technologies relevant to the rural home, the supply of water and fuel, improved transport on the farms and all of the agricultural food productive activities in which the farm families are employed. The International Federation of Home Economists is ready and willing, through its association and membership, to collaborate with FAO in this Programme and trusts that opportunities can be provided to develop joint projects that could be of benefit to developing countries.

The meeting rose at 17.30 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.30 horas

conference

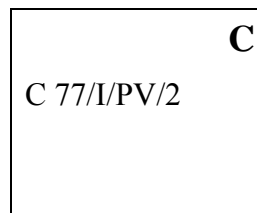
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Nineteenth Session
COMMISSION I

Dix-neuvième session
COMMISSION I

19° período de sesiones
COMISION II

SECOND MEETING
DEUXIEME SÉANCE
SEGUNDA SESION

(17 November 1977)

The Second Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours
J.C. Vignaud, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La deuxième séance est ouverte à 9 h 45, sous la présidence
de J.C. Vignaud, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la segunda sesión a las 9.45 horas, bajo la presidencia
de J.C. Vignaud, Presidente de la Comisión I

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

PREMIERE PARTIE - PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET QUESTIONS DE POLITIQUE EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE
(suite)

PARTE I - PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)

- 7- Prevention of food losses
- 7- Prevention des pertes alimentaires
- 7- Prevención de pérdidas en alimentos

EL PRESIDENTE: Buenos días señores delegados. Continuamos con el Tema 7 de nuestra agenda.

A. HAMAAMBA (Zambia): The problem of prevention of food losses is paramount to increased food availability in developing countries. It is important in our view therefore that measures for the prevention of post-harvest food losses should be an integral part of national agricultural production programmes. The efforts put into the prevention of pre-harvest losses should be matched with those for prevention of post-harvest losses.

The document under consideration has mentioned the causes of post-harvest losses. We would like here to emphasize the need for developing proper harvest and processing technology as well as on-farm storage structures at small scale farmer level. We agree in this regard with the point made by the delegate of Nigeria.

We are in agreement with the constraints mentioned on the prevention of food losses. However, in countries which have basic information on the problem, lack of infrastructure, especially the lack of trained personnel to carry out their national programmes, and the lack of investment are the major constraints.

The suggested strategy for the reduction of post-harvest food losses in developing countries would meet the requirements of many national programmes. However, as lack or shortage of trained manpower is likely to be a serious constraint in the implementation of national programmes, we wish to suggest that the Project on National In-Service Training Programmes in post-harvest technology should be expanded so as to have the effect of building up national capability for carrying out a continuous training programme.

My delegation has already given support to the setting up of the Special Fund for Prevention of Food Losses and on the use of the Suspense Account. We agree broadly that the first aim of the fund should be to reduce post-harvest losses of staple foods, as this is vital to governments' efforts to reduce food shortages as well as to raise the standard of nutrition of the people.

As regards the criteria proposed for the approval of projects, we are in general agreement with these. However, we hope that there will be flexibility. For example, we think that as prevention of post-harvest food losses is part of the efforts to improve the world food situation as a whole, some consideration should be given to accord priority in assisting developing countries with the greatest potential for increasing food production in order to enable these countries to embark on some of the suggested projects. Lastly, I wish to echo the point mentioned by the delegate of Kenya on the importance of regional seminars on food losses. We believe that such seminars can be an important forum for the exchange of information and experience in this vital field. My country hopes to be honoured by hosting the first regional seminar for Eastern, Central and Southern Africa for the Commonwealth countries early next year.

R. SARAN (India): Let me first of all take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment as Chairman of this Commission. A number of important subjects and also complex issues are coming up for the consideration of this Commission. I am sure that under your able leadership we will arrive at satisfactory solutions to the various issues.

The subject of prevention of post-harvest food losses has been discussed in a number of important fora in the recent past. We are particularly grateful to the Director-General for having brought into short focus the urgency of developing and implementing an Action Programme for reducing such losses.

The Action Programme outlined in document C 77/19 is expected to help in avoiding undue waste of precious staple foods, augmenting their availability in the world and improving the self-sufficiency ration of importing countries. This programme therefore will be a potential response to the Resolutions adopted at the WorldFood Conference, the last FAO Conference and also the 7th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly, which have recommended a target of a fifty percent reduction of post-harvest food losses by 1985.

Before I deal with the financial aspect of the programme, let me reflect briefly on the strategy and some of the components of the programme.

My delegation agrees that the strategy for the reduction of post-harvest losses should deal with the three major constraints on loss prevention: (i) lack of information; (ii) lack of infrastructure, including trained personnel, extension of research facilities, pesticides availability, and legislation; (iii) lack of investment. The FAO has an important role to play in helping the countries to overcome these constraints and develop the relevant national programmes.

We consider that a proper methodology needs to be developed for making an assessment of food losses and monitoring the reduction of losses as the programmes for such a purpose make headway. While there is little difficulty in making an assessment of the extent of losses in procurement, distribution, storage and transportation by the government or by public sector undertakings, there are several problems in making such an assessment when the stocks are handled by farmers and the private trade.

We therefore look forward to the production by the FAO of a manual on crop loss assessment. The proposed manual should take into account both quantitative and qualitative losses that occur at different stages, and particularly deal with the problems relating to the handling of private stocks.

Apart from the lack of information on the magnitude of losses, there are also other information gaps. These gaps relate to pesticide residue, distribution of insect and rodent species, assessment of losses due to micro-organisms and contamination of foodstuffs with mycotoxins etc. These aspects need to be studied in their proper perspective.

We fully support the components of the proposed action programme relating to research, training and extension in storage practices.

In my country the post-harvest losses are sought to be brought down through a programme of building storage godowns for the maintenance of stocks held by the government in good quality, and also through a "save grain" campaign which was launched by the government in 1965/66. The "save grain" campaign aims at motivating, persuading and educating the farmers so that they adopt scientific storage practices for reducing the losses in both quantity and quality. We also have an Indian grain storage institute which carries out applied research, designs and develops improved types of storage structures, co ordinates all-India research on foodgrain storage problems and undertakes apex level training for the trainers and others engaged in the handling and storage of grains. The creation of an infrastructure, particularly by way of provision of trained manpower and undertaking research in storage will, in our view, go a long way in reducing losses in storage.

Another infrastructural change required is legislation. Food quality control based on legislation has to play an important part in preventing food losses and protecting consumers' interests. At the same time, to achieve a greater effect, developmental and extension facilities may be undertaken to supplement the legislative action. In this connection, I should like to draw the attention Of the Commission to the recommendations made at the recent joint FAO/WHO/UNDP Conference on Mycotoxins which recognized that any effective action on control of environmental contaminants must be based on sound systems of food/feed control. Other recommendations of the Conference on post-harvest processing, drying, etc. also deserve attention.

In our view, post-harvest losses can be reduced significantly if the produce is processed properly. Much greater emphasis needs to be given to such processing activities as modernization of rice mills, . parboiling of rice, extraction of rice bran and cotton seed, technology for oilseed extraction and preservation of fruit and vegetables.

Apart from the transfer of technology from advanced countries, there is a need for cooperation among developing countries and building institutions within the developing countries which can adapt and modify the technologies and also develop their own.

India has cooperated with the FAO in building an international food technology training centre at the Central Food Technological Institute, Bengal, India. We should like to assure you of our continued support in this regard.

Let me finally touch on the issue of financing of the action programme as formulated by the Director-General. As far as we know, nobody around this table questions the utility of the programme, but some procedural issues on the methodology of finding resources still remain to be resolved. The amount involved is small. We have supported the Director-General's proposal for the establishment of a Special Fund as contained in the resolution before us. We feel that to enable the Director-General to make a beginning with the programme in accordance with the United Nations' resolution for reducing losses to the extent of 50 percent by 1985, an amount of at least \$20 million, including \$10 million by way of transfer from the suspense account, needs to be placed at his disposal. We would also urge that larger allocations be made out of the regular budget for financing the scheme for prevention of food losses.

M. NAJEM BEN (Maroc) (interprétation de l'arabe): Je voudrais tout d'abord, Monsieur le Président, vous féliciter à l'occasion de votre élection à la présidence de cette Commission et je suis certain que les délibérations de cette Commission aboutiront à des résultats très positifs grâce à votre sagesse.

Ma délégation est convaincue de l'importance du problème de la prévention des pertes alimentaires. Il est grand temps, en effet, de mettre sur pied un programme pour lutter contre ce fléau. Nous sommes également d'accord avec les délégués de la Jordanie, de l'Egypte et de l'Irak, qui ont demandé que ce programme soit étendu à la prévention des pertes avant récolte pour ce qui est non seulement des produits alimentaires mais également des produits agricoles non alimentaires. De notre point de vue, nous pensons que les raisons de ces pertes alimentaires sont connues de nous tous et il faudrait donc trouver les moyens adéquats pour lutter contre ces pertes alimentaires. Ce qui nous manque dans la plupart des cas, ce sont les moyens financiers et c'est pour cela que ma délégation est d'accord avec les propositions du Directeur général, comme cela a été dit clairement dans le débat général en plénière par ma délégation; mais celle-ci se pose la question concernant le financement de ce Fonds spécial de façon permanente et à long terme et, à ce stade des délibérations, nous pouvons dire que nous sommes d'accord en principe avec les propositions contenues dans le document C 77/19.

A. DEBOUVERIE (Belgique): Tout d'abord, notre délégation se joint à toutes les autres dans les félicitations qui vous ont été adressées.

Le rapporteur de notre Commission a cité hier ma délégation parmi celles qui, en séance plénière, ont donné leur appui à la création d'un fonds pour aider à effacer les pertes alimentaires avant et après récolte. Certaines délégations y ont ajouté hier les pertes pendant les récoltes et aussi les pertes relatives à la production de produits non alimentaires. En effet, tout cela se tient, si l'on considère que le manque de machines, de récoltes ou de main-d'oeuvre peut être indirectement une cause de pertes et qu'un manque à gagner sur une récolte non alimentaire peut entraîner par pertes de recettes une diminution du pouvoir d'achat alimentaire.

A cet égard, si ma délégation a marqué son accord en plénière sur le principe d'un tel fonds, et indépendamment de la discussion sur les modalités de financement d'un tel fonds, je voudrais néanmoins soumettre à notre Commission les observations suivantes qui devraient, je pense, orienter nos réflexions.

D'abord, le problème des pertes alimentaires n'est pas nouveau, mais dans une vue intégrée de la sécurité alimentaire il a été mis en évidence en 1974 et 1975 par la 7ème Assemblée spéciale des Nations Unies, par la Conférence alimentaire, et par notre 18ème session parce qu'on avait pu mesurer l'étendue du problème par rapport à la sécurité alimentaire globale, et parce que, parallèlement aux efforts à entreprendre sur le plan de la production, de la vulgarisation et de l'investissement, il n'était plus admissible de continuer à enregistrer simplement les pourcentages de déperditions.

Mais nous sommes tout de même un peu effrayés à l'énumération des problèmes qui nous est présentée et de l'inventaire, qu'on demande également d'établir et de vérifier selon des critères et une méthodologie nécessitant la création au préalable d'un organisme qui suivrait ou devrait suivre l'évolution des choses et devrait évaluer les progrès accomplis.

D'abord, nous pensons que l'action de la FAO sur le terrain et la décentralisation engagée depuis la 18ème session doivent déjà aider à une bonne localisation des problèmes. Mais comme une importante délégation l'a rappelé hier, nous pensons aussi que chacun de ces problèmes doit être apprécié dans sa

juste perspective et traité par des mesures appropriées car il est évident que le Fonds des pertes alimentaires aura un caractère supplétif et ponctuel et ne peut remplacer ni les autres efforts relatifs à l'investissement rural proprement dit, ni la responsabilité et l'action des pays directement concernés, faute de quoi les ressources seraient rapidement insuffisantes.

Il y a donc un double objectif à poursuivre dans cet effort, à savoir d'abord la complémentarité des actions des différents fonds à tous les niveaux possibles de coopération, et ensuite une utilisation rationnelle, optimale et coordonnée des ressources rendues disponibles.

Toute autre conception mènerait, nous le pensons, à la création d'un Fonds qui finalement ne répondrait pas au but réel pour lequel il a été conçu.

A. WININGA (Haute-Volta); La Délégation de la Haute-Volta voudrait s'associer tout d'abord à tous les orateurs qui l'ont déjà précédée pour vous féliciter pour votre élection comme Président de cette Commission, et féliciter également tous ceux qui ont été élus au poste de Vice-président.

Notre Délégation voudrait ensuite apporter son appui aux propositions qui ont été faites par le Directeur général dans la mesure où le problème de pertes alimentaires nous apparaît comme très important. En Haute-Volta ces pertes atteignent 10 à 15 pour cent, parfois 20 pour cent, et cette année nous avons estimé que les pertes après récoltes atteindront le chiffre de 100 à 110 mille tonnes. Ceci est trop pour un pays comme la Haute-Volta dont on sait qu'il subit les effets d'une sécheresse qui tend à devenir permanente.

L'effort du gouvernement pour renforcer les structures de stockage s'est traduit par la construction de silos et la mise en état de fonctionnement correct des silos qui existaient déjà, soit qu'ils aient été construits avant la période de l'indépendance, soit qu'ils aient été construits après.

En matière de conservation des ignames également, la Haute-Volta est en train d'expérimenter un système dont les premiers résultats peuvent être considérés comme satisfaisants, dans la mesure où nous avons enregistré des résultats atteignant 80 à 90 pour cent du succès.

Ceci pour dire que la Haute-Volta saisit l'importance du problème qui nous est soumis et qu'elle soutient donc les propositions comme je l'ai dit. Ceci ne m'empêchera pas tout de même de faire quelques observations et je voudrais me limiter à des observations d'ordre général.

Notre première observation est qu'il serait bon que la FAO s'intéresse à certains systèmes de stockage traditionnels en raison de leur efficacité. Les structures de stockage les plus sophistiquées ne sont pas toujours celles qui sont les plus efficaces et elles ne sont valables généralement qu'au niveau de l'Etat. Il y a dans certaines régions de l'Afrique des greniers qui peuvent conserver des céréales pendant 5 ans, parfois plus, sans que ces céréales subissent des dégâts considérables.

Ma deuxième observation est qu'il serait souhaitable que les Etats membres puissent être informés aussi largement que possible sur les systèmes de prévention des pertes des céréales qui auront été expérimentés avec succès dans tel ou tel pays.

Ma troisième observation est qu'à certains stades de la prévention contre les pertes de céréales, il peut être créé des structures à caractère régional pour la lutte contre ces pertes.

Ces structures régionales viennent et viendront en renforcement ou en allègement des efforts nationaux. Je vois par exemple ce qui se passe au niveau de la Région à laquelle mon pays appartient où nous avons des structures de lutte anti-aviaire et anti-acridiens à travers des organismes comme l'Oicma, organisation de lutte contre le criquet migrateur ou, L'OCLALAV, organisation commune de lutte anti-aviaire et anti-acridiens.

S'agissant maintenant de la création d'un Fonds spécial et des modalités de son alimentation, ma Délégation se réserve d'intervenir plus tard sur ce problème. Ce qui je puis dire tout de suite c'est que sans une certitude sur l'alimentation de ce Fonds, sur le niveau de l'alimentation, aucune programmation ne pourra être faite ni à court terme ni à moyen terme; ma Délégation souhaite que les annonces de contributions volontaires qui ont été portées à la connaissance de la Conférence jusqu'à maintenant, puissent continuer. Nous appuyons donc la création d'un tel Fonds et je pense que mon pays fera également l'effort nécessaire pour y apporter sa contribution.

IN HEE KANG (Korea, Republic of): My delegation would like to join with the previous speakers in congratulating you, Mr. Chairman, on your election to the Chairmanship of Commission I of this FAO Conference.

To be brief, my delegation wishes to make a few observations concerning item 7 of document C 77/19, First, my Government is well aware of the urgent need for international cooperation in order to achieve the target of 50 percent reduction in global post-harvest losses by 1985 called for by the Resolution of the 7th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Secondly, in the light of our recent experiences the strategies recommended by FAO in developing national programmes for the reduction of post-harvest food losses in developing countries contains a number of excellent suggestions for us in planning a future course of action. We support the proposals for the FAO Action Programme and the Special Fund for reduced food losses.

Assessment of losses and the provision of trained manpower therefore should be a first priority task in developing and implementing national programmes and we would like to emphasise the assistance of activities of FAO in loss assessment and manpower development.

Finally, my delegation would like to emphasize that the FAO Action Programme should involve fish item as indicated by the delegate of Kenya and also supported by the delegate of Egypt. It is our belief that a concrete programme of action in this field will represent another important step towards the solution of the world's food problem.

F.M. KANGAUDE (Malawi): My delegation would like to join those who have spoken before us in congratulating you, Mr. Chairman, for being elected to chair the deliberations of this Commission. We have no doubt that you and your able team will steer the debates of this Commission to a successful conclusion.

The Malawi Government considers the problem of post-harvest losses as a very serious one, and has taken the necessary steps to reduce these losses, especially in food grain, particularly in maize and grain legumes which constitute the country's staple food. As more improved varieties of maize are being grown, there is even more need to ensure that the necessary precautions in storage are taken, as the majority of these varieties are highly susceptible to damage by pests and adverse conditions such as high humidity and moisture content in the grain.

A comprehensive research programme of losses of grain in storage and how these losses can be minimized has been undertaken in the past decade in the country and continues to be part of the main research and development programme along with research of storage of fish and dried kassava. Along with this programme, training of extension personnel and farmers in recommended methods of storage, including use of pesticides, is held on a regular basis. Despite these measures, however, the problem is still far from being under control, especially on the part of smallholder farmers. My delegation therefore supports the action that FAO proposes to take on this matter. We share the concern expressed by the Director-General for the unsatisfactory food production situation, especially in the developing countries. It is not encouraging to note that food production is far less than the growth of our population, for this means we have more mouths to feed with less food. In such a situation, therefore, urgent action must be taken to ensure that whatever little food is produced the necessary methods are taken to prevent it being lost due to pests and other factors that are not beyond our means to control.

My delegation has examined document C 77/19 on Prevention of Food Losses and has found both the FAO's strategy for the reduction of post-harvest losses in developing countries and the Programme of Action, as well as the proposal to set up a Special Fund for such a programme, to be necessary.

As was pointed out by the delegate from Kenya and others, we wish to indicate that we would like to see a good amount of coordination in carrying out the programmes with those of other organizations like the Tropical Stored Products Centre UK, UNICEF and others working with us in this field. This will avoid unnecessary duplication of work and confusion.

We would also be pleased to see the prevention of fish losses included in the programme. Fish is one of the main sources of protein in Malawi and although work is already in progress on ways and means of storing and handling fish, especially in dried form, we would be pleased to exchange ideas so that we may benefit from the best technology.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): I should like first to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your election. We are quite sure with your experience in the work of the Organization and in the work of this particular Commission I we are in very good hands and we are quite sure the Commission will produce good work.

The question of food losses has already been debated rather extensively, as some speakers have pointed out, at the last Session of the Commission of Agriculture and the FAO Council June Session. Therefore perhaps I can be brief at this stage, as my delegation intervened on both occasions commenting on this particular issue.

We feel the action of FAO in helping to reduce food losses and harvest losses is a direct response to the call of the last Conference and the Special Session of the General Assembly of the UN, a call to bring a very important contribution to the new international economic order into main agriculture and food production.

The magnitude of the problem is quite important, as many speakers before me have indicated, in terms, for instance, of what will be the actual gain by 1985 in the case of a 50 percent reduction of loss being achieved.

As far as the general orientation of FAO activities in relation to food losses and harvest losses is concerned, we agree a certain priority should be given to staple foods, tubers and roots. We also feel there should not be exclusion of other crops, which should be considered also in the FAO programmes.

We also agree with the speakers before us who indicated that fish products should come in the purview of FAO's proposals to reduce losses.

We feel also as far as the orientation of FAO's activities is concerned, attention should be given to special research on tropical products and crops. If knowledge is already quite developed as far as conditions in temperate zones are concerned, for equatorial and tropical zones this is not exactly the case. We need to develop the procedures and pursue knowledge so that developing countries, mostly situated in these areas, can fully develop effective programmes. We feel, therefore, that there is a need to develop adequate technology for our particular conditions. We also agree with the comment made at the FAO Council in June about the need of utilizing fully the actual knowledge of the farmer and I think that particular point was made in the session of the June Council of FAO by the representative of China. We fully agree with that comment and we feel it is quite important. As far as the beneficiaries of programmes of FAO in this field, we agree that food deficit countries have a certain priority, but we also feel that every developing country has something to gain there and, in fact, every developing country therefore has certain priorities and should receive the support of FAO programmes in the field. We attach importance to this particular point.

As far as the way to develop a strategy to combat food losses and harvest losses goes, we Brazilians feel that it is important to keep an integrated approach where one considers how better to utilize harvesting equipment, for instance; how to improve rodent and pest control, how to improve storage facilities, how to provide for economies in transportation, for instance by elimination of excessive water, by better use of transport equipment or better spacing and timing of transport operations. Finally, we also feel that in this integrated approach we have to take care of safeguards in processing and in the marketing processes.

Therefore, the approach to the harvest losses must be an integrated one having regard to all the stages of the process. We also feel that strategies to combat harvest losses must be conceived together with the credit for production, for it is very difficult to separate one thing from another. There is a cost element there so that when devising the strategy for reduction of harvest losses we also take account of the cost production and the credits for production so that policies are planned in a comprehensive manner.

As the Group of 77, we have already given full support to this programme and as the Group of 77 we give full support to the establishment of a Special Fund on the basis of the transfer of up to \$10 million from the present Suspense Account for the current biennium into the Special Fund. We Brazilians fully support our group position on this. We believe that it is a very important initiative of FAO and this Special Fund has a very important role to play. While saying that, we also feel that the regular budget should have a substantive section of Prevention of Food Losses so that the monies earmarked in the regular budget for harvest losses are complemented by the resources within the Special Fund which has, let us say, a field orientation. One thing should not exclude the other. Both are important.

There are two points in the report which I would like to comment on. One is in Paragraph 51 of the report which says that contributions to the Fund may be either 'unrestricted' i.e. for general use in furthering the purpose of the Fund, or 'restricted', i.e. to be used only in certain countries or

for specific projects. I must say that my delegation does not agree with this observation. We feel that contributions to the Special Fund should not be earmarked. It would be very detrimental to the conduct of a Special Fund and the operation of the Special Fund if contributions were to be earmarked. It would be a very limiting factor to the efficiency of the operations of the Fund. We attach importance to that and if my recollections are correct, the Director-General made precisely that point in his statement that resources should not be earmarked and that was a very important point.

Commenting on Paragraph 57, there is a reference to agreed criteria for project approval. We very well understand that whenever you have a fund there is a trend to develop rather complex criteria. Maybe that is necessary but we would like to put in a warning not to bureaucratize the Special Fund and its operations from the beginning by very complex bureaucratic project criteria which nobody really understands and people are sometimes very doubtful about how they are operating. We feel that the Special Fund should operate in a very flexible manner and in a very speedy manner with a minimum bureaucracy and this reference to criteria I must say scared me a little that perhaps we are not starting with the best elements.

I must say that I would like to place particular emphasis on my comments on Paragraph 51 about earmarking because I really feel that it is the wrong approach to this fund to start with earmarking right from the beginning.

R.A. THOMAS (Gambia): May I, like other delegations, extend my congratulations to you on your election to the chairmanship of this meeting.

Gambia is a small country and until recently plant protection service existed only in the form of a small unit within the Department of Agriculture. All the efforts by way of plant protection were geared to the prevention of pre-harvest losses. In fact it is only very recently that with the help of the FAO, the U.S.A. and the U.K. Governments, we have been able to reorganize, strengthen and decentralize up to the district level, our plant protection services. More help is required to extend this service, up to the village level. Work on post-harvest losses previously involved our main cash crop, groundnuts. The need for prevention of post-harvest losses was realized only a few years ago after a countrywide outbreak of rodent infestation. It was realized that rodents alone accounted for a loss of about 40 percent of the total grain stored in the villages of our country. Lack of information, insufficient trained staff, lack of funds to set up proper store product units, were among the limiting factors that we in our small country have overcome in our drive to achieve self-sufficiency in food. Over the years we have received technical advice from the Tropical Store Product Centre in the U.K. on the handling, distribution and storage of cereals. The Tropical Store Product Centre have even gone to the extent of recruiting specialist advisors for the Department of Agriculture to work in the field of food crop storage, and have given help with the programme of training of staff. In spite of this, there is still a lot of work to be done if we are to reduce post-harvest losses to the lowest level. It is for this reason, therefore, that the Gambian delegation endorses the proposal contained in the document under discussion.

With British loan funds over the years and, more recently, with funds from the West German Government through the FFFC, we have been building all-purpose stores at the village level. In fact, I can safely say here that the programme has now covered about one-third of the villages in the whole country.

The initial cost of building these stores is high and the maintenance of these stores is expensive because we supply free bags, etc. to farmers. Farmers, even though these stores are at the village level, look to them as government properties and not as being owned by them. After all, the farmers are not going to spend their meagre sums of money to build concrete food stores when they continue to live in mud huts. I therefore support the views expressed by the Chinese delegation that we must use simple materials that are inexpensive that would be within the range of farmers so that these stores would be truly owned by individual farmers or farm families.

I share the views expressed by other delegations that provision should be made in the Prevention of Food Loss programme to include other root crops apart from yam such as cassava and potatoes. With effective village storage control I am sure that a country like Gambia can within a short time stop the importation of perishable vegetables like onions and tomatoes.

I am also of the opinion that our programme should include fish. A recent survey has indicated that 30 to 50 percent of the dry and salted fish stored for human consumption back home is infested with insect pests. Surely this should not be overlooked. The Gambian delegation therefore supports the FAO action programme and also the creation of the Special Fund for food loss reduction.

In conclusion, I wish to say that my country is a small one. We have an area of 4 000 square miles. The population is only about 500,000 people. In our current five-year development plan one of the two main aims is to increase agricultural production, especially production of food crops so that we can be self-sufficient in food production. I am quite sure, therefore, that with the continued support of the FAO this Organization would be helping Gambia to achieve its goal within the shortest possible time.

C KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Yo no sé bien, señor Presidente, si protocolarmente corresponde que le felicite en nombre de la delegación de Argentina por su nombramiento como Presidente de esta Comisión. De todas maneras son muchos los años que lo conozco y he compartido sus preocupaciones y su permanente vocación por los problemas de la FAO desde hace mucho tiempo; por lo tanto me adhiero en forma personal a la expresión de buenos deseos que hemos escuchado en esta Conferencia. Felicito, asimismo, a los cuatro Vicepresidentes de Irak, Marruecos, Australia y Nepal, que estoy seguro lo reemplazarán con toda dignidad.

El Gobierno argentino había preparado algunas observaciones con respecto a este documento sobre la prevención de pérdidas de alimentos, que tan bien ha sido presentado y redactado por la Secretaría. La mayor parte de esas observaciones han sido ya abundantemente expuestas en el curso del debate mantenido hasta ahora y la única cosa que me queda por destacar es la importancia de este tema.

Cuando se ha efectuado una inversión, cuando hay una misma cantidad de trabajo invertida en esa inversión, cuando tenemos las mismas disponibilidades de tierra, cualquier elemento que coadyuve a una productividad mayor es ganancia neta; y si esa ganancia neta, como dice el documento, se extiende al 40 y 50 por ciento, veremos que sería una de las rentabilidades más grandes que se pueden "dar en el curso de una inversión determinada. Y si esta inversión tiene carácter humanitario, y previene e impide problemas serios derivados del hambre y la malnutrición, mucho mejor.

En este documento yo tendría alguna observación que efectuar y quisiera sentir de la Secretaría sus comentarios sobre los mismos en algún momento. En el apartado IV, párrafo 38, estas prioridades que aparentemente han sido analizadas por la Secretaría se expresan al decir: "en su fase inicial el Programa se concentrará en la reducción de las pérdidas posteriores a la recolección de alimentos de primera necesidad, es decir, cereales alimenticios, raíces y tubérculos". Luego se habla de la acción directa a través de programas nacionales, es decir, que habría una acción a través de peticiones específicas en base a proyectos determinados. La pregunta es, si sería posible prever o si se ha previsto la posibilidad de que estos programas que estarán a disposición de los Estados que lo soliciten, no sea la única manera con la cual la FAO enfrente este tema. Si cabría la posibilidad de que en forma directa, con la confección de un folleto, de algún elemento de difusión, que podría ser indicado a dos niveles se pueda llegar al productor y a la autoridad nacional encargada de su distribución. Teniendo en cuenta la gran bibliografía que seguramente existirá en la FAO sobre este tema, tal vez sea posible enfocar de una manera constructiva los problemas básicos de algunas regiones derivados de la pérdida de alimentos y tratar de confeccionar algún texto sencillo que pudiera llegar al agricultor, a la autoridad nacional para su distribución. Esto se haría en forma directa y tendría la ventaja de ser un paliativo que podría llegar a muy corto plazo a otorgar beneficios importantes antes de tener que analizar los proyectos nacionales o planes nacionales de ayuda.

Los Gobiernos deberían disponer de una bibliografía básica precisa y que según las necesidades de cada país puedan servir como recurso para lograr un efecto paliativo inmediato y preventivo, pero sobre todo preventivo. Estoy seguro que éste podría ser un método eficaz e independiente de los proyectos descritos en el documento. No sé si sería posible también que este folleto en lugar de ser imputado al Fondo que se va a destinar a los Programas de Pérdidas de Alimentos, pudiera estar incluido en el de Publicaciones de la FAO, pero de todas maneras tendría que ser sólidamente fundado desde el punto de vista técnico.

Tendríamos que exponer también mas bien una reflexión que otra observación. Se ha debatido sobre la modalidad de financiar el Fondo Especial y éste tal vez es el único punto en el que no todas las delegaciones se han mostrado unánimes. El Grupo de los 77 se ha reunido para tratar este tema y todos han reconocido la urgencia, la necesidad, la imperiosidad y el acierto de este Programa. Subsisten divergencias en torno a la financiación, pero lo importante es que no existen con respecto a la necesidad de la financiación, ya que las divergencias se concretan en los métodos que resulten más indicados para esta financiación.

La delegación de Argentina cree que no es posible supeditar o condicionar la posibilidad de la realización o acreditación de este Fondo a detalles o a problemas de presupuesto, sino que debe verse cuál es el fin último de esta propuesta del señor Director General, y el fin último creemos, es dotar a la FAO de un instrumento idóneo para combatir este problema de pérdida de alimentos.

Nosotros no vamos a asociar y vamos a apoyar las decisiones tomadas, ya sean del Consejo o de otras reuniones anteriores.

J. TANCHANCO (Philippines): Mr Chairman, on behalf of the Philippine delegation allow me to extend to you our congratulations on being elected Chairman of this Commission. Likewise our congratulations go to the Director-General and his staff on the excellent preparation of the working documents of the Conference and the Programme of Action on the Reduction of Food Losses, Before expressing its position on this important question now being discussed the Philippine delegation would like to share with others the Philippine experience in its efforts to reduce post-harvest losses.

According to our research findings, post-harvest losses of grains in the Philippines range 10 to 37 percent from harvesting to milling. The high volume of grains lost from inadequate as well as inefficient post-harvest technology could very well spell the difference in our country's struggle for self-sufficiency in staple cereals. It is estimated that our Government's efforts in the span of three years have trimmed down post-harvest losses by from 5 to 10 percent. Part of our present sufficiency in food has been due to the prevention of food losses. There are three elements in our Government's programme to reduce post-harvest losses.

The first element was the construction of modern grain warehouses in strategic areas of the entire Philippines, which replaced all existing obsolete and delapidated grain storage facilities. These modern grain warehouses are so designed that attacks by birds and rodents on grains are minimized if not totally eliminated. The warehousing programme, coupled with intensive infestation and pest control, have resulted in the reduction of storage losses from 6 percent down to about 1 percent per actual survey. Included in the warehousing programme was the establishment of grain centres in strategic production and consumption areas to service and educate the farmers, rice millers and warehousemen on the latest developments in post-harvest technology.

The second element is in the area of drying, where there is a high volume of grain loss caused by fermentation and germination. Our Government has acquired and installed a substantial number of mechanical driers in areas where these are readily available to farmers. As a measure for increased supply and reduced grain loss our Government has launched a programme of the phasing out of rice mills with less than 60 percent milling recovery and has instituted the undermilling of rice to have a more nutritional value and a higher recovery of milling, which is estimated to be 3 - 4 percent more. The requirement for milling 60 percent recovery will be gradually increased as the country's mills are improved and developed. It is the objective of the programme to have a minimum of 65 percent and a maximum of 72 percent recovery in rice milling.

Our Government has also paved the way in the use of rubber rollers for rice millers. A survey on the actual requirements and quality specification for rubber rollers, which are much more efficient and help to reduce losses in the milling process, has been completed.

The third element is the research and extension programme on the various aspects of post-harvest technology. A post-production technology training programme is also being conducted for the benefit of farmers and other individuals and groups engaged in the grains industry. In order to integrate the activities of all agencies towards reducing post-harvest losses a national Post-Harvest Coordinating Committee was created. The Committee implements a well-coordinated programme consisting of research extension services, credit assistance, manpower development and regulation and enforcement, all aimed at the development of post-harvest technology. This Committee reports directly to the President of the Philippines.

It may also be worth while to inform, this body that the Philippines, as mentioned also by the representative of Indonesia yesterday, is a participant in the Policy Advisory Committee of the Post-Harvest Programme of South-East Asia, which is supported by the Governments of Canada, the United States and the Netherlands. The Programme aims to institutionalize regional cooperation in post-production research and development by way of facilitating the exchange of technology within the region. The Committee's work programme for 1978 tackles the post-harvest problem through vigorous on-farm demonstrations and research projects on drying, transport, marketing, threshing and milling. Likewise, the Philippines is an active member of the ASEAN Food Handling Group which is supported by the Australian Government,

In a spirit of international cooperation, whatever modest successes have been gained in post-harvest technology and the reduction of grain losses the Philippines has shared with other member countries of this Organization, particularly developing countries. The Philippines has already indicated its support for the Director-General's proposals in two previous sessions of the Council. On this occasion, however, we would like to re-emphasize the need to set up the Post-Harvest Losses Fund and the need to get this programme off the ground immediately. For this purpose we think that the transfer of savings that have accrued due to favourable currency exchange rates in the amount of \$ 10 million, would be a very expedient way of getting the programme moving. This transfer would be a good start, but certainly it would just be the beginning. We would need another \$ 10 million to reach the \$ 20 million which

the minimum amount required, but even that would be a drop in the bucket, as the delegate of China indicated. A much bigger fund would be required to make a dent in the great problem of food losses.

We support the establishment of the Fund, in the hope that it will produce a snowball effect. We would like to think that the Fund would attract other investments from both the developed countries and also the developing countries themselves.

As indicated earlier in the course of this intervention, the Philippines has given priority and has already appropriated sizeable amounts of funds towards the elimination of post-harvest losses. We believe with the impetus given by the FAO Post-Harvest Losses Fund that other developing countries will also give priority to the matter in their budget and development programmes. We would like to support the regional approach suggested by the delegate of Kenya and to put investments where they would produce the highest returns. We would like to think that the scarce resources of the Fund would not be used in the hiring of expensive experts. Local and regional expertise should be used where they exist. The fund should complement the government funding efforts for the needed mechanism and infrastructure of the national programme for food losses.

In conclusion, and in the context of the experiences, projects and programmes spelt out by the various delegations, on behalf of my delegation I would like to propose the holding of a post-harvest workshop meeting at which experts of each country may thoroughly discuss and identify priority in combatting food losses. In this regard the Philippines is ready to offer its facilities.

P. HALIMI (France): Je veux avant toute chose vous féliciter de votre élection à la présidence de notre Commission. Vous avez été dans le passé un excellent président du Comité des produits et nous sommes persuadés que sous votre direction compétente nos travaux seront couronnés de succès. Mes félicitations s'adressent également aux quatre vice-présidents.

Ma délégation est consciente de l'importance de la prévention des pertes alimentaires et c'est donc avec attention qu'elle a étudié le document C 77/19. Il nous est apparu que ce texte était très proche du document présenté lors du dernier COAG, Qu'il me soit permis d'insister sur les points les plus importants de l'analyse des systèmes post-culturaux, à savoir le caractère global de toute intervention visant à réduire les pertes après récolte; la nécessité d'une formation de personnel qualifié de tous niveaux en matière d'entreposage, y compris les actions de vulgarisation auprès des agriculteurs et des commerçants; l'importance d'un recueil d'informations précises sur la nature et l'ampleur des pertes, en particulier la connaissance de la faune des denrées stockées, essentiellement en vue de réaliser des traitements phytosanitaires adéquats qui ne devront pas être excessifs et qui devront être appliqués au moment voulu sans risquer les échecs dus à l'apparition de formes de résistance chez les insectes traités par les pesticides, ou la présence de résidus de ces mêmes pesticides; la prise en compte du caractère biologique des denrées stockées pour la construction des locaux de stockage en vue de permettre une surveillance de l'état sanitaire des aliments et des interventions phytosanitaires commodes et peu coûteuses; le développement d'une plus grande collaboration entre les instituts et organismes internationaux concernés. A ce titre, le rôle joué par le GASGA, dont la Grande-Bretagne et la France assurent le secrétariat et dont la FAO est membre est très important.

Toutefois, il apparaît dans le document des modifications par rapport au document proposé au COAG, notamment a'été prise en compte la prévention des pertes avant récolte. Le lien qui doit exister entre l'état sanitaire des cultures et la protection des produits récoltés, est en effet nécessaire, bien que les actions à entreprendre soient de nature différente.

A cet égard, en France, le service de la protection des végétaux, chargé de la surveillance phytosanitaire des cultures assurée par la diffusion auprès des agriculteurs d'avertissements agricoles rapportant l'évolution des insectes et maladies, joue ce rôle en matière de prévention. Ce même service de la protection des végétaux a mis en oeuvre, en collaboration avec la recherche agronomique, une enquête sur la faune des denrées stockées et joue un rôle dans les modalités d'application des traitements de ces denrées. Il a aussi pour fonction l'organisation de stages de formation pour l'application des techniques de fumigation qui sont essentielles dans la protection des stocks.

De plus, nous constatons dans le document que la définition du rôle de l'unité de coordination a été mieux précisée que dans le document présenté au COAG. Cependant, la nécessité de la collaboration avec d'autres organisations ou à l'échelon régional n'apparaît pas clairement dans ce document, comme l'ont souligné certaines délégations qui se sont exprimées avant moi, notamment celles du Nicaragua et de l'Indonésie.

En ce qui concerne le programme d'action, ma délégation note avec satisfaction que le secrétariat de la FAO a tenu compte d'un certain nombre de remarques émises lors du dernier COAG, mais nous remarquons que la liste des projets présentés au COAG n'a, semble-t-il, pas été modifiée et nous le regrettons, car, comme l'ont souligné plusieurs délégués, il ne faut pas se cantonner dans ces dix modèles de projets. Il est indispensable que ce programme débute rapidement, mais pas selon n'importe quelle priorité. A cet égard, toutes les actions de formation doivent être mises en avant, La structure la plus sophistiquée ne sert à rien si l'on ne sait pas s'en servir, et j'appuie sur ce point ce qui a été dit par le délégué de la Haute-Volta, Inversement, d'excellents traitements peuvent être réalisés dans des installations sommaires par des personnes compétentes. Aussi, il ne servira à rien de débiter par exemple par la construction de magasins de stockage sans étude préalable des circuits commerciaux, sans moyens de maîtriser les infestations de ravageurs ou sans personnel motivé et qualifié.

Dans le domaine de la formation, mon pays peut très concrètement aider la FAO, Nous signalons la création récente à Montpellier de deux instituts spécialisés dans la formation tropicale: l'IDIARC, spécialisé dans le domaine de la technologie alimentaire dans les pays chauds, et l'IFARC, spécialisé dans la formation de chercheurs des pays en voie de développement, notamment dans le domaine des systèmes post-cultureaux.

Nous désirons souligner que le COAG a demandé -et ceci est indiqué au paragraphe 122 du rapport- que le Directeur général soumette au prochain COAG des rapports intermédiaires pour le déroulement des projets exécutés au titre du Programme. Nous estimons cet avis du COAG très important. Il est nécessaire que l'unité de coordination informe très rapidement les membres du COAG des priorités qui seront retenues.

Il nous apparaît donc que le succès du programme dépendra beaucoup du fonctionnement de cette unité, dont nous voudrions demander ici si elle sera bien composée de trois fonctionnaires, un P-5, un P-4 et un G-6, tels que les créations de postes apparaissent au document "Programme de travail et budget" et fonctionnant sur un budget de 375 000 dollars pour 1978-79. Nous aimerions avoir une confirmation de notre examen de ce document. Si nous ne nous sommes pas trompés, nous pensons que cette unité, effectivement petite, sera efficace puisqu'elle disposera d'un budget important. Nous notons avec satisfaction que l'unité aura pouvoir de coordination entre les différentes divisions de la FAO et nous souhaitons qu'elle parvienne à obtenir que les projets des différentes divisions de la FAO soient complémentaires.

Enfin, ma délégation souhaiterait que l'unité centrale de coordination se préoccupe au premier chef de la coordination avec toutes les organisations internationales - j'appuie sur ce point ce qui a été dit avant moi par la délégation de la Belgique et celle du Malawi - et que cette unité profite au maximum des organisations de coordination qui existent déjà et parmi celles-ci j'ai déjà cité le GASCA.

Nous rappelons que le GASCA assure de façon informelle à l'échelle mondiale la coordination des opérations post-cultureaux. La FAO en étant membre, je pense que cette collaboration sera aisée. Nous éviterons ainsi les doubles emplois et combien de délégations n'ont-elles pas exprimé de craintes à ce sujet...

Nous voudrions terminer en renouvelant notre sentiment que la lutte contre les pertes après récoltes ne sera efficace que si nous la faisons ensemble. Nous proposons très immédiatement de vous aider en accueillant des stagiaires boursiers de la FAO, en organisant des stages ou séminaires en France ou dans les pays en voie de développement par le biais d'équipes mobiles de formation.

Pour ce qui concerne le financement de ce Programme d'action, des discussions se poursuivent dans d'autres enceintes et nous espérons, comme notre Ministre de l'agriculture l'a dit en plénière, qu'un consensus pourra intervenir.

M.A. ALI (Sudan) (interpretation from Arabic): my delegation congratulates you, Mr. Chairman, on your election to the Chairmanship of this Commission. Furthermore, we have listened with great interest to the extremely interesting statements made by the various delegations who have spoken. We have benefited from listening to those statements.

The question of food losses, particularly post-harvest losses, is a highly relevant matter to all the authorities involved in my own country. Over the last four years we have made major efforts, the important part in which has been played by the National Research Council in Sudan.

Under the guidance of this Organization, we have set up research teams so as to reduce the size of the problem and so as to define it in our country. The result of this basic research has been extremely useful and therefore we have been able to establish a plan. Without scientific research as

a basis, it will never be possible to attain the desired results; nor will it be possible to work out a proper plan compatible with the realities of our own ecological system.

Further, following experiments carried out in Canada, we have defined an integrated plan to store cereals in our country, but because this required a lot of funding we were driven to stagger the implementation of such facilities. This operation has enabled us to carry out our plan in a 'way' which I believe is of interest. We have used the results obtained in other countries, and we should like to appeal to the Organization to enable us to carry out our plans in the best possible way and in the least costly way.

We listened to the statements made by China with great interest, and we are sure that the Chinese experience is of great interest to us. I believe we all have similar problems in the developing countries.

The programme proposed by the Director-General is worthy of our full support, and during this important meeting we would hope that the Director-General's Special Fund will enjoy the support of all the delegations gathered together within these walls. We hope that this Fund will be set up as rapidly as possible, so that it can be put into effect as quickly as possible.

E.F. WHELAN (Canada): I should like first of all to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this Committee.

The prevention of food losses is a very important issue which is of as much concern to Canada as it is to any other country in this body. We are aware of its complexity; -we are aware of its cost; and we are aware of its urgency. For those reasons we can support the priority attached by the earlier Session of the FAO Council and by the 1974 World Food Conference to the elaboration of an action programme directed at the preservation of food losses.

FAO is the international body eminently qualified by its mandate and by its experience for this task, and the Director-General is to be commended for the attention and enthusiasm he has brought to it.

In Canada, crop production and post-harvest losses are essential components of the agriculture programme at the federal and provincial levels. In fact, one quarter of my Ministry's research branch manpower is devoted to these objectives. Our experience has shown that even where the techniques are well known the degree of success will depend upon the trained manpower available. The pests responsible for crop losses must be thoroughly understood and the scientific leaders must be able to communicate objectives and technical knowhow to their subordinates. I would go so far as to say that the success or failure of a crop losses programme probably hinges mainly on this point.

The emphasis that the FAO Action Programme places on training in the area of farm machinery, storage and structures should also consider the need to develop local technologies using readily available materials. In this way, development, utilization and service can grow simultaneously, rather than importing sophisticated technology from the developed countries.

It is evident that an undertaking so vast, so complex and so significant is going to place tremendous demands on the resources of both bilateral and multilateral institutions, and most of all on the resources of developing countries themselves.

Through its international development assistance programme, Canada is already heavily involved in projects directed at the prevention of food losses in agriculture and fisheries. It is evident to me that as involvement in this area grows so will the need for close coordination with FAO, the World Bank and the regional banks, the International Fund for Agricultural Development once it gets under way, the World Food Programme, and UNDP. The UNDP, as the central institution for technical assistance in the UN development system, has a particularly important role to play in reflecting this priority in its country programme and guidelines.

In considering the Action Programme, it would be useful if the Director-General could outline for us the criteria and the mechanisms he envisages for carrying it out. This would give us a better idea of what kinds of resources will be needed.

Canada wholeheartedly supports the objectives laid out in the FAO Action Programme. We also recognise that we need resources to implement this programme. The Director-General has proposed our procedure for receiving these funds. There have been other suggestions submitted at the Council. Frankly, we would prefer the central funding approach to an institution like the UNDP. If this is not acceptable, we are prepared to seek some other approach which will reflect the principles of coordinated action and voluntary funding. Like many other countries, we have a well established policy, for

technical, assistance projects in the UN system should be financed on a voluntary basis. Canada would prefer that accumulated funds in the suspense account be returned to member governments, according to the provisions of the financial regulations agreed at the last Conference. In this way, we would leave it up to each country to decide how it can best contribute to an international campaign directed at the prevention of food losses.

In closing, I should like to mention that food conservation is not just a question of agriculture and marketing practices. In our industrialized society, it is very closely linked to nutritional factors and consumption patterns and what we waste in junk foods and what we throw out in farmer garbage. As I said yesterday in plenary session, we have taken surveys in some of our large urban cities in North America, both in the United States and in Canada, and the average waste in food thrown out in farmer garbage in some cities is as high as three hundred pounds a year for every man, woman and child. When one thinks of this horrible waste, one thinks of all the energies used to produce the machinery, to produce the fertilizers, to till the soil. Many people in our developed countries think that it is their right, because they bought the food, to throw it out if they do not like it, if they have bought too much or if it has deteriorated while in the refrigerator or in the kitchen. They throw it out in farmer garbage, which again uses tremendous amounts of energy. There are the huge garbage packer trucks, huge bulldozers, huge draglines, huge incinerators which use a tremendous amount of natural gas or some other kind of energy to burn these products which have taken all those resources to produce them in the first place. So it is not only in the developing countries where we must worry about waste; waste should be our concern in the developed countries; we should be much more concerned about how we are wasting food that has gone through all these various programmes that we have. In our country there are many incentives for producers and for industry to provide storage not only for grains but for the horticulture crops, etc., so that we do not waste those products in the harvest programme or in the post-harvest storage programme.

But when we think of what our people do who purchased it you wonder was it all worth while. I have friends who have spent their entire productive life on aid programmes in other parts of the world who tell me from their experience they have seen as much as 50 per cent of food lost because of no processing or storage facilities, because of rats and other vermin getting in grain and getting lost; with no processing facilities for horticultural crops, fruit and vegetables, over 50 per cent not even harvested in many cases because no place to put them. We know these things exist but we are conscious of the fact as societies develop the same as ours, in some developed parts of the world, waste is still going to take place, and the waste in many ways, as I said, is in the energy area, and we are all concerned about that. I know I am repeating myself, but we developed countries should bear this in mind while we discuss action programmes aimed at developing countries, and should think a bit about cleaning up in our own area.

K. BEDESTENCI (Turkey): On this the first time I have taken the floor I will congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your election and also the Vice-Chairman of this Commission.

My delegation has carefully examined the document C 77/19 before us. We are aware of the problems faced in production and particularly in prevention of loss of resources. During the World Food Conference in 1974 my delegation supported that the subject of food loss processes be brought to the notice and interest of the Conference. My Government was personally interested that action be taken by FAO on prevention of food losses.

I came here from a developing country. Although I do not wish to go into detail on this subject, I would like to point out that Turkey, being a country with a large population which consumes a great amount of cereals, considers it very important to control storage and to provide enough food for the population. We have long experience in this particular activity. By means of considerable investment we have created storage facilities for 2 million tons of cereals, to prevent food losses in store houses, and thus to ensure supplies to the consumer. We are still working on this subject. We would like to support the proposals of the Action Programme and the establishment of the Special Fund recommended in document C 77/19. Turkey is ready to collaborate with FAO with all her resources and experience in the successful implementation and prevention of cereal losses in the storehouse, and in regional cooperation.

Fruit and vegetables have received some interest in the FAO future programme. As you know, horticultural products are cash crops to the farmer. Turkey is ready to collaborate with the preservation of fruit and vegetables with all her resources and experience.

Finally, international cooperation is essential for the prevention of losses. Bearing this in mind, my Government, will be a supporter of action taken by FAO or other UN bodies and of new systems for balanced cooperation on this subject.

G. SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Ante todo quisiera señor Presidente, en nombre de mi delegación y en el mío propio felicitar a usted por su designación para presidir nuestros debates y por la eficacia con que está dirigiendo nuestros trabajos en esta importante Comisión. También quisiéramos felicitar a los distinguidos Vicepresidentes y a los demás componentes de la Mesa.

Asimismo quisiera expresar nuevamente nuestro regocijo con los nuevos miembros que nos acompañan en estos trabajos a los cuales reiteramos nuestra disposición de cooperación y de transmitirles la experiencia que pueda ayudarles a desempeñar sus nuevas tareas.

Nuestra delegación aprecia positivamente el interés demostrado por la FAO al abordar con profundidad el tema de las Pérdidas de Alimentos, en los distintos procesos de producción, cosecha y distribución de los productos de origen agrícola.

En Cuba también ha sido objeto de preocupación este importante problema. En la actualidad, la planificación centralizada de nuestra economía, encaminada a satisfacer la demanda creciente de la población y al mismo tiempo a garantizar la mayor efectividad económica de las empresas productoras y distribuidoras, y también, como consecuencia del perfeccionamiento del proceso de institucionalización, se han eliminado los dos aspectos más significativos que atentaban contra la conservación de los alimentos de origen agrícola, es decir, eliminó los intermediarios innecesarios y ha estabilizado la producción acorde con las posibilidades que brinda el propio desarrollo de la economía en función del sistema económico-social que hemos adoptado.

Actualmente la producción de las empresas estatales o cooperativas o los campesinos, es vendida a empresas estatales de acopio que se encargan de la distribución a la red minorista de establecimientos comerciales o a la industria o a la exportación.

A partir de esta situación organizativamente ventajosa, es posible ahora observar y detectar con mayor nitidez las otras causas que contribuyen a las pérdidas de alimentos, ya sea antes o después de las cosechas, estando de acuerdo nuestra delegación en que los tres obstáculos principales con los cuales tropieza la prevención de las pérdidas de alimentos son los expuestos en el documento C 77/19 presentado por la Secretaría, es decir: la falta de información, la carencia de una infraestructura adecuada y la falta de inversiones. Consideramos necesario añadir un aspecto adicional, ya mencionado por otras delegaciones, y que es la necesidad de capacitar a los trabajadores y funcionarios que intervienen en todos los procesos, sin lo cual los tres anteriores no podrían por sí mismos, resolver la problemática existente.

Nuestro país dispone de modestas instituciones científicas necesarias para realizar, como ya lo han comenzado a efectuar, los estudios que brindan, la información relativa a las causas de las pérdidas, la cuantificación de las mismas y proponer las opciones técnicas más eficaces para reducirlas o evitarlas. Ello es posible por el desarrollo educacional alcanzado en las ramas agropecuarias, lo que ha permitido que nuestra agricultura esté en posibilidades de enfrentar técnicamente la tarea de evitar cada vez más la pérdida de alimentos.

Con relación a la creación de la infraestructura, ya nuestro país ha perfilado y constituido sus Empresas Estatales Agropecuarias especializadas y, además, dispone de una red de talleres de reparaciones de equipos agrícolas, de regadío y de transporte que permite la explotación del parque existente de combinadas, cosechadoras especializadas, etc. Se han construido el doble de las carreteras y el triple de los caminos que existían antes de 1959, lo cual contribuye a evitar la pérdida de productos que de otra forma no pudieran ser transportados a su lugar de consumo, como era usual en Cuba en la época pre-revolucionaria, principalmente en los períodos de intensa lluvia, conllevando irremediablemente a pérdidas por estos conceptos; la electrificación, fundamentalmente en las zonas rurales es hoy 2,5 veces mayor que la existente en 1958, con lo cual es posible explotar en las zonas agrícolas productoras, instalaciones o establecimientos que requieren de la electricidad.

Pero a pesar de este gran esfuerzo por desarrollar nuestra infraestructura, aun la misma resulta insuficiente y consideramos que en uno de los aspectos en que nuestro país deberá hacer un esfuerzo, es en la creación de almacenes o establecimientos para la conservación transitoria de los productos agrícolas cosechados.

En los países subdesarrollados, prácticamente no existe ni siquiera en las grandes ciudades, capacidades suficientes para el almacenamiento de las materias primas y los productos industriales y alimenticios con destino al consumo de la población y por tal motivo, nuestra delegación considera muy apropiado el propósito del Director General de destinar una parte substancial del Fondo Especial para la reducción de pérdidas de alimentos, a la creación de distintos tipos de almacenes.

Pudiera ser de interés de los asistentes a este evento, conocer algunos datos referentes a nuestra experiencia en cuanto a las afectaciones o pérdidas en la producción agrícola en algunos de los eslabones del proceso de producción y venta de los productos.

A través de un sistema estadístico, que se inicia desde el mismo lugar de siembra, para llegar en forma consolidada hasta el nivel central de la nación, nuestro país dispone de la estadística de pérdidas en áreas sembradas en cada uno de los cultivos y es un indicador que se planifica sobre bases técnicas y su ejecución se controla y supervisa.

En cultivos tan sensibles a las plagas y enfermedades como el arroz, nuestro país puede mostrar un saldo positivo, en la disminución de las pérdidas observado desde 1972 hasta la fecha, habiendo contribuido a esta favorable situación el disponer del equipamiento necesario para todas las labores, la atención fitosanitaria y la exigencia de utilizar con preferencia semillas certificadas, aspecto este último en que para 1978 se podrá llegar sin ninguna dificultad al 95 por ciento del total del área a sembrar.

En Tubérculos y Raíces, las pérdidas en áreas sembradas, tomando como promedio tres años, es de un 12 por ciento, mientras que en Hortalizas, en el tomate, por ejemplo, principal renglón de producción en este rubro, las pérdidas en áreas representan el 6 por ciento de las siembras realizadas.

Nuestro país utiliza para el control de las plagas en las hortalizas, productos plaguicidas de reconocida eficiencia y se encuentra en estos momentos desarrollando una red de establecimientos técnicos que eviten la propagación de plagas que habitualmente afectan las producciones.

En otros cultivos no mencionados específicamente, las pérdidas en siembras tienen el siguiente orden: caña, 13 por ciento; tabaco, 6,6 por ciento; cítricos, 10 por ciento; pastos y forrajes, 9 por ciento.

El sistema estadístico vigente permite además conocer por cada empresa, provincia y por tipo de cultivo, las mermas que se producen a partir del momento en que se acopia la producción y que llega a la red de establecimientos minoristas. De esta forma, tomando como base un año dado el comportamiento fue el siguiente: tubérculos y raíces, 5,5 por ciento; hortalizas, 6,0 por ciento; frutas cítricas, 3,3 por ciento; otros frutales, 7,1 por ciento. Como bien se puede apreciar, a pesar de los esfuerzos realizados para contrarrestar las pérdidas antes y después de las cosechas, éstas son todavía considerables y además, las mencionadas no son las únicas.

Pudiera ser también de interés dar a conocer algunos interesantes trabajos de investigación llevados a cabo en nuestro país, para lograr la conservación de productos agrícolas con lo cual lograría de poderse extender en forma generalizada, reducir las pérdidas y/o lograr ahorros en relación a otras técnicas más costosas. Dada la estacionalidad de la cosecha de algunos productos agrícolas fundamentales, es decir, tubérculos y raíces y hortalizas, se producen, entre los meses de febrero y marzo, altas producciones no asimilables en igual período de tiempo por la industria o el consumo de la población y excediendo las posibilidades de almacenaje en establecimientos adecuadamente climatizados. Para la conservación de la papa, los métodos en nuestro país, han sido fundamentalmente dos: el utilizado por los pequeños y aislados productores, consistente en mantener la papa, en forma de granel, en lugares con cierta ventilación procedente del medio ambiente, y produciendo una rotación del producto cada cierto tiempo. La utilización de este método se hace inadecuado cuando la producción aumenta significativamente; el otro método es el de almacenar la papa en instalaciones frigoríficas que garantizan una baja temperatura, lo cual requiere inversiones y tecnologías generalmente costosas y que a pesar de los grandes esfuerzos realizados por nuestro país en aumentar este tipo de instalaciones, aún resultan insuficientes, debido a la competencia que se produce en un mismo período entre distintos productos. Ante esta situación, se han desarrollado experiencias en distintas zonas del país, encaminadas a demostrar que es posible lograr con resultados satisfactorios la conservación de la papa a temperatura ambiente en determinadas condiciones de almacenaje, entongamiento adecuado de los envases, selección apropiada del lugar del almacén, de la forma en que circula el aire y tomando en cuenta otros factores. Como resultado de la experiencia realizada se concluyó que el método aplicado posibilita la conservación de la papa por más de cien días sin riesgos, aunque cumplimentando determinadas orientaciones de trabajo. Desde el punto de vista económico, la experiencia arrojó como resultado que el precio de conservación de la papa en un período de 90 días, a temperatura ambiente, es de aproximadamente un 40 por ciento inferior en relación a la conservación en cámaras refrigeradas.

Por la importancia de todos estos aspectos y de acuerdo a las posibilidades existentes, nuestro país podrá continuar en el desarrollo y creación de nuevas condiciones para evitar las pérdidas de alimentos, habilitando laboratorios, puntos de tance est unanimement reconnue de tous.

Reiteramos que nuestra delegación considera en forma muy positiva el propósito de la Secretaría de So" meter el tema de las pérdidas de alimentos al riguroso examen del 19° período de sesiones de la Conferencia General y nuestras modestas experiencias, producto ellas, en lo fundamental, del sistema económico vigente desde hace sólo dieciocho años en nuestro país, están a disposición de los demás países en desarrollo y al mismo tiempo planteamos que estamos también en la disposición de asimilar y aceptar la colaboración que en este sentido pueda prestar esta Organización.

Por ultimo, nuestra delegación desea reiterar, una vez más, nuestro apoyo al Director General en su propósito de crear este fondo, así como también la propuesta de iniciar las actividades del mismo transfiriendo recursos monetarios de la cuenta transitoria por un monto de diez millones de dólares.

J. ROWINSKI (Poland): First of all, I would like to congratulate you on being elected Chairman of our Commission and would like also to congratulate all four Vice-Chairmen of our Commission.

The problems of post-harvest losses and the establishment of the Special Fund for the Prevention of Food Losses were already discussed this year. The Polish delegation had the opportunity to express its opinion during the fourth session of the Committee on Agriculture. The problem is really very important and we think that the proposed programme of action is only the beginning. One of the reasons for this opinion is that the programme is now restricted mainly to grains. Only the projects in B and H and two training projects are fully or partly connected with crops other than grains, and we all know that similar or even higher post-harvest losses occur in the case of roots and tubers. There is also no reason to exclude many other very important plants such as fruits and vegetables.

It is, however, obvious that it is difficult to begin with a broadly formulated programme. The Polish delegation is of the opinion that in the case of success the programme should be extended first of all on roots and tubers and afterwards on the other crops mentioned. In connexion with this, we are wondering whether it would be possible to introduce in the project more universal dryers that could handle not only grain but also other crops.

As regards financing of the programme, we would prefer as a matter of principle to confine it to voluntary contributions. However, as it is a very important matter for many developing countries, we shall not object to using the resources located in the Suspense Account for this purpose.

A. LERE WAPI (Tchad): Avant tout permettez-moi de vous féliciter pour votre élection à la présidence de notre commission ainsi que les quatre vice-présidents.

Nous abordons le document C 77/19 qui traite de la prévention des pertes alimentaires, que l'on peut considérer comme l'un des points les plus importants inscrits à l'ordre du jour de notre commission. Pour la délégation tchadienne il s'agit même du point le plus important car à quoi bon mettre en place tout un dispositif, tout un mécanisme en vue d'accroître la production si l'on ne pense pas à protéger ce que l'on produit.

La nécessité de cette protection se fait d'autant plus sentir que les conditions de production sont difficiles et aléatoires. En effet, mon pays qui n'avait pas trop de problèmes alimentaires jusque vers les années 72, n'avait cure de la prévention des pertes alimentaires. A partir de 1973, l'action conjuguée des déprédateurs des cultures et de la série des périodes sèches qui frappe les peuples du bas Sahel, a fait prendre conscience à mon pays de l'absolue nécessité de sauvegarder ce qui est épargné par la sécheresse.

Depuis lors, et avec l'aide des organisations régionales ou internationales mon pays essaie de faire face à la situation.

Un fonds de roulement est mis en place depuis un an avec l'aide de l'USAID, mais son bon fonctionnement nécessite une action de sensibilisation des agriculteurs à la lutte contre les ravageurs. Les pertes alimentaires au Tchad sont considérables bien qu'on ne puisse les chiffrer avec exactitude faute d'études approfondies des dégâts. Elles se situent entre 30 et 60 pour cent.

En ce qui concerne les pertes avant récolte, elles sont essentiellement causées par les ciseaux granivores, les insectes et par une plante parasite contre laquelle il n'exite, à l'heure actuelle, à notre connaissance, qu'une méthode efficace et peu coûteuse de lutte: il s'agit du striga. Où cette plante se développe, on peut estimer que d'ici à dix ans elle occasionnera à elle seule 50 pour cent des pertes en céréales, bases du pays, si d'ici là aucun moyen de lutte efficace n'était trouvé

Les pertes après récolte ne sont pas non plus négligeables mais leur ampleur est encore bien moins connue. Une politique nationale de prévention de ces pertes semble difficilement applicable du fait de la diversité et de l'inadéquation des infrastructures de stockage. Seul le programme des magasins actuellement en cours permettra de tirer des éléments de cette politique.

A l'instar des autres délégations, nous apportons notre appui au programme de la FAO tendant à la réduction des pertes alimentaires, mais il me semble qu'il y manque un élément de base. Il s'agit de la sensibilisation des petits exploitants à tous les aspects du problème des pertes avant, pendant et après la récolte. A cette fin, un modèle de projet, basé sur l'utilisation des techniques audiovisuelles aurait sans doute complété avantageusement le programme qui nous est présenté.

En ce qui concerne le Fonds spécial, son utilisation doit être rationnelle en faisant autant que faire se peut, appel aux compétences nationales.

A.Y. BOUKHARI (Saudi Arabia) (interpretation from Arabic): I also would like to congratulate you on your election to the Chair of this Commission which you are controlling with great wisdom. My country, like other developing countries, is extremely conscious of the importance of this problem as it is conscious of the importance of finding solutions to this question of food losses which cost the Third World millions of dollars and millions of tons of food every year, which makes our world food situation even more precarious than it would be otherwise. We know that this has a great effect on food production throughout the world.

Our policy is designed to support, morally and materially, all projects which can be of benefit to humanity. Hence we support the creation of a special programme to enable food losses to be reduced, with particular emphasis on grain crops and other staple food crops.

We agree with the means of financing this programme as given in the document or by any other means which would enjoy the consensus of the house on condition that, of course, the objective may be achieved. My delegation considers that the programme could be financed by one of the funds which have been created and not necessarily by an independent fund, so as to avoid the usual administrative sloth which has a tendency to intervene.

We would like an objective study to be made before a rapid decision is taken on the subject, which study should take into account the experience of our various member countries and should take into account the fact that self-sufficiency is a prime target in the Third World.

E.T. OROUNLA (Bénin): Qu'il me soit permis à mon tour, Monsieur le Président, de vous féliciter pour votre élection à la présidence de cette importante Commission de notre Conférence.

L'objectif principal de la FAO demeure incontestablement l'augmentation des disponibilités alimentaires, que ce soit au niveau de nos pays respectifs ou au niveau mondial. Toute politique qui a pour mobile la réalisation rapide de cet objectif principal a été toujours favorablement accueillie par la République populaire du Bénin, qui met déjà, à son propre niveau et par ses propres moyens, tout en oeuvre pour assurer l'autosuffisance alimentaire de sa population et, dans la mesure du possible, dégager des surplus exportables dans le cadre des échanges économiques entre les nations. Nos efforts, comme dans la plupart des pays en développement, ont besoin d'être soutenus; au plan international. Les pertes de produits alimentaires dans leur ensemble, et notamment les pertes après récolte dues à des circonstances et à des facteurs directs: action des ravageurs, mauvaise conservation, insuffisance des capacités de stockage, ces pertes constituent un grand goulot d'étranglement qu'il conviendrait d'éliminer ou de réduire au plus tôt.

C'est la raison fondamentale qui motive le soutien total de la République populaire du Bénin au programme de prévention des pertes alimentaires, programme présenté par le Directeur général de la FAO et recommandé à notre Conférence par la soixante-douzième session du Conseil. Un programme a besoin de moyens pour son application conséquente. Nous souscrivons donc pleinement à la création d'un Fonds spécial destiné au Programme de prévention des pertes alimentaires ainsi qu'à l'ordonnancement des actions concrètes proposées dans le document C 77/19. Les produits d'approvisionnement de ce Fonds devront se faire sans grande difficulté sur la base des propositions concrètes présentées par le Directeur général de la FAO, à savoir le prélèvement de 10 millions de dollars sur le compte d'attente 1976-77 de notre Organisation et, par la suite, des souscriptions volontaires des Etats Membres.

Tel est en tout cas le souhait que la délégation béninoise forme, s'agissant de ce sujet dont l'importance est unanimement reconnue de tous.

M. ISHAQUE (Bangladesh): I want you to know that the Bangladesh delegation is very happy at your being elected Chairman of this Commission. Please accept our heartiest congratulations. Our congratulations go also to the Vice-Chairmen.

We are deliberating here today the item on prevention of food losses. This is rather a belated deliberation at this level, although previous discussions have been held - but better late than never. We owe a great deal to the Director-General, Mr. Saouma, who has taken steps for getting action on this programme. I am quite sure that my fellow delegates agree with me when I say that action on this programme cannot wait any longer, and we salute the Director-General for his bold steps, with emphasis. Therefore we should not find it difficult to sort out the procedure for operation and for funding. The proposal for starting a Special Fund with the transfer of \$US 10 million from the Suspense Account will no doubt allow immediate action without denying other contributions.

The reason why I and my delegation express anxiety, and want the programme to be implemented without any further delay, is that a pound of food prevented from being lost means that a human being is saved from hunger to the extent of that pound of food; and in the world today millions of pounds of food are being lost, when millions of human beings are hungry and under-nourished. Looking at it from this angle we may be regarded as a group of policy makers guilty of being oblivious to the situation around us if we do not start the programme at once.

FAO has been involved so very fully in getting food produced to grant human beings freedom from hunger and malnutrition. The investment, the efforts, the energy and the toil that have gone into obtaining production cannot be allowed to be lost; therefore action on the programme is an immediate must.

Developing countries are more in need of the programme and of support under the programme, so that their countries' programmes may not be handicapped on account of resource constraints - resources of many kinds, and the more prominent ones are investment and know-how which are very well highlighted in the programme. Loss in storage is substantial in developing countries, yet proper storage is not developed, due to inadequate investment capital. Know-how is also inadequate.

Bangladesh, being a food-deficient country, is already taking steps to prevent loss. The available studies indicate that production loss was in the range of 13.7 percent on the lower side to 30 percent on the higher side. This means that the total post-harvest loss of food grains runs from a minimum of 1.5 million tons to 3.45 million tons. Against this loss, the quantum of our food grain imports has been 2.1 million tons on an average during the past five years. Satisfactory achievements in the prevention of post-harvest loss gives us more food for the hungry millions with a total or partial cut-down on food grain imports. Bangladesh is therefore very eager to be involved in the Action Programme for the Reduction of Food Losses, and so are all the others, I am quite sure.

Allow me to mention a few points of concern. Perishables, such as fruit, vegetables and fish, are being produced in increasing quantities in our countries to provide balanced food for the people. As you know, Sir, such perishables need to reach the consumers in non-producing areas quickly in order that effective and qualitative use may be made of -the production. In this section again, the developing countries, of which mine is one, feel the pinch as the infrastructure for transportation and marketing is not yet developed due to inadequate investment resources. FAO's programme may therefore give due consideration to this aspect. Perishable foods, such as fruits and vegetables, that are strictly season-oriented and available during only a short period of the year, more often than not create a market glut. The result is not only a loss in quality and quantity but also unremunerative prices for the hard toiling producer-farmer. Such a situation prevails in many places. This kind of loss can be prevented by developing processing industries of different scales. The Director-General's proposed programme envisages the provision of resources for developing processing facilities, and that is gratifying to note.

One more point of concern is that unemployment exists in many countries - certainly it exists in my country. Food loss prevention establishments that throw people out of employment must not therefore be developed. Appropriate technology has to be developed, through research, studies, demonstrations and training, so that the small farmers in the villages can also participate.

Having made those observations, on behalf of my delegation I fully support the Action Programme for the Prevention of Food Losses of the FAO and its implementation forthwith, with the Special Fund created by the transfer of \$10 million from the Suspense Account, to which Special Fund further contributions should come in due course, as the Programme aims at prevention of loss of food which is so very painstakingly produced for keeping humanity free from hunger and malnutrition.

H.S. BAR-SHAI (Israel): First of all, I should like to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, and to wish you success in directing these discussions towards good results. I should like also to congratulate the staff on their clear statement of the problems in document C 77/19. Prevention of food losses is indeed a tremendous problem, especially in a world where population growth demands every effort to increase supply, both by enlarging crops and by lowering losses. Every effort should indeed be dedicated towards this end and we wholeheartedly support this drive.

Nearly all the problems in this field can be found in our country, in which variable climatic conditions and scarcity of land and water resources demand many efforts in the field of the prevention of food losses. Food losses are caused not only by pests and droughts but also by a variety of causes which are no less important. We apply many and various systems to overcome the problems involved, starting with a broad research system designed to find ways and means to prevent damage by pests and other damage, through chemical or biological means and through ensuring proper growth conditions which will neutralize as much as possible climatic hazards.

On the post-harvest level we are applying careful mechanical systems and proper storage, including cold storage, especially for crops which can last a little longer, proper packaging and marketing systems, including exports of fresh produce, and industrial processing, drying, canning or freezing surpluses or even growing special crops for these purposes.

All this is serving crops in the order of several millions of tons, locally grown or imported, required to feed the population.

Many of these systems were developed in Israel, using locally made materials as well as foreign know-how. For example, we have created an extensive system of potato storage, based on very useful know-how and systems from the Netherlands, through which potatoes are stored in bulk in 20-25 thousand ton units instead of in jute bags. The damage during the long periods of storage is negligible and the product is even better than fresh potatoes. This was a good lesson from The Netherlands, for which we are grateful.

Successful action in this field depends not only on the means of creating it but also, and mainly, on the right approach to its application. In Israel, most of these activities are carried out on a regional basis, through organizations of the villages or settlements grouped in a given area and owned by them. These organizations concentrate all the purchases of the farming units in their area and provide harvest treatment facilities like storage, manufacturing and so on, thus saving much time and money to the individual farmer and ensuring the best and most efficient in every field.

Israel is willing to lend a hand in this Programme of FAO, utilizing its wide knowledge, and experience and industrial basis, assisting agriculture in every field of crop preservation. We arrange special courses in this field, both on a bilateral nation-to-nation basis in interested countries and through the good services of the FAO system. We feel that the plan presented in document C 77/19 should be a beginning, leading towards wider-scale programmes which will create an infrastructure leading towards broader systems of harvest preservation, thus relieving the world food shortage.

WONG SOON KAI (Malaysia): First of all allow me on behalf of the delegation of Malaysia to join others in congratulating you on your election to the Chair. I likewise extend my congratulations to all the Vice-Chairmen.

I thank you for this opportunity to express my country's support for document C 77/19 on Prevention of Food Losses. In this connexion I wish to pay my compliments to the Director-General and his Secretariat for bringing out this important and comprehensive document which embodies the overall strategies and immediate programme of action.

The importance and the desirability of the prevention of food losses either before, during or after harvest are obvious to all, and yet it is a fact that until now this has been one of the most neglected areas in our effort to increase food supplies for the needy. I fully concur with the delegate of Bangladesh that it is better late than never.

The Action Programme before us which is meant to serve as a catalytic function in the entire field of prevention of food losses, is therefore heartily welcomed by my delegation. It is hoped that all countries which are in a better position to assist the developing nations will actively support this FAO programme, so that a positive impact will be made in our fight against hunger and malnutrition throughout the world by reducing food losses. The causes of food losses are many and varied.

We have just heard the Minister of Agriculture of Canada talking about the tremendous food waste in developed countries such as Canada, which are, however, in the happy position of not being adversely affected, nutritionally at least, by this wastage.

Besides the common causes there are different factors which might play an important role in different countries due to their peculiar physical, cultural and social conditions, the type of crops, the method of handling, processing, distribution, and so on.

Malaysia, while having a fairly strong agricultural base in the production of primary export commodities such as rubber, palm oil and pepper, is nevertheless vigorously pursuing the policy of increased food production.

We have also given high priority to the practical aspects of the reduction of food losses. It has been estimated that Malaysia's post-harvest losses amount to 11.7 percent of its rice production, 11 percent of its meat, 10 percent of its poultry and 10 to 15 percent of its fish supply, not counting the large percentage of fresh fish discarded at sea. These figures, although far from accurate, can indicate the magnitude of this problem.

It is obvious that if my country can save 50 percent of these losses by satisfactory and practical means at a reasonable cost, it would augment our farmers' income significantly, in addition to bringing Malaysia one step nearer to the goal of food self-sufficiency. It is in this context that my delegation fully supports the statement made by the delegate of Australia in the Plenary meeting on the 14 November that the Food Losses Prevention Programme be accorded top priority by FAO.

Furthermore, we concur with the several delegates who have stated that the Action Programme before us must give emphasis at the village and small farms level, and that local conditions and local resources of individual countries and regions must always be taken into consideration in formulating its plans, strategies and products.

While my delegation agrees with the priority being given to the prevention of post-harvest losses of staple foods at this juncture, we are of the opinion that losses both before and during harvest, not only of food grains but also of all foodstuffs, such as vegetables, fruits, meat and fish, must eventually be given their equal importance in this programme.

In Malaysia, for example, over 50 000 acres of rice crops were destroyed by insect pests early this year. If a better system of prevention of this sort of pre-harvest loss were available and effectively implemented, it would go a long way to help a large section of our farming poor and to sustain our nation's effort to higher food production.

Malaysia accepts the action strategies formulated in document C 77/19. We feel that the crux of the problem is how to meet effectively the urgent need of the developing countries and their poor small farmers. However, we are of the opinion that the prevention of food losses can only be successfully tackled by an integrated approach to agricultural and rural development.

My delegation recognizes that the establishment of a Special Fund for the Reduction of Food Losses deserves urgent attention if we envisage a worthwhile outcome in the near future. We are of the opinion that since at this initial stage the programme serves as a catalyst to more future actions, the Fund should be carefully and wisely invested in countries and regions that have the conditions and pre-requisites to ensure positive and worthwhile results. We would also like to see the distribution of the Fund take into consideration efforts made by other agencies so as not to perpetuate duplication and unnecessary wastage.

My delegation noted with satisfaction the proposal to set up a unit at the FAO Regional Office especially orientated to handle the post-harvest programme. It is our hope that this unit will be properly manned by competent and relevant personnel so as to ensure its success as a planning, implementation, coordination, evaluation and information monitoring centre.

Finally, my delegation would like to take this opportunity to express our country's gratitude to FAO and those governments and inter-governmental groups which have given us their technical assistance in the implementation of our national programmes for the reduction of food losses. I wish to mention that FAO has assisted us in the organization of an action-oriented field workshop for the prevention of post-harvest rice loss in Ala Ston in 1976. In this field we happily offer to share our experience with any interested countries.

D. VASILIU (Roumanie): Le problème de la croissance de la production agricole préoccupe à présent tous les pays du monde, surtout les pays en développement, domaine dans lequel, ces dernières années, on a obtenu des résultats satisfaisants.

Suivant les estimations du mois de septembre de l'année courante, la production mondiale des céréales a augmenté de 1.365 millions de tonnes en 1975 et de 1.475 millions de tonnes en 1977.

Il est pourtant regrettable qu'une partie importante de ces récoltes diminue, cela étant dû à des causes d'ordre biologique et mécanique, qui avec des mesures opérationnelles pourraient être prévenues.

Dans les sessions précédentes, le Conseil de la FAO a discuté et adopté certaines recommandations concernant les actions de prévention des pertes de récoltes, surtout dans les pays en développement où, même de nos jours, selon ce qu'on a révélé à l'occasion de la dernière session générale de l'ONU, environ 600 millions de personnes souffrent de la faim.

La délégation roumaine appuie les actions initiées par le Directeur général, à savoir le Programme d'action et l'institution d'un Fonds spécial, qui une fois conjuguées, pourront contribuer à l'élimination des difficultés mentionnées dans le document C 77/19, notamment:

- l'insuffisante information concernant la dimension réelle des pertes de récolte et leurs causes,
- l'insuffisante préparation scientifique du personnel chargé de lutter contre ces pertes,
- le volume insuffisant des investissements qui sont utilisés pour des actions concrètes.

En appuyant les propositions du Directeur général telles qu'elles sont présentées dans le document C 77/19, nous sommes en même temps d'avis qu'elles ne devraient être considérées que comme un début prometteur; ces actions devraient être suivies par d'autres. L'une d'elles qui serait de nature à aider les pays dans leur effort dans ce domaine, serait, de l'avis de notre délégation, l'élaboration par la FAO d'une étude contenant des recommandations et orientations qui puissent servir aux pays dans les directions suivantes:

- organiser les systèmes nationaux de prévention et d'avertissement de l'apparition de différents facteurs qui mènent à la diminution des récoltes;
- surveiller la résistance aux pesticides des différentes populations de ravageurs, des phytopathogènes et des mauvaises herbes;
- obtenir de nouvelles variétés de plantes qui parviennent graduellement à l'immunité vis-à-vis de différents ravageurs;
- vulgariser l'utilisation de techniques culturales propres à maintenir les cultures en bon état.

De même, nous sommes d'accord avec la remarque du délégué du Kenya, à savoir la nécessité de ne pas se limiter à des actions uniquement dans le domaine végétal. En effet, il faut en même temps s'occuper des pertes alimentaires dans le domaine animal, car là aussi il y a des diminutions importantes de production. La FAO devrait, à notre avis, dans ses actions futures sur les pertes alimentaires, aborder également ce problème.

A.A. AL-AGBARY (Yemen Arab Republic) (Interpretation from Arabic): I would like to congratulate the Chairman and the Vice-Chairmen on their election. I would also like to express our delegation's support for the statement made by the delegate of Kenya.

We are happy to welcome the new members to this Organization.

My delegation supports the point of view of the Swedish delegation that pre-harvest and post-harvest losses are part of the same process. It is not just because of the quality of seed but various other causes such as distribution, which lead to the loss of these foodstuffs.

We must also bear in mind the level of education of the farmers, hygienic standards and all the other elements which influence these food losses. We think that the project concerning food losses must be part of the current development programme, and if it is necessary to set up a special fund to finance this work with, on the one hand, \$ 10 million from the suspense account and, on the other hand, with \$ 10 million from country contributions, it is important for us that this fund should not be a new administrative drain on the Organization. It is important to have planned administration costs as far as possible so that the major part of this budget is used for combatting harvest losses.

We also think we should find a clear way of working out "this programme because there are other agricultural products which are also concerned with food losses. In our country we have a number of different agricultural projects, and in 1974 food was a special problem. We wonder if the fund will deal with such matters because they are of major importance in developing countries. We have a great responsibility to ensure that people get good food.

The budget for the Special Fund must give priority to limiting losses not after the harvest, because that does not help the developing countries, especially those who do not have enough food production. It would help the more industrialized countries who already have the means of coping with post-harvest losses.

For all these reasons, we think that the role for the special Fund should concentrate on increasing production of food grains and cereals, and discourage certain traditional harvesting methods which are very harmful to food production.

We should also like this to cover matters other than food losses. We should like it to cover fisheries, forestry and non-food products, so as to gain the maximum advantage from it. My delegation believes that this would benefit the developing countries, especially before the harvest.

A. MAJID (Afghanistan): The Afghanistan delegation would like to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this Commission. We should also like to extend our congratulations to the Director-General and the Secretariat for presenting a very concise and comprehensive document, C 77/19.

My delegation fully agrees that in order to tackle food shortages we need to emphasise how to avoid food losses no less than to increase food production. If we are able to reduce 50 percent of post-harvest losses by 1985 much of the food shortage would be avoided. It should be noted that not only at the post-harvest level but also at the pre-harvest level we have to strive to avert losses. These losses are quite substantial, especially in the developing and least developed countries.

Losses caused by insects and pests and by improper harvesting constitute causes at the pre-harvest level. Similarly, spoilage, damage, decomposition caused by pests, insects and rodents, and also drying, storage, marketing and processing constitute food losses at the post-harvest level.

In Afghanistan major losses in the pre-harvest period are sometimes caused by locust attacks. Our main limitations in preventing the pre-and post-harvest losses are insufficient infrastructures and inability to provide for requisite investments for these purposes. The Afghanistan delegation fully supports the establishment of a Special Fund for the reduction of food losses. This appears to be an area in which the return on the time and money invested may be unusually high.

My delegation supports the criteria for the approval of projects but we put strong emphasis on the following four criteria: (i) priority should be given to the needs of the least developed and the most severely affected countries; (ii) the main project action should be completed in one and a half to two years; (iii) training programmes should be of short duration, conducted within the country, and directed towards the farmers, shopkeepers and operating staff; (iv) facilities to be provided should be simple to construct and operate, and be of appropriate design and materials for the country concerned.

Lastly, in our view the concept of pre-harvest and post-harvest losses should be extended to include other items such as fresh and dried fruits and vegetables and also non-food items such as cotton.

B. SAMANEZ CONCHA (Peru): En primer lugar complace a la delegación de Peru que sea un latinoamericano quien presida esta importante Comisión donde vemos se están discutiendo temas de vital importancia. Estamos seguros que bajo su presidencia se logrará consenso en los diferentes temas que debemos tratar durante este período de sesiones.

En segundo término debo dar la bienvenida a FAO a los Estados que acaban de incorporarse como miembros de esta importante Organización.

Pasando, señor Presidente, al tema que nos ocupa, debo manifestar y recordar que la agricultura es, como todos sabemos, una actividad totalmente aleatoria que se desarrolla en grandes espacios y en áreas sumamente dispersas, la producción obtenida en el resultado de un proceso biológico que una vez iniciado no se puede parar. Las mayores inversiones se realizan en la primera fase, me refiero a la siembra, concluido el proceso vegetativo, las cosechas obtenidas corren el riesgo de perderse y una vez recolectadas estas debe, a fin de poder regular el abastecimiento a los centros de consumo conservarse por períodos más o menos prolongados. Y si la recolección y conservación no se efectúa en forma eficiente, gran parte de los esfuerzos productivos se habrán perdido.

El proyecto para evitar las pérdidas de alimentos, estamos seguros dará resultados a muy corto plazo y con inversiones relativamente bajas en comparación con los otros esfuerzos que se vienen haciendo para ampliar las áreas de cultivo, introduciendo tecnologías nuevas etc. y todo ello con el fin de aumentar la disponibilidad de alimentos para combatir el hambre y la malnutrición. Esfuerzos estos últimos que deben ser reforzados y continuados, pero dándose la debida prioridad al proyecto presentado para evitar pérdidas de las cosechas después de la recolección.

La importancia del proyecto hace imperativo que se inicie lo más pronto posible, ya que el hambre en el mundo no puede continuar esperando. Hemos escuchado atentamente que hay un consenso y apoyo unánime al programa y mi país no puede dejar de hacer conocer que también apoya el Programa y por ello expresamos nuestra conformidad con el proyecto presentado por la Dirección General. Además, evitando la pérdida de las cosechas, los agricultores percibirán un mayor ingreso por su esfuerzo y los consumidores pueden tener a su alcance no sólo una mayor cantidad de productos, sino posiblemente éstos lleguen a sus manos a precios más bajos.

En; cuanto a Financiamiento se refiere, esperamos que éste sea aprobado tal como fue presentado por el Director General en el proyecto de resolución y que el Fondo sea incrementado con aportes voluntarios a fin de que pueda ampliarse el cuadro de acción del Programa, y es de esperar que se lleven adelante proyectos para evitar la pérdida de las cosechas en la región de latinoamérica, especialmente en cultivos de la papa que tiene períodos críticos de siembra y de cosecha y debe almacenarse en gran volumen para el abastecimiento a unas zonas muy importantes de nuestra región.

El proyecto de resolución propuesto en su último párrafo pide que el Director General presente al Consejo, a través de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas, un informe anual sobre el funcionamiento. Considero, señor Presidente, que sería conveniente que al próximo período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura se le presente una evaluación sobre la marcha del proyecto a fin de que puedan ser analizados los resultados técnicos obtenidos y, en base a ello, puedan formularse al Consejo las recomendaciones del caso.

The meeting rose at 12.45 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas

conference

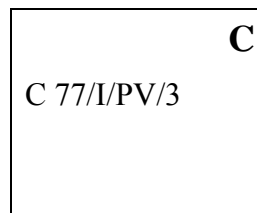
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Nineteenth Session
COMMISSION I

Dix-neuvième session
COMMISSION I

19° período de sesiones
COMISION II

THIRD MEETING
TROISIEME SÉANCE
TERCERA SESION

(17 November 1977)

The Third Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours
J.C. Vignaud, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45, sous la présidence de
J.C. Vignaud, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la tercera sesión a las 14.45 horas, bajo la presidencia de
J.C. Vignaud, Presidente de la Comisión I

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

PREMIERE PARTIE - PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET QUESTIONS DE POLITIQUE EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)

PARTE I - PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)

7. Prevention of food losses (continued)

7. Prevention des pertes alimentaires (suite)

7. Prevención de pérdidas en alimentos (continuación)

EL PRESIDENTE : Antes de dar la palabra al primer orador que tengo inscrito en la lista, nuestro Relator, el Sr. Rittershaus, se va a referir al desarrollo de las intervenciones que han tenido lugar en el Plenario, lo que podrá sin duda ayudarnos en nuestras deliberaciones.

L. RITTERSHAUS (Rapporteur from Plenary to Commission I): I will conclude my report on the general discussion in Plenary so far as the prevention of food losses is concerned.

In the words of the United States Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Bergland, the United States fully supported the programme concerning the reduction of post-harvest losses as part of greater world food security. In his view, action towards reduction of post-harvest losses would be suitably complemented by programmes of resource development, nutrition monitoring, agricultural planning, conservation of land and water resources and intensification of agricultural investment.

The delegate from Zambia stressed that appropriate food storage facilities and techniques constituted an important element in any strategy geared to reduction of food losses and FAO's programme should give top priority to improvement in food storage in developing countries. Processing of agricultural products, especially of perishable ones, was another field which should receive greater attention in this context. Similar views were expressed by the delegates from Pakistan and Korea. The latter stressed the importance of a global and comprehensive approach. The Kenyan delegation expressed a wish to see FAO devoting greater attention to production and preservation of the more important African indigenous crops such as root crops, a field hitherto relatively neglected in FAO's activities concerning storage and preservation. Any action in this respect could considerably contribute to a higher degree of food self-sufficiency in many African countries.

The statement made by the delegate of Yugoslavia emphasized the need for high priority for the Director-General's programme of food losses. Yugoslavia supported the proposed fund for this purpose. Guinea added that in this field we had to struggle not only with technical but also with socio-economic problems. The delegate from Senegal expressed similar views.

The Mexican delegate added that in order, to minimize post-harvest losses the creation of a system of international marketing and stocking and the constitution of regulatory food reserves might constitute a useful complement. Among other countries supporting these proposals on reduction of food losses were the Netherlands and Spain, the latter adding some remarks on the need for greater international collaboration in research oriented towards reductions of food spoilage and losses. The Netherlands stressed that the programme should include fisheries and forestry.

In the view of the Canadian Minister of Agriculture, reduction of food losses was intimately linked with stockage and this involved the farmers, who in his country held large shares of stocks. In Canada, each year about 135 kg of processed food were wasted per head of the population. This was an unacceptable outrage and therefore the proposed programme deserved the fullest support. The details and the methods of implementation, however, needed further explanation and deliberation. The delegate from Nepal added that stock building within the developing countries would be a positive step towards improvement of the supply situation, provided international assistance would help in cutting down losses in stockkeeping.

P. MEHDIZADEH (Iran): Mr. Chairman, the Iranian delegation would like to associate ourselves with the previous speakers who have congratulated you and the other officers of the Commission on your election.

We are gratified to see that the whole question of food losses is being given proper priority and treated as one of the most important themes in this session of the Conference. Almost a year ago a Royal Decree from the leader of my country, the Shainshah Arymehr, initiated a great campaign for the

prevention of food losses in Iran, including all the phases of pre-harvest and during harvest as well as post-harvest. First, a thorough study to assess the magnitude of the losses was launched and then a Royal Commission was set up to implement the national programme to minimize food losses. We must be realistic. It is almost impossible to eliminate food losses altogether, but, on the other hand, it is quite possible to minimize food losses.

I have to compliment the Secretariat on the preparation of Document C 77/19 on the prevention of food losses. None the less I think the figures for food losses are on the extremely conservative side. The document, while dealing very cautiously with the pre-harvest losses or losses in times of harvest, has emphasized the post-harvest losses, which for my delegation is quite acceptable. However, we have to realize that the whole problem of food losses needs to be examined more deeply in due time. The use of pesticides to curb pre-harvest losses is not the ultimate solution of the problem. Given that all the farmers can afford to use these chemicals, the whole problem of environmental pollution comes into the picture, not to mention the appearance of less susceptible varieties of pests and/or diseases which will then require more and more use of chemicals and thus more pollution.

We notice that the problem of the prevention of food losses is a very complex one. Most of it deals with the minds of people. For farmers who have grown their crops for generations on a certain cropping system it will be very difficult to change to one suggested by the findings of the Programme under discussion here. When I say cropping systems, this includes storage, for many farmers in developing countries store some of their products in their field, sometimes on the tops of trees. There are good examples of this practice in many parts of the world. For this reason, more time must be given in this Programme to informal training. This means the training of farmers and the extension services.

I think the heart of the subject was discussed by the representative of the International Federation of Home Economists here yesterday. Some of the food losses occur after the food has been cooked and that is the time when the housewife prepares more food than is necessary. This is especially true in some of the developed countries. Where does the excess food end up? In the trash basket. This was brought up by the Minister of Agriculture of Canada here as well.

In conclusion I would like to say that the problem of food losses must be reviewed on a somewhat broader basis and in such a way as to include all phases of production of food from the field right up to the dining table. In this connection the role of the middleman in the marketing process should not be underestimated. In the case studies carried out in Iran it is indicated that in some cases not only does the middleman obtain the highest profits, even more than the farmer and the retailer, or both, but in order to sell his acquired products dearer sometimes the middleman, by hiring all the fast or slow transportation facilities in the area, compels the farmer to sell his product at much lower prices, or else the products, especially cash crops, fruits and vegetables, become spoiled on the spot. Thus, in addition to training, extension, development of the infrastructure, the use of indigenous technology land techniques and local ways of the prevention of food losses must be considered and developed further and enhanced for the better and more efficient prevention of food losses.

V. STIPETIC (Yugoslavia) : Mr. Chairman, first of all I would like to associate my delegation with the congratulations to you on your election and also to your team. We are positive that under your able guidance in this Commission we shall be able to reach the conclusions so vital for the welfare of humanity.

The point which we are now discussing is another important item on our agenda, the Prevention of Food Losses and a resolution which creates a Special Fund for it.

We regard these documents as an excellent basis for discussion and decision by FAO. FAO should be complimented on such an excellent job in dealing with the subject.

My delegation regards the creation of this Special Fund for the Prevention of Food Losses as an important step towards the solution of malnutrition and hunger which are menacing the developing countries.

According to one Yugoslav investigation, the harvest and post-harvest losses are taking one-sixth of the total cereal production in the developing countries, and approximately one-twelfth of the cereal production in developed countries.

Applying those percentages to the world cereal production in 1976, we get the surprising figure that almost 40 million metric tonnes of cereals are left in developing market economies and, additionally, almost 160 million tonnes in developed ones, and of course other regions of the world. By halving those

losses in the foreseeable future, one might get an additional 100 million metric tonnes of cereals, might which might be a gigantic step towards eliminating hunger from the earth's face.

Having those facts in mind, we consider that broad-based action to cut back harvest and post-harvest losses must have first priority. I insist that it is not an easy task. It needs careful planning at all stages : in production, harvesting, processing and storage; in coordination of trained personnel in many disciplines of science and in governmental offices. But in spite of all the difficulties, this task should and can be done.

For that reason we do support the resolution proposed by the Director-General. We also welcome the proposal for the balance existing in the Suspense Account up to an amount of US\$ 10 million to be transferred to this Fund. With that programme we might start our task at once.

O. LUCO ECHEVERRÍA (Chile): Permítame, en primer lugar, felicitarlo a usted por haber sido elegido Presidente de esta Comisión; igualmente hago extensiva esta felicitación a los señores que ocupan los cargos de Vicepresidentes.

Mi delegación considera de la mayor importancia la iniciativa del Director General encaminada a realizar un programa especial con la finalidad de contribuir a reducir en lo posible las pérdidas que ocurren durante y después de las cosechas.

Se trata de un problema de gran envergadura y cualquier medida que se adopte para solucionarlo o para atenuar sus efectos, tendrá repercusiones favorables en la disponibilidad de alimentos en el mundo entero. Creemos que un programa de esta naturaleza reviste una importancia y especial significación en los países en desarrollo. Por una parte, el relativamente bajo nivel de tecnología que alcanzan muchos países en desarrollo tiende a incrementar las pérdidas de alimentos durante y después de las cosechas, lo que constituye una verdadera limitación a sus esfuerzos por aumentar la producción y hacer un aporte de mayor consideración a la campaña de la comunidad internacional dirigida a erradicar el hambre y la malnutrición.

Tales pérdidas significan también para los países en desarrollo un obstáculo más a sus objetivos de un mayor progreso económico y social. Por otra parte, el programa propuesto por el Sr. Director General es de gran necesidad para estos mismos países, puesto que la mayor parte de ellos no cuentan con los recursos humanos ni con los recursos financieros para llevar a cabo aquellas medidas que puedan contribuir a reducir estas pérdidas.

Desde que este tema ha sido planteado en la FAO y en otros foros internacionales, virtualmente nadie ha puesto en duda la necesidad de emprender con la mayor urgencia una vigorosa acción para alcanzar este objetivo. Sin embargo, es lamentable que aun no se pueda encontrar una solución satisfactoria para todos en lo que concierne a los medios económicos con los cuales financiar este programa.

Por otra parte, debo declarar que la delegación de Chile estima que la propuesta del Sr. Director General en el sentido de destinar una parte de los fondos acumulados en la Cuenta Transitoria a fin de iniciar las actividades del programa, es la más adecuada. Se trata, en efecto, de un mecanismo financiero que responde satisfactoriamente a los requisitos que nosotros consideramos indispensables para el éxito de este programa de acción por los puntos que a continuación señalaré.

He hecho la afirmación anterior porque, primero, constituye un sistema de financiación en el que participan absolutamente todos los Estados Miembros, aportando contribuciones proporcionales a sus grados de desarrollo económico. Acá no hay una diferencia tajante entre los países donantes y los países beneficiarios. Todos los países son donantes y los beneficiarios serán aquellos que en forma más aguda sufren las consecuencias de este problema.

Segundo, permite una acción inmediata; al Sr. Director General y la FAO les permitirá iniciar desde el principio del mismo período presupuestario este importante programa, y esto es fundamental. Debemos tener presente que se trata de evitar pérdidas actuales de alimentos; pérdidas que ahora mismo se están produciendo en todas partes del mundo con graves perjuicios para quienes sufren hambre y privaciones.

Tercero, el programa se iniciará sobre la base de una administración de los recursos por la comunidad internacional, esto es, por la FAO. No negamos el valor que en el mundo actual tiene la asistencia bilateral, pero creemos que tratándose de un problema de esta naturaleza, la administración de los recursos por la FAO asegura que su inversión se aplicará efectivamente a las realidades y requerimientos más urgentes.

Con lo anterior, Sr. Presidente, y además si usted me permite, quisiéramos señalar que consideramos que un programa de esta envergadura, exige que sea toda la FAO la que se movilice en este sentido; y al decir toda la FAO me refiero a que un programa que pretende minorizar las pérdidas durante y después de las cosechas exige que haya una acción en un contexto amplio, y que, en consecuencia, se tenga presente cada una de las diferentes etapas que ello significa.

Y es por esto que mi delegación estima que si bien es cierto que es indispensable el Fondo Especial, también debe tenerse presente que se deben movilizar a su vez otros recursos de la FAO que ayuden a que este programa tenga feliz éxito. En consecuencia, y haciendo un breve resumen, creemos que al recurrir para iniciar este programa a una parte de los fondos acumulados por concepto de fluctuaciones de los tipos de cambio, se dará a estos recursos un destino más útil y que redundará en un mayor beneficio para todos.

Por estas breves consideraciones, mi delegación apoya decididamente la resolución que el Consejo ha propuesto a la Conferencia y por la cual se crea el Fondo Especial para la Prevención de las Pérdidas de Alimentos, y se traslada al mismo hasta un total de 10 millones de dólares desde la Cuenta Transitoria.

R. TANABE (Japan): First of all, Mr. Chairman, on behalf of my delegation I would like to express our congratulations to you on your election to the Chairmanship of this Commission.

As clearly pointed out at the World Food Conference and in the World Food Council meeting, the eradication of hunger and malnutrition is one of the most important themes imposed upon us today. It has been widely emphasized that the prevention of food losses, together with the increase of food production, are main elements for this purpose. My country has also had a problem of food prevention losses for rice, but to some extent we have succeeded in reducing such losses by tremendous efforts over many years. I hope that our experience and knowledge in this field will be helpful in solving similar problems in developing countries, in particular those which produce rice as their primary food production.

We very much appreciate the efforts of the developing countries in eradicating hunger and malnutrition and my country, with its experience and expertise, is prepared to make technical assistance available as far as possible for these countries. Now I should like to touch on the problem of priorities. It is important and essential for the programme to establish priorities because if the programme has too wide objectives the project might not be complete. Therefore, my delegation fully agrees with the view of FAO that priority should be given to the staple foods.

Finally, as to financing the Fund for the programme, my delegation is of the view that, as the delegate of Canada clearly stated, such a programme of a technical assistance nature should be financed by the central funding body, UNDP, and if the Fund for the prevention of food losses is established in FAO under its control it is essential that the principle of voluntary contributions should be ensured.

F. MONCAYO (Ecuador): Sumo mi voz, señor Presidente, a quienes me han precedido en el uso de la palabra para expresarle a usted, y a los miembros de la mesa directiva, nuestra felicitación por haber sido acertadamente elegidos para presidir estas deliberaciones. Ofrecemos nuestra colaboración en los trabajos de esta Comisión esperando que constituyan un aporte al logro de estos importantes objetivos.

Para el Ecuador tiene especial interés la prevención de pérdidas de alimentos, ya que por este motivo se desperdician ingentes recursos que serían de suma utilidad en nuestros esfuerzos por desarrollarnos. Creemos que la pérdida de alimentos tiene una singular coherencia con el nivel de desarrollo de los países y consideramos, asimismo, que el enorme desperdicio de alimentos constituye una gran pérdida que debería evitarse. Nos parece que las causas de las pérdidas que se señalan en el documento, son expresiones visibles de otras causas más profundas entre las que no podría dejar de considerarse el tratamiento recibido por los productos agrícolas en los mercados.

Nuestra delegación desea apoyar decididamente al Programa presentado por el señor Director General y respaldar la creación de un fondo especial en los términos en que éste ha sido propuesto.

En cuanto a las actividades de asesoramiento, formación, investigación, evaluación, etc., creemos que deberá concentrarse en áreas específicas y prioritarias para que los resultados sean de real beneficio en especial para nuestros países en desarrollo. También estimamos que deberían ser difundidas a todas las regiones.

Aceptamos las sugerencias presentadas en el bien estructurado documento que se nos ha hecho llegar y esperamos refuerce nuestras actividades en este campo bajo sus acertadas orientaciones.

Debo informar brevemente, señor Presidente, que nuestro país ha dado importantes pasos para la construcción de silos y bodegas, así como redes de almacenamiento y mercado de mayoristas, y ha reglamentado la intervención de los intermediarios garantizando mejores condiciones para los productos y también para los consumidores. Sin embargo no escapará del criterio ilustrado del Presidente y de los delegados, que las inversiones para el efecto serán muy altas y que sólo podrán efectuarse con el apoyo de otros países y de los Organismos Internacionales. El Ecuador espera, pues, y confía mucho en este Programa, considerando que la cifra señalada de 20 millones no es otra cosa que una suma inicial que cumplirá un papel promotor para la movilización de mayores recursos en el futuro.

D. CRUMP (New Zealand); The New Zealand delegation would like to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, and the Vice-Chairmen on being elected to their positions.

The subject Prevention of Food Losses in Developing Countries has been very fully discussed at previous meetings. The New Zealand delegation, along with other delegations, gives full support to the proposal.

Under Section III, A Strategy for the Reduction of Post-Harvest Food Losses in Developing Countries, we note that paragraph 21 introduces a national committee for food loss prevention. The paper gives no indication of the status of such a committee, and whether it is a necessary prerequisite to a country's request being approved by FAO. The list of activities outlined for the committee is certainly wide-ranging and would require a great deal of qualified input over a long period of time. One of the major disadvantages in the practice of the methodology outlined for tackling the problem is that the limited resources available in the developing countries may well be fully committed in studying the problem, leaving insufficient resources and energy for implementing remedies.

The need for flexibility in the action programme has been emphasized by many delegates who have specified particular problems in their countries. Indeed, flexibility will be a requirement for the success of the programme. The ultimate success of the programme will depend upon evaluation and continued extension of the techniques in the countries concerned. The projects described can only act as models for demonstration to other farmers and other groups.

While we support the establishment of a Special Fund for the reduction of food losses, we are not entirely happy with the Director-General's original proposal for the initial financing of the Special Fund. However, we understand that a compromise has been proposed regarding the transfer of \$10 million from the Suspense Account to the Special Fund. This will basically preserve the voluntary nature of the transfer. We understand that the element of compulsion in the transfer which caused us difficulties has been dropped. We are pleased that this compromise has been possible, and we can endorse it. We are also happy to be able to inform this body that New Zealand is pleased to see its share of the Suspense Account surplus transferred voluntarily to the Special Fund because we believe that this is an excellent programme deserving our full support.

LA XUAN DINH (Viet Nam): Tout d'abord permettez -moi, au nom de la délégation de la République socialiste du Viet Nam, de vous transmettre, ainsi qu'à MM. les vice-présidents, nos chaleureuses félicitations ainsi que nos souhaits, pour un plein succès dans l'accomplissement de la tâche qui vous incombe.

En ce qui concerne la question qui fait l'objet du débat, la délégation de la République socialiste vietnamienne déclare qu'elle donne son plein appui au "Programme des préventions des pertes alimentaires" présenté par le Directeur général avec le projet de résolution. Nous estimons grandement l'analyse détaillée et riche du document C 77/19 soumis à l'examen de la Conférence. Notre pays attache une très grande importance à la résolution du problème visant à réduire autant que possible les pertes, avant, pendant et après la récolte. Notre propre expérience nous a démontré que, s'il nous est difficile d'accroître le rendement du riz de 10 pour cent, il nous est très facile de perdre 20 à 30 pour cent de la récolte obtenue après un dur labeur, un combat acharné contre les calamités atmosphériques et autres facteurs de destruction.

Dans notre pays, au climat chaud et humide, les moussons, la haute température, l'humidité atmosphérique constamment élevée, allant de pair avec les parasites ravageurs, ne cessent de porter atteinte à nos champs, nos stocks et entrepôts agricoles, en particulier stocks et entrepôts céréaliers.

La question de la prévention des pertes alimentaires devient pour nous encore plus pressante car nous devons arriver, à brève échéance, à l'autosuffisance en denrées alimentaires et à la constitution des réserves. Nous estimons que les lignes directrices et les propositions présentées dans le programme d'action sont pertinentes et peuvent contribuer efficacement à nous aider à atteindre l'objectif que nous avons en vue: à savoir réduire de 50 pour cent les pertes alimentaires vers l'année 1985.

Nous sommes également d'accord avec le Conseil et le Directeur général sur la nécessité absolue de créer un Fonds spécial pour la prévention des pertes alimentaires et que le montant de ce Fonds doit atteindre une grandeur significative vu la vaste envergure de son objectif à atteindre dans un délai assez court.

Pour conclure, nous aimerions déclarer que nous essayons de notre mieux, avec nos propres moyens et notre propre expérience (quoique encore très limitée), de prendre des mesures adéquates dans la prévention des pertes alimentaires. Mais nous espérons aussi que la FAO apportera une aide matérielle et technique efficace à notre pays qui a été reconnu récemment, par l'Assemblée générale de l'Organisation des Nations Unies, comme l'un des pays le plus gravement touchés.

T. GURMU (Ethiopia): The seriousness of food loss during pre-harvest and post-harvest conditions and operations has been well stated by all speakers, but allow me to make some general statements.

First, the emphasis we have given to fertilizers, pesticides, insecticides and other technologies for use by the small farmer has, so far, been very high. As you know, it is becoming very expensive for the small farmer to produce more. Along with this, the attendant problems of dependency, pollution, etc. are too well known to need any emphasis here. At the same time, we have not been able to embark on a proper extension system to reduce pre-harvest and post-harvest losses. This should be a matter of concern.

Secondly, although Third World farmers have been able to increase their yields through mainly imported technologies, they have not been able to maintain and preserve the incremental yield; hence the need to improve the agricultural practices of the farmer in production, storage and marketing.

Thirdly, also extensive research in the use of local resources and capacities to combat food losses is highly called for. Finally, let me state that in my country as a result of the land reform programme not less than three million farm families have become beneficiaries. Today we have not less than 23 000 farmers' associations with a membership of 6.8 million small farmers. These farmers have been more than able to exploit their capabilities and initiatives. The strength of their organization has enabled them to embark on construction of consumable grain storage at village level. With a communal effort they have started to combat rodents and other predators. We have absolute confidence in these farmers that they are more than ever prepared to increase their yield and avoid wastage.

The FAO Action Programme as long as it helps the small farmer to be self-sufficient and self-reliant will get the absolute support of the Ethiopian delegation.

P. AMARO (Portugal): Je désire affirmer l'accord de la délégation du Portugal d'une façon générale aux idées présentées dans le document préparé par le Secrétariat sur la prévention des pertes alimentaires. Ceci ne nous empêche pas de faire quelques observations sur les priorités adoptées concernant les produits qui doivent être considérés et dont le programme mérite une révision en n'oubliant pas les produits animaux, pêches incluses, et les produits intéressant les industries agricoles et alimentaires, comme cela a déjà d'ailleurs été suggéré par d'autres délégations.

Concernant les projets modèles, nous considérons l'importance toute spéciale des projets sur la campagne nationale, projet I; le projet sur les programmes de formation, projet J; le projet sur les luttés contre les ravageurs, projet E; et la lutte contre les rongeurs, projet H. A notre avis, la priorité que méritent ces projets résulte de l'importance donnée ainsi à des actions de formation et de dynamisation pour obtenir une large et efficace utilisation pratique des mesures rationnelles des progrès de pertes alimentaires, très spécialement au niveau des villages.

Je propose ainsi que des crédits plus élevés et qu'un plus grand nombre de pays soient considérés par les projets que nous avons cités.

Pour terminer, j'aimerais rappeler les fâcheuses conséquences pour la santé humaine qui peuvent résulter d'une application intensive et irrationnelle des pesticides pour des populations illettrées.

Dans les projets à mettre en pratique, il faut alors donner une attention toute particulière pour empêcher la répétition des graves accidents observés dans le passé, comme par exemple, l'utilisation pour l'alimentation humaine de semences de céréales traitées avec des organomercuriés.

EL PRESIDENTE: Ahora voy a leer la lista de delegados, para que cada uno sepa cuándo le va a corresponder intervenir en el debate: el primero será Nepal, luego Panamá, Trinidad y Tabago, Noruega, Estados Unidos, República Federal de Alemania, Finlandia, Níger, Grecia, Bahrein, Libia, Kuwait, Países Bajos, Emiratos Arabes Unidos, Liberia, Ghana, Zaire, Reino Unido, Gabon (que ha solicitado intervenir nuevamente), Sri Lanka (que omití yo anteriormente), y por último el delegado representante de las Naciones Unidas.

S.B. NEPALI (Nepal): Let me first congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Nepal delegates, on assuming the Chair of this Session. Also I would like to compliment the Vice-Chairmen on their election, and thank the Council for electing Nepal as one of the Vice-Chairmen of this Commission I.

Coming back to the proposal on the prevention of food losses', I appreciate very much the importance given to this by FAO and I personally congratulate the Director-General of FAO for this. I should like to add a few more points.

Referring to the Fund which has been talked about, the Fund is limited but as to utilization of the Fund, involving international countries to support this programme, I would say a few words. Primarily I would like to see that every country has some studies in entomology, and these should be collected, studied, assessed and made use of. This would also involve storage factors.

Next, on food losses the primary emphasis has been given on post-harvest loss. I would add that emphasis must be given on pre-harvest losses also. In this regard the use of biological control of insect pests would be a useful activity.

Thirdly, priority also should be given not exclusively for the storage of food grains, but for seeds.

In certain places transport is very difficult and a quick decision is required. For this purpose I would like to see the transport and premises involved in collection centralized and disseminated wherever possible, and disseminated in such a way so as to strengthen them on a national and regional basis.

I. DIAZ (Panamá): Señor Presidente, la delegación de Panamá desea felicitarlo por su elección para presidir esta importante Comisión sobre Prevención de pérdidas de alimentos, así como a los Vicepresidentes que lo acompañan. Del mismo modo deseamos felicitar al Director General por darle el necesario énfasis a un programa de prevención de pérdidas de alimentos, precisamente en una época en que los problemas del hambre, la marginación y la desnutrición se han agudizado.

Panamá, como país agricolamente nuevo, sufre el problema de pérdida de alimentos en un alto porcentaje, que consideramos todavía intolerable, a pesar del marcado interés del Gobierno Revolucionario por el desarrollo de la agricultura y la reivindicación del campesinado. No obstante la institucionalización de la investigación agrícola, el seguro agrícola y los ambiciosos planes por desarrollar, se requiere la puesta en práctica de un conjunto de acciones tendentes a evitar la pérdida de alimentos durante el proceso productivo dentro del concepto del desarrollo rural, de la conservación de los recursos naturales y del medio ambiente, lo cual ha entrañado entre otras muchas actividades la instalación de nuevos silos, almacenes, fumigación y la reglamentación de agroquímicos, especialmente herbicidas por fumigación aérea.

La delegación panameña da su apoyo al programa presentado para prevenir la pérdida de alimentos y considera que el énfasis del programa debería hacerse en dos aspectos fundamentales: a nivel de los pequeños agricultores, de grupos de agricultores y de aldeas, y el adiestramiento técnico a todos los niveles y de investigación para desarrollar tecnologías y ensayos, especialmente en países como el nuestro, en desarrollo, tales como secaderos solares y silos pequeños, incluso transportables, quizá contruidos con los recursos propios de cada país.

Con respecto al Fondo propuesto para este programa, nuestra delegación sólo desea hacer un llamado muy respetuoso a la Comisión para que se considere la necesidad y la urgencia de contar con él.

R. RAMPERSAD (Trinidad and Tobago): First of all, Mr. Chairman, I would like to join the previous speakers in congratulating you on your election to this very important office. My delegation is confident that under your guidance we shall have a very fruitful Session. Secondly, in keeping with your repeated requests, I shall try to make my intervention very brief.

The Trinidad and Tobago delegation commends the very timely proposal for serious consideration to be given to measures to reduce food losses occurring at various stages of post-harvest operation. The justification for such proposals has been adequately documented and needs no further elaboration. In a situation of widespread food shortages and undernourishment it is imperative that every effort be made to ensure that the largest possible percentage of the yield from the land is made available for consumption. What needs to be emphasized is the special nature of the problem as it affects small developing countries. I refer to the problem of losses at the level of the small farm, the type of unit in which production is intended mainly for direct household consumption and not for sale in the market. The average little farmer looks upon grain production as a measure of security, a safeguard against market shortages, or a precaution against his own inability to purchase his requirements at going market prices.

Because of this attitude, the small farmer attempts to store his produce for long periods from one harvest to another under conditions which are far from satisfactory. Deterioration rates are high so that quantitative losses are compounded by high qualitative losses which have implications for the nutritional content of his food intake. By and large this type of farmer is unable to calculate the relevant benefits of instituting improved methods of storage. Even where he appreciates the need for it and is willing to improve his own storage practices and facilities, he does not have access to the physical resources necessary for making the adjustment, particularly where the type of storage technology to which he is introduced is limited to processes and facilities which are unduly expensive.

National and international methods to reduce post-harvest food losses should therefore give special attention to the peculiar problems of this category of producer. FAO's programme quite naturally cannot embrace all countries in need of assistance or guidance. It must be selective. My delegation feels, however, that many more countries can benefit from the expertise available to FAO if some attempt is made to document details of the programmes attempted in different countries as well as the experiences and the results of these programmes. Such reports should be comprehensive. They should include designs, specifications, and materials used in the physical facilities, strategies adopted for the communication of ideas, special problems encountered and the measures adopted to solve these. This type of information can be used by those countries not covered by the FAO programme as a basis for formulating their national programmes of action.

Finally, my delegation wishes to commend those organizations like the Commonwealth Secretariat for independent initiatives in this important area of activity. We also endorse the suggestions made by previous delegations that as soon as practical similar programmes be launched for the reduction of losses in meat and fish products, particularly fish in tropical areas where deterioration tends to be rapid and post-harvest losses substantial.

My delegation supports the proposal put forward by the Director-General, including his proposals for financing the programme.

P.G. STAVNUM (Norway): In order to be brief and not repeat too much what has been said already, my delegation will concentrate on two important points. As stated by Denmark and others, my delegation would like FAO to give priority to the Prevention of Food Losses at the village and farm level. In this connection they would like to underline the important role of women, both as an important labour force in agriculture in many developing countries as well as possessing responsibility for handling and preparation of food in the family, as was so well expressed yesterday by the representative of the International Federation of Home Economists. Due to this fact, the role of women must be taken into account when formulating and preparing projects within the programme, and in particular when it comes to education.

Many foodstuffs are highly perishable and need some kind of storage and processing. In this respect we should like to underline the importance of the preservation of fish and fish products. This is a question which is of vital importance for my country as well as many other countries. In Norway we are all the time doing our best to increase the use of fish for human consumption. As stated by many other delegations, we would like FAO to consider an action programme also in this field.

Norway strongly supports the endeavour of FAO to prevent food losses and we would like to see it as an integral part of the regular programme as well as the field programme in the future.

C.FARRAR (United States of America): We note with particular pleasure a consensus that FAO should take a strong lead in preventing post-harvest food losses. We want to take a prominent place among the supporters of that consensus.

Losses that take place from the beginning of the production process through the start of the harvest are no doubt equally important, but that importance has long been recognized as a subject for programme action. There are specific existing and planned programmes of FAO and other donors to deal with pre-harvest loss problems. As one example, I might cite a multi-year programme of some \$30 million for the Sahel part of Africa which is nearing the formal approval of my Government. We hope that negotiations can soon be completed so that the programme can be implemented. FAO will play a role in implementing this project which is concerned essentially with plant protection to reduce pre-harvest losses. Accordingly, we believe that the Special Fund which FAO proposes to create should be concentrated on the harvest and post-harvest area where, as several delegations have pointed out, there is the greatest need for programme stimulation and leadership which is the purpose of this Special Fund. Exceptions should, of course, be made for those cases where the particular problem being addressed, such as an insect infestation, is one that spans the harvest period.

We have a few comments on the specific parts of the proposals. We concur that loss assessment surveys are an important first step in work in any country. In fact, we would like to see considerably greater emphasis given to the identification of the constraints, the conduct of experimental programmes and the determination of a country strategy. As has been pointed out by delegates from numerous countries, there is a great dearth of information on the size of losses and when and how they happen. This must be known for the specific country before any sensible programme can be undertaken. Its funds are specifically set aside for this purpose in the budget before us. We recommend that this should be made a high priority. Other donors will be ready, the strategy is clear and the projects identified. The role of FAO should be to make sure the right course is followed, not to engage in capital investments. We agree with the emphasis given to securing a strong commitment from the government of each country to undertake an effective programme of preventing post-harvest losses before engaging specific FAO resources in that country. While training is mentioned as one element of the programme, experience may well show that more resources are needed to be used for this purpose. Without skilled manpower the momentum of activities cannot be sustained over the longer term.

While problems of bulk storage cannot be excluded, primary attention should be given, as several delegates have suggested, at the village level and the home level. As the delegate from Brazil has said, we should also pay special attention to the methods known by individuals or groups of farmers in developing countries that work and can be learned in other places, I will simply support the views of Norway with regard to the role of women which is critical throughout this programme. Given the paucity of resources and the critical nature of the food programme, we do not think the Special Fund should be used for work on storage of non-food crops. We believe that effective priority should go to those countries with serious food problems and to those where success in meeting food problems is causing storage difficulties.

I have omitted reference to the question of financing this programme which is being pursued in accordance with the recommendation of the Council that we seek a consensus. Obviously our long-term support to this important programme will be influenced significantly by the ultimate decision of the Conference on the issue of financing. W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): The priority to be given to the prevention and reduction of food losses was particularly highlighted at the Plenary Session by my Minister of Agriculture. The discussion up to now has shown that there is a very large consensus on those points. Many delegations yesterday and today referred to the scope of this problem in their own countries. Losses there are very frequently well over 10 percent. The lively discussion can teach us many things. We believe that the Director-General will take the comments from the floor here into account in the final formulation of the programme. In view of the short time available I would now like to concentrate just on a few basic and some specific remarks.

I think priority should, in this field of prevention of food losses, be set within the national field of developing countries; in other words, these measures should be incorporated into national programmes and given priorities there. We agree with many delegations that all measures should be flexible and be adapted to local prevailing conditions. The programme already discussed in the appropriate bodies finds our support in principle. The projects envisaged are models and should serve as catalysts for large-scale programmes as pointed out in paragraph 42 of document C 77/19, and here I would like to like up with what a few previous speakers have said. The delegate of China particularly emphasized the importance of having all measures at producer level. They should be of immediate usefulness and as

simple and cheap as possible. The delegate from Malaysia was in favour of having on the level of small farmers practical measures evolved which can be speedily put into action. The delegate of the Philippines also spoke in favour of having workshops or seminars in order to disseminate knowledge and to discuss practical, locally adapted measures for this priority task. The delegate of Chad suggested that in disseminating concrete proposals to reduce food losses audio-visual media should be used to appeal to the great number of small farmers.

The delegation of my country to the Seventy-First Session of the Council suggested that national broadcasting stations should be used in order to cover the entire population - producers, consumers and the various stages of marketing and distribution - and be the subject of selected motivation actions aimed at the drastic prevention of food losses, particularly in the post-harvesting stage. We hope that this proposal will have fallen on fertile soil.

My Government gives high priority to the programmes to prevent food losses within the framework of its cooperation with developing countries. In addition to the measures taken so far within the framework of our Technical Assistance we have launched now a supra-regional programme to reduce food losses, particularly for small farms in Africa.

My Minister in the course of his statement to the Plenary pointed out that with respect to the funding of this programme we have a slightly different picture in mind. Perhaps I could briefly elucidate this, so as not to give rise to the impression that we object to the programme itself. We have some doubts as to the way the funding is being planned and proposed here. For basic considerations, we have always been against the setting up of special funds for specific purposes, in so far as it is not a matter of genuine trust funds. The setting up of special funds for a specific priority action on the part of FAO would, we feel, have a negative aspect on the transparence of the overall Programme of Work and Budget of FAO. We would much prefer to have all the basic work for the implementation of that programme financed from the regular budget of FAO, if necessary perhaps by delaying some less important tasks. The projects themselves should then find international funding bodies, particularly the UNDP, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Bank, together with bilateral donors. This is also the way we interpret paragraph 49 of document C 77/19; since that priority task, in so far as it has not been done, should be given priority within overall planning at country level, this kind of financing would hardly present any difficulties, I think.

With regard to the financing of the programme from the funds of the Suspense Account, we feel that we should stick to the terms of reference of the Suspense Account funds as laid down in Resolution 35/75. Nevertheless we shall not oppose a consensus as to the initial financing of this programme, as my Minister has already pointed out. In our opinion such a financing, however, should not be a precedent for future programmes or approaches.

E. LINDSTEDT (Finland): Mr. Chairman, first I want to join in congratulating you on your election as Chairman of this Commission as well as the other office holders.

My delegation considers the Secretariat's report to be a sincere effort in assessing the importance of the problem of pre- and post-harvest food losses. Since we all agree that any effort to increase rapidly total food supplies is necessary, preventing loss is the fastest way to increase the total food supply, since the food has already been produced. The Secretariat's report gives a comprehensive description of the magnitude of the problem and I should like to mention just a few points which we consider are of importance.

First, many delegations have stressed the importance of action on the farm and village level and my delegation considers this to be the right point of departure in tackling the problem. The organization of work done by farmers' cooperatives must be brought up in this context, as mentioned by the delegate of Denmark. In our opinion, farmers do not want to see the products of their labour wasted, but they must have an adequate incentive to make an extra effort in preventing food losses.

A final point: the importance of education of the individual farmer and his family must be pointed out in preventing food losses in households where perishable food is handled, to improve the nutritional and health conditions of rural families.

A. BAOUA (Niger): La Délégation du Niger tient tout d'abord à vous adresser ainsi qu'aux autres membres du bureau toutes ses félicitations pour vos brillantes élections à la tête d'une si importante Commission. Elle souhaite ensuite la bienvenue parmi nous aux huit nouveaux membres à part entière de notre Organisation.

Par ailleurs, la Délégation de mon pays qui, déjà, a appuyé les efforts du Directeur général aux sessions précédentes du Conseil pour son esprit de redynamisation de la FAO, attache un intérêt tout particulier au programme d'action visant à réduire les pertes avant et après récolte des produits alimentaires de base. Cette action va en effet de pair avec les politiques nationales d'accroissement de la production agricole et de l'établissement d'un équilibre vivrier entre les régions d'un pays donné.

En prenant pour exemple mon pays, ces pertes représentent après récolte seulement 10 à 20 pour cent de notre production totale en céréales de base, soit environ 10 pour cent des besoins globaux annuels de notre population, les réduire se traduirait inévitablement par un surcroît quantitatif et qualitatif en vivres au profit des producteurs et de l'Etat lui-même.

Il est inutile ici de mettre en relief tous les avantages que nous procurera la mise à exécution d'un tel programme. Ma délégation se bornera seulement à attirer l'attention de cette auguste assemblée sur le caractère très aléatoire de notre agriculture sous les méfaits conjugués des ravageurs de récoltes et des aléas climatiques. L'intérêt d'une substantielle économie en vivres s'impose donc à nous.

C'est pourquoi ma délégation cautionne à nouveau ce programme. Elle souscrit également à la double proposition de créer un Fonds spécial pour prévenir ces pertes sous toutes leurs formes et d'y transférer à titre de contribution initiale, un montant de 10 millions de dollars à prélever sur nos comptes d'attente 1976-77 en attendant les contributions volontaires. Ceci dans le souci de permettre au Directeur général de démarrer son programme d'action sans aucune contrainte financière.

N. SALTAS (Greece): Mr Chairman, first of all I wish on behalf of my delegation to extend you our congratulations on your election as Chairman of this Commission. I would like also to congratulate the Vice-chairmen on their election. Finally, I express appreciation to the Secretariat for the preparation of document C 77/19 presented to us.

The Greek delegation would like to reiterate its great interest in the issue of food losses and its conviction that the conclusions of this Commission will lead to the implementation of the appropriate activities in order to enable the Conference to tackle this problem effectively. The Greek delegation fully recognizes the efforts of FAO in this field and believes that this Organization should further define precisely all aspects of the problem, determine the objectives and actions that must be undertaken by interested countries, FAO itself and other international organizations involved in this subject, and indicate the level of the required resources in the framework of the activities already undertaken as well as of those that are further required to diminish food losses before, during and after harvest. The magnitude of this problem, as well as the difficulties which arise for its successful confrontation, are well recognized by all. They consist mainly in lack of information, infrastructure and finance. It is a really difficult issue which must be contemplated in a wider social and sometimes political concept.

We believe that all developed countries should assist in solving the problem by providing as much technical assistance as possible. Developed countries must support directly national, food storing, transforming and preserving organizations of the countries that need such support. In particular, as regards pre-harvest food losses, we believe that they could be prevented to a certain extent if the necessary means of production were provided in time to the farmers, the efficient application of which is closely related to their level of training. Consequently FAO's contribution to the prevention of pre-harvest food losses depends upon the effectiveness of its activities, namely those related to agricultural training, use of fertilizers and pesticides, extensive use of improved seeds and plants, and so on, which should be expanded.

Prevention of food losses during harvest, and especially those of post-harvest, is also quite promising in increasing food supplies, as relevant studies have so far proved. We fully support the priorities given to reduce post-harvest losses, the strategy and the Action Programme presented in document C 77/19 and hope that this programme will contribute significantly in achieving the target of a 50 percent reduction of post-harvest losses of cereals by 1985. FAO's Action Programme on Reducing Post-Harvest Losses must, therefore, be flexible in order to face, adjusted as necessary, even special needs. All interested countries, mainly those most seriously affected by food losses, must be assisted by FAO for a rational attack on the problem. Training at all levels in food handling technology and practices after harvesting is considered to be an issue of high importance. The strategy of tackling the problem

and the proposals of the Director-General concerning the mechanism of implementation of the Action Programme and the criteria required for the approval of all projects to be financed are welcomed by my delegation. We consider that they will contribute to the effective solution of the problem and serve mainly the developing countries.

In Greece, great efforts have been made towards an effective attack on the problem of food losses and in general of agricultural products. A considerable part of the increase of crop supplies realized during the last two decades is due to the efficient utilization of certain means of production, especially of fertilizers, pesticides and improved seeds that have been made available to the farmers.

A significant effort has been made during recent years in creating the necessary infrastructure for Improving food storage and preservation conditions through the public investment programme which will contribute remarkably to the reduction of post-harvest food losses.

As regards cereals, the construction of horizontal and vertical type warehouses is in progress which, it is anticipated, will meet the needs of the country's storage facilities. Furthermore, efforts have been made to meet the country's need for cold storage facilities and the transportation of perishable goods. All these are being established in the main areas of production in the country.

A.A. MANSOOR (Bahrain) (interpretation from Arabic): May I also congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your election to the Chair of this Commission.

No one can deny the Importance of this item on the agenda which is now under-discussion and the positive effects of a solution to the problem. Most of the previous speakers have discussed the problem in all its details and I think that I have nothing further to add to such details. In spite of this, may I make one or two points.

First of all, the creation of plans, programmes and organizations will not serve the cause of agriculture and food production in the world whatever dispositions are made. We always run the risk of falling into the trap of duplicating efforts between organizations.

The prevention of food losses, as recorded in document C 77/19, is vital for everybody. But does the existence of the programme itself mean that we will necessarily be able to fulfil the objectives we have recorded for ourselves? Will we be able to get rid of the destruction by pests before, during and after harvests? If it is as easy as this, then certainly it is the duty of FAO to mobilize all efforts to implement such programmes.

But we must increase food production also. Within these programmes or projects the requisite priorities must be defined. As far as we are concerned, the number one priority is staple foodstuffs. Here we believe that a number of countries have already begun to implement programmes to reduce food losses. Each country already has a certain number of results which are extremely useful to other countries. But countries which are now involved in trying to make further efforts, if they are conscious of the full importance of the question, could obtain the aid of this Organization. But we also know from following discussions here that the awareness and the importance of the problem is not general enough. For this reason our delegation agrees with the Saudi Arabian delegation in saying that the creation of a Special Fund to deal with this vital problem is not enough and may in effect lead to a duplication of activities between organizations. But even if the FAO can in itself cover all the necessary activities, it is not necessary to set up a Special Fund and to take \$10 million from the Suspense Account so that the \$10 million can serve the same objectives, which are those aimed at in the ordinary budget.

The way in which to implement the objectives is fairly clear but we think that the shortest cut could be taken in order to fulfil the objectives as quickly as possible.

Opinions do not always coincide and those which have been expressed in this forum are not such that I can relate my own opinion to all of them.

A. SHAHAWI (Libya) (interpretation from Arabic): Mr. Chairman, may I also congratulate you on your election to the Chair of this Commission, and also the Vice-Chairmen.

I also thank the Director-General for having expounded on the problem with which we are dealing in a new and extremely well-founded way.

The whole problem is to increase food production, including the prevention of food losses, pre-harvest, during the harvest and post-harvest.

As far as this point on the agenda *goer* which we are now discussing in this Commission, although most of the documents got to our delegation too late, we have nevertheless tried to study the documents involved. I have given particular attention to document C 77/19, which was given to us in English. It would have been much easier for me if I had got this document somewhat earlier - and in Arabic -so as to study it and to be able to give my point of view with greater definitiveness. I hope that this will not occur again.

It seems that the essential objective in this document is to prevent food losses either pre, during or post-harvest. I agree with the explanations given in the document, which indicate that any means of preventing food losses will of course increase food production in net terms.

Let us emphasize the importance of making consumers aware of this factor so that the level of production is not attended by consequent wastage and the consumption of production takes place in the most reasonable way possible. I fully agree with the representative of the International Federation for Home Economics who has pointed this out, as have other delegates.

As far as the contribution of national programmes goes, these programmes also are destined to prevent food losses at all stages of the food production chain.

I would add that what we are doing in our country more,or less corresponds with what is described in the document. Since the setting up of the National Resources Office, a national planning policy" has" been defined and implemented so as to reduce losses in all areas.

We have also set up training courses and seminars for farmers, particularly the small farmers. The aim of these programmes and plans is to obtain the maximum benefit from food production and to define a clear import and export policy for all foodstuffs so as to benefit from what we have available.

The National Office pursues the same objectives in cooperation with the National Food Bureau, and with cooperation from FAO experts who work with our own national staff. In this context a project is being implemented with the help of the FAO.

My country is not content with its national activities but is also a participant in the creation of a regional centre for the Near East. Libya has offered headquarters to this Organization. This Near East Centre also intends to organize training programmes and seminars. It will begin its activities as soon as the necessary dispositions can be made.

I hope that I have not spoken for too long but I did wish to give just a brief, simplified idea of the activities which are underway in our country and those which we plan in order to solve the problem which is vital for us - this whole problem of the reduction of heavy food losses. We cooperate with all bodies which are working in the field of agriculture in the widest sense of the term. We are also carrying out programmes within the whole context of the effort being deployed by the international community to improve the world food situation.

I would like to add my voice to those which have been raised in this house in asking that other products of a non-foodstuff nature should be covered by the programme, so that the prevention of food losses should not appear only on food programmes but on non-foodstuff projects.

With regard to the Special Fund to finance these activities, we believe that this proposal is a reasonable one, but we also believe that the activities may well take place within the context of the ordinary programme of the Organization, seeing that there are divergencies of opinion concerning the financing. I am sure it will be possible to find a consensus later in the day when we are in agreement on the procedure to be followed.

EL PRESIDENTE: Luego de efectuar algunas consultas, las máximas que hemos podido realizar, hemos llegado a una conclusion con la integración del Comité de Redacción que va a preparar el anteproyecto del Informe que luego disuctiremos en el seno de la Comisión y después pasará al Plenario de la Confencia.

Los países que integrarán este Comité son los siguientes: Australia, Bélgica, Benin, Brasil, Canada, Cuba, Filipinas, Hungría, Irán, Japón, Kenya, Pakistán y Túnez. La Presidencia del Comité, a mi juicio, debe estar a cargo de la delegación de Bélgica.

J. TROUVEROY (Belgique): Merci de me donner la parole. J'apprends avec étonnement que vous me confiez la présidence de ce Comité de rédaction. Je suis très heureux d'être membre du Comité de rédaction, mais, quant à la présidence, on ne m'en a pas parlé. Nous verrons peut-être lors de la première réunion du Comité ce que nous pourrions faire à ce sujet, car je ne suis pas sûr de demeurer à Rome tout le temps de la Conférence.

EL PRESIDENTE: Yo entendí que su delegación había sido consultada y que la propuesta de presidir el Comité había sido aceptada; pero, si usted tiene alguna dificultad, podemos revisar esa decisión. Por supuesto que no le vamos a obligar a que asuma la Presidencia, si no es de su conveniencia.

K.N.. WEERACKODY (Sri Lanka): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving my delegation an opportunity to speak on this vital subject of the prevention of food losses. It is, indeed, very opportune that the attention of FAO has *bo.en* focussed and sharpened on this crucial matter during this year's Conference, because we feel this is an area where no meaningful and concrete practical action programmes have occurred so far, although it has been a subject which has been on the agenda of many FAO meetings and other bodies. Indeed, it is farcical and paradoxical that while we are increasing food production both by expanding the extent of cultivation and by increasing yields in existing cultivated areas at great expense, a fair share of the increased production goes to the pests, rodents, insects and birds and not to human beings.

We have carefully read document C 77/19, and we consider it a well thought out and comprehensive paper. We are in agreement with the Action Programme proposed in it and with the proposal to set up a Fund financed partly from monies available under the Suspense Account. We fully endorse the sentiment expressed by the Director-General in his statement to the Conference that we should not lose the prospect of implementing immediately a practical and concrete programme because of objections that may be raised to the proposed method of funding the programme by what the Director-General calls financial doctrinaires.

H.A. QABAZARD) (Kuwait) (interpretation from Arabic): The Kuwait delegation joins with those who have already congratulated you, Mr. Chairman, and the Vice-Chairmen for having been elected to guide the work of this Commission. We should like also to thank the FAO Secretariat for their very careful preparation of the documents before us.

We should like to voice our total support, together with countries who have spoken previously, for the proposal that priority must be given to this programme aimed at prevention of food losses at the pre-harvest and post-harvest stages. We are fully convinced of the benefits that would result from this whole operation, and it is our opinion that we should support the proposals made by most of the countries who have spoken in favour of introducing other food products such as fishery products and animal products, including all of these in the overall prevention programme.

Lastly, we wish to state that the lack of information with respect to the setting up of this Fund might perhaps be the reason for the confusion on this particular point. Therefore, we should like to suggest that an attempt be made to follow the lines contained in the proposal for that Fund, to avoid overlapping and to avoid the setting up of an independent fund, at least for this particular period.

G.P. TIGGELMAN (Netherlands): First of all, I should like to express my delegation's appreciation for the presentation of a strategy for the prevention of food losses, particularly those that occur after harvest. We believe that a comprehensive programme is proposed in the document for all FAO member countries, and it is a good specific action programme for FAO. We accept this strategy and the Action Programme. I think it will result in a group of activities that could contribute considerably to the improvement of food supplies for millions of people. However, thinking particularly of the donor countries, in order to be able to prepare adequate programmes and projects in cooperation with recipient countries we believe that FAO must help to focus bilateral aid for the prevention of food losses.

We hope we are embarking on a programme for a number of years, and we would appreciate it if the Secretariat pays particular attention to the collection and distribution of relevant information on the reduction of post-harvest losses: more detailed information about the magnitude of post-harvest losses, the loss assessment methodology, the financial resources that are necessary for reducing the losses, information on ongoing and planned projects, and a list of available literature on post-harvest technologies and the possibilities for the reduction of food losses in the various phases of the post-harvest system.

With a well organized flow of information, cooperation will be possible, maximum results can be achieved, and the initial FAO programmes will stimulate further assistance and investment.

As far as the FAO Action Programme is concerned, we agree with the chosen element and the proposed concentration on specific countries and a rural pool in those countries. We agree also with the establishment of a central unit for the execution of the programme, and the coordination of programme activities with the activities of other FAO departments. It is expected that close cooperation is foreseen between this new unit and the integrated pest\ control programme on the one hand and the food security assistance unit on the other.

We agree with the establishment of a Special Fund, and my Government, is prepared to contribute to the Fund in two ways: via the Suspense Account, if an acceptable arrangement is found, and an extra contribution of \$ 2 million for the programme. We do this in the light of the great significance of the proposed strategy - if it succeeds in cutting grain losses by 50 percent, we will have 40 million tons of food more and also because of the necessity to start the FAO Action Programme as soon as possible.

My government would also appreciate it if we can work out any arrangement in such a way that my government is drawn into the execution and selection of the projects.

We also hope that sufficient measures will be taken which lead to a fruitful cooperation at the country level between the recipient country, the UNDP, the resident representative, and multilateral and bilateral donors active in the field of reduction of post-harvest losses in countries.

A.A.R. AL MAASOM (United Arab Emirates) (interpretation from Arabic): On behalf of my delegation I should like to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your election as Chairman of this Commission. In addition, I congratulate the four Vice-Chairmen and other members of the Bureau.

My country supports the principle of prevention of food losses, but provided that all action is under taken in the context of such international programmes as already exist, the World Food Programme and the Cooperative Programme.

D.J.A. SIRLEAF (Liberia): I should like to join other delegates in congratulating you, Mr. Chairman, on your election and those holding other leadership posts in this important Commission.

I do not want to be presumptuous or to jump the 'gun, but it can be justly said that all food-producing countries of the world are well aware of the pre-harvest and post-harvest losses incurred over a production period, whether in developed or developing countries. There is a marked difference in the rate or percentage of these losses as they affect the national economies and the gross national product of each country.

We in the developing countries have been victimized by that impediment over a period of years, and now, through the magnanimity of the Secretariat and the timely presentation of this] document by the Director-General, we have been motivated into action towards solving one of our major developmental-problems.

The Government of, Liberia, having expressed its desire to become self-sufficient in rice, production, its staple food, by 1980, would like to express its unequivocal support for the proposal set forth in , document C 77/19, and we should like to stress the urgent need for its speedy implementation.

C. NTSANE (Lesotho): Mr. Chairman, you and your assistants have been congratulated and expressions of welcome have been made, and my delegation concurs.

The proposal for discussion of this topic by the Director-General has added a new (dimension to the aid fund development scene. This discussion will remind both developed and developing countries of the embarrassing implications of aid and action programmes in terms of loss incurred in development investment processes. Our careful examination of this topic will reveal that in fact loss of food as a resource is one among many losses that we never take note of. Perhaps the answer\ to the problems attendant on the implementation of the proposed programme lies in our economizing' at every stage on all that it takes to cooperate in development and the resolution of the problems of the needy Member nations. The Canadian intervention this morning most effectively conveyed this message.

Finally, the point has been made by the Director-General and well taken by us that while he gets on with the job with our concurrence and support it is for all of us to go back home and actively reflect on the true meaning of document C 77/19,

A.B. WILLIAMS-BAFFOE (Ghana) ; While I add the voice of my delegation to the previous speakers in congratulating you, Mr. Chairman, for your appointment to the Chairmanship of this Commission, I would like to say Ghana not only supports the food process through all types of planning but will also request that full support be given to the implementation of the Action Programme as proposed.

My delegation is mindful of the fact that FAO is aware of agencies and countries that have already engaged themselves seriously with this crucial problem. We strongly feel that some form of cooperation must be worked out between FAO and these agencies who are already in the field and have undoubtedly gathered some useful experience that could invariably go a long way in enhancing the programme so far proposed. It is however realized that a lot of research work and practical approaches have been carried out in this field of which some meaningful results have already been achieved and can therefore be put to use almost immediately.

In this connection my delegation supports the creation of this Special Fund and trusts that at least one meaningful workshop will be organized as suggested by the delegate of the Philippines. Such a workshop should not only consolidate all research work and finance obtained in this important field of prevention of food losses, but should also serve as a springboard for that programme.

M. NGA-MA (Zaire): Ma délégation voudrait joindre sa voix à celle des orateurs qui ont pris la parole avant nous pour vous féliciter de votre élection en qualité de président de cette commission. Nous félicitons également le secrétariat d'avoir bien esquissé le problème des pertes de produits alimentaires et d'avoir envisagé cette question au niveau de tous les produits alimentaires. En effet, la délégation de mon pays serait quelque peu désolée si les études entreprises par la FAO au sujet de la stratégie à adopter pour réduire les pertes des produits alimentaires dans les pays en développement ne se limitaient qu'aux céréales vivrières; non pas que les céréales vivrières ne soient pas consommées dans mon pays, mais plutôt que les aliments de base chez nous, de par l'étendue du pays et la diversité des groupements humains, comprennent, outre les céréales, les racines et tubercules, notamment le manioc. En effet, ainsi que nous l'avons déclaré lors de la quatrième session du Comité de l'agriculture, le manioc constitue l'un des principaux aliments de base dans nos pays et c'est pour quoi ma délégation propose que les listes des éléments des programmes nationaux en vue de réduire les pertes des produits alimentaires autres que les céréales, tel que cela est dit au paragraphe 22 du document C 77/19, ma délégation propose donc que ces listes soient établies dans un délai plus bref et qu'elles soient portées à la connaissance des pays intéressés. Tout en étant d'accord avec ce qui est dit au paragraphe 33 du document, c'est-à-dire en ce qui concerne la nécessité de calculer au préalable le rapport coût/bénéfice avant d'entamer un projet nécessitant de gros investissements et ayant pour but la réduction des pertes alimentaires, nous pensons qu'il faudrait considérer ce rapport coût/bénéfice dans le temps, c'est-à-dire à long terme, de sorte que peut-être, au début d'un tel projet si on enregistre des résultats négatifs au point de vue de la rentabilité il se peut qu'à la longue on finisse par réaliser des bénéfices.

Quant aux critères utilisés pour l'approbation des projets soumis dans le cadre du Fonds spécial pour la réduction des pertes alimentaires dont il est question au paragraphe 47 du document C 77/19, nous convenons que la priorité doit aller aux besoins des pays moins développés et le plus gravement touchés.

Mais toutefois, nous pensons que l'on devrait ajouter à cette liste ceux des pays en développement qui n'ont pu être retenus ni comme pays moins avancés, ni comme pays gravement touchés, mais qui sont enclavés et où les problèmes de transport et autres se posent avec acuité.

Pour terminer, ma Délégation appuie non seulement la recommandation qui a été faite au sujet de la création d'un Fonds spécial pour la réduction des pertes alimentaires, mais également la façon dont ce Fonds doit être financé tel que cela est proposé au paragraphe 52 alinéas a) et b) du document C 77/19 et nous nous associons aux nombreuses délégations qui se sont exprimées en faveur de l'adoption du projet de résolution préparé à cette fin.

D.C.P. EVANS (United Kingdom) : Mr. Chairman, may I start by expressing my congratulations and felicitations on your election as Chairman of this Commission, and indeed to your four Vice-Chairmen colleagues.

The paper before us, C 77/19, is very similar to the one which FAO presented to the COAG meeting in April this year and which was subsequently discussed at the 71st Session of the Council. The present FAO target of a 50 percent reduction in food losses by 1985 is a very ambitious one and perhaps a little over optimistic, but the priorities of the paper are we think very sensible indeed. We would like to make one or two points on the paper itself.

It is sensible to base our long-term strategies on improvements to existing structures rather than opt for costly new innovations. In this respect the projects outlined for the Action Programme are perhaps a little unbalanced. Of the \$25 million estimated total resources required, 20.5 million is directed towards large stores, drying and milling facilities. The priority in the rural sector, however, is for improvement in small farmers' storage methods, including pest control. Since it is at the subsistence level that the most immediate impact needs to be made - and many delegations have made a point of this -there is perhaps a case for re-allocating certain monetary resources. Similarly, training ought to focus on the smaller farmer to create an awareness of the importance of post-harvest loss and ways to reduce it. There is a tendency in rural communities for these to be accepted as a fact of life. This must be changed if a successful Action Programme is to be achieved.

One important constraint which was discussed at some length in COAG and which will need to be taken seriously into account when implementing the Action Programme, is the urgent need of training personnel in techniques for prevention of harvest and post-harvest loss. A number of delegations have also made a point of this. We are, for example, informed that even with existing programmes there is a serious shortage of international experts from the developed countries as well as scientists and extension workers in the developing countries to take up the theme proposed in this paper. When the FAO Programme gets under way over the next year or two this situation will be very seriously exacerbated. The delegate from France has already made comments about GASGA. We support what he has to say in this context. As we understand it from this paper, the programme is obviously a long-term one if it is going to be successful. In the initial stage it already involves the Regular Programme at a minimum cost as a means of increasing the effectiveness and extent of the existing field programme. The proposed programme for the prevention of food loss will be one which, firstly, emphasizes the staple crops of food grains, roots and tubers in the early stage. I emphasize that term "early stage". Secondly, it is intended as a catalyst for further action through agencies such as UNDP, FAO itself and the bilateral agencies. Thirdly, it stresses training in all projects, otherwise there will be repeated failure. Fourthly, it includes post-harvest loss assessment, not as an academic exercise but to arrive at a rational judgement. Fifthly, it includes model projects solely as concrete examples of the kind of action which individual countries might request. The programme will respond to appropriate requests of Member Countries for justified assistance to prevent food losses in the early stages and in the later long-term programme.

We judge from the paper that there is obviously a desire, and indeed from what has been said here today, for the programme to be flexible in order to meet the special needs of countries in preventing food losses. We suggest nothing in the current proposal prohibits this, and FAO should endeavour to meet these special needs.

Finally, on the question of financing, the UK delegation firmly supports the sentiments which have already been expressed by distinguished delegates, among others of Japan, Canada, the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany.

M. ZUHUR (Syria) (interpretation from Arabic): May I be allowed to congratulate you on being elected Chairman of this important Commission together with the four Vice-Chairmen. The problem of Prevention of Food Losses is a crucial one which requires in-depth scrutiny and also requires decisions to be taken with a view to solving the problems - decisions to be taken at international, national and regional levels. Moreover, prevention of food losses should be part of a many-pronged approach - pre-harvest, harvest and post-harvest, and these operations can be put into applied programmes. We feel furthermore that training and expansion work should be given some degree of priority in the context of solutions to be sought on this problem.

We support the setting up of the Special Fund as the form of financing the programme.

L, LAPEBY (Gabon); Aucune délégation n'a mis en cause l'importance du problème des pertes après récolte. Aucune délégation n'a mis en cause le programme proposé par le Directeur général. Il y a certains amendements, certaines approches qu'il faut peut-être ajouter. C'est dire que le consensus est unanime.

Mais quelques pays et particulièrement les pays matériellement riches mettent en cause la proposition du Directeur général visant à permettre au programme de démarrer le plus rapidement possible, se référant en cela aux dispositions constitutionnelles, notamment des problèmes mineurs de procédure.

Je voudrais rappeler ici qu'au cours de la dernière Session du Conseil de la FAO, mon pays a fait une proposition à laquelle aucune délégation n'a fait objection et qui figure dans le rapport du Conseil. Il s'agit en l'occurrence de faire procéder à une étude des dispositions du règlement financier de notre Organisation pour l'adapter à la conjoncture internationale actuelle qui n'a aucune relation avec celle qui prévalait au moment où ces dispositions ont été rédigées.

Cette proposition va dans le sens de la restructuration de la FAO et de son adaptation aux problèmes que non seulement la Conférence, mais d'autres organisations internationales et la Conférence des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation qui s'est tenue en 1974 à Rome, ont mis en relief.

Le règlement financier actuel a été rédigé par les pays matériellement riches alors qu'ils avaient encore le droit de décider au lieu et place de nombreux membres de notre organisation. La situation a changé depuis et il n'est que logique que le Comité financier entreprenne une étude des dispositions de l'époque coloniale pour faire des propositions correspondant à la situation actuelle.

En 1975 c'est la Conférence qui a pris une résolution créant ce compte d'attente. Je ne peux pas penser un seul instant que cette même instance ne puisse prendre, en ce qui concerne le Fonds spécial, une résolution permettant de virer le reliquat du compte d'attente au Fonds spécial des pertes après récolte.

Le Directeur général a fait à la dernière session du Conseil, à la Conférence et à la Commission I des exposés qui ont été appréciés par tous.

Il n'est point question, eu égard à l'importance du programme, de se limiter aux 10 millions de dollars que les pays matériellement riches ne veulent pas considérer, se référant en cela, je le répète, aux dispositions du règlement financier, comme une contribution volontaire. Et pourtant, c'est la contribution la plus largement volontaire que j'aie jamais connue car chaque pays membre de la FAO, par le biais de ce transfert proposé, apporterait une contribution volontaire si le principe était acquis.

Par ailleurs, le Directeur général n'a jamais, à aucun moment, dit que ces 10 millions de dollars seraient suffisants. Le seul souci qui l'anime dans cette heureuse proposition, dont mieux que chacun de nous le Directeur général a pesé les conséquences, est avant tout de pouvoir mettre le plus rapidement possible en oeuvre le programme des pertes après récolte, si important, et dont au cours de la séance plénière il avait donné la dimension.

Il n'est nullement dans l'intention du Directeur général, au travers de ce souci dynamique et actif, de limiter les ressources financières, qu'il s'agisse des Etats Membres volontaires, qu'il s'agisse des organisations multilatérales ou internationales qui existent déjà.

La situation actuelle me rappelle celle qui a prévalu à la création du Programme de coopération technique. Certains pays matériellement riches avaient accueilli le PCT avec des réserves assez tonnelles, leur position a énormément varié en très peu de temps devant l'impact de ce programme.

Pour toutes les raisons qui précèdent, je n'en oublierai pas une : la possibilité éventuelle de suspendre les dispositions du règlement financier pour éliminer les craintes, les soucis, les difficultés de certains pays matériellement riches à accepter la proposition du Directeur général, et je pense qu'elle présente session au lieu d'avancer et de reculer à la fois et en même temps, ce qui ne serait pas à l'honneur des représentants des pays membres, pourrait être une simple décision pour la résolution qui nous a été proposée.

Si j'ai fait mention de la suspension éventuelle des dispositions du règlement financier derrière lesquelles certains pays matériellement riches se réfugient, c'est parce que ce ne serait pas la première fois et la seule que, pour des raisons évidentes et logiques, la Conférence aurait suspendu des parties de dispositions des textes fondamentaux de l'Organisation pour prendre une décision.

Pour terminer, je voudrais souhaiter cependant que nous n'en arriverons pas là et qu'un consensus raisonné interviendra dans le sens du projet de résolution que le Conseil a accepté de transmettre à la présente session de la Conférence.

B. KOUNDIANO (Guinée): Permettez-moi tout d'abord de vous féliciter moi aussi pour votre élection à la présidence de notre Commission.

M. le Président, la prévention des pertes alimentaires est une question qui mérite à l'heure actuelle toute notre attention.

La question est vraiment d'importance à en juger même par l'intérêt qu'elle suscite depuis le début de nos débats.

A ce stade donc, M. le Président, je voudrais vous éviter de répéter ce que d'autres ont déjà dit et que je voulais dire.

Ma délégation exprime son appui sans réserve au programme préconisé par le Directeur général et contenu dans le document C 77/19.

Nous sommes d'accord pour la création du fonds spécial et pour son démarrage dans les meilleurs délais.

S. QUIJANO-CABALLERO (Naciones Unidas): Le agradezco que me haya dado la palabra en este momento, que le había solicitado fuera hacia el final del debate, y ante todo, quisiera felicitar a usted y a los Vicepresidentes por la elección para dirigir este importante Comité.

La prevención de la pérdidas de alimentos, lejos de ser únicamente de interés técnico o sectorial es un asunto que interesa a la comunidad internacional en su totalidad.

El distinguido Relator, al iniciar el presente debate ya se refirió a la declaración. del Subsecretario General de las Naciones Unidas encargado de los asuntos interagencia y de coordinación, Sr. NARASIMHAN al dirigirse recientemente a la Plenaria de esta Conferencia y durante la cual hizo resaltar el interés que la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas acuerda a la lucha contra las pérdidas en los alimentos.

Ha sido un verdadero privilegio para mí el asistir a este importante debate durante el cual se ha logrado pasar del estado de una larga preocupación general, prácticamente a la iniciación de un efectivo programa de acción basado en las propuestas concretas del Director General de la FAO, Sr. Saouma; y permítame, Sr. Presidente, de expresar por su intermedio a esta Conferencia y al Director General el apoyo y el interés personal que el Secretario de las Naciones Unidas, Sr. Waldheim acuerda a este importante programa.

Este programa de dimensiones mundiales trasciende, como he dicho, de los límites sectoriales o técnicos y se puede decir que constituye un importante aporte al concepto del Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional e incluso a la protección de los derechos humanos.

Cualquiera que sea la fórmula que la Conferencia decida adoptar para la financiación, como lo ha dicho el Director General, documento C 77/19, el programa será realizado con la expresa colaboración de otros organismos y donantes. Además, las numerosas intervenciones que las distinguidas delegaciones han hecho durante este debate y de las cuales hemos tomado debida nota, Sr. Presidente, han demostrado los múltiples aspectos de este importante y complejo programa. Es lógico, pues, que las Organizaciones de las Naciones Unidas en sus diferentes sectores, o en el Sistema de las Naciones Unidas como se suele llamar, deben y pueden prestar por intermedio de mecanismos de coordinación, una importante colaboración y apoyo a la FAO para el éxito del Programa.

Quiero reiterar, señor Presidente, que las Naciones Unidas seguirán con mucho interés los desarrollos en la realización de este importante Programa y quiero agregar que este interés será práctico y concreto.

EL PRESIDENTE: Con el último orador hemos agotado la lista que teníamos para hoy. Ahora voy a dar la palabra al Subdirector General- Jefe del Departamento de Agricultura, Profesor Bommer, quien, seguramente, quiere comentar las intervenciones que hemos escuchado durante esta sesión.

D.F.R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): First of all, I wish on behalf of the Director-General to express our deep appreciation for the overwhelming support we have received in this discussion for the programme on Prevention of Food Losses. I think the very numerous opinions made a valuable contribution to our further formulation of this programme and to its implementation.

The information we have received of on-going programmes in countries, specifically in the developing countries, is likewise very valuable for this purpose. This overwhelming support for the programme, and I should say at the same time for the fund to finance this programme, I feel are at the same time a commitment expressed by those countries having taken the floor, and the others as well, to collaborate strongly on the programme of this Organization, and as expressed by one of the delegates, in their own countries strongly to support or develop respective programmes as expressed in the document, to fight against the tremendous losses we face with food commodities.

I would like to make a few short comments on some of the issues raised.

I think the most important one was raised in relation to the priorities set; specifically the Minister of Agriculture of Canada raised the question and asked for the priorities. I was sorry he could not have listened to the very able statement of the United Kingdom delegate, summarizing these priorities as expressed in the paper, in which we say that in the early stages we should concentrate, otherwise priorities are meaningless, on staple foods, food grains, root and tuber crops, which later on does not exclude activities in perishables, but to take everything at once would weaken the programme and the impact we are trying to make in countries of need. This covers a number of comments made and questions raised in expanding this programme to tackle important perishables, including fish.

I should make it clear at the same time that the ongoing programme of FAO is already engaged in all these fields and our collaboration between the various departments and divisions concerned already makes sure that the view of the total question of food losses is not lost behind the specific effort we are trying to make for the first years on staple food. COAG as expressed clearly in the paper and in the discussion, will review this programme and certainly will redirect its nature if the programme demonstrates that to be necessary.

Other important points mentioned and questions raised related to the coordination of the Secretariat's functions. A question was specifically asked by the delegate of France. I can only confirm his view that the budget allocation in the regular programme for the increase is meant to cover the expenses for the Secretariat as described by him of three professionals and the necessary working means which are necessary to launch missions, to make assessments and similar activities which are necessary as base functions for the programme as envisaged. We should realize at the same time that all regional offices in the meantime will be equipped, after the approval of the Conference, with respective officers who will be part of the total effort and we see at the same time the newly established country offices of FAO and our country representation as the arm in the countries which will certainly make it easier to define projects and to follow up the activities in various countries. I can assure you that the coordination which is already very fruitful with more or less all groups working in the field through our Organization will be further strengthened and we shall have specific dialogues with those which would expect to take specific follow-up action. We have started such a specific dialogue, for instance, with the World Bank and its initiatives in this field in which we see that investment follow-up to the catalytic action of our Action Programme will be a necessity in many cases. Other negotiations of this kind will certainly follow with IFAD and we have already a great interest in the UNDP but, more important, each country in requesting assistance from the UNDP should try and make post-harvest loss reduction programmes its own high priority.

Specific stress was laid that this programme should serve the poor farm population, the small farmer, and this is expressed in our document, and at the same time that the structures, for instance, recommended for storage, should be made from indigenous material, from local material, and should be cheap and simple.

In this connection, I should like to thank China for hosting and serving a group of our experts which has just returned from that country and studying the simple means and possibilities in China and to see how it can be used with experience for other countries to implement, in addition, to have the knowledge and information. Specific stress has been laid on the exchange of information and the channelling of information. We are already very active in this field but will give serious consideration to how to improve this further out of regular programme activities in which we might think of giving a specific information flow to the ongoing projects and to the countries concerned. Specifically I would mention here that AGRIS in its second phase has a possibility to come up with oriented documentation and bibliographies in the field of post-harvest losses.

We are grateful for the various specific offers made to host workshops or provide training facilities by the Philippines, France and other countries and certainly we can make use of those very gracious offers.

On the other side, listening to the discussion it seemed to me that many delegates may have overlooked the tremendous activities in seminars that we have had in the past and even recently this year. One was hosted very successfully in Malaysia for the Asian region but others have been operated before and

certainly we will continue this type of information exchange which is absolutely necessary. But we certainly would not like to see the money and funds allocated for direct action in countries used too much for this purpose.

There was a specific question raised in a number of comments on the status of the national committees we have talked about, but I think the discussion has made it clear that in each country we shall have to take a different look and we have existing organizations, as announced, for many member countries which certainly are the right channels to be used. In other cases there would be a different set-up and the status would depend very much on the decisions of the respective governments as to how to locate such a coordination body for a national programme in its own country.

I think those are the most apparent points. The last is left over - that is the assurance that this programme to combat post-harvest losses is closely integrated in this house with the assistance scheme in food security. Actually the people involved are to quite an extent identical in working on both programmes and certainly on the other side with the integrated pest management programme. Again the personnel direct relationship and responsibilities of the services of the Plant Protection Service is very valid to be mentioned. I can only assure you that all the possible means and internal structures are used to ensure full collaboration and coordination in the house as we will try this with the ongoing activities outside FAO in which we are active members. I can mention specifically GASCAR, which was mentioned twice by France and the United Kingdom, in which we are an active collaborator and which we will use to an even greater extent in the future than in the past for this ongoing programme, and the amount of documentation which has developed there and by its members, for instance, the Tropical Products Institute or the American institutions will be important inputs to the Programme, specifically on the question of crop loss assessment, stressed again as an important element in the complex activity envisaged.

I think the methodology developed in the United States institutions with the assistance of the USDA and the Tropical Products Institute are the basis we will use for the benefit of other member countries.

R. SARAN (India): I should like to seek clarification from the Secretariat regarding paragraph 57 of document C 77/19 where there is a reference to the projects to be financed under the proposed Special Fund. It is stated in that paragraph:

"Where appropriate, project requests will be submitted for implementation through FAO/Government Cooperative programmes or bilateral programmes. Close collaboration will be maintained with other agencies and donors to ensure that all projects in member countries contribute to the integrated action necessary to implement National Programmes."

This does not appear to be in line with the impression we got from the Director-General in his intervention in the Council a few days ago. The Director-General said that the Fund would be placed at the disposal of FAO, it would be a multilateral fund and projects would be submitted for implementation by countries concerned directly to FAO. Would the Secretariat therefore clarify whether this understanding is correct? It should be particularly clarified whether donors would be identified with any specific project. We are afraid that if projects are prepared bilaterally then submitted to FAO they will not have the character of multilaterally financed projects.

In seeking clarification on this specific issue I make it clear that we are not against, in fact we welcome, bilateral projects being developed but they should be over and above the projects to be financed under the FAO's Action Programme.

D.F.R. BOMMER (ADG, AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT): I can only confirm that the Director-General's view of this is exactly as the delegate of India said in his last sentence. It is very clear that the programme has a catalytic function. These are the projects which the Director-General intends should be financed out of the \$20 million funds - maybe more if the donors contributing to the funds decide to contribute even more - which is more or less a flexible amount of money which could be used on request and in the light of the major theme of this Programme. Certainly \$20 million, compared with the size and magnitude of this problem is peanuts, a very small amount of money, which means with such first action in countries or a stimulating action which contributes to a national programme a number of follow-up activities and parallel activities will show up and we certainly are ready to assist in preparing these projects for the respective countries and in generating further assistance from bilateral programmes, in consultation with the respective bilateral sources or with necessary investment as I have just described, for instance, with the World Bank, through IF AD and others. We are only instrumental in trying to bring together the needs of the respective countries with possible assistance and financing through others, but through the total programme which we see in the core the

activities which go on through the fund financing, and we hope that a wide collaboration of a much larger resource flow will come forward to enable countries which need such assistance to implement fuller programmes of a longer duration. Continuation was mentioned by several speakers as a necessity and if we have envisaged that our programme to catalyze should have a duration of a maximum of two years, it is very clear that the continuation needs additional financing, which we would like to see coming from bilateral and other multilateral sources as described. This is the strong view of the Director-General and I hope that I have made it clear before in my statement.

EL PRESIDENTE: Veo que nadie más pide la palabra y en consecuencia quizá deba decir yo, o mejor dicho, hacer algunos breves comentarios. En primer lugar, quiero decir que la tarea de Presidente es realmente fácil cuando tiene la posibilidad de contar con la colaboración de un funcionario como el Profesor Bommer, porque él ha casi resumido el debate y me libera, diría así, de la carga que implica muchas veces tratar de determinar líneas claras de tendencia, luego de haber escuchado alrededor de 70 intervenciones.

Sin perjuicio de ello, quizá podría yo agregar algo más para que pueda ser o no tenido en cuenta por el Comité de Redacción. En primer término, creo que lo que ha surgido muy claramente -y diría unánime mente- es la importancia crucial que todas las delegaciones han adjudicado a la necesidad de prevenir las pérdidas de alimentos, y asimismo creo que todos han coincidido en la urgencia de iniciar una acción en este sentido, por el impacto que ello podría tener para subvenir las necesidades alimenticias de la parte del mundo que aún está aquejada por una subalimentación. Creo asimismo que se ha puesto de manifiesto a través de todas o casi todas las intervenciones que la documentación que se nos ha preparado para debatir este tema ha sido eficiente como para posibilitar una discusión que yo entiendo ha sido constructiva y en algunos aspectos exhaustiva. A mi entender, ha habido consenso o más bien que se aprecia una línea de tendencia neta en favor de la forma en que ha sido concebido o que se nos ha propuesto el documento del Plan de Acción para prevenir las pérdidas de alimentos.

Se ha señalado -y esto quizá convenga tenerlo presente- que es necesario contar con mayor información para poder determinar o evaluar lo más exactamente posible la magnitud de esas pérdidas, tanto en el orden cuantitativo como en el orden cualitativo, aunque ya tenemos algunas cifras provisionales que nos han indicado la importancia que tiene este problema.

Se ha señalado también la conveniencia de que cuando se inicie este Plan de Acción se ponga el asunto a nivel de pequeños agricultores y también a nivel de aldeas, indicándose asimismo que debe tratarse de un plan de acción que se desarrolle en el largo plazo, sin perjuicio de la urgencia de iniciarlo cuanto antes.

Igualmente se ha indicado que este plan de acción debería acompañarse con actividades comprendidas dentro del programa ordinario de la Organización. Y se ha indicado que el Plan de Acción que se nos presenta debería completarse y adecuarse a las particularidades de cada país y de cada región donde se aplique; es decir, que este Plan de Acción debería manejarse con alguna flexibilidad.

En cuanto a las prioridades, creo que las delegaciones han coincidido en apoyar las prioridades que se nos presentan en el documento básico que hemos tenido en cuenta para nuestras discusiones. Sin perjuicio de ello, creo que debemos tomar nota de que algunas delegaciones han solicitado la incorporación de otros productos: los productos pesqueros, inclusive productos agrícolas no alimenticios, que estoy seguro podrán incorporarse al Plan en la medida en que el tiempo permita hacer frente a lo que es considerado como primera prioridad, es decir, tubérculos, cereales, etc., tal como consta en el documento.

Estimo que el debate en cierto modo ha reflejado o ha repetido lo que sucedió en el Consejo de la Organización en el Comité de Agricultura y que el consenso, o más bien diría la opinión, es unánime en cuanto a la necesidad de iniciar esta acción y en cuanto a la importancia que esta acción tiene.

Una gran mayoría de delegaciones se han expresado en favor de la constitución de un fondo especial para financiar este Plan de Acción y se ha señalado que los 20 millones de dólares que se han previsto inicialmente son apenas una gota, como creo dijo la delegación de China, que luego deberá aumentarse en la medida en que la eficiencia de este Plan vaya demostrando la necesidad de contar con mayores recursos.

Algunas delegaciones han pensado que quizá estas actividades podrían desarrollarse dentro del programa ordinario de la Organización; pero ahora quisiera a este respecto hacer un comentario marginal, es decir, no incorporándolo dentro del resumen, sino como una apreciación personal, y es que a través de la asistencia a muchas reuniones en esta casa, recuerdo que en el último tiempo la mayoría de las delegaciones han reclamado de la FAO un papel más activo en la solución de los problemas de la alimentación

y los problemas del desarrollo de la agricultura, y ese papel más activo lo han requerido a través de una respuesta más rápida y más inmediata, requerimiento que formulan los países que más necesitan. La creación de un fondo de esta naturaleza quizá podría ser un medio eficiente que posibilite que la FAO esté en condiciones de dar ese tipo de respuesta que los propios países han estado pidiendo. El Programa de Cooperación Técnica es quizá un ejemplo en ese sentido, porque ha permitido, a mi juicio, -e insisto que es una acotación marginal que hago a título personal- que el Programa de Cooperación Técnica, digo, sea un ejemplo que ha demostrado que la FAO, cuando cuenta con ciertos mecanismos, está en condiciones de dar respuestas inmediatas a los requerimientos que hacen los países, lo cual redundará en beneficio de su eficiencia.

En cuanto a la forma en que podría integrarse el Fondo Especial, que, según la propuesta que nos formula el Director General, sería a través de la transferencia de 10 millones de dólares de la cuenta transitoria que se creó en virtud de la resolución 35/75, aun cuando la mayoría de las delegaciones se han mostrado también en favor de esta propuesta, varias delegaciones han señalado algunas reservas. Yo creo que con respecto a este punto, que es un punto crucial dentro del temario de hoy, porque de nada vale que hagamos declaraciones y que nos pongamos en favor de un Plan de Acción si luego quien tiene que ejecutarlo no dispone de los fondos necesarios para hacerlo, indudablemente este aspecto de la cuestión es más conveniente dejarlo abierto. Es un aspecto que tenemos que dejar, a fin de poder disponer de un poco más de tiempo para hacer consultas entre todas las delegaciones que nos permitan llegar a una solución de transacción que posibilite compatibilizar todos los criterios y todas las opiniones que aquí se han vertido. De manera que yo personalmente voy a propiciar contactos para tratar de encontrar una solución de compromiso que permita resolver esta cuestión, y lo hago con la esperanza de hallar esa solución de compromiso, porque a través de las intervenciones de las delegaciones he podido observar que hay una verdadera voluntad de cooperación internacional, una verdadera voluntad política al servicio de la solución de este problema, que redundará, como dije antes, en la satisfacción de las necesidades alimentarias del mundo.

Creo que, si no hay otros comentarios, y con la aclaración del tema de la financiación, o con la integración del Fondo, con la aclaración también de que ese tema va a quedar abierto, si no hay otros comentarios, voy a levantar la sesión, invitándoles a que nos reunamos mañana viernes, a las 14.30 horas, para continuar con el tema 6 de nuestra Agenda.

Antes de concluir, quisiera agradecer a la delegación de Guinea y a todos ustedes el espíritu de colaboración que demostraron al abreviar sus intervenciones, lo cual nos ha permitido terminar prácticamente dentro del horario previsto; y en especial a la delegación de Guinea, porque nos envió su intervención para incorporarla a las Actas, sin tomarse el tiempo que le hubiera llevado leerla. Y quiero asimismo asegurarle que lo que consta en esa intervención será bien tenido en cuenta por el Comité de Redacción.

The meeting rose at 17.45 hours.

La séance est levée à 17 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.45 horas.

conference

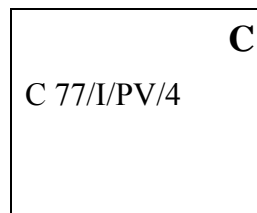
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Nineteenth Session
COMMISSION I

Dix-neuvième session
COMMISSION I

19° período de sesiones
COMISION II

FOURTH MEETING
QUATRIEME SÉANCE
CUARTA SESION

(18 November 1977)

The Fourth meeting was opened at 14.45 hours
J.C. Vignaud, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La quatrième séance est ouverte à 14 h 45, sous la présidence de
J. C. Vignaud, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la cuarta sesión a las 14.45 horas, bajo la presidencia
de J.C. Vignaud, Presidente de la Comisión I

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

PREMIERE PARTIE - PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET QUESTIONS DE POLITIQUE EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)

PARTE I - PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLÍTICAS DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)

6. World Food and Agriculture Situation

6. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture

6. Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo

EL PRESIDENTE: Buenas tardes, señores delegados. De acuerdo con el calendario y la Agenda, hoy iniciamos la discusión del tema 6, que se refiere a la Situación Alimentaria y agrícola en el Mundo. Conforme con las previsiones contenidas en el Reglamento general de la Organización, compete a la Conferencia hacer un examen del estado de la agricultura y la alimentación, a la luz de los antecedentes de que disponemos, es decir, de la documentación que nos ha preparado la Secretaría y los informes del Consejo, que habrán tenido la oportunidad de analizar. Y en este examen creo que lo importante es señalar las cuestiones de política que surjan de la situación que se nos presenta y sobre todo por estar en condiciones de hacer recomendaciones concretas a la Conferencia.

El documento principal es el C 77/2 y el C 77/2/Suplemento 1.

Hay otro documento más, del que quizá el Sr. Secretario quiera informarles a ustedes; pero ya me está indicando ahora que es el Suplemento 2 y que ha sido distribuido esta mañana y colocado en los boxes de cada una de las delegaciones. Estoy seguro de que todos ustedes ya lo habrán visto. Contiene algunas cifras actualizadas al 10 de noviembre del corriente año.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): In his statement at the Commission's first meeting, the Director-General has already spoken on this item of the Agenda. I thought however that it would help your deliberations if I very briefly drew your attention more specifically to the further supplementary documentation that has now been issued.

Document C 77/2 Supplement 2 consists of an updates version, revised as of 11 November, of the Basic Table I contained in the earlier supplementary document. At this time of the year the early estimates of the current harvests are of course constantly being revised. The changes embodied in the revised Table have tended to balance one another out at the world level. We therefore still estimate for the world as a whole an increase of 11/2 percent in food production and 1 1/2 -2 percent in total agricultural production in 1977. But there have been some significant changes at the regional level to which I should draw your attention. Food production in the developing market economies is now estimated to have risen by 1 1/2 percent-2 percent in 1977 as compared with the earlier figure of 1-11/2 percent. This results from the substantial upward revision for the Far East region where the 1977 wheat crop is higher, and the 1976 rice crop lower than originally estimated.

In Latin America there has been a small downward revision. In the developed countries the estimate of the increase in food production for 1977 has gone down from 11/2 percent-2 percent to 1-11/2 percent. Lower estimates of food production in Australia and of grain in Canada and for cereals, oil seed and other crops in the United States.

As mentioned by the Director-General, FAO's latest forecast of edible cereal stocks outside China and USSR at the close of the 1977/78 season has consequently come down to about 166 millin tons.

Before I close I should say a word about the special chapter on the state of natural resources and the human environment for food and agriculture that is to be included in 1977. As the Director-General has already indicated, a preliminary version of this chapter will be distributed towards the end of the Conference Session for information only and not for discussion, since the delegates could of course not be expected to go through this lengthy document at this short notice. It was simply thought that the member governments would like to have copies of this study in their hands as soon as possible.

EL PRESIDENTE: Estoy seguro que su introducción al tema es una contribución valiosa para nuestros debates y que los señores delegados habrán tomado nota de cuanto usted nos ha indicado.

El Sr. Rittershaus, que es el Relator del Plenario, seguramente nos hará conocer las opiniones vertidas por los señores jefes de delegación que han intervenido en el Plenario, en relación con este tema que empezamos a discutir ahora.

L. RITTERSHAUS (Rapporteur from Plenary to Commission I): I will report on item 6 of the Agenda, The State of Global Food and Agriculture as it came out in the plenary Session. There was an overwhelming consensus that while the acute food crisis of 1972/75 has been overcome the world is still far from attaining a full and securely based state of food security. It must however be seen as pointing in a positive direction that most delegations that gave an account of their countries' current agricultural situation either reported in terms of internal or regional food security or at least related national panorama to the overall and global situation. It seems that there is an awareness of world-wide interrelatedness in matters of food production food supply and food security.

The delegate from Barbados pointed out that population growth in the developing world still clearly outpaces increases in food production. Moreover there are regions where these increases have been relatively small and uneven, with strong fluctuations and sometimes even appalling decreases from year to year. Dependence on the weather and in particular on seasonal rainfall is still overwhelming in South and South-East Asia, the Sahelian Zone and some parts of Latin America. On the Indian Sub-continent and in the Sahelian Zone an increase or decrease in the rainfall has made the harvest in the last few years either a success or a disaster. This year's monsoon has helped India to a third above-average grain harvest, but its local relative failure has created difficulties in Indonesia. It is however noteworthy that the East Asian mainland which is among the most sensitive to fluctuations in rainfall has been able to reach a relative independence from rainfall. Thanks to investments in irrigation and water control not least in the form of sheer human labour, China has achieved good harvests and even annual output increases, even in seasons of extreme drought and/or tropical rainfall. The Chinese delegate has given an interesting account of how this was achieved.

At this moment the region where a new food disaster is most likely to break loose is Africa's Sahelian Zone. The islands of Cape Verde reported extreme drought conditions for the ninth year. Delegates from several Sahelian countries have warned that a new grain deficit of at least half a million tons might develop. Many Latin American countries also experienced extreme fluctuations in harvest volume due to unfavourable weather, and the international market crisis in coffee was caused mainly by untimely and unusual frosts in Brazil. All this suggests that the developing countries will remain in the short and medium term critically dependent on aid.

The Agricultural situation in the developed countries is characterized by symptoms of over-production and cutbacks in output. After several exceptionally good grain harvests in North America the traditional North American grain exporters instead of welcoming reductions in grain prices had chosen to reduce sown area in order to reduce future harvest volumes and prevent over-reaction of producers.

In the Common market area structural over-production of milk and dairy products or wine and fruit have become endemic.

Meanwhile the socio-economic context in which agriculture is operating has drawn wide attention. Many countries declared that decisive production increases cannot be achieved for long as the majority of producers, the small farmers, are not actively brought into the picture. The small farm sector however is plagued in many places by the accelerating impoverishment of the individual cultivator.

To sum up this brief report on the world situation, stocks, especially grain stocks, are high again and have attained, with 18 percent of the world's annual consumption volume, security level. They may even grow further if current forecasts on next year's harvests are materialized. The forecasts have led to cutbacks in production. Vigilance is needed and should be continued. The trade and price situation is largely seen as unsatisfactory by both exporters and importers. The wider social and economic context remains beclouded by over-population, continuing depression of the small farm sector, and the need for greater resource allocation to the rural sector.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, Sr. Rittershaus, por sus interesantes comentarios e informaciones. Voy a poner en consecuencia ahora a consideración de ustedes el tema 6 de la Agenda.

M, LOT (Nigeria): My delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for the very informative document C 77/2 and C 77/2 Supplements 1 and 2 on the State of Food and Agriculture in 1977. The document throws up some frightening figures about the state of agriculture in the world with

particular reference to the developing countries though in many cases increased production is lagging behind increase in population. Until we are unsure about the accuracy of these figures the implication of this low level of production is grave for the teeming millions of people around the globe, who, by all accounts, will continue to be plagued by hunger and malnutrition and above all by the human indignity which accompanies it. My delegation is most concerned about this state of affairs.

As we said in the Plenary, the answer lies in the immediate massive investment from within and outside the countries concerned. For most of our countries caught in the vicious circle of low income, low savings and low investment, external assistance is a must. This may mean the writing off of development assistance debts owed by the developing countries to the industrialized countries, as has already been done by Canada and Sweden. Because of the need for high levels of assistance the recent World Food Council made a number of specific recommendations calling for massive development assistance and financial and technical assistance in vital areas such as storage, fertilisers, seeds and pesticides, as well as the establishment of an international emergency reserve. The impending launching of IFAD also represents another important source of funds for agricultural development.

My delegation is anxious to seek progress made in all these areas. Of course, a permanent solution to the food crisis in developing countries cannot be divorced from the issue of international trade and the whole problem of international agricultural adjustments. My delegation is therefore heartened by the progress being made in UNCTAD regarding commodity arrangements. We hope this will restore some sanity to the pricing and exporting of agricultural commodities from developing countries. Despite the figures on page 24 of the document, we believe that the terms of trade of agricultural products are still very bad. For example, these figures hide the disparities between individual commodities which not only experience adverse terms of trade but also suffer serious fluctuations in prices. We are anxious to see the industrialized countries do away with the barriers which they have erected in the way of exports of processed agricultural products to their countries. We are confident that these various approaches will enable developing countries to generate substantial resources for development and reduce their reliance on development assistance. An area which cries out for massive investment is irrigation development. That undoubtedly is the only permanent cure for the persistent drought which has become a regular feature in the Sahelian region. Such conserved water would facilitate increased food production through the use of high-yielding varieties which easily lend themselves to growing two or more crops a year.

We in Nigeria have recognized the importance of this approach and have provided during the Third National Development Plan from 1975-1980 to bring about 1.5 million hectares of new land under irrigation, mainly for the production of food crops.

I must stress that investment in training of staff and farmers at all levels and the transfer of production technology is also a sine qua non; so also is increased food production through the opening of new fertile land, using heavy machinery or manpower, depending on the relative abundance of those factors of production. Finally, we must not forget to stress the most important ingredient in any package of approaches towards the alleviation of hunger and malnutrition. This ingredient is the political will on the part of all national governments to mobilize whatever resources they can muster to increase food production.

R.B. RAYANGA (Kenya): I should like to confine my comments in our discussion to food security. Document C 77/2 puts the case very clearly. There are food deficits, and they must be abolished. I want to associate myself with the comments made by the delegate from Nigeria, in a general way, and also to look at food security in more detail.

The proposed action on world food security relates primarily to disasters, and this is food because disasters occur, but the bigger problem remains of recurring external food shortages. Crops are planted, food is eaten and gets finished and people who were eating only yesterday are now suddenly hungry again. The victims do not actually die right away, therefore the urgency is not understood, but these people are people who deserve our attention. The report of what is happening in the developed countries in spite of shortages in the developing countries means that the problem of security must be tackled on two levels. On the wider level we must have security to combat disaster, but on the other level we must have farm family security for food.

The situation in this area is as follows: in the first place, production is low, therefore food supply is inadequate. This is because with hand labour one cannot cultivate enough land. Also, yields are too low anyway because of inadequate tillage and lack of inputs. There is also undue reliance on one staple crop to the exclusion of other equally staple foods and marketing systems inflate the price of food once the farmer has sold it. Also there is competition between cash crops and food crops so the farmer has at one level to find food and at another to find money to supply his cash needs. This

problem also attaches itself to nations, because nations must find food and also satisfy their cash requirements, which in fact are foreign exchange. We also have post-harvest losses, which reduce what in fact are foreign exchanges. We also have post-harvest losses, which reduce what was originally low production. Then with the poor communications and low incomes, surpluses from one area cannot be used to fill the gap in another area in the absence of massive government or international intervention.

The question is, what are we to do? First and foremost there must be greater emphasis on food production. The area under cultivation must be expanded, particularly where grains are the staple. This can be done through mechanization and also either through irrigation or through new cropping systems to use marginal lands. Yields also must be increased and food sources diversified, particularly where the staple is a grain crop, by the inclusion of livestock products, roots and semi-perennial crops, such as bananas, which may survive where grain has failed and which also require limited labour. There is also room for the development of fish ponds and the keeping of small prolific animals for domestic food. One can also think of minor irrigation, where possible, to grow vegetables, but also food losses must be abolished. Methods must be introduced to treat and preserve food and vegetables, including those vegetables which either appear as waste or are by-products, such as bean, cassava and pumpkin leaves. Such products are plentiful during the rains but disappear entirely or deteriorate in quality during the dry season. There must be adequate storage arrangements in order to prevent post-harvest losses, which can be as much as 20 percent or even more on grains. In order to avoid such losses, farmers are quite often tempted to sell their crop only to find when they buy it up that the price has shot up by as much as 40 percent or even more.

However, while all this emphasis is being placed on food production, the cash needs of the farmer, and indeed of the nation, must not be forgotten. If they are, food will be sold for cash. Therefore the farmer's programme, and indeed that of the nation, must deliberately include a cash element so that when the food needs are budgeted for sufficient land, time and strength must be left for the production of cash crops. This is important because, after all, the cash is sometimes required to buy food when local food crops fail and in a context where the advantages of mechanization are not likely to be readily available emphasis must be placed on those enterprises or combinations of enterprises which call for the minimum of labour. For example, where the food staple is an annual or a seasonal crop the cash element should if possible be perennial, in order to lighten the burden. In the case of East Africa, and perhaps elsewhere, the communities that have done well are those which have had either perennial or a semi-perennial crop, either as a cash or food crop or where both crops are perennial.

The marketing system should be such that while giving the farmer adequate returns and incentives it does not inflate the consumer price of food beyond ability to pay. Communications must be improved so that surpluses in one area may reach another area to fill the deficit there now that the system includes a cash element, so that the farmer can afford to buy. In time the problem of food security may become a regional one, as is the case of the more fortunate countries, and thus the problem of the small farmer would be avoided.

This may appear to be a tall order and it is true that the problem is gigantic, but that is exactly why we are here. This subject has been tackled in this way in order to highlight the plight of members of the rural community so that their problems, being understood, may be tackled more sympathetically.

W. STEELE (United States of America); My delegation is in substantial agreement with the Secretariat report on the state of food and agriculture in document C 77/2. I should like to confine most of my comments to the document itself. We must keep in mind that many of the estimates reported in the document, as well as our own estimates in the United States, are still preliminary. However, since the document was prepared one of the major developments which has occurred is a 20 million ton reduction in the estimate of the Soviet grain output. The United States Department of Agriculture is now forecasting a Soviet crop of about 194 million metric tons for the 1977/78 season. We are also estimating that wheat and coarse grain production both would be estimated at 90 million metric tons each.

FAO in its document, as I have just noted, is estimating 100 million tons for Soviet wheat production. This would appear to be somewhat higher than our estimate.

As a result of these developments, world grain production may fall somewhat below the record crop achieved in 1976/77. Based on the United States Department of Agriculture figures, our carry-over stocks of wheat, rice and coarse grains are expected to decline very marginally this year from 1976/77. We are estimating that the decline will drop from 185 million metric tons to 181 million metric tons.

For the United States itself the prospects are very good. The prospects point to a record crop production and larger grain stocks. Our total crop production is this year expected to be about 4 percent larger than last year. Total grain supplies, including wheat and feed grains and rice, for 1977-78 are up nearly 30 million metric tons which will boost our carry-over stocks nearly a fourth. Thus our ending stocks of wheat and coarse grains are expected to exceed 75 million metric tonnes, the highest we have had on hand since the mid-1960s.

I also have some estimates--our most recent estimates--of our production for grains and oil seeds products. I will make these available to the Secretariat. I will not go over them now.

I have just seen the supplement. I cannot react to everything in the supplement but I would point out one mistake, which I did pick up, on the amount of feed grains that are used for livestock production. Apparently the Secretariat has picked up a number for total domestic utilization of feed grains, which includes seed, food and industrial usage, and they have used a figure of 137.5 million metric tonnes, instead of 1.19 million tons that is expected to be fed during 1977-78.

I would next like to turn my discussion to some of the recent policy developments that have occurred in the United States of America. Secretary Bergland in his recent speech before the Plenary discussed most of these but I will repeat them because some clarification seems to be needed on certain points.

The new Food and Agriculture Act of 1977 was signed in September following Congressional approval. The main purpose of the legislation is to authorize a new farm programme for the next four years. Some of the provisions in the new act are set at revising our support prices, our target prices and our loan prices. Our target prices are the basis for direct income support payments to farmers. The significant provisions here are on the target price which is used for income payments. The target price for wheat has been set at \$2.90 a bushel and we have raised both the target price and loan price for corn up to \$2.00 a bushel. The 1977 wheat loan rate will be at \$2.25 a bushel, which will remain unchanged.

In late August Secretary Bergland indicated a comprehensive plan to establish a 30 to 35 million tonnes reserve of food and feed grain and this would be established prior to the beginning of the 1978-79 marketing year. Under this plan the farmer-owned wheat and rice reserve programme would be expanded to include 17 to 19 million tonnes of feed grain. And there would be specific price provisions on when these reserves would be released from the reserve stock.

We also propose to create a special food reserve of up to 6 million metric tonnes to ensure our current special food aid commitments can be made. This special reserve would be held and controlled by the Government. The reserve could make use of any wheat which was turned over to the Commodity Credit Corporation as a result of forfeitures. The establishment of reserve stocks is intended to serve as a hedge against the inflationary effects of a poor crop in the future. It will also help the United States to meet its food aid commitment and is consistent with the United States' position in negotiating international grains arrangements which include reserve provisions.

Also instituted in August was a decision to set aside 20 percent of the acreage in 1978 wheat production. We calculate that this acreage reduction will result in about an 8 to 10 percent reduction in actual wheat production.

As the Secretary indicated in his speech on Tuesday of this week, we announced tentative plans for a modest reduction in our food grain production. However, there has been some confusion about the announcement on feed grains. First, recognizing the uncertainties in world production, the decision on feed grains, and only on feed grains, is conditional pending a complete review in January and February of the world and domestic situation.

Secondly, the set-aside will reduce acreage of corn, sorghum and barley by 10 percent. We calculated that this reduction in acreage will reduce the actual production by an estimated 7 million tonnes, that amounts to 3 percent of United States production and about 1 percent of total world coarse grain production.

Thirdly, 1977 coarse grain production appears to be a record in the United States and carry-over stocks are expected to rise to about 44 million metric tonnes. We expect that ending coarse grain stocks for 1977/78 will be the largest since 1972 and, as I indicated previously, ending wheat and coarse grain taken together will be at their highest level since the mid-1960s. Further build-up of those stocks would no doubt worsen the cost-price relationship for our farmers and would reduce incentives to increase production in the future.

I should point out that the set-aside programme is annually determined and should not necessarily be interpreted as applying to subsequent crops.

I would like to return briefly now to the supplement to document C 77/2. In paragraph 50 of that document the FAO calculates that total wheat and coarse grain production for the United States for 1977-78 would be down 20 million tonnes as a result of the set-aside. I take it that is their calculation. Based on the information I have available, it appears that this estimate is too high. My calculations point to a reduction of about 13 million tonnes.

With regard to paragraph 55 of the supplement, reference is made to grain which is turned over to our Commodity Credit Corporation. I would only like to point out that in the case of wheat, some or all the wheat that is turned over to the Commodity Credit Corporation could be utilized for the establishment of the special food reserve that I discussed earlier.

If other delegates or the Secretariat have particular questions about our new policy actions, I would be glad to meet with them whenever it is convenient.

P. MASUD (Pakistan): There has undoubtedly been marked improvement in the immediate short-term world food and agriculture situation since we last met. The gains made by developing countries in 1975, and again in 1976 and 1977, are impressive. While favourable weather conditions were no doubt an important contributing factor, credit should also be given to developing countries for the deliberate efforts made by them to increase production, to greater priority to agriculture and to improved policies and practices.

It would, therefore, be a worthwhile exercise for the FAO to identify and quantify the extent of the increase in food production as a result of the efforts made in the developing countries.

The current situation should not give any room for complacency, nor should it in any way dispel the sense of urgency to deal with the critical problems in the food and agriculture sector. Not only is the improvement in the short-term outlook somewhat fragile, but, more importantly, the longer term trend in food production in developing countries continues to remain inadequate. In fact, the situation in certain parts of the world, particularly in North Africa and in the Sahel, is a matter of great concern.

The increase in food production since 1970 has only averaged 2.6 percent in developing countries, which is far below the 4 percent annual target expected by the World Food Conference. It is a matter of concern, therefore, that the series of recommendations made by the World Food Conference to redress the longer term situation have not yet been seriously considered or implemented. In the light of this the Pakistan delegation would like to underline the following policy issues arising out of the assessment of the current situation.

Firstly, in the short term the developing countries, and particularly the LDCs and MSAs, will continue to need assistance to fill the food gap. It is a matter of regret that the minimum food aid target of a million tonnes still remains to be achieved. We would urge donor countries to make additional allocations during the current year so that the target can be achieved in 1977 and 1978, and would hope that the new Food Aid Convention is negotiated as part of the new International Grain Agreement which duly reflects this target.

Secondly, in the short term, developing countries, and again particularly the MSA countries, will need external assistance for the increased supply of agricultural inputs, particularly fertilizers and pesticides in adequate quantities and at reasonable prices.

The MSA countries continue to face a serious balance of payments problem and external debt liabilities which drastically restrict their ability to purchase adequate quantities of agricultural inputs. They need to be protected against sharp fluctuations in international prices of fertilizers. We would in this connection strongly support the International Fertilizers Supply Scheme and particularly the option proposal recently discussed by the Fertilizers Commission.

The Pakistan delegation would also draw attention to the desirability of supporting FAO's Seed Industry Development Programme by contributions of 20 million dollars by donors as recommended by the Conference on International Economic Cooperation.

Thirdly, progress towards the longer term goal of a dependable system of world food security is particularly slow and discouraging. Fortunately world stocks of cereals have now increased substantially

to around 17 to 18 percent of annual world consumption. It is vital not to miss the current opportunity to convert a portion of current accumulated stocks into reserves so as not to discourage production efforts.

It is also necessary to intensify efforts to develop an adequate international food reserve system. Towards this end the principles embodied in the International Undertaking on World Food Security need to be put into operation as expeditiously as possible.

The Conference must draw attention to the urgency of the situation and stress the need for a speedy conclusion of their discussions and negotiations for a new international grains arrangement before the expiry of the current extension so that the system of world food security may soon become an operational reality.

Fourthly, the significant rise in food production during the last two years in many developing countries affords a good opportunity for them to build up their stocks and thereby participate meaningfully in the world food security scheme. However, they face resource constraints which need to be overcome. Technical and financial assistance to such developing countries to help them implement their national food reserve programmes, including construction of additional storage facilities, is therefore a priority area.

Lastly, an increased transfer of resources and provision of adequate assistance to developing countries is a prerequisite for a successful implementation of their food and agriculture development programmes. The recent fall in commitments of external development assistance to agriculture is a matter of grave concern. A hopeful sign is the emergence of IFAD as a reality. However, even the establishment of IFAD would still leave a substantial gap considering the requirements of developing countries. We would hope that donor countries would show the requisite will by substantially increasing their official development and technical assistance to agriculture on a sustained basis.

I am sorry for having taken up so much time, but this is a vast subject and a lot requires to be said.

A. BAOUA (Niger): Permettez-moi d'exprimer la joie qu'éprouve la Délégation du Niger quant à la normalisation de la situation agricole et alimentaire mondiale comme l'indique le Document C 77/II"Sup.1.

Mais cette joie s'estompe face à la situation alimentaire encore préoccupante dans les pays du Sahel. En effet, elle nécessite actuellement une assistance d'urgence afin d'éviter une pénurie éventuelle catastrophique surtout pour certains pays de la région.

Le Conseil extraordinaire des ministres des pays membres du CILSS tenu à Niamey du 16 au 27 octobre 1977 a fait le point provisoire de la situation de la campagne agricole 1977-1978. Il a constaté, comme l'a dit tout à l'heure notre rapporteur, que cette campagne est caractérisée d'une manière générale par une installation tardive de la saison des pluies, une répartition irrégulière des pluies dans le temps et dans l'espace, un déficit pluviométrique important par rapport à la normale, une persistance de l'action des déprédateurs aux champs.

Confronté à nouveau aux menaces de famine, de malnutrition et de maladie qui pèsent sur ces 30 millions d'habitants et son cheptel, le Conseil a déclaré sinistrés les pays membres du CILSS. Il a estimé provisoirement le niveau de l'aide alimentaire demandé pour les huit pays membres du CILSS à 500 mille tonnes.

Pour ce qui concerne particulièrement mon pays une analyse approchée de l'évolution de la culture des céréales de base de 1960 à 1977 nous montre que:

1. D'une part les surfaces cultivées suivaient sensiblement la courbe théorique de l'accroissement de la population de 1960 à 1968. Elle nous montre ensuite qu'elles étaient un peu plus élevées de 1969 à 1971, après la progression de 1969 consécutive à la mauvaise année de 1968, début de la sécheresse dans le Sahel, et nettement plus faibles de 1972 à 1975, période correspondant aux années de grandes sécheresses. Elles atteignent maintenant le niveau de la courbe théorique, c'est-à-dire se rapprochent de l'accroissement de la population, ce qui s'est traduit par un retour souhaitable et souhaité à la normale.

2. Les amendements par contre varient d'une année à l'autre, quelquefois avec un intervalle de deux ans. A une année meilleure succède une année plus mauvaise et ainsi de suite.

3. La production, image combinée des deux précédentes caractéristiques, a été nettement supérieure aux besoins alimentaires de la population jusqu'en 1969. Mais depuis 1970, elle accuse des déficits particulièrement importants, surtout entre 1973 et 1975, années très affectées par la sécheresse. Malgré un déficit de l'ordre de 135 milles tonnes de céréales pour la campagne agricole 1977-78, la situation semble maintenant redevenir normale. Ce déficit concerne 100 000 tonnes de mil et sorgho, 15 000 tonnes de blé, 10 000 tonnes de maïs et 15 000 tonnes de riz.

Pour cette année encore nous nous trouvons dans l'obligation de faire appel à la solidarité internationale pour couvrir ce déficit. Nous lui demandons non seulement de mettre en oeuvre de façon exceptionnelle des procédures et des modalités d'urgence pour la mobilisation de l'aide et le transport des produits, afin d'éviter les lenteurs constatées au cours des précédentes sécheresses, mais aussi et surtout de nous assister matériellement et techniquement dans la mise en oeuvre des projets de programmes de première génération arrêtés à la deuxième réunion du Club des amis du Sahel afin d'assurer notre autosuffisance et sécurité alimentaires.

L'équilibre vivrier constitue l'option fondamentale du gouvernement nigérien. Pour y parvenir, l'objectif principal retenu est l'accroissement de la production vivrière avec la constitution d'un stock de semences et d'un stock régulateur de céréales pour les éventuelles années de mauvaise production. Pour ce faire, il a été assigné au programme triennal:

- d'accélérer le processus de mise en valeur des terres irrigables estimées à plus de 140 mille hectares;
- de diminuer les surfaces consacrées aux cultures de rente, cette réduction de superficies cultivées devant être compensée par l'amélioration des rendements de ces cultures;
- d'encourager les actions de productivités rurales;
- d'exploiter rationnellement le capital terre par la disparition progressive des jachères et de passer ainsi d'un système extensif à un système intensif grâce aux facteurs suivants: diffusion de semences sélectionnées à haut rendement et adaptées aux différentes zones écologiques de notre pays; lutte contre les parasites animaux et végétaux; amélioration des techniques culturales et d'irrigation pour compléter un déficit éventuel en eaux de pluie.

Après ce bref aperçu sur notre agriculture, mon pays a plus que jamais besoin du concours de la FAO et des pays amis pour atteindre cet objectif.

V. de ASARTA (Italie): La délégation italienne a lu avec le plus vif intérêt les documents C 77/2 et C 77/2-Sup.1 en trouvant dans de nombreuses et claires données qui y sont contenues la confirmation du fait qu'au cours des deux dernières années la situation agricole et alimentaire dans le monde a permis d'enregistrer des améliorations sensibles par rapport aux deux années précédentes, 1973 et 1974, pendant lesquelles la crise alimentaire se manifesta de façon plus aiguë et préoccupante.

En particulier, la donnée concernant le taux annuel d'accroissement des productions alimentaires dans les pays en voie de développement, "clef de voûte pour résoudre le problème alimentaire mondial", est particulièrement intéressante: ce taux au cours des trois dernières années a été de 4,1 pour cent, dépassant de peu par conséquent 4 pour cent, considéré comme limite minimum d'accroissement pour assurer la possibilité de succès à la stratégie internationale du développement agricole.

Toutefois, cette amélioration est due en grande partie aux conditions atmosphériques favorables qui se sont vérifiées pendant ces années plutôt qu'à une hausse qualitative des conditions structurelles de l'agriculture dans ces pays. La Délégation italienne espère que cette allure positive n'incitera pas certains gouvernements à retarder la mise en oeuvre de la solution des problèmes endémiques de l'agriculture nationale. Il est certain que dans plusieurs pays en voie de développement les investissements agricoles pour la mise en valeur des productions locales visant à atteindre un niveau adéquat d'auto-suffisance alimentaire, ont été inférieurs aux prévisions. En effet, dans les pays où la densité démographique est plus élevée, le taux de développement de production alimentaire est resté bien au-dessous de l'objectif minimum de développement agricole prévu.

Naturellement, le conjoncture favorable a exercé son influence sur les prix des produits agricoles en inversant la tendance à l'augmentation qui avait caractérisé les deux années précédentes.

Pendant les deux années 1973 et 1974, les raisons d'échanges entre produits industriels et produits agricoles s'étaient sensiblement améliorées en faveur des deuxièmes jusqu'à atteindre environ 40 pour cent; actuellement cet avantage a été ramené à 18 pour cent, même si au cours des premiers mois de 1977 on a pu vérifier une légère reprise. Après l'essor de 1973-1974, les prix des produits alimentaires en effet ont augmenté dans une moindre mesure que ce soit au cours de l'année 1975 ou 1976.

La conséquence la plus importante de ce retour aux raisons d'échange défavorable d'avant 1973 est constituée par un certain relâchement des investissements dans le secteur agricole. "Les prix des produits agricoles se vengent", a dit au commencement de 1975 notre ancien Ministre de l'agriculture, le Sénateur Medici, qui a été d'ailleurs président de la Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation; mais cette vengeance a représenté une stimulation salutaire pour les investissements, la recherche, l'expansion des cultures agricoles, etc. A vrai dire, à l'heure actuelle, le retour l'ancienne tendance risque de retarder le rachat d'un secteur dont l'importance cependant commence à être reconnue par tout le monde.

En effet, dans les pays industrialisés, mais même dans certaines zones du tiers monde, le rôle que l'agriculture peut jouer dans le développement économique a été, au cours des dernières années, révisé et revalorisé. Ceci non seulement à cause du poids que ce facteur peut avoir au stade du "take off" économique, mais surtout parce qu'une gestion correcte des investissements, des technologies, des systèmes de cultures peut éviter, ou du moins contenir, les effroyables déséquilibres que les Etats et les sociétés ont dû supporter au stade de l'industrialisation.

Cet intérêt renouvelé à l'égard du secteur agricole impose donc aux organisations internationales et particulièrement à la FAO une stratégie nouvelle et plus raffinée pour illustrer les dangers pouvant découler d'un développement déséquilibré au détriment de l'agriculture, et aussi les avantages résultant de l'amélioration des raisons d'échange en faveur des produits agricoles de base, ceci toutefois au moyen d'un mécanisme tel que le "Commodity agreements" capable d'éviter que la revalorisation des prix alimentaires soit cause d'inflation et pèse exclusivement sur les consommateurs.

On a pu aussi constater que l'allure favorable de la situation agricole et alimentaire a permis la reconstitution espérée des stocks, surtout des stocks de céréales.

Malgré tout cela et malgré les progrès incontestables vérifiés pendant ces années, surtout dans le domaine de l'information, on est encore loin de ce système de sécurité alimentaire mondiale qui reste l'objectif le plus ambitieux et significatif de la Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation de novembre 1974.

Il faut bien dire que les appels réitérés pour une sécurité alimentaire plus efficace et pour une solidarité internationale plus active sont passés surtout après la crise alimentaire de 1973-1974 et la Conférence sur l'alimentation qui a eu lieu en même temps, les principes abstraits et des interventions fragmentaires, à une présence plus cohérente sur la scène mondiale.

Le renforcement du rôle que l'agriculture joue dans le développement économique est capable de donner une nouvelle vigueur au niveau international à ces appels et de contribuer à libérer l'humanité de la terrible incertitude quant à la disponibilité d'aliments.

En ce qui concerne les sources d'énergie dans le secteur agricole et je me réfère plus particulièrement au rapport sur la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture 1976, il paraît clair que le pétrole restera pour le moment une source d'énergie qu'on ne pourra pas remplacer. Toutefois, tandis que les pays industrialisés sont à même de consacrer dès à présent des capitaux importants à la recherche de sources d'énergie de rechange et possèdent d'ailleurs la structure technologique pour atteindre des résultats appréciables, il semble que les pays qui accèdent à l'industrialisation rencontrent encore dans cette voie de grandes difficultés.

Notre pays aussi connaît bien ces difficultés. La Délégation italienne voudrait répéter qu'en ce qui concerne les consommations d'énergie pour la fabrication de moyens de production (inputs) pour les activités agricoles et pour la gestion de ces activités, les données exposées sont très importantes et intéressantes et qu'il serait par conséquent souhaitable que les consommations correspondantes d'énergie exprimées en termes de pétrole aient la plus large diffusion scientifique et publique dans les pays importateurs de pétrole. Celle parce que les consommations de cette source d'énergie se traduisent généralement en solde négatif dans la balance commerciale des pays respectifs.

K, ANDERSEN (Denmark): Once more the Secretariat has prepared a useful report on outstanding problems in the world agricultural situation. The overall picture may seem bright with an estimated increase in world food production in 1976 of 4 percent. As for developing countries, it is also encouraging that the longer term trends point to an average increase in food production of 0.6 percent in the period 1970-76 which is above the annual growth of population of 2,3 percent. These figures are, however, average global figures and the picture is much less bright when you look into the problem areas, the LDCs and the MSAs.

We are particularly grateful to the Secretariat for having provided the analysis in paragraphs 21-24 and tables 2 and 3 in the Report. Of equal importance is the information supplied in tables 6 and 7 showing development in the per capita production for capital energy supplies in developing countries.

It is alarming to read in paragraph 61 that the total population of countries, where dietary energy supplies are below the requirements, still remains at a level of about 1 250 million.

We commend the Secretariat on the clear information provided on this matter, and we would ask the Secretariat in the future State of Agriculture to concentrate even more on the situation in the problem areas, LDCs and MSAs. The object of progress should be not only to get a better understanding and call more attention to the situation in those countries, but to bring about a shift in emphasis to increase the amount of assets going into those countries. This could eventually lead to overall revision of allocation of aid. We would welcome discussion on this point.

We share the concern about the decline in official commitments of external assets to agriculture shown in table 18. We have also noted from paragraph 115 the observation that donors need to give much greater priority to the agricultural lending in terms of quantity and in terms of borrowing if the minimum production target is to be reached. We would even tend to go a step further and recommend a more selective policy giving higher priority to LDCs and MSAs. This problem is discussed in paragraph 117 which states that poor countries have been receiving smaller per capita commitments for agriculture than the relatively better off ones, in particular the per capita above \$300. Clearly there is a case for consideration of reallocation of available resources on terms to the benefit of the poorest countries. Better off countries, as mentioned in paragraph 116, may have the possibility of obtaining loans on the private capital market.

On the Chapter on Food Aid, paragraphs 121 - 123, we would express the hope that the target of \$950 million for 1979-80 will be approved by the Conference and the General Assembly and achieved. We also hope the CFA under the leadership of the new Executive Director would take a lead in preparing a coherent food aid policy. We welcome the progress in the establishment of international emergency reserves. We feel a need to clarify the role and function of the reserves in relation to the World Food Programme and the assistance provided by the latter.

We wish to state our support for international commodity agreements and finally would express the hope that the multilateral trade negotiations conducted under the auspices of GATT will be brought to a successful conclusion in the near future.

B.E. MATAMOROS HUECK (Nicaragua): Mi delegación desea felicitar a la Secretaría, por el esfuerzo que ha realizado al preparar este documento. Sin embargo, señor Presidente, tal como lo han expresado otras delegaciones, consideramos que algunas estimaciones hechas por la Secretaría son simples formulas y que algunas veces no se corresponden con la situación real de los países en desarrollo.

Por otro lado también, señor Presidente, mi delegación no comparte algunas de las estimaciones que resultan indicadas en este documento.

A criterio nuestro, Sr. Presidente, las perspectivas de la producción mundial de alimentos, tal como figura en este documento en el párrafo del 1 al 4, han aumentado por debajo del aumento de la población y para 1977 será inferior al crecimiento de la población mundial. En este contexto, Sr. Presidente, es de particular preocupación que para 1977/78 la ayuda alimentaria aún no alcanzará el objetivo de los 10 millones de toneladas de asistencia alimentaria establecida por la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación, y que también, Sr. Presidente, las contribuciones a la Reserva Internacional de Emergencia de 500.000 toneladas hasta ahora sólo se han alcanzado los tres quintos de esa meta.

En relación al párrafo 6, Sr. Presidente, del documento C 77/2, Sup. 1, en los aspectos relativos al comercio de los productos agropecuarios, es para mi delegación muy preocupante la situación de los países en desarrollo. A criterio nuestro, la situación de nuestras exportaciones en 1975 fue estacionaria y los ligeros aumentos para 1976 no bastaron para compensar el incremento en los precios de nuestras importaciones.

Esta situación, según nosotros, ha sido determinada por la excepcional inestabilidad en los precios de los productos agrícolas exportados por los países en desarrollo en los dos últimos años, lo cual ha afectado gravemente nuestra balanza de pagos y se ha alcanzado la cifra record de nuestras ventas externas por la cantidad de 190 000 millones de dólares.

Consideramos, Sr. Presidente, que la solución de los problemas que afectan a la producción y el comercio de los productos agrícolas va enfrentada ofreciendo mejores condiciones financieras y de

asistencia técnica a los países en desarrollo, con objeto de incrementar la producción y la transformación de los productos agropecuarios. En cuanto al comercio, consideramos que la aplicación de medidas proteccionistas y otras medidas respectivas al comercio, son los obstáculos que mayormente los obstaculizan.

Creemos, Sr. Presidente, que en este contexto el alcance del objetivo del orden económico internacional podría mejorar esta situación. Y concretamente, en relación a algunos productos que menciona este documento, como el párrafo 19, que se refiere a la carne, creemos que el mercado mundial de este producto ha sido caracterizado siempre por una estabilidad. Creemos que cuando el precio de este producto ha aumentado se ha recurrido a medidas artificiales a fin de disminuir su valor en los mercados. Consideramos que las directrices de la cooperación internacional formuladas aquí en la FAO sería uno de los instrumentos que pudieran solucionar este problema.

En relación al párrafo 20, que se refiere a las tortas y a los productos oleaginosos de aceite vegetal, creemos que la concesión de subvenciones para la utilización de otros productos para el alimento del ganado, y haciendo que la mantequilla de la leche sea más barata que los aceites vegetales, también han afectado a las exportaciones de los países en desarrollo.

En cuanto a los fertilizantes y los plaguicidas, consideramos que son determinantes para incrementar la producción en los países en desarrollo y nos preocupa particularmente que dentro del plan internacional de suministros de fertilizantes haya disminuido la asistencia a los países en desarrollo, particularmente a los más gravemente afectados durante el período 1976/77. La propuesta de opción que presentó la Comisión de fertilizantes en sus discusiones y que figura en su Informe, y que a través de la misma asegura el precio a los importadores de los países en desarrollo, a las mismas condiciones del mercado externo de los países productores, sería una medida que debería ser aplicada para todos los países en desarrollo importadores, y particularmente, a los países en desarrollo más seriamente afectados.

En cuanto a los aspectos relativos a la seguridad alimentaria mundial, consideramos que se deben encontrar los mecanismos de asistencia multilateral a fin de constituir las estructuras para desarrollar la capacidad de reserva en los países en desarrollo, así como darlas la asistencia financiera necesaria.

En cuanto a las actividades de la FAO relativas a las políticas de productos, consideramos que tiene una función muy importante a desarrollar, sea a nivel nacional contribuyendo a formular nuestras políticas nacionales, sea también a nivel internacional y en sus relaciones con otros organismos internacionales especializados, con los cuales consideramos que debe tener una íntima y estrecha vinculación y compenetración como son las actividades que desarrollan el marco de la UNCTAD y el CACJ.

Creemos que la experiencia y la función que la FAO puede desarrollar es extremadamente importante, sobre todo para la preparación, elaboración y cumplimiento de acuerdos sobre productos. También creemos que la FAO puede desarrollar una función muy importante en el recogimiento, el análisis y la distribución de datos sobre los mercados, y preparar informes sobre productos sectoriales, así como las proyecciones y dar información en este sentido a los países en desarrollo, particularmente a los que carecen de este tipo de estructura.

También hemos escuchado con suma atención las intervenciones de la delegación de Dinamarca; algunos aspectos de ella, los consideramos muy pertinentes, particularmente en lo que se refiere a condiciones más favorables de crédito y financiamiento para todos los países en desarrollo.

A. HJULSTAD (Norway): After a period of uncertainty with regard to food production our present situation seems more prosperous, but in spite of this undernutrition still is the greatest problem in our world, particularly in the developing countries, and strong efforts have to be made to improve the situation. In particular, I should like to stress the lack of food security which has not been sufficiently improved as a consequence of increased supplies. The ongoing discussions in the International Wheat Council on a new agreement including a food aid convention however is hoped for the future. Reserve stocks must be built up in developing countries as well as in developed countries to secure supplies and level off fluctuations both with regard to prices and supplies. A food aid convention aiming at a minimum quantity of 10 million tons of wheat will be a necessary element in the food aid policy for many years to come, and the same concerns the emergency reserve stocks of 500 000 tons. In addition to grain stocks of different kinds, production of other food stuffs for the purpose of food aid must be secured and we must try to avoid using food aid as a method of getting rid of temporary surpluses.

In conclusion I should like to underline that food aid, important as it is, and will be, must not impede our efforts to increase food production in the developing countries themselves.

Ms D. KOENIG (Germany, Federal Republic of) (Interpretation from German): First of all I would like to join the previous speakers in thanking the Secretariat. On this point of the Agenda we now have two clear and comprehensive documents and a statistical supplement informing us about the actual present state of affairs in a very clear manner. The supplementary document with the latest information, confirms the present assessment of the overall situation. All in all the world food situation in 1977/78 will not change to any noticeable extent compared with the previous year. The grain supplies available to supply the market are adequate. A further increase in grain stocks - less in the case of wheat - may be expected. The world wheat trade should increase considerably and lead to an increase in prices. Supplies of protein feedstuffs will be much better than in 1976/77. Sugar and milk markets are characterized by continuing surpluses, and there are no major changes in production to be expected in the meat market.

However one must not look at the production and supply situation purely on a world-wide basis. One has to make also regional differentiation and document C 77/2, in particular in paragraphs 21-24 and . 58-63, refers to the existing problems. The first preliminary estimates indicate that in 1977 a lower increase of agricultural production is to be expected in developing countries compared with the favourable results of the last three years. The situation in particular in the MSA or food priority countries is not yet satisfactory. That is why the WFC has asked these countries to make concrete proposals for the increase in production that is needed. In our view this is the basic condition for an increased use of external aid as well. These pledges continuously increased from 1971 to 1975 from \$1,1 - 5.7 billion. Document C 77/4 "Review of Field Programmes" asks the reasons for stagnating or even slightly decreasing pledges of agricultural development aid for 1976. It is believed that one reason is that the quick rise in aid has exceeded the availability of suitable projects. That is why it is a condition for further improvement of agricultural aid and cooperation that the recipient countries should further develop their absorption capacities and submit suitable projects.

As regards the recommendations of the World Food Council in paragraph 124 of document C 77/2, I would like to remind you that the World Food Council has not accepted its Secretariat's estimate of external aid of \$8.3 million, but only considered it. My Government's concerns about such abstract figures without convincing reasons are well known.

We can judge in a positive way the increase in food aid to now almost 10 million tons of grains and the development of world trade in agricultural products. The share of developing countries in the world agricultural trade has further increased. Their export earnings for most agricultural products have increased to a much greater extent than those of most developed countries. We see a particularly favourable development in the fact that trade conditions for processed products have considerably improved for developing countries. My Government has always attached great importance to trade with developing countries. Almost 50 percent of our total agricultural imports from countries outside the EEC are from developing countries.

LI YUNG-KAI (China) (interpretation from Chinese): We are glad to note that since 1975 world food and agricultural production has made some progress. And in particular food production in this world has increased for two years in succession. Facts have borne out that only when food production is developed can the peoples livelihood be guaranteed and animal husbandry, forestry, fishery, and various cash crops be expanded accordingly. As we all depend on food supplies this in turn will promote an all round development of agricultural production and give support to industry. Only when food production is developed and self-sufficiency in food gradually achieved, can the super power's control plunder and blackmail by means of food be shaken off, which is indispensable to a country in safeguarding her political independence and developing her national economy. However food still remains a problem in the Third World. The level of food production and consumption in many Third World countries lags behind that of the developed countries and food deficiency and malnutrition are still to be found in many places.

Document C 77/2 points out that a substantial acceleration of the rate of growth of food production in the developing countries and especially in the most seriously affected countries remains the overriding priority. We hold that effective measures must be taken to energetically increase food production and gradually achieve food self-sufficiency in one's own country or region. Meanwhile it is essential to draw a lesson from the serious consequences of soaring food prices to many developing countries during the shortage of food supplies the world market after 1972. The super powers must never again be allowed to profit by the temporary difficulties of some countries in food grains. Since last winter China's agricultural production has been affected successively by such natural calamities as serious winter frost, spring drought, excessive summer rains and typhoons. As China has a large land area natural calamities of one kind or another occur every year whether in the south or in the north. To this our consistent attitude is: first we don't fear them; second we combat them resolutely.

The Chinese people have full confidence in conquering natural disasters because we are guided by Chairman Mao's revolutionary line. We have accumulated experience over long years in winning good harvests in spite of natural disasters and we have laid a solid and ever-expanding foundation in farm land capital construction with which to resist calamities and ensure good harvests.

Under the leadership of Chairman Hua the 800 million Chinese people, united as one and working diligently, have waged arduous struggles against natural disasters and greatly reduced the losses by carrying out large-scale farmland capital construction and conducting farming in a scientific way. At present we are adopting measures aimed at greater annual increases in grain productions so that we can expand the scale of our construction, improve our people's livelihood and increase our grain reserves step by step while at the same time meeting the needs of our growing population for food.

Finally, I would like to make a few brief comments on the issue of agricultural investment. We have always stood for the principle of relying mainly on one's own efforts while seeking external assistance as an auxiliary. In developing production one must rely mainly on one's own efforts and accumulate the funds needed. All external investment and assistance must be provided on a basis of strictly respecting the sovereignty of the recipient countries. This should be conducive to the self-reliance of the developing countries and have no political strings attached. Priority in agricultural investments and assistance should be given to developing countries with serious food problems. It is common knowledge that agricultural production has a comparatively long cycle and is not so stable. Therefore agricultural investment should be offered on more favourable terms. We are also of the view that all countries, big or small, are entitled to participate on an equal footing in discussion and decision-making on the principles and policies of agricultural investment. No control or manipulation by super-Powers should be permitted. China is a developing socialist country. While developing our agriculture by self-reliance and hard struggle, we are ready to enhance our economic and technical cooperation with other Third-World countries, joining them in extending experience, helping and learning from one another and advancing together, thus making a greater contribution to mankind.

D. DANG MEKOULA (Cameroun): Puisque la délégation du Cameroun prend la parole pour la première fois au sein de cette Commission, nous voudrions saisir cette occasion pour adresser à notre tour, à vous-même et à tous les vice-présidents, nos plus vives félicitations pour votre élection. Nous voudrions également adresser nos félicitations et nos remerciements au Directeur général pour l'excellente présentation du document C 77/2 et du supplément C 77/2-Sup. 1 qui le complète. Dans leur forme concise et précise, ces deux documents nous permettent de nous faire une idée claire sur la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1977.

L'examen de ces deux documents révèle que, considérée dans son ensemble, la situation de la production agricole et alimentaire à l'échelon mondial s'est améliorée de façon significative et que des progrès appréciables ont été enregistrés dans les pays en développement pris globalement. Malheureusement, pour le continent africain, cette image d'ensemble, qui pousse quelque peu à l'optimisme, est ternie par des données et autres informations qui révèlent clairement que le processus de l'accroissement de la production alimentaire ne s'amorce que très timidement, à quelques exceptions près.

C'est dire que, pour les masses rurales et urbaines d'Afrique, la lutte contre la faim, la misère, la malnutrition et le sous-développement devra encore être engagée avec beaucoup plus de vigueur et que l'assistance de la FAO devra encore prendre une plus grande dimension.

Les délégués qui m'ont précédé ont souligné avec brio que, pour parvenir à une réelle sécurité alimentaire dans les pays pauvres, le seul recours valable reste la nécessité d'accroître la production des denrées dans ces pays au taux de 4 pour cent par an.

L'importance des facteurs de production, la nécessité d'asseoir, au niveau national, des politiques dynamiques d'expansion du secteur agricole et alimentaire, l'impact de l'investissement dans le secteur agricole, thème central de nos délibérations, ont retenu toute notre attention. Par conséquent, nous ne nous y attarderons pas.

Pour revenir à l'Afrique, notre délégation voudrait attirer l'attention de notre Commission et aussi celle de la Conférence, sur un aspect tout aussi important de l'investissement qui, à vrai dire, n'a pas toujours bénéficié de l'intérêt qu'il mérite lors de nos délibérations; nous pensons ici aux infrastructures de transport et de commercialisation pour le continent africain.

L'analyse faite dans le document C 77/2 souligne clairement, au paragraphe 22, que l'Afrique reste encore loin derrière dans le processus amorcé dans le domaine de l'accroissement de la production alimentaire.

Cette situation triste, qui procède à plusieurs égards du fait que notre continent englobe le plus de pays les moins avancés, le plus de pays les plus gravement touchés par la crise économique, le plus de pays enclavés et semi-enclavés est donc préoccupante.

Vous vous en doutez, le continent africain dispose encore de vastes zones vides aux potentialités sylvo-agro-pastorales incontestables; mais en l'absence d'infrastructures de communications, routes, chemins de fer et autres, ces zones enclavées restent sous-exploitées ou incultes. De plus, l'insuffisance et souvent l'inexistence d'infrastructures de transport et de communications en Afrique ont toujours constitué un obstacle puissant au développement des échanges intra-africains.

C'est face à cette situation que le Groupe des 19, à la Conférence sur la coopération économique internationale, à Paris, Conférence Nord-Sud, a proposé un plan supra-national de désenclavement et plus précisément le lancement d'une décennie pour le développement des transports et communications pour le continent africain. Le Conseil économique et social a été, semble-t-il, saisi de ce programme et l'Assemblée générale l'examinera aussi.

Beaucoup de délégations, en session plénière, ont marqué leur appui au lancement de cette décennie. C'est donc en raison de l'intérêt que notre délégation accorde à l'aboutissement du programme et à l'accroissement de la production agricole, à la sécurité alimentaire, à l'amélioration du bien-être économique et social des populations concernées, que nous suggérons que notre Commission, et pourquoi pas la dix-neuvième session de la Conférence de la FAO, appuie vigoureusement cette initiative et que notre Organisation saisisse les instances compétentes par des voies appropriées aux fins de faire aboutir le processus de lancement de cette décennie.

Je m'excuse d'avoir été si long, mais la portée du sujet m'y obligeait.

S.H. AL-SHAKIR (Iraq) (interpretation from Arabic): May I thank the Secretariat for the excellence of document C 77/2 and its supplement, concerning the state of food and agriculture. This document contains extremely useful information for us and gives a certain amount of hope with respect to the world food situation, with particular reference to the increase of stockpiles of grain and also the international world food security scheme. The present situation, which is somewhat optimistic, should not lead us to relax our efforts to increase foodstuffs production throughout the world, because we all know that the increase in production has not been evenly distributed between the various countries involved. Certain countries, MSAs and LDCs, and the Sahelian countries in Africa, the third group, have not seen their agricultural production go up significantly.

Among the countries which have been seriously affected over the last few years we have to include my own country, Iraq, and that is why we are attempting to concentrate our efforts upon those areas where the rainfall is fairly high and fairly certain, because we believe that in those areas we can guarantee gradually to raise the production to reasonable heights.

Agricultural production in our country has also been affected by the increase in price of the agricultural machinery necessary for development. In spite of this we hope to improve the production rate and to raise the growth rate in agricultural yields for all foodstuffs, particularly staple foodstuffs. All of this is part of a generalized national plan to lead the struggle against malnutrition and hunger.

We hope that this Organization and other specialized agencies of the United Nations family will have a major role to play in carrying out surveys and studies on specific problems in the developing countries, particularly the MSAs, and it is also their role to encourage those countries and to guide them in setting up valid programmes.

E. SAENZ (Colombia): Siguiendo la tónica con que la delegación de Colombia ha venido actuando no sólo en los debates de esta Comisión, sino en otras sesiones de trabajo, seremos muy breves.

En los sectores más pobres del mundo existe hambre y malnutrición y es justamente en estos países donde nosotros consideramos que hay que dar prioridad para la producción de alimentos, tratando de llegar a metas importantes de autoabastecimiento. Los países de mediano desarrollo también deben ser tenidos en cuenta incentivándolos para que produzcan más y puedan tener excedentes que vayan al mercado internacional y se aproveche de ello para que lo compren los países necesitados, así como aquellos países que ofrecen ayudas en productos alimentarios.

Registramos el informe de la Secretaría cuando nos dice que la previsión en las cosechas para 1977 son buenas y que también lo han sido las cosechas del año 1975 y 1976.

En relación con el punto de Fertilizantes, vemos cómo ha aumentado su utilización; pero nos preocupa el aumento permanente en los costos de la producción de los mismos que, en consecuencia, va a dar mayor precio a los productos agrícolas. Pensamos debe hacerse algo a este respecto, y como lo manifestó el delegado de los Estados Unidos de América en la Comisión de Fertilizantes, la técnica debe aplicarse no sólo para que se produzcan fertilizantes, sino también en sus máquinas, para que no sea tan gravoso producirlos. Hacemos un llamado a este fin y consideramos que los países en desarrollo que ofrezcan infraestructuras aceptables o estén cercanos a ella, deben tener prioridad en la instalación de nuevas plantas productoras de fertilizantes.

Finalmente esperamos que el desarrollo agrícola sea consecuente con la productividad misma y que ésta ayude a combatir el hambre y la malnutrición en forma positiva y pronta.

EL PRESIDENTE: Ya no tengo más oradores inscritos en la lista. A mi juicio este tema es quizá el más importante de nuestra agenda; del que pueden surgir recomendaciones que en relación con la situación agrícola y alimentaria del mundo podrían tener repercusiones no sólo en las políticas nacionales sino en otras Organizaciones Internacionales. Estoy seguro que muchos de ustedes están pensando en intervenir.

T.J. KELLY (Australia): Nobody could fail to respond to such a delicate plea, and I do so not only seriously and in order to make a few observations on behalf of Australia but also to give brother delegates some time, if they would like to have it, this afternoon to think about their own interventions.

This being Australia's first intervention, we too congratulate you warmly, Sir, upon your election; and we would like to say, as others have done, that we are very happy indeed with the Secretariat documents the quality of which I think is sufficiently illustrated by the substantial nature of the discussion which it has provoked.

Turning now to the subject of the world state of food and agriculture, which you have rightly identified as being so important to all of us, we in the Australian delegation share the satisfaction of others in the apparent improvement in the world situation and outlook, and equally we accept and endorse the thought that this remains well short of what is needed.

I think there is little point in going over again ground which has already been covered by other delegates and which perhaps may account for the fact that there are at this stage fewer interventions than we might have expected. In other words, it has all been said, and said well.

May I perhaps inject a complementary note to what has been said about the needs of developing countries, the importance of both the agricultural aspects, including fertilizer inputs and technology, and draw to the attention of delegates the thought that, as the delegate of Kenya has pointed out, there is a real need for agricultural production to comprehend both food crops and cash crops, and I make this point because it is important in the total world food situation.

In the developing countries which have some capacity for expanding production, the situation for the producer is comparable to the situation which we broadly describe as world hunger, which is simply the aggregate of a lot of hungry people. Now any country's food production is the aggregate of what will be produced by all the farmers who are producers in that community. The point I am coming to is that for a producer to continue his investment he needs to be able to pick up in his domestic market or in the context in which we are speaking, the world market, an adequate return for his considerable investment and his labour.

I do not want to make any more of the point than that except to say that in this overall problem and dilemma that we face we need to be sure that moving out of the agricultural field into what is described as the international trade field there remains sufficient incentive to the man who is capable of producing to keep him in the field.

Other than that, if I were to continue I would be repeating what has been said by others and I see little point in that.

A. ANDERSON (Sweden): It is a matter of gratification that the last two years have witnessed a considerable improvement on the food and agriculture front. Both developing and developed countries have shared the increase more or less immediately.

In my country, Sweden, the cereal output during the last two years was higher than the levels attained earlier. It has, of course, not been so much in the international context. Sweden is a small country but it gives us the feeling at home that the general situation has become better. At the same time, we are aware that for hundreds of people lack of food is a daily reality.

After this general opening, my delegation wants to underline that it has two rather different questions in relation to the State of Food and Agriculture.

The first and most important is, of course, the agricultural production in developing countries. They have made a rigorous effort in the adaptation of modern technology which, in many cases, has helped to strengthen their capacity. Several developing countries are on the way to a good position, to self-sufficiency. Other developing countries, however, still have a very long way to go.

We learn from Table 1 in Document C 77/2-Sup.1 that the average increase of the agricultural production in the developing market economy is low and, what is worse, much lower now than two years ago. These facts underline the need for investment in agriculture, especially in the least developed countries. Here we touch upon the Council's invitation to the heads of delegations to give particular attention in their statements to investment in agriculture. Very important information has now been provided on this subject in the Plenary.

The second important question in relation to the international state of food and agriculture is the production - or, better, in this context, the resources for production in the developed countries. There has been a large expansion in the developed market economies during the last year as shown in document C 77/2, and commented on by nearly all of us. The good harvests in 1975 and 1976 and the rather good prospects for 1977 may, because of the fall in price decreases and the increases in stock, be a reason for contracting production. To be short, here I will refer to the Danish delegation which said, just a few minutes ago:

"We wish to state our support for international commodity agreements and would finally express the hope that the multilateral trade negotiations conducted under the auspices of GATT will be brought to a successful conclusion in the near future."

P. MASUD (Pakistan): While making my original statement to the Commission, I was feeling very guilty that I had taken up too much time but I now find that there is plenty of time and I would like to introduce a new concept which the Conference might like to consider. I am very sorry if I am repeating myself but I feel that this is a very important subject which deserves emphasis. The optimal development of food and agricultural production in developing countries does not only entail the provision of increased material and financial resources. It also calls for a re-examination of existing investment patterns and planning in agriculture and related sectors. It is now being increasingly recognized that due to changes in dropping intensities and production technology the existing pattern of investment must significantly change in the future. After all, development depends on a much broader process of capital accumulation than a simple accumulation of physical capital. Above all, investment is required in human skills and resources, the most abundant and precious resource in developing countries, as also in the right kind of technological changes, in the creation of institutions and also adequate managerial and organizational capacities. In view of scarce capital resources ways and means to increase the use of labour for capital formation at the farm level need also to be carefully investigated. These are some of the additional investment considerations at the national level which the experts might like to consider.

P. GRIFFIN (Ireland): As this is the first time my delegation has spoken I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your election as Chairman of this Commission and to compliment you on the way in which you are carrying out your duties. Secondly, my intervention is prompted by two things. One is the temporary probably scarcity of volunteers to speak and the other is the last intervention of the delegate of Pakistan, who mentioned the importance of human resources in relation to agricultural investment and, of course, it is closely inter-related with the subject which we are discussing.

In his statement yesterday my Minister touched on this question and highlighted the importance of cooperation and also, when dealing with production, of ensuring that the smallest farmer is involved. This is something to which we attach a great deal of importance.

First of all this can be facilitated through cooperation and, secondly, through the appropriate technology. I might refer in this connexion to Page 37 on which the activities of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes are referred to. There is a reference there to the need for diversifying the food aid basket by providing adequate quantities of commodities other than cereals so as to improve nutritional standards in developing countries. It refers to the suggestions made by many delegates that records should be increasingly improved to purchase within the developing countries with a view to encouraging local production. In fact, this was stressed by a great many delegates and it is the general view of that Committee that this is an important way of helping the developing countries' production.

In relation to the point made by the delegate of Pakistan on human resources, and still on the question of food aid, this may not be very strictly relevant but it is a point which I think should be borne in mind. That is the importance of human resources as an investment. That sounds a rather cold way to describe aid of a kind which is being given bilaterally and multi-laterally. But the point about this type of aid - I am speaking now of the type of feeding programmes which are given both bilaterally and multilaterally - is that not only does it feed people who are hungry but it is, in fact, one of the most important investments which can be made in agriculture inasmuch as it obviates permanent mental and physical incapacity in children, say, in the early ages from birth up to two or three years. If malnutrition is corrected there this can have permanent effects. It is something which is obviously humanitarian in the first place but it is also an excellent investment in agricultural development.

Also, in his earlier intervention the delegate of Pakistan mentioned two of the factors which have led to the improvement in the present situation, one of them being weather; he also stressed the credit which is due to the developing countries. This is credit which we should be very ready to give. It is very encouraging and something to be greatly welcomed to see that the developing countries have, in fact, discharged the responsibilities which lie on them, as on the developed countries, to give priority to this important activity. It was universally recognized by the World Food Conference that the only way of solving the world food problem is by appropriate priority being given by the developing countries and assistance being given by the developed countries, because otherwise there is no way in which the problem can be solved.

It seems that prima facie his suggestion that FAO should try to analyse the proportion of improvement which is due to the efforts of developing countries might not be practicable. It might be regarded as a subjective kind of exercise and subjective views might be taken of it, and if it were possible to make an estimate it would certainly be interesting, but I am not sure that it would be very effective.

P. MEHDIZADEH (Iran): I should like to refer to the points raised by the delegate of Pakistan and the delegate of Ireland to some extent, but I would particularly like to refer to the process of development in many countries and the labour movement from one sector to another. In the case of the least developed countries, most of the labour forces are in agriculture, and when development takes place there is labour movement from agriculture to industry and from industry and mechanization to services. The point is that when there is a labour movement from agriculture to industry the machinery which is supposed to replace the labour previously in agriculture is very expensive in most cases, and the services for the machinery are not available in many remote areas. This means that sometimes the agricultural projects are more expensive.

Although I should like to compliment the Secretariat on the preparation of the document, there is no very substantial emphasis on prices. There must be a proper balance in prices between the production of agricultural commodities and the actual labour and capital going into that production. Therefore, I should like to echo the suggestion made by my delegation in Council sessions and in the Fertilizers Committee that we should find a balance between the price of chemical fertilizers and the machinery and hardware which we use in agriculture.

As the delegate of Pakistan said, if we want to produce more and produce efficiently, we have to be competitive in world markets, and therefore our prices must be such that the production is profitable for the farmer.

EL PRESIDENTE: Ahora sí que parece que no tenemos más oradores inscritos. Quizá si dejáramos el week-end, muchas delegaciones tendrían oportunidad de reflexionar sobre lo que hoy se ha oído y perfilar a lo mejor algunas intervenciones. Veo que hay muchas cabezas que asienten esta propuesta, de manera que si no hay otras observaciones, vamos a cambiar nuestro Calendario; vamos a dejar libre el sábado en la tarde y nos volveríamos a reunir el martes en la mañana para continuar con este mismo tema a las nueve y media.

Antes de concluir, perdón, quisiera referirme al Comité de Redacción, de cuya integración informé a ustedes en la última sesión. Me observan que el número de miembros es de 13 y alguien me dijo que, estas brujas no existen, pero seguro que las hay y entonces, ¿por qué no cambiamos el número y ponemos 14 para evitar un número que no nos gusta a todos? Y pensando en ello, les voy a proponer incorporar a la delegación de Suiza al Comité de Redacción, que siempre ha hecho muchos aportes constructivos y creo que podremos trabajar con ello muy eficientemente también,

P. MEJIA (Secretario de Comisión I): Los países miembros del Comité, para recordarles, son: Australia, Bélgica, Benin, Brasil, Canadá, Cuba, Filipinas, Hungría, Irán, Japón, Kenya, Pakistán, Suiza y Túnez.

EL PRESIDENTE: Bien, señores delegados. Se levanta la sesión.

The meeting rose at 17.00 hours

La séance est levée à 17 heures

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.00 horas

conference

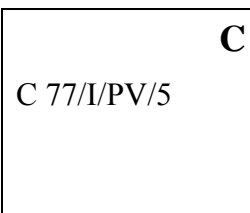
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Nineteenth Session
COMMISSION I

Dix-neuvième session
COMMISSION I

19° período de sesiones
COMISION II

FIFTH MEETING
CINQUIEME SÉANCE
QUINTA SESION

(22 November 1977)

The Fifth Meeting was opened at 09.45 hours
J.C. Vignaud, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La cinquième séance est ouverte à 9 h 45 sous la présidence de
J. C. Vignaud', Président de la Commission I"

Se abre la quinta sesión a las 09.45 horas, bajo la presidencia de
J.C. Vignaud, Presidente de la Comisión I

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

PREMIERE PARTIE -PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET QUESTIONS DE POLITIQUE EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)

PARTE I - PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLÍTICAS DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN (continuaciôri)

6. World Food and Agriculture Situation (continued)

6. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)

6. Situaciôñ alimentaria y agrícola en el muñao (continuacton)

EL PRESIDENTE: Buenos días señores delegados. Continuamos con el Tema 6 de nuestra agenda.

H. RIEM (Netherlands) : I have used only part of the weekend for the purpose you mentioned but we have also had introductory statements and we have had discussions in Plenary which should be taken into account in our discussion here. So I was interested in the Director-General's introductory statement to this Committee and the Director-General said that the state of food and agriculture in the world lies at the very heart of FAO. Also the head of our delegation, the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries said that we should ask ourselves again and again: are we making progress fast enough towards our goal of eradicating hunger and malnutrition?

The documentation on the state of food and agriculture that this Conference has received provides us with data from which we may draw only very general and temporary conclusions I think. The Director-General mentioned that developing market economies as a group actually met the target of 4 percent annual average increase in agriculture production in the period 1974-1976 but that over the longer period from 1970-1976 the rate of increase in food production in developing countries as a group was considerably below that target. We also know that the figures for 1977 will not improve this average. These figures are averages for the developing countries as a group, and in them there are certainly countries that are doing better than the average but also regrettably countries that remain below the average, and it would be worthwhile I think for this Organization to study these differences and analyse them, and analyse also the factors responsible for those differences. In judging the figures also account should be taken of the fact that the statistical average consumption of production per capita figures do very often not provide the decisive answer to the question whether hunger and malnutrition are really diminishing or banished.

There are also the very important questions of distribution of incomes within countries and of information and education in nutrition. These matters require the utmost attention, particularly in countries and in periods when supplies per capita are not abundant.

The Director-General said that these matters would be considered in the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. That would be very welcome but if you think of poor people in the cities, the problem certainly goes beyond the concept of rural development only.

Going back to the main question, I think that this Committee will no doubt conclude that progress is still too slow and that still greater efforts between countries as well as within countries are required to stimulate food production in many developing countries and also to assure the fair distribution and rational utilization of supplies if by 1985 the world is really to approach the ideal of the eradication of hunger and malnutrition.

My delegation thinks the World Food Council at its Third Session has with its programme of action made an important contribution to international cooperation in the field of food and agriculture. As the head of our delegation said in the Plenary we feel that it is the task of FAO to play a leading role in the implementation of that action programme. We are glad to see therefore that the Director-General has now made his preliminary comments known in document 77/24/1, He has given his views on the implications for FAO of the recommendations of the World Food Council. The implications of the Programme of Action which has now been confirmed by the General Assembly of the United Nations, the implication for FAO and the comments of the Director-General certainly require further consideration, in particular in connection with FAO's own Programme of Work for the next biennium. It is somewhat unsatisfactory that there has not been an earlier possibility to do this but we assume that FAO Council will take the issue on the Agenda of its next Session. We agree with the Director-General that in the meantime the Committee on World Food Security and other FAO Committees should consider sections of the Programme of Action that fall within their competence. The Committee on World Food Security should continue to

serve in general as a programme for discussions on progress towards increased World Food Security, in particular through the implementation of the provisions of the undertaking on world food security. It is regrettable that still two very large countries which again this year exercised a major influence on world food markets by their policy and because of their crop results, remain outside the activities of the Committee.

An urgent matter in the opinion of my Government is also the negotiation and conclusion of an international grains agreement with the double purpose of stabilizing world market prices at a reasonable level and of a further contribution towards food security through somewhat stricter provisions for the coordination of national reserve stocks of food and for food aid operations during the next few years.

Another subject which has to be mentioned in our Committee I think if we have to review developments in the world food and agriculture situation, is the renewed efforts to stabilize world markets for agricultural commodities together with other commodities outside agriculture and within the integrated programme.

My Government is content with the outcome of the UN Sugar Conference even though it was not yet possible to establish a relationship with the EEC. We trust that the international Cocoa and Coffee Organizations will provide effective floors for world market prices of those commodities and my Government will continue to make as positive a contribution as possible towards the conclusion of arrangements for other agricultural commodities. We hope that the establishment of a common fund will facilitate the conclusion of such arrangements in the framework of an integrated programme for commodities. We consider that the preparatory discussions in several of FAO's intergovernmental commodity groups play a useful role. We also think that the CCP should review and coordinate the activities of those groups and should from time to time review and discuss general principles with regard to trade and agricultural commodities. We think though because one should not lose sight of the fact that production, processing, trade and consumption of agricultural commodities in practically all countries are of such importance both in the satisfaction of the needs of the population for food and fibre and as an occupation and way of life for large sections of that population, that no government can escape from the responsibility for sufficient supplies and fair prices and reasonable income requirements as compared with incomes in other production sectors. This means that national agricultural stabilization policies are required and this in turn necessitates frequent and intensive international cooperation on a world wide basis in which my Government will certainly continue to participate.

S.A.H. Al-Shakir, Vice-Chairman of Commission I, took the Chair

S.A.H. Al-Shakir, Vice-Président de la Commission I, assumé la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia S. A.H. Al-Shakir", Vicepresidente Vicepresidente de la Comisión

J. TROUVEROY (Belgique): La lecture du rapport C 77/IT et de ses deux suppléments dont je tiens ici à féliciter les auteurs, les services de la FAO est à maints égards réconfortante. Si l'on compare en effet les données que contiennent ces documents sur la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1977 avec le rapport sur le même sujet présenté par la FAO à la Conférence de 1975, il y a tout juste deux ans, on ne peut que se réjouir de cette confirmation chiffrée sur l'accroissement de la production alimentaire durant les deux dernières années.

Les tout derniers chiffres que nous possédons à présent sur les récoltes de 1977 confirment cet optimisme: la consommation mondiale, alimentaire a progressé, les stocks céréaliers ont atteint 19 pour cent de la consommation annuelle mondiale, ce qui dépasse les normes recommandées par le Secrétariat de la FAO, comme niveau minimum pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. La consommation d'engrais a augmenté, favorisée par une baisse des prix, et la fabrication des pesticides apparaît à présent suffisante.

Nous pouvons en outre nous féliciter de ce que la plus grande partie de l'accroissement des recettes mondiales a été le fait des économies de marchés en développement. Tout ceci confirme l'effet favorable qu'a incontestablement provoqué le cri d'alarme lancé à la Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation en 1974. Ces faits heureux sont certes dus en partie aux circonstances climatiques favorables, mais ils n'ont pu se consolider que grâce à l'aide internationale prônée et mise en oeuvre notamment par la FAO, et surtout aux efforts des pays en développement eux-mêmes.

Mais, si ce qui vient d'être dit constitue autant de facteurs qui démontrent que la sécurité alimentaire est aujourd'hui satisfaisante, cela ne veut pas dire pour autant que les préoccupations très vives du passé sont à oublier. Bien au contraire, d'une part l'accroissement de la production alimentaire dans les pays en développement considérés dans leur ensemble n'est que de peu supérieur au taux de croissance annuelle de la population, et d'autre part, c'est dans les pays soit le plus gravement touchés, soit les moins avancés, que l'on enregistre l'accroissement le plus faible et même négatif pour certains d'entre eux.

Dès lors, les couches de la population qui souffrent principalement de la faim et de la malnutrition dans ces pays n'ont vraisemblablement par vu leur sort s'améliorer beaucoup et leurs besoins nutritionnels restent énormes. Comme le souligne très pertinemment la FAO au point 24 de son Document C 77/11, il convient d'approfondir les problèmes concernant ces pays qui abritent une population dépassant de loin le milliard d'habitants. La Belgique, comme d'autres pays d'ailleurs, est particulièrement sensible à ces problèmes qui touchent les populations les moins avancées et est déterminée à contribuer à résoudre en priorité les difficultés de ces pays, grâce à des ressources rapidement disponibles leur permettant d'acquérir les semences, les engrais, les pesticides, etc., à un rythme accéléré.

Une autre priorité consiste, comme il l'a été dit, à mettre au point très rapidement les moyens destinés à conserver dans les meilleures conditions possibles, les récoltes engrangées en temps d'abondance.

S'agissant des progrès accomplis dans la production alimentaire depuis le début de la décennie, nous constatons sans doute entre 1970 et 1976 un accroissement annuel de 3 1/2 pour cent dans les pays en développement. Toutefois, un continent l'Afrique, en dépit de bons résultats en 1976, n'a vu sa production alimentaire augmenter depuis 7 ans que de 1,4 pour cent annuellement, ce qui est inférieur au rythme de progression de sa population. Certains pays africains ont même vu leur consommation alimentaire baisser de 5 pour cent par tête d'habitant par rapport à 1970,

A ce propos, qu'il me soit permis de faire référence à ce que nous ont déclaré vendredi dernier les délégués du Niger et du Cameroun quant aux menaces qui continuent à planer sur la région sahélienne, au déficit alimentaire latent et au manque d'infrastructures de transport dans les pays enclaves. Nous voudrions rappeler les efforts faits par la Belgique lors de la catastrophe du Sahel, notamment en ce qui concerne l'acheminement de l'aide alimentaire jusque dans les zones les plus menacées et les plus inaccessibles. Nous restons d'ailleurs très sensibles à ce problème. En effet, au moment où je vous parle, mon pays participe à nouveau à des opérations de secours rendues nécessaires par suite de la sécheresse qui vient de refaire surface.

Tout ceci confirme qu'il est nécessaire qu'une attention toute particulière soit apportée à ce continent où se trouve le plus grand nombre de pays les moins avancés et le plus gravement touchés. Ceci n'empêche pas cependant que d'autres pays en dehors de l'Afrique ne doivent bénéficier d'une assistance renforcée en matière alimentaire.

Par ailleurs, si durant les 4 dernières années les économies de marchés en développement ont réalisé un taux de croissance annuel moyen de 4 pour cent préconisé par la stratégie internationale de développement pour la deuxième décennie des Nations Unies pour le Développement, il faut se rappeler que ce succès est fragile, et les conditions climatiques peu favorables risquent de renverser cette tendance favorable.

A cet égard, il convient d'insister sur l'importance de la 4ème enquête mondiale sur l'alimentation en préparation à la FAO car il est avéré que l'on manque de précisions sur la malnutrition et que cette carence ralentit l'aide qui devrait être apportée aux populations qui sont touchées par elle.

A propos des prix alimentaires, on constate que ceux-ci ont connu en général une décélération dans leur tendance à la hausse des dernières années qui est de nature à favoriser les importations dont ont besoin les pays en développement. Mais, autre aspect favorable, les recettes d'exportations tirées du commerce international des produits agricoles ont cru de façon importante dans les pays en développement alors qu'elles baissaient même dans la plupart des pays développés.

Enfin, l'instabilité des prix dénoncée au paragraphe 87 du document est un élément de très grande importance et la Belgique est d'avis, comme la FAO, que cela risque de devenir une donnée permanente de l'économie des matières premières en général, sinon des produits agricoles.

Cette situation démontre qu'il est nécessaire de prendre des mesures pour circonscrire les fluctuations excessives des coûts des produits. Dans le cadre de l'analyse effectuée par la FAO, la Délégation belge voudrait souligner également la création récente, au sein de la CNUCED, du Comité sur la Coopération économique entre les pays en développement. Il apparaît de plus en plus que la coopération internationale sera axée à l'avenir sur une coopération entre régions. Dès lors, le renforcement de la coopération entre les pays en développement, particulièrement sous l'angle régional, est un facteur de nature à accélérer le développement.

SOEGENG AMAT (Indonesia): The recent improvement in the world of food and agriculture, while highly welcome, certainly should not give cause for any feeling of over-optimism, let alone lull us into complacency. This was emphasized by the Director-General himself in his introduction to the subject under review, as well as by many delegations who have spoken before me. My delegation wishes in this respect to draw attention to a number of disquieting features which deserve to be given our fullest consideration. If in doing so I may be repeating what has been said already by previous speakers I would like to beg your kind indulgence, Mr. Chairman.

First of all, there is the uneven progress made by the two most important food grains, wheat and rice, an uneven development which has already been going on for quite some time. Statistical evidence over the last 15 years demonstrates that while production of wheat has increased by about 60 percent, or 4 per cent per annum, our average output of rice has increased by only 40 percent, or 2.5 percent per annum on the average. Growth rates in demand for wheat in developed countries, where wheat is the staple food, are relatively low, much lower than the 4 percent increase in production. On the other hand, the increase in demand for rice, the staple food for the millions of people in the developing world, is at a much higher rate than 2.5 percent per annum. Such a trend implies that developing rice-eating nations may have to supplement their diet in an increasing measure with grains, particularly with wheat.

This in itself should not concern us too much but for the fact that wheat is grown primarily in the developed world. If such a trend is allowed to continue unchecked many of the developing nations will increasingly have to depend on external supplies, that is, in the form of wheat from the developed world, to meet their food requirements. This underlines the need - the urgent need if I may say so - for all of us, FAO and other international organizations, including lending agencies, to devote increased efforts aimed at promoting the achievement of technological breakthroughs in the agriculture of developing countries producing such staples as rice, maize, cassava, sweet potatoes, groundnuts, soya beans etc.

This calls for considerably more investment to be made by the international world in this sector of agricultural development, including the accelerated development of high-yielding varieties of such crops. Reference to this subject was also made by the Secretary of Agriculture of the Philippines, His Excellency Mr. Arturo R. Tanco, when he addressed the Plenary Session of the Conference last week in his capacity as President of the World Food Council. In his statement, Secretary Tanco stressed the need for the international world to devote more attention, more efforts and more funds to promoting the accelerated increase in productivity of tropical agriculture - that means agriculture in the developing countries; in other words, global agricultural development policy, world agricultural research programmes and other related activities should be more, much more than in the past, oriented towards serving the needs of the developing nations and in particular towards promoting the accelerated increase in productivity of agricultural food products in the Third World. My delegation suggests that the Committee on Agriculture at its next session should devote particular attention to this subject and review the progress made, especially by FAO, in this field.

Another disquieting feature in the World Food and agriculture situation is the seemingly increasing vulnerability of intensive food farming, at least in quite a number of developing countries, due to irregularities of weather which appear to be becoming a more frequent phenomenon and to the increased incidence of pests and diseases, amongst other things, as a result of increased cropping intensities made possible by expanded irrigation facilities, as well as by more appropriate application of early maturing high-yielding varieties. This suggests, first of all, the need for strengthening our capabilities in making sensible weather forecasts on a somewhat long term basis, say one year or more. In the case of Indonesia, for instance, we had a very dry and prolonged east monsoon in 1976 and again in 1977, which is quite unusual. Nobody knows whether the same thing will happen again next year, in which case domestic food supplies might worsen seriously, but if we were able sensibly to predict the weather, say six months from now, then at least the necessary precautionary measures could be taken, such as storage of water wherever possible, the planting of food crops that are less water demanding than rice, etc. FAO's work relating to weather forecasting, therefore, in cooperation with the World Meteorological Organization should be further strengthened and focused on the need to provide as much as possible early warning services in this field to the developing nations in particular.

In addition, the development of high-yielding varieties of food crops tolerant against irregular water supply and more insistence against pests and diseases need to be given increased priority.

The world food and agriculture situation, as has been suggested by many speakers, is still fragile and whatever progress has been made also as regards world security may prove to be only temporary and of a short-term nature. Paragraph 63 of the Secretariat's document C 77/2 emphasizes the point by stating that:

"... it seems likely that the number of people suffering from a serious degree of hunger and malnutrition has increased over the more than 430 million estimated by FAO for the developing marketing economies in 1969-71 ."

Clearly, much greater efforts and commitments are needed to secure a more stable and sustained growth in agriculture, especially in the developing world.

Bearing all this in mind, my delegation is concerned, and regrets, to observe that international policy actions that have been taken, or are being considered, do not seem to reflect a general awareness and recognition of the urgent and increasing needs I have just mentioned. On World Food Security, for instance, international actions following the call by the Third Ministerial Meeting of the World Food Council in Manila last June, that an international emergency reserve be set up before the end of 1970, have not proceeded expeditiously enough so as to give any assurance that such a reserve will soon become a reality. Instead some major producing countries are already announcing their desire to reduce the acreage of food and feed grains. The danger that such policy actions, especially in the absence of a world security reserve, can change the present encouraging world situation overnight into a tight situation and shortage is very real, particularly also since one cannot expect world weather conditions in 1978 to be generally as good as in the previous three years.

My delegation therefore expresses the hope that Governments of the major food grains producing countries concerned will adequately consider all the possible adverse effects of any set-aside programme before taking any decision to deliberately - and I say deliberately - reduced food production in the coming years.

Likewise, this current stagnation and even decline in the flow of international investments in and commitments to agriculture in the developing world is to be regretted. In 1976 such commitments were reported to be only half of the estimated requirements and the debt was in the order of \$US 5 billion. Clearly, remedial actions by international lending agencies, as well as by governments of developed countries in particular, are urgently required to ensure the greater flow of such investments in the coming years, especially in view of the increased needs, to enable a more stable and sustained growth in agriculture, as mentioned earlier.

There are other points which previous speakers have also stressed, namely the failure of the international world again to achieve the minimum target of ten million tons of food aid agreed by the World Food Conference three years ago. My delegation wishes to endorse the appeals that have been made in this respect, that efforts be made to ensure not only that such a target be achieved but even surpassed, in view of the grave situations and difficulties faced by many MSAs and other food deficit countries at present.

In addition there are the problems of international agricultural trade where prices of agricultural commodities and production requisites continue to be unstable and where the access of developing exporting countries to markets in developed countries have only made marginal progress so far. Improvements in this sector are no less important to our overall efforts to bring about sustained growth in world agriculture. This important subject appears to have been given maybe insufficient coverage in my delegation's opinion, both in the papers presented as well as in the debate so far. This is understandable bearing in mind the preoccupation the world at present has with regard to problems relating to food supplies and food security. Nevertheless, my delegation suggests that the need to improve the situation of the developing world in agricultural trade is a subject which should be given continuously increased attention by FAO.

N. HINTIKKA (Finland): Although the growth of food production in the developing countries in the years from 1974 to 1976 was very satisfactory the latest information, as provided in document C 77/2 and supplements 1 and 2, show that the growth this year will be disappointingly low. We must also remember that the average annual growth of agricultural production in the developing countries during this decade, in 1970-1977 has been considerably below the 4 percent target and even lower than in the 1960s. Therefore the long-term prospects in the food situation give no reason for complacency. Fortunately, the good harvests of the period from 1974 to 1976 have considerably increased cereal stocks in the world.

My delegation associates itself with those speakers, for example the delegate of Norway, who have stressed the importance of world food security. The international community should take advantage of the present favourable stock position and rapidly implement the targets and principles presented in the FAO International Undertaking on World Food Security. The FAO Committee on World Food Security has recommended that all member countries should formulate national cereal stock policies by the end of this year. An internationally coordinated system of nationally owned stock systems should be created. My delegation hopes that the ongoing negotiations on the new International Wheat Agreement in London will lead to an outcome which directly takes into account the FAO Undertaking on World Food Security.

The high increase in international grain prices which took place in the period 1973-1975 had serious effects on the grain-importing developing countries. It also meant a serious decline in the volume of food aid. The international community should do its utmost so that this cannot happen in the future.

ISMAIL BIN SHAMSUDDIN' (Malaysia): My delegation would like to join all the other delegates in congratulating the Secretariat on the comprehensive and useful assessment of the State of Food and Agriculture for the year 1977, and wishes to make a couple of comments on the subject.

The first concerns the availability of fertilizers, pesticides and agricultural machinery, as these are important prerequisites in agricultural production. Although the supply of these inputs has somewhat eased a little in the ten years, the prices are still very high. Even if the developing countries have the necessary foreign exchange earnings to buy these inputs, they are still not within the reach of farmers. Therefore to further accelerate growth in food production in developing countries FAO should give serious attention to the pressing problems of the high cost of these agricultural inputs.

Additional constraints to growth in production in developing countries are very extensive now and there is a need to combat the unpredictable weather conditions.

While governments are actively pursuing comprehensive training programmes, the creation of training for agricultural research workers will necessarily take time and therefore efforts should be made to assist the developing countries in these fields.

The availability of pesticides, fertilizers and agricultural machinery can only effectively increase production with the necessary investment and this can be achieved only if our national economy is healthy, and this requirement in fact was stressed by the head of this delegation in the Plenary. As a producer of raw materials such as rubber, palm oil, cocoa and pepper, we are concerned about the instability of the prices of these commodities in the world market. The need for a price stabilization programme is therefore very much felt by the developing countries like Malaysia.

We would like to work towards the establishment of an international agreement in which buffer stocking should play the major role wherever possible.

My delegation also supports the UNCTAD integrated programme which broadly encompasses most of the needs for remedial action in the commodity sector. In this regard we share the views of the other countries calling for the improvement of earning stabilization measures as an additional supplement to price stabilization arrangements. We would further stress the fundamental role of a common fund in the overall efforts to implement the UNCTAD integrated programme for commodities, and we hope that the current round of negotiations on the issue will be successfully concluded.

A. MAJID (Afghanistan): We all know that improvement in supplies of food grains started in 1975 and continued in 1976. Despite this improvement, the food and agriculture situation continued to be fragile in 1977, because of drought in certain developing countries. The average growth rate in developing countries hardly exceeded 2.6 percent as against 4.2 percent target for them.

Many problems facing countries are attributable to natural causes. The Northern part of Afghanistan suffered badly owing to unfavourable seasonal conditions. By this I mean there was a 40 percent decline in precipitation, and its irregular spacing, which caused a serious drought situation. This unfavourable situation adversely affected the performance of our agricultural sector. The adverse effects of such a drought situation are already being felt in wheat production and livestock in 1977. It is anticipated that despite carry over stocks and donor shipments from abroad, a serious shortage of wheat will exist in Afghanistan between now and next harvest season, which is next July. Unless immediate measures to supply wheat from international organizations and friendly countries are taken, the anticipated deficit in wheat production would be 140,000 and 150,000 tons.

My delegation appreciates the contribution of the donor countries, and hopes their contribution will continue to enable fulfilment of their target of 10 million tons of food grains, so that populations caught up in natural calamities are adequately taken care of.

Afghanistan has supported the international undertaking for world food security, and has also subscribed to this undertaking. In order to secure the intended objectives of world food security, as well as for a substantial acceleration of the rate of growth of agriculture and food production, adequate financial and technical assistance should be extended to the developing countries, especially the least developed and landlocked countries, for their agricultural development. Many of these countries, including my own, have promising potential for the realization of such objectives.

Fertilizer consumption over recent years has increased rapidly in Afghanistan, and the seven year plan aims at 1.56 million tons of urea and D.A.P. We hope to receive assistance, especially for D.A.P. through I.F.S. in this regard.

In recent years, the production of fruits, and especially grapes, raisins and pomegranates, has increased substantially. To promote exports of fruits, an integrated fruit and vegetables export project has been accepted which, when implemented, we hope will boost exports and improve market conditions.

While it is encouraging to note that the volume of world trade in agricultural commodities has increased, it is distressing that this increase is unevenly distributed between different regions. We request the developed countries to give the exports of developing countries, especially the least developed and landlocked countries, preferential treatment.

S. DARANYI (Hungary): I should like to join the previous speakers who considered the document before us an excellent paper.

The Hungarian delegation advocates the view that most of the activities and processes in agriculture and food since the last FAO Conference have been favourable. This view is supported by the general trend of an expanding production caused partly by effective measures in various countries and partly by favourable weather conditions. It is promising that as a result of all this the per capita production, although there are large deviations, has increased in the developing countries. At the same time, it would be a pity if this tendency gave rise to self-complacency because a lot of food related problems still require solution. The most important problem is perhaps that in many developing countries the growth of food production continues to lag behind the rate of population growth and in spite of an appreciable progress in production the consumption level of the population has not yet attained the level required by healthy nutritional standards.

Nor can we be satisfied with the current distribution of foodstuffs and the reported price rises of staple food products in several countries which affected the poorest social strata of consumers. An assessment of the recent two years has to anticipate the major strategy inter-relations of world production, and all the latent problems should be revealed and specified which might impede further progress.

As an example, it might be mentioned that the increase of world grain reserves requires a very careful assessment. To some extent this tendency may be considered favourable. On the other hand, a rapid rise in world grain stocks may also mean that a number of countries are still lacking the financial possibilities to ease their distressing food supply status. Growing stocks and decreasing prices might also lead to a setback of cereal production in market-oriented grain-producing countries.

In our view, greater consideration should be given to production boosting measures, with special respect to the role of economic incentives in production development. Our viewpoint is justified by the fact that without the application of appropriate selective incentives a cyclic trend might occur in production which might be detrimental to food production and consumption alike.

In addition, I should like to make some comments on the statement in these documents on socialist and West European countries. We were surprised to read in the chapter on regional survey for Western Europe that most of the statements on the Common Market - which represent the majority of the paper - were prepared on the basis of the analyses by the Ministerial Council of EEC. These analyses were terminated in March 1975. I am afraid that in the following two years the situation has greatly changed. I hope that in the future the Secretariat will be able to find ways and means of having more up-to-date information for the preparation of documents.

As to the part where agriculture in East European countries is dealt with, I should like to call your attention to two statements which are wrong in our opinion.

First, the proposition that the effect of the beef import policy of the Common Market upon East European countries is unappreciable seems to be unfounded. Contributions made over the last two years about this subject, in this forum as well, do not support this statement in the paper.

My other observation in this respect is that it should be underlined that alterations in the decision making policy of countries with planned economies has not come to an end - in contrast to what is said in the document - because the economy of these countries is under permanent development.

G. DUCOMMUN (Suisse): La situation mondiale de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation est un sujet abordé plusieurs fois par année dans diverses réunions internationales, par exemple au sein de la FAO, dans le Comité pour la sécurité alimentaire, dans le Comité des politiques et programmes alimentaires, dans le Comité des produits et dans le Comité de l'agriculture. Il est traité aussi au Conseil mondial de l'alimentation. Le document qui nous est présenté à ce point de l'ordre du jour s'améliore en permanence et nous nous en réjouissons, mais, pour l'essentiel, il est chaque fois une remise à jour du document antérieur. Dans ces conditions, je doute qu'il nous soit possible de nous entretenir de manière fructueuse, pendant cinq séances de travail, de ce sujet; si nous maintenons le débat à un niveau général, c'est quasiment nous obliger à répéter inlassablement des choses lues et entendues de nombreuses fois.

Comme cette situation ne nous satisfait pas, nous proposons qu'à l'avenir le thème de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture soit abordé d'une façon générale comme à l'accoutumée et, d'autre part, au travers de sujets particuliers. Ayant réfléchi aux facteurs qui conditionnent cette situation mondiale de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation, nous pourrions proposer par exemple les sujets particuliers suivants:

- premier sujet particulier: fumure des cultures vivrières et des cultures de rente et systèmes d'approvisionnement des agriculteurs en engrais;
- autre sujet particulier: système d'approvisionnement des agriculteurs en semences et en plants sélectionnés;
- troisième sujet particulier: le climat et ses variations, facteur fondamental de la situation de l'agriculture;
- quatrième sujet par exemple, influence des prix à la production sur la production agricole et sur l'alimentation de la population qui reste sous-alimentée même en période de prix normaux de production
- cinquième exemple: comment alimenter les populations qui restent sous-alimentées même en période de prix normaux de production abondante?

Ces différents sujets particuliers pourraient entre autres être apportés par l'étude d'un certain nombre de cas typiques de pays qui présentent des situations et des solutions différentes. Ceci nous permettrait, pensons-nous, d'avoir des échanges d'informations fructueux sur les différentes méthodes et solutions envisageables face à un même problème.

J'aimerais maintenant aborder une autre question: est-ce que, dans l'analyse générale qui nous est présentée et que nous nous faisons en général de la situation mondiale de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation, l'on ne cesse pas de mélanger les deux termes de l'analyse, à savoir la situation de l'agriculture, d'un côté, et la situation de l'alimentation, de l'autre. A notre sens, il faut séparer les deux analyses; la situation de l'agriculture est une chose, la situation de l'alimentation en est une autre; certes, il y a un lien entre ces deux questions, mais il est tout aussi évident que même lorsque la situation de l'agriculture est très bonne, la situation de l'alimentation reste attristante. L'Institut international pour la recherche sur les politiques alimentaires -IFTRI en anglais - a publié récemment un document d'après lequel le nombre des personnes sous-alimentées était d'environ 1,2 milliard en 1975 dans les pays en voie de développement à économie de marché, c'est-à-dire 60 pour cent de leur population. On peut penser que dans de bonnes années agricoles ce nombre de 1,2 milliard est quelque peu réduit, mais de combien? Quelle est la population qui a toujours faim, même en période d'abondance, et pourquoi? Nous suggérons que la FAO s'attache plus à analyser la situation spécifique de l'alimentation. Certes, elle devra le faire par pays et elle pourrait par exemple en publier les résultats dans les rapports annuels sur la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture.

Nous pensons qu'en partie notre position rejoint ce qu'un des délégués a dit ce matin. Concernant la situation mondiale de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation, nous ne nous réjouissons pas non plus des résultats globaux atteints dans les pays en voie de développement concernant la production alimentaire et la situation de l'alimentation affligeante. Nous espérons qu'un accord international sur le blé, voire sur les céréales, viendra accroître la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Nous accordons une haute priorité à la création de stocks nationaux céréaliers dans les pays en voie de développement, mais les problèmes fondamentaux de l'alimentation doivent, à notre avis, être essentiellement résolus au niveau de chaque pays par des politiques du travail et des structures agricoles adéquates. Cela nécessitera aussi un travail considérable, un effort prolongé des agriculteurs et un engagement total de leurs cadres.

R. RAMPERSAD (Trinidad and Tobago): Like most of the other delegates I commend the Secretariat on the excellent documentation it has provided upon this very important subject we are discussing. My delegation has noted with satisfaction the apparently encouraging trend in world food and agriculture production and stock accumulation as described in the documents, but our optimism is somewhat cautious. In this regard I should like to make a few observations which support the point we have made elsewhere that despite a welcome improvement in the overall food situation there is no room for complacency.

The first point is that the food and agriculture situation we have looked at is described on a global or total basis. The picture which would emerge when we consider the figures on a disaggregated basis, on the level of individual countries, for instance, might be far different. In fact as has been mentioned in the document, food production in some of the poorest countries has shown only marginal rates of increase. In other words, in most areas where the demand or need is most acute, supply responses have been lethargic.

Secondly, we should recognise that food production in developing countries taken as a group has not been as spectacular as the plain statistics might lead us to believe. The 4.1 percent average annual growth rate recorded for 1974/76 might well be due to a large extent to the fact that the basis used for comparison was below the previous long term trend. For the years 1971/76 the average annual growth rate was only 2.6 percent. In fact some estimates for the period 1971/75 suggest that per capita food production in developing countries actually declined as compared with the per capita annual growth rate of about 1 percent for the developed countries.

The projection for 1976/77 in Table I of document C 77/2/Sup. 1 is that for both food production and agriculture production developing countries may record an increase of 1 percent to 1.5 percent, whereas the developed countries are expected to register an increase of 1.5 percent to 2 percent. The implications of all of this are that the imbalance in resources and production between developed and developing countries which was one of the root causes of the 1972/74 food crisis, has not been adjusted. The gap in food production between developed and developing countries is widening instead of contracting.

The third point is that the share of world trade in agriculture enjoyed by the developing countries is not improving substantially. Table 2 of document C 77/2/Sup. 1 indicates that in 1976 the value of agricultural exports of the developing market economies increased by 14.8 percent over 1975 as compared with an increase of 7.9 percent for the developed market economies. This percentage increase sounds impressive but it may well justify Mark Twain's description of statistics.

The real picture is described somewhat euphemistically in paragraph 37 of document C 77/2-Sup.1 where it is stated the share of earnings of the developed marketing economies declined to 65 percent while the share of the developing marketing economies increased to 28 percent. The share of the developing marketing economies has in fact increased by only about 1 percent.

There has been a lot of discussion, particularly since the World Food Conference, about the critical need for developing countries to increase their food production. Such an increase is desirable not only because of the income and employment benefits that will accrue- and in these countries income tends to be low and unemployment tends to be high; it is desirable not only because of the psychological benefit of improved self-confidence that derives from the knowledge of growing self-sufficiency and self reliance; more so it is desirable because current trade trends are such as to indicate that developing countries may not have the foreign exchange resources with which to purchase their food requirements. In any event the World Food Conference has forcefully drawn attention to the magnitude of the problem that would be involved in transporting massive quantities of food from the developed to developing countries.

This Conference is appropriately focussing attention on one of the essential pre-requisites for increased food production, namely, large scale investment in agriculture. In this context much emphasis is being placed upon the transfer of capital resources and technology from the developed to the developing countries, and the mechanisms by which this might be achieved. Such transfers are, in the opinion of my delegation, indispensable, certainly in the short run, but are not adequate in themselves. Equally necessary is the introduction of a set of trading arrangements which would assure to developing countries remunerative prices for their products and guarantee them a level of return that is both equitable and adequate for financing such adjustments in their economic structures as may be dictated by market forces from time to time.

Trade is as important as aid, if not more important. It provides the vehicle through which a country achieves its scope for development, including the potential created by aid itself. Greater international cooperation is required on a number of fronts to bring about rapid growth in those areas where the need is greatest and most urgent.

Mazol NA-AKWETI (Zaire): Avant son bref commentaire, la Délégation du Zaïre tient à adresser ses félicitations au Secrétariat pour l'excellent travail que représente le document C 77/II qui donne d'une manière claire et concise la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1977. Notre satisfaction est d'autant plus grande que cette analyse, tout en faisant état de l'augmentation de la production alimentaire et agricole durant le dernier exercice pour l'ensemble du monde, n'a pas omis de relever que dans certains des pays en développement la physionomie du secteur alimentaire est tout autre.

Cela étant, la Délégation zaïroise estime que des solutions à ces problèmes appartiennent d'abord aux Etats eux-mêmes qui doivent désormais considérer l'agriculture comme leur principale planche de salut. Il s'agit donc pour eux d'une volonté politique qui, dans la pratique, devrait se traduire par les mesures suivantes:

- 1) mobilisation de la promotion de la production alimentaire et agricole de toute la population active sans emploi;
- 2) abandon progressif du système agricole ancestral et adoption des structures et des techniques assurant une plus haute productivité aux paysans et une plus grande efficacité aux encadreurs;
- 3) renforcement au double point de vue du nombre et de la qualité des services de vulgarisation dont les conditions de travail devraient être améliorées; il doit en être de même de la recherche agronomique;
- 4) accroissement de la part du budget national affectée à l'agriculture, ceci à la fois en raison du rôle vital de ce secteur dans la vie du pays et de l'importance numérique de la population travaillant dans ce secteur, population qui représente actuellement entre 70 et 80 pour cent de la population totale.

Il est également de l'avis de notre délégation que, parallèlement aux actions de relance menées en direction des masses paysannes, la politique de promotion agricole et alimentaire devrait s'appuyer sur la classe moyenne agricole, c'est-à-dire des agriculteurs moyens, exploitant de 5 à 100 hectares de culture, généralement lettrés et donc plus perméables aux nouvelles techniques d'exploitation. Ces leaders agricoles contribueraient certainement non seulement à la résorption des déficits agricoles et alimentaires mais également à l'amélioration des conditions de vie en milieu rural, préalable indispensable à la lutte contre l'exode qui prive l'agriculture des milliers de bras dont elle a besoin pour son développement.

Il faut d'autre part noter l'impact direct des autres secteurs d'activités sur le développement de l'agriculture qui, faute d'être opérationnels, constituent un frein: il s'agit principalement des infrastructures routières et sanitaires, des voies de communication, de transport, dont les programmes de relance devraient à notre avis mériter la même attention que celle accordée à la production agricole et alimentaire.

Un autre goulot d'étranglement, responsable dans une large mesure de la stagnation de l'agriculture dans les pays sous-équipés, est l'absence des institutions de crédit agricole auxquelles des agriculteurs ou des groupements d'agriculteurs devraient recourir en vue de leur équipement en moyens de production efficaces, le budget de l'Etat se chargeant des investissements de caractère public. Dans ce domaine du crédit, nous devons déplorer et regretter le fait que contrairement à l'industrie, contrairement au commerce et même contrairement aux grandes cultures, le café, le palmier à huile, le cacao, le thé, le caoutchouc, etc., l'agriculture vivrière continue de faire figure de parent pauvre et ceci en dépit de l'importance de son rôle.

S'agissant des engrais, notre Délégation, tout en se réjouissant du progrès réalisé par nos paysans quant au recours à cet important facteur de production, souhaite qu'en prévision de l'augmentation conséquente de production du pays qui s'amorce, des dispositions soient prises dans le sens de l'implantation, au niveau de groupements régionaux et sous-régionaux, des unités de production de fertilisants minéraux.

Nous estimons que c'est à la FAO qu'il appartient d'aider à la réalisation de ce facteur de développement. Dans l'intervalle, nous pensons qu'en vue de freiner cette tendance à la hausse des prix des engrais, il y aurait lieu d'améliorer les systèmes de commercialisation, de transport, de stockage et de redistribution, et surtout d'envisager au niveau des Etats, et c'est le cas au Zaïre, l'exonération totale des engrais et autres inputs des droits d'entrée qui les frapperaient éventuellement.

Quant aux pesticides, notre Délégation considère que l'importance à leur accorder doit être à la mesure de l'extension que nous voudrions donner à notre agriculture et souhaite que les produits essentiels soient disponibles en quantité et au moment voulus. A cet effet, nous suggérons que l'approvisionnement en pesticides des pays en développement fasse l'objet, de la part de la FAO, d'une politique semblable à celle relative à son programme engrais et que, même, il fasse corps avec celui-ci.

Il devrait en être de même de ces semences à haut rendement qui elles aussi ne sont guère disponibles en quantité voulues et au moment adéquat.

Tel est le point de vue de la Délégation du Zaïre sur ces documents dont les passages consacrés à la situation alimentaire et agricole prévalant dans certains pays en développement ont plus particulièrement attiré notre attention.

R. GARCELL CARRO (Cuba): Al estudiar los ilustrativos documentos circulados por la Secretaría, nuestra delegación considera que aún es imprescindible seguir insistiendo en la necesidad de tomar medidas de carácter práctico encaminadas a garantizar en la producción agropecuaria incrementos superiores a los logrados en los períodos precedentes. Del éxito que se obtenga en tales empeños dependerá en lo fundamental la alimentación de una parte considerable de la población de los países en desarrollo.

El documento de la Secretaría C 77/II manifiesta que muchos países aún son particularmente vulnerables a los riesgos naturales y a la inestabilidad del tiempo y que además las inversiones son insuficientes. Nuestra delegación considera acertado tal fundamento y sobre ello quisiera añadir que unas y otras causas están íntimamente vinculadas entre sí y son independientes, además, del sistema económico social imperante en los distintos países.

Obviamente, para poder cubrir los riesgos naturales y los efectos de la inestabilidad del tiempo son necesarias inversiones. Generalmente, los países subdesarrollados, como consecuencia del colonialismo y del neocolonialismo, afectados por intercambios desiguales, encuentran que no disponen por una parte de las presas suficientes, sistema de protección de plantas ni del personal calificado y demás elementos de infraestructura, y de la otra, carecen de fondos financieros suficientes para poder adquirir esos aseguramientos, que, por demás requieren, sin más espera.

Es oportuno aclarar que esta situación, que se localiza principalmente en países de Asia, África y América Latina, no obedece a circunstancias de ubicación geográfica ni características raciales de sus habitantes. Es un hecho que se deriva de la historia impuesta por el imperialismo y el colonialismo. De esta manera se crea una circunstancia viciosa, de la cual no es posible escapar sin transformaciones sociales profundas que permitan desarrollar las potencialidades humanas.

Nuestro país, una vez que logró su emancipación política y social, dentro del marco limitado de sus recursos, ha dedicado una parte sustancial de los mismos al aseguramiento y modernización de la agricultura, la cual debe desarrollarse en una zona tropical muy propensa a las plagas y sometida a un régimen de lluvias inestable, en la cual es posible y frecuente que en sólo 55 días se precipite el 85 por ciento de la lluvia de todo el año. Nuestra isla, larga y estrecha, propicia que apenas transcurridas unas horas, la lluvia caída vaya a parar al mar. Como consecuencia de la situación brindada por el Estado cubano, nuestra situación actual con relación a los riesgos naturales se ha modificado; la capacidad de agua embalsada es hoy de 100 veces más que la existente en 1958, lo que permite disponer de un área de riegos mucho mayor.

El uso de fertilizantes, pesticidas y maquinaria, igualmente se ha multiplicado varias veces, aunque grandes esfuerzos ha requerido este empeño.

En caña de azúcar, nuestra principal fuente de divisas, la producción mantiene un ritmo ascendente cada año, incluso en 1977. Y con este comentario deseamos oponer nuestros reparos al pronóstico que en relación a nuestro país se ha hecho, como aparece publicado en el párrafo 21 de la página 6 del documento C 77/II suplemento 1.

Señores delegados, estamos convencidos de que una vez llegado el momento en que sea posible que los países en desarrollo puedan modificar su capacidad potencial y puedan vender también sus productos agrícolas a precios más justos, la situación alimentaria del mundo cambiaría y se modificarían cualitativamente los informes de FAO, que se ve obligada a mostrar tono preocupante, como ocurre en el documento C 77/II.

Aunque la situación mundial de la agricultura ha mejorado, subsisten muchos problemas y algunos de esos problemas siguen pendientes desde hace mucho tiempo. De esta forma, nuestra delegación apoya el pronunciamiento del Director General al 71° período de sesiones del Consejo, donde expresa (citamos):

"La FAO estará más obligada que nunca a los trabajos del Consejo para que nuestra contribución al proceso de velar por el sector agrícola y alimentario sea pertinente, válida y efectiva". Y, como también dijera en otra ocasión el Sr. Saouma (citamos): "Ante todo, la FAO debe dar una imagen que no defraude la esperanza de todos los seres humanos en un mundo libre, pero de intolerables desigualdades", se impone, pues (decimos nosotros), trabajar en esos rumbos.

G. BELCHAMBER (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom delegation has listened with great interest to the statements made by other delegations on Friday and this morning. Earlier speakers have already paid tribute to the quality of the Secretariat's paper and may I say that my delegation is in substantial agreement with the paper. Other delegates also covered in a comprehensive and eloquent way the general state of food and agriculture and I just want to add a brief word about the United Kingdom's view of the overall situation. I think the common thread running through the discussions to date has been a general consensus that the world food situation has improved significantly since the last FAO Conference took place. My delegation finds this improving trend most encouraging. It is a measure of the improving situation that unexpected shortfalls in major producing countries no longer create the crisis situation that might have been the case just a few years ago but - and this is a qualification of which my delegation is fully conscious - this is no time for complacency. It behoves all countries, developed and developing, to do their utmost to ensure that the improvement is maintained. The point has already been stressed at other important international meetings. The communiqué issued by Ministers at the conclusion of the Third Session of the World Food Council held in Manila earlier this year acknowledged that "Recent increases in production have provided more abundant food supplies and have permitted the rebuilding of grain stocks in some countries". But the communiqué' also went on to point out that there is no assurance that this improvement in the world food supply will continue, and emphasised the importance of increased food production, particularly in food deficit developing countries. These are matters which should remain in the forefront of our minds.

But let us not forget that we are talking about a very complex subject. Questions of annual food production cannot be divorced from associated questions, including trade, aid and world food security. Let us not forget either that agricultural production is perhaps uniquely uncertain because of the vagaries of weather and disease. It would be unrealistic to expect instant solutions to the many problems in this area. My Government, however, is very willing to participate in the many international fora which are attempting to find solutions to these interlocking problems.

As far as the food and agriculture situation in the United Kingdom is concerned, the policy of my Government is directed towards the expansion of those sectors of the agricultural industry which, by reason of our climate or other factors, can efficiently increase their output. We shall also continue to encourage and where possible, and where requested - to assist developing countries, particularly those with the necessary potential, to increase their own agricultural production because this is in our view an enormously important element in the fight against world food problems.

The Secretariat's paper emphasises the importance of agricultural adjustment. This is the subject of a separate Agenda item, of course, and we don't want to open up that discussion today. The paper also talks of taking advantage of the current opportunity to establish a system of world food security. For the moment, attention is focussed on work being carried out in the International Wheat Council towards a new International Wheat Agreement. My government believes that the negotiation of a satisfactory new International Wheat Agreement is of fundamental importance in moving towards a strengthened world food security situation, by improving stability in the wheat market and helping to alleviate world food problems, particularly the problems of developing countries. We hope that the outcome of the recent work of the International Wheat Council's Preparatory Group will enable the proposed negotiating conference to be convened early in 1978.

An earlier speaker referred to the crucial importance of political will in solving the problems of the developing world. The view of my delegation is that the key factor should be an attempt to reach mutual understanding between all nations, particularly between developed and developing countries, about the real problems of the global food and agriculture situation and readiness to sit down together to find mutually acceptable solutions, preferably on a long-term view, while recognizing that there are pressing problems demanding short-term solutions. This is an area, of course, where FAO has such an important role to play. If this is what is meant by political will, I can indeed assure you, Mr. Chairman, that it is not lacking on the part of my government.

J ROWINSKI (Poland): The subject which is now under discussion is a standing one at all conferences. It is obvious that the delegations to the Conference must have a deep knowledge and sufficient information of the world agricultural situation in order to establish proper directives and priorities for the work of this Organization.

Recent years have been very good for agriculture in most regions and developing countries taken as a whole achieved a rate of growth of 4 percent per year, which is in accordance with the target for the Second Development Decade. As stressed in FAO documents, we should however be very cautious in our optimistic view. The main factor which influenced the results of agricultural production in most countries was good weather, which is something independent of human will and effort. On the other hand, the activities of the international community seem to be insufficient in order to eradicate permanently hunger and malnutrition. In spite of the fact that already three years have elapsed since the World Food Conference, many of its resolutions, among others those which contained certain quantitative targets, have not been fully implemented.

As we gather from one of the documents presented to this Conference, there are serious doubts whether the goals formulated in the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition will be fully implemented until 1985. It is rightly said in the document that the attainment of this 4 per cent rate of growth in agricultural production in developing countries during the last three years does not constitute anything that could be considered as a permanent improvement of the situation. The average rate of growth for the last six years is nearly on the same level as in the sixties, and there is no ground for great optimism.

There is a more general question on whether the 4 percent rate of growth attained by developing countries in recent years could be maintained for the future in the longer run. The analysis of the development of agricultural production in most developed countries, with much bigger capital resources, modern technologies and higher levels of education, leads to rather sceptical conclusions. It is worth mentioning that in the so-called Tinbergen Report, a 4 percent rate of growth of agricultural production has been considered as desirable but at the same time impossible to obtain and, last but not least, the first estimation concerning the growth of agricultural production presented in a document submitted during this Conference shows already a marked "go-down".

On the other hand, there is enormous potential for the increase of agricultural production in developing countries which can result, for instance, from increased application of chemical fertilizers and better irrigation practices. It must be borne in mind, however, that even a 4 percent rate of growth of agricultural production in developing countries as a whole does not solve all the problems of developing countries as there are big differences between countries and regions. The figures presented indicate that even in the period of fairly good progress in overall production of developing countries some of them displayed a rate of growth substantially below the average. This means that the gap between the poorest countries and the rest of the world is growing and every effort should be made by the international community to narrow that gap. It seems that in 1977 the gap further widened.

In the Plenary sessions many heads of delegations, particularly from the Sahelian-zone countries, spoke about very bad weather conditions and a difficult food situation. We are now witnessing a revival of the tragic paradox where there are hundreds of millions of hungry people while at the same time some countries are returning to the policy of restricting agricultural output.

It should be remembered that important social and agrarian reforms are necessary in many developing countries. The scope of those reforms sometimes cannot be limited only to the sphere of agriculture. The problem of agrarian reform is very often raised in FAO and other international forums and I would like only to reiterate our opinion that in many cases agrarian reform constitutes a prerequisite for the development of agricultural production.

International statistics indicate that there are extremely big differences in the levels of income of the poorest and the richest groups of the population in many developing countries. There is a necessity for a redistribution of income and a reduction of the differences, otherwise the process of further economic development can be seriously impaired. It is obvious that one cannot develop the economy without involving the people and the elimination of the unfair distribution of income is of great importance in this respect. This problem is especially valid in agriculture, where in many countries there are large groups of small farmers and landless labourers living in poorest conditions.

In the documents prepared for the Conference, the lack of stability of markets for agricultural products is correctly underlined. Those markets are changing very quickly from surpluses to deficits. This fact should influence the way of thinking of the governments in order to accelerate the negotiation of international commodity agreements. We have noted with satisfaction the first success of UNCTAD in this field, the conclusion of the International Sugar Agreement.

In concluding my statement I should like to say a few words about agricultural production in our country. During the current year weather conditions were very bad, especially at harvest time, which adversely affected grain production. It was the fourth successive difficult year for Polish agriculture. In spite of the fact that we are doing everything possible to stimulate the increase of agricultural production, we were unable to exceed the level of 1973. One of the results of this situation is that Poland, which was during nearly the whole of the post-war period a net exporter, is now a net importer of agricultural products.

As the demand for food, and especially for meat products, is very high in our country, we are making every effort to increase agricultural production in the coming years.

A.R. SIAFFA (Sierra Leone): On behalf of the Sierra Leone delegation I wish to thank the Secretariat for the preparation of document C 77/2 and its supplements. Fertilizers have been mentioned in the documents under review. My delegation wishes to reaffirm its support for the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme. We would also like to add that the supply of crop protection chemicals and allied services should be given consideration under the Scheme.

We recognize the important role that the International Fund for Agricultural Development can play in agricultural development, particularly in the developing countries. We agree with the observations made by the delegate of Kenya, namely that communications should be improved to facilitate the flow of food from surplus areas to the deficit regions within the country. Sierra Leone experiences similar transportation bottlenecks.

May I further observe that the development of an accurate system of yield forecasting is of considerable importance in order to discern dangers ahead and to take adequate precautions to avert them. Unfortunately, the machinery for forecasting production is non-existent in many developing countries; and where the system does exist it is often not reliable. The heavy dependence on rain-fed crops in many developing countries makes them very vulnerable to the vagaries of the weather.

Permit me briefly to refer to the agricultural development trends in Sierra Leone. In general, it is estimated that there was an overall increase in agricultural output in the years 1975 and 1976. The increases in crop output were largely due to increases in acreage and in the yield per acre of the food crop. Rice is by far the most important food crop.

In response to changes in economic conditions, the producer prices of export crops, except palm kernels, were adjusted upwards. The crops affected were coffee, cocoa and ginger. The farmers' response to higher producer prices was reflected in substantial increases of purchases of the Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Board, which is the sole agency for the export of these commodities.

Palm oil is the most important source of edible vegetable oil in Sierra Leone. Two large-scale oil palm plantations - with small farmers' out-growers holdings - have been established with mills for the processing of the fruits.

The fertilizer distribution programme of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources continued to improve between 1975 and 1977, thanks to the contribution of the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme. Rice and tree crops, i.e. palm oil, received the bulk of the quantities distributed during the period.

The basic sectoral targets which we expect to achieve in the year 1977/1978 might be summarized as follows: (a) To increase total rice production through substantial expansion in acreage of swampland planted to rice; (b) to purchase from farmers larger quantities of the following export crops through higher produce prices: - coffee 10 000 ton; cocoa 10 000 ton; palm kernels 50 000 ton; (c) to distribute to farmers about 10 000 tons of commercial chemical fertilizers; (d) to make adequate financial appropriation in the agricultural crops sector for the implementation of potentially productive development projects.

I regret taking up so much of the Conference's time in reporting on our local situation, but you will recall, Mr. Chairman, that when we adjourned last Friday speakers were not readily available to take the floor; consequently, you kindly advised delegates to give further thought to the subject. It appears that I got some inspiration over the weekend. I would ask, therefore, that you kindly bear with me, even though I may sound too parochial.

While there were significant increases in retail prices of meat and livestock products in 1975/76, the situation in 1976/77 tended to level off except for beef, which registered a price increase of some 25 percent, that is from £. 0.4 sterling per pound weight in 1975/76 to £.0.5 sterling per pound in 1976/77. The immediate objectives of the livestock programme in 1977/78 are twofold. Firstly, the adoption of a breeding programme aimed at upgrading the local Ndama breed of cattle, as well as sheep, goats, pigs and poultry. Secondly, to encourage farmers (through credit and technical services) to use improved breeds of livestock and to employ better management in order to increase the quantity and quality of their stock.

Turning to forestry, I would like to mention that the exploitation and development of forest products increased from about 526 thousand cubic feet of sawn wood in 1975/76 to 1 440 995 cubic feet in 1976/77. The immediate objectives of the forestry subsector include the training of staff, research, the expansion of forest estate by planting, encouragement of private entrepreneurs in the exploitation of small forest reserves and products, and the modernization of existing saw mills.

Finally, I shall make a few remarks about fisheries. The domestic landing of fish is estimated to have increased from about 40 thousand tons in 1975/76 to 44 thousand tons in 1976/77. It is also estimated that about 75 percent of fish landings are by canoe fishermen and the rest by commercial fishing vessels and shrimp trawlers fishing in nearby coastal waters.

The high price of meat and livestock products, which is about twice as high as fish, has contributed tremendously to the significant increase in the local demand for fish.

A training programme for Sierra Leoneans on improved fishing techniques, under an arrangement between the Government of Sierra Leone and the Government of Italy, is now in its second and last year of operation. A research project on the identification of suitable oyster culture techniques during the last three years has indicated positive commercial potential in various locations in the country.

I am compelled to end my delegation's contribution on a rather sad note. The vagaries of the weather have recently plunged Sierra Leone into a considerable loss of crops in the field. As a result of the unprecedented heavy rainfall in the past few months, thousands of acres of field crops, particularly rice, were lost through flooding. This is Sierra Leone's dilemma. Now that the floods have subsided, we are in the process of counting the losses. Estimates of the magnitude of the damage caused by the floods started to come in from various parts of the country just before we left home for this Conference. As a result of this disaster, we expect an extremely poor rice harvest this crop year.

P. HALIMI (France): Qu'il me soit permis de remercier le Secrétariat pour l'excellence du travail qu'il propose à notre attention. Les documents qui servent de base à nos délibérations nous donnent une image très claire de la situation de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation au seuil de l'automne 1977 et ils en dégagent les conséquences au regard des multiples préoccupations de l'Organisation qui sont aussi celles de la communauté internationale. Tel qu'il se présente, le document du Secrétariat constitue un outil de travail qui incite à l'analyse et à la réflexion. Sans doute, la situation annuelle s'inscrit-elle dans une perspective d'évolution à long terme qu'elle contribue à infléchir, mais, pour échapper à la complexité des relations entre les différents objectifs immédiats et à terme plus ou moins éloigné, je me propose de formuler quelques remarques en distinguant, d'une part, la situation agricole et alimentaire dans l'intervalle de deux récoltes successives afin de bien caractériser les problèmes du court terme, d'autre part, les perspectives de réalisation des objectifs plus éloignés de façon à saisir les opportunités que la situation annuelle permet d'escompter.

A court terme, le résultat satisfaisant des récoltes confirme l'amélioration enregistrée depuis deux ans de la situation agricole et alimentaire mondiale. L'impression favorable est renforcée par la constatation d'une bonne répartition des résultats entre les différentes zones de production, ce qui permet de considérer avec un certain optimisme la couverture des besoins alimentaires dans la plupart des pays du monde. Ces résultats réconfortants nous engagent à considérer avec une sollicitude particulière la situation des populations qui n'ont pas été épargnées par l'adversité et qui se trouvent être celles qui avaient déjà le plus souffert de mauvaises récoltes ces dernières années. Ce sera la première remarque.

Un effort particulier au profit des pays du Sahel paraît d'autant plus justifié que la situation générale le rend plus facile. A cet égard, nous remercions M. Vogel, Directeur exécutif du PAM, de nous avoir permis d'être directement informés des résultats de la dernière réunion du Comité inter-Etats de lutte contre la sécheresse au Sahel en organisant une rencontre des donateurs le 3 novembre dernier. Au cours de cette réunion, ma délégation n'avait pas été en mesure de faire connaître l'effort que mon pays effectuait et se propose d'effectuer dans la région du Sahel. Je vais actuellement pouvoir vous donner quelques chiffres: en 1976, le niveau de l'aide alimentaire à cette région était de 25 000 tonnes de céréales, mais, en 1977, compte tenu d'opérations encore en cours, il se situera à près de 40 000 tonnes. Ces aides d'urgence ne constituent qu'un fragment du flux total des ressources publiques dirigé vers ces pays. Ce flux total a atteint 900 millions de francs en 1975 et plus d'un milliard de francs en 1976, soit une moyenne annuelle de 200 millions de dollars; trente pour cent des investissements vont au secteur du développement rural. D'autre part, les pays intéressés, groupés au sein du CILSS, ont établi, avec le concours du Club du Sahel, un programme à moyen terme permettant une amélioration sensible de la production et de l'équilibre alimentaire de cette zone. Ce programme consiste en grandes opérations conjuguant les efforts de sources de financement bilatérales et multi latérales. Le Gouvernement français apporte sa participation à la plupart de ces grands aménagements. Il s'agit notamment de la mise en valeur du fleuve Sénégal, de la mise en valeur du fleuve Niger, du bassin des Voltas/SOUROU.

Pour en revenir à la situation générale qui pourrait inciter à l'optimisme, ses conséquences se partagent entre les lumières et les ombres. L'augmentation des disponibilités alimentaires, la situation des principaux marchés permettent sans doute d'escompter un effet modérateur des prix agricoles et alimentaires qui pourra aider à maîtriser les tendances inflationnistes qui avaient contribué à l'amplifier. Mais la réduction des recettes des agriculteurs, alors qu'ils doivent faire face à une augmentation continue des coûts de production, risque de les dissuader de persévérer dans leurs efforts, surtout dans les productions dont les réserves laissent peu d'espoir à un réajustement rapide des prix.

Il conviendrait donc - ce sera ma deuxième remarque - de mettre à profit une situation favorable telle que celle devant laquelle nous nous trouvons pour rechercher une solution au problème de l'instabilité en mettant au point des accords internationaux dont les mécanismes régulateurs faciliteraient la gestion des marchés, aideraient les producteurs à prendre leurs décisions et éviteraient en fin de compte les retournements de situation, toujours dommageables et délicats à maîtriser. Parmi les préoccupations à long terme, il convient de distinguer les objectifs qui constituent un but en eux-mêmes tels que la croissance de l'agriculture des pays en développement, de ceux qui ne sont qu'un moyen ou une conséquence de l'objectif réalisé, comme c'est le cas de l'ajustement agricole.

Le rythme d'accroissement de la production agricole est incontestablement un des indicateurs les plus significatifs parmi ceux qui sont évoqués dans le rapport. Or, si un certain nombre de pays ont atteint le taux annuel d'accroissement de 4 pour cent, préconisé par la deuxième décennie du développement, il est inquiétant de constater que, dans des régions entières - j'ai parlé longuement de l'Afrique -, l'augmentation des subsistances est moins rapide que celle de la population, de sorte que la situation alimentaire se dégrade au lieu de s'améliorer. On peut souhaiter que le démarrage opérationnel du FIDA contribue à atténuer cet écart et déclenche un processus de croissance des agricultures car, au-delà de l'accroissement de la production, qui n'est pas irréversible si des changements de structure ne viennent pas en consolider les résultats, le véritable objectif est de déclencher une dynamique qui assure une expansion auto-entretenu de l'activité agricole.

J'ai noté avec intérêt ce qui a été dit par les délégations de la Hongrie et du Zaïre sur les stimulants nécessaires. Ces quelques considérations trouvent leur justification et leur conclusion dans un rapprochement de deux niveaux d'analyse. Dans l'attente de la réalisation des objectifs à long terme des agricultures en développement, les secteurs agricole et alimentaire des différents pays ne peuvent constituer qu'un système hétérogène et mal défini au sein duquel les conditions d'équilibre des agricultures développées laissent des marges de manoeuvre souvent réduites, tandis que les points de • croissance des agricultures en développement restent fragiles. L'ajustement des objectifs relève d'un empirisme qui implique une modulation des politiques, mais le fonds commun à toutes les agricultures, c'est leur vulnérabilité - vulnérabilité aux conditions météorologiques qui peuvent faire passer la situation alimentaire d'excédents encombrants à une pénurie dont les conséquences vont au-delà de l'alimentation des hommes. Ce point a été longuement évoqué avant moi par les délégations de l'Indonésie, de l'Afghanistan, de Cuba, de la Pologne et de la Sierra Leone.

Il convient tout particulièrement de féliciter la FAO d'avoir organisé une conférence conjointe avec l'OMM ces jours récents et il serait souhaitable de savoir si les conclusions de cette Conférence permettront la prise en considération de la proposition faite, notamment par la délégation de la Malaisie, de former des chercheurs pour les pays en développement - vulnérabilité économique

qui, en raison des coûts de production rigides, ne permet pas de supporter facilement le choc d'une forte baisse des prix. Peut-être conviendrait-il de réfléchir à cette situation en particulier pour orienter les agricultures en développement vers des types de croissance qui réduisent ces risques, par exemple en tirant un meilleur parti des cycles naturels de façon à rendre moins rigides les liens entre les facteurs de production d'origine industrielle. L'alimentation et, jusqu'à nouvel ordre l'agriculture restent parmi les préoccupations prioritaires de l'humanité. Il est important de trouver les voies les mieux appropriées qui nous rapprochent des objectifs que nous avons choisis.

L'activité de la FAO peut en indiquer les moyens.

C. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Con relación a la situación agrícola y alimentaria en el mundo se nos ha presentado el documento C 77/2 que constituye una buena síntesis de algunos aspectos de interés internacional en materia agrícola.

Evidentemente el núcleo central de la información proporcionada por dicho documento es el aumento notable de la producción agrícola registrado en el último bienio. El nivel alcanzado por los stocks cerealeros de 160 millones de toneladas, aproximadamente el 18 por ciento del consumo mundial, el ligero repunte de los precios de los productos primarios y la disminución del número de personas malnutridas, de 1 375 a 1 250 millones de habitantes, ha sido subrayado reiteradamente por varias delegaciones con general satisfacción.

Sin perjuicio de ello, señor Presidente, nosotros entendemos que se debe evitar el riesgo de un enfoque superficial o parcializado de la situación agrícola del mundo que proporcione excesivas ilusiones sobre la seguridad alimentaria mundial, así como el mejoramiento efectivo y constante de los niveles de nutrición. No queremos ser pesimistas, pero sentimos la obligación de ser cautos y, sobre todo, de indagar con cierta profundidad y rigor las condiciones y circunstancias que configuran la situación actual, con el fin de extraer conclusiones válidas y que realmente constituyan una base firme y cierta para nuestra programación futura.

En primer lugar, nos permitimos señalar que la existencia de cereales acumulados en la actualidad modifican sensiblemente los términos de una ecuación que torna más evidente las distorsiones de la realidad. Por una parte, los enormes excedentes cerealeros lo son solamente en relación a la demanda efectiva y ello explica que, a pesar de estos excedentes, el número impresionante de personas sub-alimentadas haya disminuido sólo en una mínima parte. Por otro lado, los efectos negativos que la acumulación tiene para los países productores, son resentidos por las poblaciones rurales de estos países y se traduce en el desaliento de los productores y la disminución del área sembrada.

Este fenómeno provoca, señor Presidente, una grave reflexión sobre dos aspectos: por un lado, es necesario un nuevo enfoque que permita conciliar esta realidad en todos sus elementos, aparentemente contradictorios, para que una buena cosecha mundial se convierta auténticamente en más alimentos para el mundo, para todo el mundo, sin ser una carga para los productores, o simplemente la iniciación de una fase, de un ciclo de abundancia o escasez, con todos los perjudiciales efectos de las mismas. Esto, y no el cumplimiento de una meta estadística arbitraria que encubre una realidad que no nos satisface, debe ser el objetivo de la comunidad internacional.

Por otra parte, la coyuntura actual vuelve a poner de manifiesto la necesidad de políticas apropiadas y políticas armónicas, en un proceso equilibrado de reajuste agrícola internacional, para que los progresos logrados sean genuinos y tengan lugar donde se necesitan y en la medida en que se necesitan.

Nadie duda de la necesidad de provocar un drástico aumento de la producción agrícola en los países más gravemente afectados y de menor desarrollo relativo así como los programas tendientes a esos objetivos, que merecen nuestro más amplio apoyo. Sin embargo, señor Presidente, nunca se repetirá suficientemente que es preciso también mantener una vigilancia positiva y un apoyo continuado y alentador sobre la producción de alimentos, sobre todo los de aquellos otros países en desarrollo que, sin pertenecer a las categorías más perjudicadas, mantienen una gran dependencia de sus producciones agrícolas y de ese modo sufren, a veces de manera dramática, la inestabilidad de los mercados.

A esta altura, permítaseme hacer una reflexión al margen. Mi delegación ha observado con perplejidad la ausencia, dentro del temario de la Conferencia, de un tema denominado "Situación del mercado internacional de productos básicos", o algún título similar, que tenga vinculación con este tema. Por supuesto, que podemos analizar este aspecto dentro de la situación agrícola mundial, como tenemos intención de hacerlo en este momento, pero de hecho el tema reviste una importancia tal que debería tener lugar a una identidad propia. Además, sin perjuicio de que los aspectos específicos del comercio de productos básicos se ventilen y se negocien en el marco de la UNCTAD o del GATT, entendemos que la FAO sigue siendo el foro perfecto que engloba todas las cuestiones relativas a los productos básicos y ellos continúan siendo el corazón de las actividades de la FAO, el núcleo. Y dentro de la

problemática de los productos básicos, el aspecto comercio es de fundamental importancia.

En este sentido deseo destacar el estancamiento registrado en el comercio mundial de productos agrícolas en el último año, estancamiento tanto más grave si se recuerda que el comercio total mundial aumentó el 11 por ciento en el mismo año pasado. En el párrafo 21 de nuestro documento se indica que el valor de los intercambios mundiales de productos agrícolas (se incluyen los ganaderos), ha descendido un 1 por ciento, arrojando una cifra de 83 275 millones de dólares. Pero el documento dice a ' continuación que esta inflexión se compensa con el aumento del 18 por ciento registrado en el sector pesquero y del 16 por ciento en el sector forestal. Permítaseme señalar nuestra discrepancia con esta cifra. Tal compensación no existe; no existe en términos numéricos, ni en cuanto a sus efectos en los países productores de productos básicos. En efecto, baste con comparar las cifras en términos absolutos: frente a un volumen ya señalado de 83 275 millones de dólares de productos agrícolas, los productos pesqueros apenas suman 7 395 millones de dólares y los forestales 30 000 millones de dólares. Téngase presente además que los principales exportadores de productos forestales son países industria lizados o ya desarrollados (como se demuestra en el cuadro número 17).

En síntesis, señor Presidente, las cifras relativas al comercio mundial de productos agrícolas nos preocupan, y nos preocupan principalmente por lo que significan en términos de la participación de los países en desarrollo en el comercio mundial y asimismo por lo que significan en términos de ingresos provenientes de exportaciones agrícolas.

Deseo traer aquí algunos comentarios coincidentes del FMI y de la CEPAL en el sentido de que los países económicamente desarrollados han sufrido los vaivenes de los precios y volumen comercializado de los productos agrícolas, los cuales sumados al deterioro acumulativo de la relación de inter cambio que se ha verificado desde 1973 han impedido cada vez más a estos países aprovechar de una manera razonablemente útil para ellos la relativa reactivación potencial de la demanda mundial de productos primarios y los resultados excepcionales de sus cosechas.

También deseo hacer un comentario sobre el siempre candente tema de las fluctuaciones de los precios. En términos globales, se indica un aumento de los precios internacionales de los productos agropecuarios. Sin embargo, un análisis un poco más profundo de estos datos nos da una idea más realista de la situación, que, de lo contrario, arroja índices que inducen a confusión al encubrir diversidades significativas en la estructura y tendencia de los diferentes productos básicos. Así, el vertiginoso aumento registrado en los precios del café y cacao así como de diversos aceites vegetales, y semillas oleaginosas contribuyó desproporcionadamente al alza registrada, mientras que los precios de otros productos alimenticios importantes, incluidos los cereales y el azúcar, bajaron notablemente en 1976, así como en el primer semestre del año en curso.

Se ha dicho alguna vez que las catástrofes parecen seguir siendo el único medio eficaz para provocar alzas significativas en los precios de los productos agrícolas. Queremos evitar que se produzcan esas catástrofes; no queremos estar supeditados a ellas; no obstante, queremos también dejar en claro que no somos del todo pesimistas y confiamos en que los convenios específicos de productos básicos (como el del azúcar, que tenemos la seguridad y la esperanza, sobre todo en este momento, de que tenga el efecto regulador buscado a partir de enero de 1978), así como las soluciones globales que se están elaborando en el marco del Programa Integrado de Productos Básicos de la UNCTAD y los debates que se realizan en la FAO en torno al té, introduzcan los necesarios factores estabilizadores del mercado, para beneficio de los países productores y consumidores.

En ese sentido confiamos también en una feliz y pronta culminación de las negociaciones relativas al Acuerdo Internacional del Trigo para disponer de un instrumento eficiente y útil que asegure la estabilidad tanto de la producción como de los precios.

Tal vez sea pertinente a esta altura formular algunas consideraciones de carácter general sobre algunos aspectos de interés que se refieren a la política agropecuaria de la República Argentina. Como es sabido, mi país es un productor eficiente de alimentos provenientes de zona templada y uno de los mayores exportadores del mundo de estos productos. Por ello este sector agropecuario es el mayor proveedor de nuestro saldo exportable y existe clara conciencia en el país de consolidar su capacidad de respuesta a la creciente escasez alimentaria mundial. Nuestras posibilidades como productor de alimentos pueden aún incrementarse de una manera sustancial y tenemos conciencia de la responsabilidad que cabrá a nuestro país en este campo en un futuro no lejano. Pero, así como el incremento del precio del petróleo marcó una etapa determinante en esta década, no sería aventurado predecir condiciones más favorables para los países exportadores tradicionales de alimentos en los años que vendrán, sobre todo ante las crecientes necesidades de ayuda alimentaria y la cada vez mayor demanda de estos productos. Por ello mi país ha emprendido un proceso intenso y sistemático con objeto de asegurar que los precios

agropecuarios sean lo suficientemente retributivos en el nivel interno, de modo que garanticen un crecientemente proceso de modernización y equipamiento del sector. A este respecto, debe precisarse que el aumento de la producción agropecuaria puede provenir en este momento de dos fuentes: en primer lugar, de la elevación de los rendimientos de la producción en las áreas ya explotadas, y en segundo término por la ampliación de la frontera agropecuaria, incorporando tierras inexploradas en la actualidad.

Para asegurar una cabal integración de este proceso, el Gobierno argentino, no sólo ha puesto énfasis en una acción de fondos públicos para la incorporación de tierras fiscales a la producción, sino que se está organizando la colaboración de cooperativas y compañías de colonización privadas que aporten el capital necesario para la culminación exitosa de este proceso.

Sintetizando, subsisten los siguientes objetivos en nuestra estrategia para obtener el máximo posible de nuestra producción agropecuaria:

Primero. Incrementar la productividad y producción del sector rural en todos sus aspectos.

Segundo. Mejorar el nivel de ingresos de la actividad, para estimular incentivos e inversiones.

Tercero. Modernizar la empresa agraria haciendo posible la aplicación de nuevas tecnologías.

Cuarto. Extender las fronteras agropecuarias, incorporando tierras improductivas a la tarea agropecuaria e incrementar los rendimientos unitarios.

Quinto. Resolver los problemas sociales que se presentan en algunas áreas, por problemas de minifundio o por bajos ingresos per capita.

Señor Presidente: la expansión agropecuaria en que está empeñada la República Argentina determinará una larga cadena de efectos positivos, proyectando los beneficios de su crecimiento a toda la comunidad internacional y en particular a los países en desarrollo. Confiamos también en que esté cada vez más en mejores condiciones para responder a las crecientes necesidades del mundo en el sector de la alimentación y de la nutrición.

X. VERGINIS (Greece): First of all I should like to thank the Secretariat for the very excellent paper they have prepared for us.

The world food and agriculture situation in its recent evolution has resulted in improvements of food consumption level in most developing countries, the decline of international prices of some food commodities, the restriction of international flow and in the creation of significant stocks. Examining these results from the food availability point of view, we repeat that important progress has been made in the campaign against hunger and malnutrition, and consequently an improvement in the world food situation has been realized.

Improvement in production of food, especially that of cereals, depends to a certain extent on weather, and variable conditions of a social and economic nature. The economic and social developments which all countries look for can only be realized in a way that permits of contributing to certain basic problems of the population of each country and also of humanity as a whole. One is food availability with which agricultural development is inextricably tied.

It is not necessary for all countries to follow the same strategies and apply the same policy measures to promote the situation in agriculture in order to succeed in their national projects such as the improvement of food production. The important point in our view is how to form such policies so as to create the necessary economic and social conditions, taking into account the resources available, which will enable a country to increase its efforts in a more productive way, in order to face successfully its peoples' nutritional needs and to provide the necessary quantities of food required. This could be achieved by increasing food production on an international level, by creating stocks, as well as distributing them geographically in an appropriate way. In this sense all countries must be encouraged to intensify and complete their efforts. For a long term production increase, we consider that certain actions should be taken to improve the ability of all countries and especially the developing countries to sustain and further increase their investments in agriculture from some aid sources, having in mind that sufficient resources are not fully available.

In Greece, continuing efforts have been made towards increasing the agricultural output by increasing productivity. The level of output obtained satisfies a great deal of the basic food requirements of the Greek population. Besides the progress achieved so far there is a lot to be done to improve agricultural productivity, food quality and marketing facilities for further agricultural development within the framework of the developed European agriculture.

In this respect the Greek government, in the agricultural policies it exercises, gives a high degree of priority to increase the amount of investment in the agricultural sector, mainly for expanding and improving irrigation facilities, for use of the proper technology, and for general reconstruction in agriculture.

The rate of increase of investment in agriculture could be higher if more financial resources were available. So far we welcome the establishment of the International Fund for Agriculture Development.

As far as cereals are concerned, we support the Committee on the World Food Security which emphasises the need for an international agreement to build up reserve stocks ensuring food security supply and price stability, by inducing countries to make efforts towards establishing an international grain agreement with appropriate economic provisions.

My delegation hopes that the effort made so far by the international community for solving food and agriculture problems will be continued at a more progressive rate.

My country is always ready to work for the establishment of efficient policies which will create better conditions for a more rapid increase in food production and for a greater food market stability in order to avoid a new world food crisis.

M.R. LEAR (New Zealand): The document before us on the state of food and agriculture provides in our view a very useful assessment of the current world food and agricultural situation. It is pleasing to us to note that the improvement in food and agricultural production over the last two years is likely to continue into the next season. However, although the developing market economies as a whole have achieved a 4 percent average annual growth in food production over the last two years we note with particular concern, as most other speakers before me have, that the longer term production trend has been disappointing especially in the MSA countries. Further, as the document points out, much of the recent improvement in production has been due to favourable weather conditions and given the uncertainty inherent in weather patterns, it is more than possible that over the next few years we could see a reversal in these recent achievements. We welcome therefore moves to take advantage of the building up in cereal stocks to provide for increased world food security by seeking to establish internationally coordinated systems for the management of cereal stocks. We would note, however, that the best long-term method of ensuring world food security is to develop the unused productive capacity of the world, especially in the developing countries. These and the price of fertilisers along with an adequate supply has no doubt helped to achieve recent improvements in production and it is to be hoped that this situation will continue. It is interesting to us to note that the forecast increase in the soya bean crop will help to increase livestock production. This link between soya bean production and livestock production increase has been a feature of agricultural development in a large part of the world over the last decade and a half, but it may not be altogether desirable in the long-term. Livestock production systems based on a narrow feed input base are very vulnerable due to their dependence on the successful growing of one crop. Bad weather in a major soya bean producing area of the world could lead in any one year to a severe disruption of the world's livestock production. In the long term it would be far wiser for the international community to base its livestock production on a wide base, using lower cost feeds such as grassland.

New Zealand is an efficient producer of dairy products and meat so we find it disappointing to see that these two products, as noted in the document we are studying, continue to face particular market problems, problems of market access and problems of over-supply, the problem of over-supply being brought about especially in the case of dairy products primarily by high cost price support policies of domestic production by industrialized countries. We regret that this situation exists, not only because it causes us severe problems but more particularly because it tends to discourage developing countries from building up their own livestock and dairy sectors. They are discouraged both because markets are difficult to find for the exportable surpluses that they may develop and secondly because some industrialized countries export dairy produce in particular at heavily subsidised and concessional prices, thereby encouraging developing countries to import these products rather than to develop domestic production. This is not in the long-term interests of the developing countries and in effect some industrialized countries in their pursuit of self-sufficiency, which seems to result in chronic surpluses, effectively discourage developing countries which cannot afford to import food in the long-term from attaining self-sufficiency.

Because our economy is nearly entirely dependent on the export of agricultural commodities we can appreciate the magnitude of the economic problems faced by developing countries, problems brought about by virtue of the commodity price problems of market access and problems of declining terms of trade for many agricultural exports, especially when oil imports are added into the terms of trade

equation. We welcome therefore the efforts to stabilize the prices of commodity exports of developing countries being undertaken at UNCTAD and we hope that satisfactory progress can be made, although it needs to be remembered as we have learned in New Zealand, sometimes to our cost, that price and incomes stabilization schemes cannot be implemented with any hope of success without lengthy preparatory work, research and negotiations and compromise between all parties. Unless compromises are made and unless all partners to a commodity agreement are willing participants, the chances of the agreement's success over the long term are minimal.

We are also hopeful that progress in liberalizing market access for agricultural exports can be made in the negotiations being undertaken under GATT auspices.

It is disturbing to note the decline in the level of external aid provided for agricultural development in developing countries in 1976. New Zealand very much regrets that it has been unable to increase its own aid programme, primarily as a consequence of the continued deterioration in the terms of trade for our agricultural exports, but we have become increasingly aware of the need for greater concentration of our aid on agricultural projects and this we have attempted to achieve. However we would also note that there is increasing evidence that constraints on production are often due less to the availability of resources than to social and political obstacles in the recipient countries. We are hopeful therefore that the forthcoming World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development will highlight what needs to be done to overcome these internal obstacles to rapid development, and that the Conference will provide the necessary stimulus to action.

It is also to be hoped that the development of agricultural technology and FAO's increasing emphasis on practical programmes at country level will have a positive long-term effect on world food production.

L. COMANESCU (Roumanie): Ainsi qu'il en est résulté lors des débats de la Plénière ainsi que des discussions qui jusqu'à ce moment continuent encore dans notre Commission, presque tout le monde est d'accord sur le fait qu'en dépit de l'amélioration constatée dans les deux ou trois dernières années, la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture pose encore de grands problèmes, parti culièrement dans les pays en développement.

Les études que l'on nous a soumises dans les documents. C 77/2 et C 77/2-Sup.1 sont assez éloquentes et nous remercions le Secrétariat pour son travail. Je n'insisterai donc sur des données statistiques.

Ce que la délégation roumaine voudrait souligner, ce sont les conclusions qu'on peut tirer de l'analyse.

Tout d'abord, il résulte, au moins dans la plus grande partie des pays en développement, qu'il faut faire de grands efforts encore pour arriver à un niveau de production capable de satisfaire le minimum nécessaire des besoins de consommation de toute la population. Cela demande naturellement des investissements toujours accrus dans le développement de l'agriculture. A ce sujet, nous sommes entièrement d'accord avec ce que le délégué du Pakistan a déclaré vendredi dernier; à savoir qu'il ne suffit pas d'investir mais d'avoir en même temps une orientation appropriée des investissements dans l'agriculture.

Je me permets de faire sur ce point quelques remarques en partant de l'expérience de mon pays. A notre avis, les investissements dans l'agriculture devraient avoir en tant qu'objectifs principaux la mise en valeur, à haut niveau, des ressources de la terre et l'amélioration de celles-ci; l'introduction, dans l'agriculture, des moyens et des techniques modernes de production; l'introduction, dans la production, des espèces de plantes et des espèces rares d'animaux de haut rendement adaptées aux caractéristiques de leurs régions respectives.

C'est ainsi que l'on pourrait arriver à une augmentation substantielle de la production agricole dans les pays en développement et que l'on pourrait s'assurer que cette production ne soit plus influencée, comme c'est le cas aujourd'hui, par les conditions atmosphériques.

Nous sommes convaincus que la réalisation de cet objectif ne peut être imaginée sans une mobilisation maximum des efforts de chaque pays en développement. Nous sommes convaincus, à la fois, du rôle et de la contribution importante que la coopération internationale, y compris par l'intermédiaire de la FAO, peut et doit y apporter. Nous sommes heureux de constater que la FAO est en train d'orienter de plus en plus ses activités dans cette direction. Quand nous parlons de la coopération internationale, nous ne pouvons passer sous silence l'importance toujours plus grande que ne cesse d'avoir la coopération entre les pays en développement eux-mêmes.

Cela est valable pour l'agriculture aussi, si nous tenons compte des possibilités et de l'expérience que beaucoup de pays en développement ont en ce domaine.

Nous sommes d'avis qu'il serait absolument nécessaire de développer davantage cette coopération et nous espérons que cette Conférence réussira à adopter des mesures concrètes dans cette voie. Pour ce qui est de la délégation roumaine, elle est prête à présenter dans la deuxième commission toute une série de propositions visant au développement de cette coopération.

Je voudrais aborder maintenant, d'une façon aussi brève que possible, un autre sujet dont l'importance pour la situation de l'agriculture est primordiale. Il s'agit du commerce international des produits agricoles, qui constitue un facteur à même de contribuer tant à l'accroissement de la production agricole dans les pays en développement qu'à freiner cette production.

Il nous paraît dangereux d'interpréter d'une façon optimiste les données qui nous ont été présentées dans les documents du Secrétariat à propos du commerce des produits agricoles. Nous disons cela parce que, en dépit d'un certain accroissement des revenus que les pays en développement ont réalisé par leurs exportations, les produits de ces pays continuent à rencontrer de grandes difficultés sur les marchés développés, toute une série de restrictions leur étant imposée à l'importation sur ces marchés. Cela pour ne pas parler du rapport injuste qui apparaît entre les prix des produits agricoles et des produits manufacturés.

Des mesures de la part de la communauté internationale s'imposent encore, notamment de la part des pays développés pour assurer un accroissement substantiel et continu des revenus des pays en développement et des exportations des produits agricoles. Cela serait de nature à contribuer de façon effective à l'augmentation et à la diversification de la production agricole de ces pays.

Avant de terminer, je voudrais soulever une question qui peut paraître plutôt technique, mais qui a quand même, au moins pour nous, une importance particulière. Il s'agit des différents tableaux statistiques inclus dans les documents du Secrétariat, y compris le document C 77/2-Sup, 1. Prenons par exemple le tableau N° 1, page 4 du document cité. Il y a là une classification des régions. Cela provoque des confusions, sinon des malentendus. C'est pour cela qu'il nous paraît opportun de supprimer le mot "market" parce qu'il n'y a pas qu'en Asie qu'on trouve des pays en développement à économie centralement planifiée. Alors, à notre avis, il serait souhaitable de substituer le mot "market" à "économie de marché" en prenant en considération la note indiquant à juste titre qu'il y a des pays en développement dans d'autres régions que l'Afrique, l'Extrême-Orient, l'Amérique latine, le Proche-Orient et l'Asie.

R.A. THOMAS (Gambia): I wish to thank the Secretary for this stimulating paper. It is my intention to give just a brief account of what is happening in the Gambia, in view of the bitter experience we have gone through during the past cropping season. The rainfall this year was very erratic, and we had never seen such an experience as we had this year. It is our view, after a survey, that agricultural production will drop: Swamp rice production about 90 percent will be lost, planted rice about 90 percent, sorghum about 20 percent, millet 40 percent and maize 60 percent. From these figures it should become obvious that we will definitely be requiring some food assistance, and the food assistance would be not only for a few months but up to the end of the cropping season next year. We have had some response from the Director-General, from the United States of America, Canada, the United Kingdom and the Federal Republic of Germany, as well as from the EEC, and we have had some financial assistance from the Ivory Coast. To all of these I extend my sincere gratitude.

In our five-year development plan, the first among our aims are to improve the nutritional standards of people in the rural areas and to make efforts to increase agricultural production, especially food production, so as to eliminate bulk cereal imports, especially rice.

My government is indeed trying to utilize, within the limits of its resources, local funds; but at the same time we are receiving assistance from overseas sources to develop, first, rice. At the moment, we are receiving considerable support from China in developing irrigated rice. Currently there are 4 000 acres that have been brought under irrigation and it is hoped that by the end of the planned period this will be extended to about 7 000 acres. With local funds we are undertaking feasibility studies in two large swamps in the eastern end of the country to bring another 10.000 acres under irrigation. With external funds we hope to improve another 50 000 acres of rain-fed swamp.

The work we are doing on food crops does not involve rice only but also other cereals. At present we have a Rural Development Project going on, financed by loans from the World Bank/BADEA and a generous grant from the United Kingdom. With these we are launching a cereal package to farmers in the western part of the country, establishing a credit scheme for farmers to provide implements and work oxen as well as inputs to set up a seed multiplication unit, to train farmers as well as extension staff and the development of livestock throughout the country.

From the EEC we had money for agricultural development in the eastern part of the country and for exploiting our fisheries resources. Studies are now going on for the utilization of our ground water resources for vegetable growing throughout the country. Following the UNDP multi-donor mission a recommendation has been made for the building of a salinity barrage so that we can make full use of the river water for irrigation purposes.

I must admit that much effort is required on our side, especially in the training of staff and also for the training of farmers. Help is needed for land clearing, which is one of the bottlenecks as far as the opening of new agricultural lands is concerned.

It is my view, from the list I have just given, that a lot of external finance will be required to help us achieve our aims. At this juncture I should like to advise that external financing agencies must not try to lay down too stringent conditions for loans being given to developing countries because those loans might never get to the people they are intended for.

It has been said in this forum that the gap between the rich and the poor is getting wider. If we are not careful, the gap even within our own countries between the farmers will get wider, because when loans are given - for example, we have a loan at the moment to launch a credit scheme for farmers, but the financing agency is insisting that in order to participate in such scheme farmers must deposit 11 percent of the total cost of the credit package to be given to them. That would automatically exclude the bulk of the farmers because if the farmer has nothing I do not see how he will be able to deposit 11 percent of an initial credit package.

Finally, I wish to say that funds for agricultural investment must be adequate. I have said earlier in this forum that I come from a small country. At the moment we have only 90 000 farm families. If we cannot get funds for reasonable credit facilities to 90 000 farmers, I fail to see how we shall be able to assist all these farmers within a very short time. We need adequate support, financial support, so that we will be able to extend all these improved agricultural facilities to farmers throughout the country.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): There is no doubt that the problems of food and agriculture which have been submitted to your worthy attention at the last two meetings have given rise to a considerable number of statements, several of which, coming from various regions of the world, have dealt with national policies in food and agriculture. This morning delegates have commented upon the Secretariat document and, apart from the question of raising production, delegates have discussed market policies and several proposals have been made to us.

The meeting rose at 12.40 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 40

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.40 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C 77/I/PV/6

C

Nineteenth Session
COMMISSION I

Dix-neuvième session
COMMISSION I

19° período de sesiones
COMISION II

SIXTH MEETING
SIXIEME SÉANCE
SEXTA SESIÓN

(22 November 1977)

The Sixth Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours

J.C. Vignaud, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La sixième séance est ouverte à 14 h 45, sous la présidence de

J.C. Vignaud, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la sexta sesión a las 14.45 horas, bajo la presidencia de

J.C. Vignaud, Presidente de la Comisión I

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

PREMIERE PARTIE - PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET QUESTIONS DE POLITIQUE EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)

PARTE I - PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLÍTICAS DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN (continuación)

6. World Food and Agriculture Situation (continued)

6. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)

6. Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo (continuación)

J.D. KEITA (Mali): Monsieur le Président, si j'avais eu l'occasion de disposer d'une telle tribune il y a seulement quelques mois je me serais félicité de la relative sérénité régnant au Sahel après la grande sécheresse de 1973. Mais hélas, les nuages s'amoncellent déjà à l'horizon. Les récoltes vi-vrières s'annoncent mauvaises et les pâturages maigres. Le Sahel vit à nouveau dans la crainte de lendemains incertains, les stocks ne sont pas reconstitués au niveau des familles et les Etats connaissent encore des difficultés de stockage.

Les Etats sahéliens, membres du Comité interétats de lutte contre la sécheresse dans le Sahel ont déjà tiré la sonnette d'alarme et fait appel à la solidarité internationale pour venir en aide aux populations sinistrées.

C'est vous dire, Monsieur le Président, que l'état de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture dans mon pays n'est pas satisfaisant. La grande période de sécheresse des années 1970-1973 a été suivie d'une augmentation des productions industrielles de coton et d'arachides, ensuite d'une extension de superficies emblavées en céréales, avec en corollaire une relative augmentation de productions vivrières, en particulier du riz. Cette tendance ayant persisté pendant trois ans, notre pays avait commencé à connaître une relative sérénité sur le plan alimentaire.

Deux éléments essentiels, à notre avis, conditionnent la consolidation d'un état alimentaire satisfaisant dans notre pays: d'abord, la maîtrise des problèmes de stockage, ensuite l'augmentation de la productivité de l'agriculture.

Les problèmes de stockage semblent être les plus faciles à maîtriser et notre gouvernement, avec l'aide et l'appui des pays et organisations amis, a déjà entrepris de constituer des stocks de sécurité au niveau de l'état. Il est bien facile à percevoir que l'efficacité de ces stocks gérés par l'Etat est bien vite limitée sans l'intervention d'une première chaîne de stocks entre eux et les consommateurs. Cette première chaîne de stocks doit être constituée par les familles. La constitution de ces stocks au niveau des familles était de rigueur dans la société traditionnelle africaine. Avec le passage progressif vers une économie monétaire des échanges, ces stocks ont disparu, rendant la société plus fragile encore aux aléas du climat.

En ce qui concerne l'augmentation de la productivité de l'agriculture, le problème est lié à des facteurs techniques comme la maîtrise de l'eau, la disponibilité du matériel végétal plus productif, l'augmentation de la puissance de travail des fermiers, etc., mais aussi et surtout ce problème est lié à la détérioration des termes de l'échange au niveau des producteurs. La crise inflationniste mondiale s'est traduite par une augmentation effrénée des prix des produits industriels donc des "inputs" agricoles. Tandis que les prix des produits agricoles ont connu de modestes augmentations, les termes de l'échange se sont davantage détériorés pour les fermiers, rendant ainsi inopérants tous nos efforts d'intensification de l'agriculture. Les engrais, par exemple, sont tout simplement hors de prix pour les fermiers du Sahel. Si les engrais continuent à être utilisés c'est parce que les gouvernements les subventionnent.

Notre gouvernement a entièrement soutenu les résolutions de la session spéciale des Nations Unies sur l'instauration d'un nouvel ordre économique mondial. La production de vivres ne pourra jamais progresser de façon satisfaisante dans notre pays si la détérioration des termes de l'échange au niveau des fermiers s'accroît. Or, en raison de cette détérioration des termes de l'échange à leur niveau et la projection des iniquités dans les échanges économiques mondiaux concernant la production alimentaire d'origine animale, l'élevage sahélien éprouve encore, après la forte diminution des effectifs au cours de la sécheresse, de sérieuses difficultés à ravitailler correctement les populations en protéines; les éleveurs pratiquant au maximum la rétention afin de pouvoir reconstituer au plus vite leurs troupeaux.

Cette pratique de rétention, par les éleveurs, a des conséquences fâcheuses sur les prix de la viande et prive ainsi le commerce extérieur de notre pays de l'apport de vivres du secteur bétail/viande. Après trois années d'inondations moyennes, les pêcheries retrouvent petit à petit leur niveau moyen d'activité. Cependant, leur gestion rationnelle, afin de tirer le meilleur parti de toutes leurs possibilités, reste un problème préoccupant.

Les plaines inondables constituent pour nous une source importante de protéines. La forêt continue à se dégrader sous la double pression de l'agriculture itinérante et de l'urbanisation. La forêt sahé-lienne est mise à contribution de façon insupportable par le phénomène de l'urbanisation amorcé depuis quelques décennies. L'environnement des villes se dégrade à un rythme impressionnant

La fourniture de l'énergie domestique et des matériaux de construction soumet les forêts à faible régénération à un rythme d'exploitation insupportable. Le résultat en est la rareté, et donc le coût élevé, des produits vitaux pour les familles déshéritées. On a pu écrire sans exagération qu'il coûte aussi cher dans les villes sahéliennes de remplir la marmite que de la faire bouillir.

Depuis la dernière session de la Conférence un événement majeur s'est produit au Sahel. C'est la naissance, en mars 1976, à Ottawa, du Club du Sahel. Ce Club est un forum de caractère informel ayant pour but de soutenir les efforts de développement des États sahéliens par la recherche de financement de technologies appropriées. Ce Club est ouvert à tous les pays et organisations susceptibles d'apporter aide matérielle et savoir pour la mise en oeuvre des programmes de développement du Sahel. Depuis sa création, le Club a déjà accompli un grand progrès, avec l'aide d'ailleurs massive et compétente, de notre Organisation.

En effet, il a mis sur pied un groupe de travail ayant pour tâche de poser les grandes lignes stratégiques d'un programme de développement à moyen et long terme du Sahel avec l'objectif majeur de l'autosuffisance alimentaire pour la "Région à l'horizon 2000".

Une première génération de projets a fait l'objet d'un examen par le Club, à Ottawa en juin 1977.

Avec votre permission, je voudrais profiter de cette occasion pour lancer un appel à tous les pays amis et organisations internationales compétentes, pour les inviter à joindre leurs efforts à ceux de notre Club afin d'appuyer les actions de développement des pays figurant parmi les 25 pays les plus pauvres du monde.

Je voudrais tout particulièrement inviter notre Directeur général à continuer de donner son appui à toutes les actions mises en place dans le cadre de notre club, il' objectif de l'autosuffisance alimentaire étant un des points essentiels de la tâche de notre Organisation.

H.S. BAR-SHAI (Israël): First of all, I should like to thank the Secretariat for the comprehensive report C 77/2 and the supplements provided, and for the thorough work they have done. I should also like to express our wishes and hopes that IFAD and the World Food Council programme mentioned in the document will, in their way, succeed and contribute towards progress in the production of much required food and towards freedom from hunger.

After analysing the data in C 77/2 and its supplements, there is little doubt that it is of the utmost importance to increase production in order to ensure at least existing world standards of feeding which, for many people, is not very high. Every effort should be made to increase production, be it by investment in the infrastructure in food production, machinery, etc., enlarging the growing areas, utilizing more fertilizers or insecticides; be it by preventing pre- or post-harvest losses and - not least important - inducing continuous research to find high-yielding and higher-yielding varieties suitable for the variable conditions in different areas of the world.

We have also suggested in plenary session the setting up of reserve forecasting centres, so as to overcome what is probably one of the most important obstacles in agriculture. The best forces should be enlisted, through FAO or by other arrangements, to advise where necessary on how to increase crops and yields and how to reduce losses. A campaign to change some of the consumption habits in various parts of the world should also be promoted, which may prove useful in disposing of some over-produced food or crops which can be grown more economically in other areas. May we be strong enough to deal with the growing requirements for food all over the world.

Israël tried to overcome these problems, among other ways and means, by regulating the supplies and prices of the various crops, neutralizing extreme fluctuations through a variety of systems, which we feel can also be applied on an international basis. Thus, we have an annual agreement with growers ensuring minimum prices or income to the growers, or minimum income through their organization or production boards which are managed by both growers and government. There also exists in Israël a central fund covering natural disaster damages which is financed by both farmers and the government. The fruits of our experience and research are applied successfully in Israel and are extended to other countries which are in dire need of any media that would increase their basis of agricultural self supply. We have previously in this Conference offered the arrangement of courses in interested countries on the subject of preventing pre- and post-harvest losses, for example.

If we are to apply our experience on an international basis, it follows that commodity agreements should be arranged in a way that ensures the interests of both growers and consumers and neutralizes the often extreme fluctuations in prices of more or less basic commodities, and which will regulate both the production and consumption of them.

Israel being both grower and importer of more than 2 million tons of foodstuffs will welcome and support any constructive international action or agreement designed to regulate supply and prices on an agreed world basis and which will facilitate a reasonable minimum existence to the grower and food prices to the consumer in other places as well.

We would also like to suggest at this point the setting up an international fund covering nature risks which will work with the cooperation of existing insurance companies and banks, both world and regional banks. Such a fund will hopefully give every possible assistance to regions hit by financial disasters. It also should cooperate with similar national or regional insurance funds the establishment of which should greatly be encouraged. This international fund should act in close cooperation also with the World Food Programme. May we suggest the Director-General of FAO should investigate the feasibility of such a fund and enlist the required cooperation of those countries who will be actively involved in the running and management of this fund. Israel is willing to give from its experience in running such a fund and in solving the problem, which would greatly alleviate the problem of natural disasters.

M. ISHAQUE (Bangladesh): It is quite heartening to note from document C 77/2 that the world food and agriculture situation has considerably improved. The information that the carryover stocks by the end of 1976/77 has been 18 percent of the current consumption, which is regarded by the FAO as a safe level for world food security, is very welcome. The document C 77/2 also mentions that serious problems remain, including widespread incidence of hunger and malnutrition among the poorest people. Yes, many problems remain which need to be solved for a peaceful happy community of humanity in our planet.

Before we discuss the methods of agricultural adjustments in more detail in our Commission under the next item, let me briefly present the situation in my country, Bangladesh.

In this country of 55 thousand square miles with 80 million people and 22 million fertile cultivable acres, floods, storms and other natural calamities visit regularly and leave their deep footprints in the shape of devastation and crop loss with consequent maladies for the people. Yet, in this situation, the enthusiasm of the hardworking Bangladeshi farmers is producing food and other agricultural products for survival and growth. Against the requirement of food grains, the country produces 84 percent and the balance is to be imported with the available carryover stocks in the world, there at least exists a possibility of doing so. That is one way of handling the situation. The other way, the better way, is to produce enough and prevent the loss of already produced quantity. The situation, in this respect, is that we are in a take off stage, thanks to the increasing sympathy, consideration and support of the FAO and the U.N. system and other friendly countries and bodies in this serious endeavour of Bangladesh.

To increase the production of crops, modern technologies, based on seed, fertilizer, pest management and water control are the primary tools and Bangladesh, being aware of it, has embarked upon a massive programme, to use these tools. High-yielding varieties are at present (in 1975/76), grown in 4 million acres. The target is that we shall cover 5.7 million acres in 1979/80 and 12.9 million acres in 1985. This will involve us in investment of US\$ 25 million. 30 percent of this will be foreign currency. The different kinds of rice that Bangladesh grows, suiting her agro-climatic situation, presents the problem that no high-yielding varieties are available yet for planting in certain kinds of land. A break-through in researches is necessary to have such varieties, and FAO, in my opinion, should take a hard look in this respect. Such new varieties will not only help Bangladesh but also many other countries with such agro-climatic ecological conditions like that of ours will be benefited. The Bangladesh Rice Research Institute has already made a mark by standing first during the last three consecutive years by developing the best varieties in the region, and I am sore, given the necessary support, the researchers over there can deliver the goods. Excuse-me, Mr. Chairman, for beating my own drum but for quicker results I have given the reference.

Coming back to the programme in Bangladesh, a very important one is water management. Our programme is to bring more land, 4.84 million acres against the present 2.71 million acres, under irrigation and increase the cropping intensity to 250 percent against the present 149 percent. This programme will require an investment of US\$ 325.41 million of which 47 percent will be required in foreign exchange. This is a programme already launched and, again, I mention that it is at a take off stage. The programme is bound to be bogged down if continuity of enthusiasm, resources and support is not there. Therefore, it is necessary that serious attention is called for from world bodies to such programmes which are at the take off stage and give us the promise of higher production, accelerated growth and better security through agriculture. I am inviting FAO's leadership, to remove the handicaps that do hinder the progress of such programmes not only in Bangladesh but wherever they are. FAO's involvement for continuity and removing the handicaps is there but further intensification will, I am sure, improve the agricultural situation in the less developed countries at a faster pace.

Production loss both pre-and post-harvest is always there throughout the world, caused predominantly by pests. Pest control, therefore, is one important item of work if we want to make more food and agricultural commodities available for human beings. Concerted and coordinated effort must, therefore, be made with the collaboration of countries that face more or less similar situations. I suggest for the consideration of the FAO the possibility of establishing regional pest control institutes which I consider would be of benefit to all the member countries of the region of similar climatic, cropping and other conditions, and the agriculture situation in these regions will improve.

The less developed countries have to depend upon trade in agricultural commodities, due to fluctuations in prices of such commodities, the less developed countries suffer constantly in respect of production, trade and growth. Therefore, stability in the prices of agricultural commodities is urgently needed to be established. Terms of trade between developed countries and developing countries are gradually making adverse impacts on developing countries. Imports of developed countries fell over the past years continuously whereas the imports of developing countries have gradually increased. Consequently most of the developing countries are having balance of payments deficits affecting their strategy, plan and growth. Policies should, therefore, be undertaken which should ensure the market of the developing countries.

Prices of inputs are very important for the developing countries which have embarked upon development programmes. Fluctuations and undue increases very seriously set back the programmes and the plans. Therefore, prices of essential inputs need to be rationalized and kept stable, at least during a projected period.

Full nutrition should be the objective of food intake. Therefore, food should mean total food. Solo emphasis on cereals should not, therefore, be given and horticulture should be given importance in all developing countries, in all of which malnutrition is widespread. Bangladesh, I am happy to say is at a take off stage also in this regard.

Development of fisheries is possible in the developing countries and my country of rivers, canals, lowland rice lands and the Bay of Bengal, has a tremendous possibility. While we have already undertaken the programme more international cooperation, support and collaboration will not only take us to self-sufficiency in respect of this important protein food but also over to export trade.

Finally, it has been in the minds of many developing countries, that foreign aid has different kinds of strings with it. It will be better to demonstrate that it is not so.

V. STIPETIC (Yugoslavia): The document before us - "The State of Food and Agriculture for 1976/77" with its supplement are the treasures of the facts, marvellously assembled, for which I would like to give to the Secretariat my congratulations. Saying that, I do not like to accept all the conclusions in this document. Many of them are worth discussion, a few of them are in my opinion of dubious value. It is extremely difficult to discuss those statements here with time limits enabling us to discuss only a few subjects which for our respective countries have the main interest. For that reason, Yugoslavia shares the view expressed by the Swiss delegation and others that it would be much more useful in following Conferences to divide the subject contained in the document on The State of Food and Agriculture into a few items which might enable us to discuss more thoroughly problems of world agriculture. By such method's our discussion would not be a series of monologues as now but dialogues with suggestions and solutions for world food and agriculture problems.

Among those subjects which Yugoslavia would like to see more thoroughly discussed at Conferences to come and especially in this Commission is the question of agricultural trade and access to the market. We regard the existing and growing agrarian protectionism in developed countries represents an obstacle to the agricultural development in developing countries, especially in those commodities for which those countries have comparative advantages which could not be developed at the moment because

of this growing agrarian protectionism. But this subject is almost missing from the documents before us. We know UNCTAD and GATT are dealing with this problem but Ministers of agriculture, almost one hundred of them, attending this Conference this year, have something to tell on this subject, offering a so much needed solution.

When I mentioned that in the documents there are some statements which ought to be discussed and cleared on this Commission I had in mind primarily the prevailing optimistic position of the report. Let me quote a few of such statements which probably give a general idea. Let us take document C 77/2 on page 3 where there is the following statement. Paragraph 16 says "The generally good production performances in 1975 and 1976 have led to relatively plentiful supplies of most agricultural commodities, especially cereals, and to a considerable improvement in the current world food situation. World food production is now estimated to have risen in 1976 by 4 percent. Production rose by 3 percent in the developing countries following the 5 percent increase in 1975 and by 4 percent in the developed countries where it was the first major increase in three years..." This optimistic mood has been down-graded a bit in the later documents and I would like to quote document C 77/2 Supplement 1 where in paragraph 2 you will find the following statement: "In July widespread good harvests were in prospect for 1977, although it was already clear that the increases in production were likely to be smaller than in 1975 and 1976, and that world cereal production would be slightly below the 1976 record. While these prospects are now generally confirmed, FAO's first preliminary world and regional estimates indicate the somewhat disappointing result that world food production rose by only 1.0 to 1.5 percent in 1977..."

In paragraph 3 it says: "If these preliminary figures are confirmed by later more complete data, the increase in food production in 1977 would be less than the growth of population, both in the developing countries and in the world as a whole...". But this is always a simple year-by-year analysis. What does the factual situation look like in a rather long-term perspective? Let me analyse the situation in the 1970s only. This cannot be done precisely on the basis of the figures provided in the document, and for such an analysis I have prepared some figures showing what is the real world food and agricultural situation. I will deal with the figures given in document C 77/2 Supplement 2. On page 3 of this document you will find the rates of growth in world and regional agricultural production from 1970 to 1977. Better to say to 1976 and there is an addition for 1977. I start this analysis by pointing out that the rate of growth for developing countries for the past six years was 2.6 percent. Since we have got the rather disappointing result of 1.5 to 2 percent in 1977, it is quite likely that the rate of growth for seven years is going to be 2.4 percent yearly which is only 60 percent of the rate of growth which was envisaged by the Second Development Decade of the United Nations. But much more serious are the results obtained for the seven-year period when those figures are compared with the rate of growth of population. Africa as such has got for the period between 1970 and 77 the annual rate of growth of agricultural production of only 1 percent yearly and a rate of growth of population for the same period was 2.6 percent yearly. By that, population has outpaced the rate of growth of production considerably. In the Far East the rate of growth of agricultural production is 2.8 percent yearly and the population growth rate is 2.3 percent yearly. In Latin America the rate of growth of population is equal to the rate of growth of agricultural production, namely 2.7 percent yearly. In Asian centrally planned economies, China, the rate of growth of population in those seven years was 1.7 percent and the rate of growth of agricultural production was 2.4 percent yearly. But taking the total for developing countries as a whole, the rate of growth of agricultural production is 2.4 percent and the rate of growth of population 2.6 percent which does not give a basis for the prevailing optimism which was expressed in the document.

As far as developed market economies are concerned, Western Europe has got a rate of growth of agricultural production of 1.7 percent yearly and the rate of growth of population is only 0.7 percent yearly. In North America we have got a 2.9 percent rate of growth in agricultural production and a 0.9 percent rate of growth of population. In Eastern Europe the rate of growth of agricultural production is 2 percent yearly and the rate of growth of population is 0.9 percent yearly. The total for the developed countries is a rate of growth of agricultural production of 2.1 percent yearly and the rate of growth of population of 0.9 percent yearly. A slightly better situation for the world as a whole in the 1970s where agricultural production rose by 2.2 percent yearly and the population only by 1.9 percent yearly, is due exclusively to the higher rates of growth of agricultural production in the developed economies. The world as such has failed to obtain the faster rate of growth over population in the developing regions of the world which are so open to hunger and malnutrition.

Now if we take those figures I would like to underline that the world agricultural situation is very vulnerable with a fragile balance between growth of population and food production. There is no need for cheers. We ought to be cautious. The fall in world food prices on the international market is mainly due to the low purchasing power of the hungry and under-fed billions in the world. It is due to the growing debts of developing countries, to their low repayment possibilities and slow progress in establishing a new international economic order, as it was described by the Special Session of the General Assembly of the UN. It is almost unbelievable that in such a situation where the growth of agricultural production is slightly surpassing, if surpassing at all, the rate of growth of population

we have got a decrease in real terms in external assistance to agriculture in developing countries as it was correctly stated in the document which we have got that is document C 77/2 on page 32. In this document in paragraph 110 we see that all official commitments of external assistance to agriculture in 1975 was US\$ 5,776,000,000; in 1976 (in current prices) US\$ 5,400,000,000 and this is only 60 percent of the aims defined by the Manila Communique of the World Food Council which is called a Pro gramme of Action to eradicate hunger and malnutrition. In this document as well as in the Paris communique on the talks of north/south external resources in the neighbourhood of US\$ 8.3 billion at 1975 prices were called for so that we have got only 60 percent of the level which was placed as a goal for this period.

Finally I would like to add a few words concerned with my own country. Yugoslavia gave to agriculture, in its development plans, a very important role to play. We regard it that we cannot provide the welfare of the people without a considerable increase in our own domestic agricultural production. We consider that the basic prerequisite for stable economic growth is more balanced proportion in the development of agriculture and non-agricultural sector of the national economy. With this basic principle in mind my country favoured agricultural development and obtained a 3.4 percent rate of growth in the past 30 years which gives a 2.5 percent increase in agricultural production calculated on a per capita basis. This tendency continued in recent years. We have obtained a 7 percent increase in agricultural production in 1976, 4 percent in 1977. This enabled us to improve considerably the nutrition of the population with a far more balanced diet than ever before in our history. Just to show what we have done I would like to mention that we were producing early in the 1950s only 6 million tons of cereals. Now we are producing approximately 17 millions tons. Per capita production in the 5-year average from 1949 to 1953 used to be 370 kg. per capita. In the past three years it was 760 kg. surpassing 800 kg. in 1977 itself. As can be seen we almost tripled cereal production in the past 25 years, more than doubling cereal production on a per capita basis. We were able to obtain a more or less similar situation in other sectors of agricultural production. Meat consumption in Yugoslavia jumped from 25 kg. per head of population yearly in the early 1950s to 60 kg. nowadays. This is an example of what can and ought to be done in many other developing countries and we would like to see that on the world scale.

K. BEDESTENCI (Turkey): My delegation carefully examined the paper before us C 77/2 and supplements, which deals with food and agriculture.

At the 18th Conference of FAO when we were discussing the state of food and agriculture the situation was not good. Now we are very pleased to hear that the food and agricultural situation has considerably improved. My country is one of those, although many serious problems remain among the developing countries, especially the world's poorest people.

Many speakers before me have already given much detail of the problems of production in the food and agricultural sectors of the economy.

My delegation fully share their views, especially those of my colleagues from Pakistan, who spoke last Friday, and Yugoslavia who spoke today before me.

I must explain that Turkey would like to underline the following policies which are very important for the development of food and agriculture. FAO must inform Member countries about the input availability in the world market as regards price and stocks of fertilizer and pesticides. Secondly, FAO must give more technical aid according to countries' development programmes. In many developing countries the transfer of technology is still inadequate and serious difficulties continue to exist in financing necessary investment in agriculture. In this country, promotion of export of agricultural products is a question that could easily be tackled within the framework of FAO, such as measures to be taken for increasing food production, for its efficient marketing and raising developing countries' share in the global exportation of agricultural products. For that reason, FAO has a role to play in preparing an integrated and coordinated programme of action for developing countries in order to enable them to . improve agricultural production and agricultural exports. Such a plan has never been prepared and integrated.

R. SARAN (India): My delegation has enjoyed reading the material by the Secretariat on the state of food and agriculture for the year 1977. This is very interesting and up-to-date material. Before I deal with the policy issues, let me make a brief comment on the contents of the State of Food and Agriculture document. I appreciate that attention has been given to those agricultural products which have a global or an international angle. I was, however, hoping to acquaint myself with the detailed position on different aspects of items like pulses, oil cakes, jute and spices. I recognize that some of these commodities are important for a number of countries only but, considering the role of those commodities in the economies of those countries, I would suggest that we should be given not only the

up-to-date position in respect of such commodities in the annual State of Food and Agriculture but also a detailed analysis for some of them from time to time. I would particularly refer in this context to pulses. They are the principal source of protein in a country like mine, as also in some other countries. We have been concerned over the fact that their production has remained stagnant in recent years. With the extension of irrigation and the introduction of high-yielding varieties of cereals like wheat, the area under pulses has contracted. Being irrigated crops, the fields of pulses per hectare is also low. The per capita availability of pulses has gone down.

We have recently taken a number of steps, including the raising of the minimum support price by over 30 percent, but we would like to have a complete study made by FAO about the differentials in yields in different countries, the factors contributing to these differentials, the likely level of international prices, the likely magnitude of export availabilities, etc. Also, we would like this study to deal with possible measures for increasing the production of pulses. After the study has been completed, the countries concerned might be assisted in developing and implementing a programme of action for pulses.

A similar analysis might also be undertaken for oilseeds, which are an important source of fats and whose production is subject to considerable fluctuations.

In regard to policy issues, I would be mostly repeating what a number of delegations have already said. In fact, the delegation of Yugoslavia dealt with the subject in such great detail that I find it difficult to say more than what he has already said. In any case, as is customary, I shall deal with some of the policy issues in order that my views are registered in this Commission. I might add that the leader of the Indian delegation, the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation of India has already referred to a number of policy issues in his statement in the Plenary.

It is a matter of gratification that after having suffered from economic crisis created by stagnation in production and the sharp rise in prices during the years 1972 to 1974, the world community has heaved a sigh of relief since 1975. Food and agricultural production has witnessed an improvement in the last three years with good moisture and soil prospects for the early crops of 1978 also appear to be good. But this is not the complete picture. There are certain disquieting trends which we cannot afford to ignore. Many delegations have referred to them, but let me reiterate them.

First, in the developing countries the rate of increase in food and agricultural production has gone down year after year since 1975. We have the data available in document C 77/2-Sup.2. There is no doubt that the area under high-yielding varieties and fertilizer consumption have significantly increased in the last three years, contributing to a continually rising trend in production, but it is also true that weather continues to exert a strong influence on agricultural output.

Secondly, over the longer period, 1971-1976, the rate of increase in agricultural production remained below the rate of increase recorded in the previous decade.

Thirdly, all the developing countries have not shared equally in the growth of production and the gap between the MACs and the least developed countries and those in the other developing market economies has widened considerably.

These broad conclusions are indicative of the imperative need for making much greater efforts towards raising agricultural productivity. Assured and better yields are possible by extending irrigation to large areas, and this involves huge investment which must be provided. Yields can be further increased if larger areas are brought under high-yielding varieties, fertilizer consumption is stepped up and plant protection measures adopted on an increasing scale. It is unfortunate that the strengthening of demand for fertilizers, particularly from the developing countries, has led to an upward pressure of prices in recent months. Such a trend in prices must be reversed or at least curbed in the interests of achieving sustained increases in production in the developing countries. This also brings out the need for creating adequate production capacity for fertilizers and other inputs within developing countries.

The relative easing in the food situation which we witness today is partly attributable to the replenishment of stocks in the world. We ourselves now have a sizeable stock of cereals. These stocks have brought a certain measure of stability on the food front. I would urge that the world community should not take any measures which might have the effect of bringing down the stocks at the global level. In fact, the present situation gives us the opportunity to set aside a part of supplies for the purpose of stockbuilding, so that not only are prices stabilized now but also supplies and prices are maintained in the future, even when crops fail because of widespread drought or other natural calamities.

The level of total stock and the reserve stock also to be internationally coordinated should also be adequate to serve the objective of food security. All countries, developing and developed, should continue their efforts towards increased and augmented food production to ensure continuity of supply, to avoid a food production shortage resulting from failure of crops and to sustain a steady expansion of consumption, particularly in the developing countries.

My country, and I believe other developing countries too, is ready to participate in a scheme of national reserves to be internationally coordinated, but developing countries are not able to bear the cost involved in acquiring and holding such stocks. They have to be assisted suitably to enable them to maintain national reserves.

We have noted that the Committee on World Food Security has recommended that the objectives and main elements of the international undertaking on world food security should be reflected in the new International Grains Agreement. It is understood that this recommendation of the Committee has been forwarded to the International Wheat Council for necessary action. FAO should take a continuing interest in the implementation of this recommendation, particularly so far as it concerns developing countries.

We have noted also that some progress has been made in receiving commitments towards the international emergency reserve of 500 000 tonnes of cereals. We should urge all member countries to pledge as much cereals as they can so that the target of 500 000 tonnes may be obtained in the shortest possible period, in the interests of promoting an important element of world food security.

It is unfortunate that food aid in recent years has remained below the minimum level of 10 million tonnes of cereals recommended by the World Food Conference. Our suggestion is that food aid should be provided not only for current consumption but also to improve the nutritional standards of the under nourished and malnourished peoples of the developing countries. To assure continuity of supplies, the International Grains Agreement should include a food aid convention providing for food aid of at least 10 million tons a year.

Before I conclude may I join others in expressing the need for augmenting the flow of external resources consistent with the estimated requirement of \$ 8.3 billion at 1975 prices, which comes close to a figure of \$ 10 billion at prices prevailing in 1977. It is regretted that the value of development assistance at \$ 5.4 billion in 1976 was less than that in 1975 and the terms of lending had hardened. Unless adequate funds are available on soft terms, the prospects of achieving the 4 percent rate of growth will remain poor.

An account of international trade as presented by the Secretariat gives the impression that the developing market economies as a whole have been beneficiaries in the expanded value of world trade in agricultural products, but even in this case the most affected countries have not been able to keep pace with other countries. It appears to me that these countries have been encountering several barriers and relatively unstable and low prices for a number of commodities. For example, the terms of trade of commodities like tea and jute have been susceptible to large fluctuations.

The Secretariat may do well to make a study of the commodities exported by this group of commodities in relation to those exported by others and suggest suitable measures for amelioration.

I am glad that the International Sugar Agreement has been concluded. Perhaps similar or arbitrary approaches in the case of other agricultural commodities, particularly those exported from MSA countries would help to improve their export earnings from agricultural commodities.

Lastly, I would like to support the suggestion made by the delegate of Switzerland about the procedures for discussion in this meeting. A similar suggestion was also made by the delegate of Yugoslavia. It would be good to have a general discussion and then a detailed discussion item by item. That will facilitate consideration of the different items in detail and focus attention on the issues which remain loosely discussed in this type of debate that we are having. Of course the Secretariat might consider a proper catalogue of subjects under which the discussion might take place. But the idea is good and we suggest that in the interests of having sufficient time for discussion, and also so as not to allow delegates to have an easy time during it we should have an item-by-item detailed discussion.

A.K. OSUBAN (Uganda): In view of the wide coverage already given to the subject of this Commission's discussions by the various delegations here, I should like to limit my comments to only one aspect. This is the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme.

The provision of fertilizers to developing countries through the Scheme is a very welcome trend. My delegation would like to thank all the donor countries for their generosity and appreciation of the problems of procurement of production inputs in the developing countries in view of the foreign exchange constraints. While the donor countries should be at liberty to decide whether or not to offer any donation that is voluntarily donated, FAO should be given sufficient discretion as the executing agency in the distribution of such donations. There is a feeling in some quarters that the operation of the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme leaves much to be desired.

The whole essence of organizations like the FAO is to transcend political and other barriers and engender international cooperation for the common good of the world community. When some donor countries therefore continue to strictly tie their donations they are directly negating the very spirit for which FAO exists. Therefore my delegation wishes to call upon the donor countries which insist on tying their donations to ease their controls and give FAO a freer hand to determine the recipients of such aid according to the priority list which it draws up. That is the view of my delegation.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): Perhaps because I have the privilege to be the last one I can be brief and benefit from all the collective experience and knowledge which was so profuse at this Commission before. In fact, I do not have too much to say at this stage of the debate.

First, as the Group of 77 at the time of the Council, we have already warned our members of FAO of the fact that the situation and the immediate prospects in 1977 and the current year not at all bright. Therefore actual care should be exercised in order to avoid a deterioration of the world food situation.

That being said, first I would like to refer to the statement made in the Plenary by the head of my delegation, in which we tried to portray and summarize the Brazilian efforts to contribute somehow within our resources to greater availability of food in the world. That being said, I would like very briefly to refer to the actual situation now.

I do not think I need to turn to facts and figures. Many delegates, for instance the delegate of Yugoslavia, gave quite a cogent indication of what the real situation is. I think it is clear that if the years 1970-74 were quite difficult in terms of low production - agricultural food production in particular - 1975/76 showed some improvement; and now again the immediate prospects for 1977 in the coming months are not at all satisfactory. I think just two figures perhaps are enough to underline this situation: the fact that in the developing world from 1970-1974 food availability per capita decreased from a rate of minus 0.6 percent, the fact that the prospects for 1977 are equal to a negative result per capita, in this case both for the developing and the Third World, show even more that the situation is not at all brilliant. Beyond that, if we take into consideration the regional disparities, then there is even more reason for concern. For instance in document C 77/2-Sup. 1 in terms of food production one sees that the percentage growth in food production and population growth one sees really that there is no reason for complacency at this stage. Perhaps there are other elements, however, which are equally important and somehow reflect this situation.

First, a growing dependence of developing countries taken as a whole of course, on food imports with a consequential increase in the weight of food imports in their balance of payments. That is one point of concern obviously. If the situation was slightly improved in 1975/76, again, as I indicated before, the prospects for 1977 are not at all brilliant with the prospect of the heavier dependence on food aid in a number of regions. That is of course not at all satisfactory.

In terms of food security, again it is useful to be reminded that we are far from the levels, let us say, of 1969 when, if my figures are correct, we had roughly 23 percent of world food consumption in terms of grains. We probably by now have barely between 17 and 18 percent. That means that we are living from one crop to another in global terms.

If one sees the prospects in terms of nutritional levels, the indication is that something like 100 million people will be undernourished in 1985. It is another indication that the trends are not at all satisfactory.

In terms of prices to the consumer, again we see the same trend of a negative result.

I believe that this Commission of the Conference should analyse and review those data with the purpose first of dialogue and, secondly, in order to come to clear conclusions and recommendations. First it is reasonable that this assessment of the world food situation suggests that once again each country, and each developing country in particular, should renew its priorities in terms of agricultural food production. That presupposes a number of support policies for food production.

Also a real effort must be made together with those production policies to estimate consumption, in other words to realize the potential demand. That is important. However, it is useless to speak about recommendations to developing countries to increase their own production if there is not a favourable external environment. What that external environment is, is clear. First, the transfer of adequate resources. Here the data we have before are not at all satisfactory. A moment ago the delegate of India referred to it.

In 1976 official aid resources in current terms diminished. From 5.7 billion in 1975 we had less than five - barely that - 4.7 billion in 1976. There is therefore a negative trend in terms of resources. This trend is even more serious if one takes into account the conditions of lending, underlined by previous speakers. It is needless to point out that it is not only a question of seeing what level of resources are available - external resources in support of developing countries for food and agricultural production - it is the conditions. In other words, we will have a situation of growing deficit in developing countries and that is unacceptable. Therefore it is necessary to attach much greater importance to the actual terms in which resources are being transferred to developing countries. Equally more effective technological transfer to developing countries is necessary in order to raise productivity.

Also, it is necessary that the external environment to which I referred should provide adequate conditions of access to markets, since in most parts of the developing world our food and agriculture production needs the stimulus of the external demand of the developed markets. Therefore, we cannot but see - as we indicated in plenary session during the general debate - with growing concern the fact that we are living more and more in a world of increasing constraints in terms of market losses; instead of improvements, we have negative results.

I make these observations - which I know my colleagues who have spoken earlier also mentioned - just to emphasize a few points of general lines of analysis which should suggest to us very clear recommendations by our Nineteenth FAO Conference, so that we will not be confronted with the situation, as we were in 1974, when emergency action had to be called instead of orderly, timely action which should start right now in order to prevent a deterioration of the world food situation.

I say that by referring to the statement of my own delegation at the beginning of our observations about our own efforts to respond to these requirements for increased production in the world. On our side, we are making as large a contribution as possible to make food available in the world in larger amounts. In that way we feel that at this stage we can contribute to world food security.

To conclude, I should like to indicate that my delegation would very much like to discuss and hear proposals to make more effective this debate on the food and agriculture situation. We believe that this debate is very important; it is a very important point of reference for our planners, and probably should be the central theme of the Conference in such a way that other action which is taken should reflect the policy conclusions which follow the analysis of the facts, and we must thank the Secretariat for very thorough and informative material which we believe is extremely useful.

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores, no tenemos más oradores en nuestra lista, de manera que si no hay otros delegados que deseen intervenir sobre este tema, quizá el Sr. Subdirector General Jefe del Departamento de Política Económica y Social, Dr. Islam quiera hacer algún comentario en relación con las exposiciones que hemos oído durante el debate.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): I am very thankful that the documentation prepared by my colleagues has been well received, and that our overall assessment of the situation has been generally endorsed. I will not try to sum up the debate; I will merely refer to points raised in the discussions in this Commission relating to the analysis of our report as well as to the information supplied in the report. I will confine my comments to a few specific points and provide some clarifications.

On the first of these specific points, several delegates commented that the overall data in terms of trade in Table 12 of document C 77/2 hide the disparities between different commodities and also the fluctuations that have occurred. In fact, the commodities that have recorded improvements in terms of trade are mainly confined to tropical beverages, fish, vegetable oils, oil seeds and hides and skins, and most others have suffered stagnation or decline. Our work on the terms of trade is being further developed, and both the final report on the State of Food and Agriculture and future reports will contain more detail in terms of commodity breakdown/in terms of trade.

As regards information requested by the delegate of Iran, an analysis of the international price relations between fertilizers and food and other products has already been presented to the FAO Fertilizer Commission, and further work is being planned in this area.

I was most grateful for the additional explanations and more up-to-date information given by the delegate of the United States and my colleagues have availed themselves of his offer to answer further questions. The estimates he mentioned for both US and USSR cereal production are, in fact, those we need in calculating the index numbers in document C 77/2 Sup.2 We have noted the corrected figures for the use of cereals in 1977/78, and also that it is only the set-aside for coarse grains and not for wheat which is subject to review next January and February. The estimate in paragraph 50 of document C 77/2 Sup.1 of the likely effect of the set-aside programme on production was not an FAO estimate but was based on an earlier US Department of Agriculture statement, and we have noted the revised estimate given by the delegate.

A number of delegates requested that FAO should identify and quantify the relative roles of government programmes and recent increases in production. This is something which has been raised earlier at several sessions of the governing bodies, and we should very much like to be able to do it. However, as pointed out by the delegate of Ireland, there are many practical difficulties. Detailed analysis are needed at the country level, and we would be pleased to discuss with interested countries how best, to carry them out.

Relating to the comments on the general state of food and agriculture situation and the distinction we must make between various countries' regions as well as between the short- and long-term trends, I agree with delegates' comments that the short-term improvement should not make us complacent or forget the long-term trends in food production which are far from satisfactory.

In this connection I may refer to the beginning of our summary and assessment in document C 77/2 where we, in fact, mention these thoughts.

A number of countries have called for information on the nutritional situation, and the delegate of Switzerland pointed out that it is not very closely related to the agricultural production situation, nor necessarily a function entirely of increase in output. A good deal of new information will be available in the Fourth World Food Survey which is now in the press, and we hope to be able to keep this up-to-date in the future.

The delegate of India referred to the need for analysis of a few additional commodities, and we will do our best to respond to this suggestion, but in this connexion I would like to point out that FAO is currently organising an expert consultation on grains, legumes, pulses, in Mysore, India, covering world production and trade and other related problems. A paper by FAO is being presented giving all the information requested by the Indian delegate. Pulses are also covered in the outlook statements of FAO Food Information System. About oil seeds, I might mention that they are covered in the meetings and papers of the Intergovernmental Committee on Oilseeds, Fats and Oils, and also they are covered in the monthly publication of FAO Food Information System.

Several delegates have referred to the insufficient coverage of trade in the documentation, and the delegate of Argentina has referred to the absence of the specific item on commodities and trade in the agenda of the Commission. This was repeated by a few other delegates. I may mention here that this has not impeded a great deal of discussion of trade problems in this Commission on this item of the agenda. I may also remind you of the revised and updated information on trade contained in document C 77/2 Sup.1.

Specific comments by several delegates referred to the earlier incomplete information in document C 77/2 itself, and I agree with them that it is misleading to suggest that increased earnings from fishery and forest production in any way offset the lower export earnings of the developing countries from crop and livestock products. I should also add here that the document on international agricultural adjustment provides the more extensive analysis of a number of trade policy issues such as stability of prices and access to markets. Hopefully, these will be covered in the discussions on that agenda item tomorrow.

The delegate of Hungary made a number of specific comments. These referred to the printed Report of the State of Food and Agriculture 1976 which was issued some time ago. It was based on the latest information available in 1976, which in some cases referred only to the year 1975. Of course, we accept these corrections concerning the effect of meat policy and the policy changes taking place in the centrally planned economies.

The delegates from Switzerland, Yugoslavia and India made some interesting suggestions about the arrangement for Conference's discussion on the world food and agriculture situation. They have suggested that in addition to the usual general discussion there should also be discussion on the basis

of experience of different countries of specific topics, of which they proposed several. To some extent the Conference arrangements already make provision for this to be done, and I could cite, for example, in this Commission the discussion on the prevention of food losses. I am sure the Director-General will be glad to consider the topics suggested by the delegates for discussion at future sessions.

The delegate of Rumania commented on the country classification used in the documentation. Here we follow the classification used by the United Nations. This classification, however, is under review, and we should be glad to draw attention in this review to the views of the countries concerned.

Finally, I have not referred to the many suggestions for improvement in weather forecasting and for an account of the conclusions of the recent meetings jointly held by the FAO and WMO. With your permission, I will leave this to Mr. Fréré of the Agriculture Department.

A number of suggestions have also been made of a programme nature in the course of discussions, such as the suggestion for an international fund for insuring against natural disasters, regional pest control institutes, and extending the programme of assistance to the Sahelian, countries. The Secretariat has taken note of them and will study their implications.

M. FRERÉ (FAO Staff): The question has been raised regarding the improvement of weather forecasting and the possible involvement of FAO in these questions. I would like first to point out that the question of weather forecasting is purely a question of competence of the World Meteorological Organization. I know this Organization is putting much effort in its present programme to solve this question and is certainly aware of the requirements of agriculture.

On a slightly different field, I would like to mention here that FAO and WMO are pursuing together a programme for the improvement of Agro-Meteorology forecasting, that is, forecasting of crop yields at a certain moment of the growing season based on the meteorological conditions based on the past period -of the season and normally expected weather conditions to harvest time. An example of this is provided by the analysis we have done together with the Commodities Division and the Statistics Division on the monitoring of crop production in the Sahelian Zone. This has been done for the second year, and the results we have obtained in the crop assessment using very simple analyses of meteorological data have proved very encouraging. We are developing such kinds of advice to member countries, and I wish to tell you that presently my assistant is in Ethiopia to analyse what has been done in this field in the country and try to find improvements to his methods. Other countries have already requested, FAO to give such kinds of advice. In this regard I wish also to mention that at the beginning of 1977 an agreement in these terms has passed between FAO and WMO.

I wish to mention on the same subject that a resolution to emphasize cooperation at national level between the meteorological services and the agricultural services has been passed by Commission II of this Conference.

Finally I want to come to the technical conference recently held in Rome between FAO and WMO on the benefits of meteorology. The scope of that meeting was to get together specialists from the field of meteorology and potential users of this information. The meeting explained in great detail many of the possible and actual applications of meteorological information to the improvement of agricultural production. One of the conclusions of the meeting was that in general at national level there was not enough cooperation between meteorological and agricultural services towards the use of simple information to improve agricultural production forecasts and other related subjects.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias, Dr. Frere. Pregunto si hay algunos comentarios adicionales a las respuestas que nos han dado los Doctores Islam y Frere. Bien, si no hay otros comentarios, yo creo que podemos dar por concluido el debate en relación con el tema 6 de nuestra Agenda.

Yo he tomado nota de las observaciones y los comentarios que han hecho las delegaciones que han intervenido y voy a tratar, a través de esas notas, de señalar cuáles, a mi juicio, han sido las tendencias principales que se han observado en el debate. En primer lugar, quizá conviene recordar que nos hemos ocupado sobre las principales tendencias y políticas en materia de agricultura y alimentación, conforme con lo que dispone el Reglamento General de la Organización y que para ello hemos contado con el documento que llamamos "mini-SOFA" y con dos suplementos con cifras actualizadas. Además de todos los datos y todas las informaciones que contienen esos documentos, creo que tanto la Secretaría como todos nosotros hemos podido ilustrar nuestros conocimientos con la valiosa información que hemos recibido de las delegaciones intervinientes.

En el debate han intervenido 46 delegaciones y aun cuando me doy cuenta de que un análisis cuantitativo no siempre refleja el interés que este tema pudo despertar en las delegaciones, sino que ese análisis cuantitativo está complementado con un análisis cualitativo de cuanto se ha dicho, creo que este número reducido de intervenciones, que es poco más de un tercio de los Estados Miembros que asisten a nuestras deliberaciones, pone de manifiesto que quizá son atinadas algunas observaciones que se han formulado en relación con la forma en que podrían encararse los debates sobre este tema en la próxima Conferencia; es decir, partir de un debate general sobre la situación de la Agricultura y la alimentación en el mundo y luego localizar la discusión en algunos aspectos específicos de interés general, o de interés para todos los países, con la información detallada sobre algunos productos que tengan interés general, interés para todos los países.

Creo asimismo que, a través de las intervenciones, ha quedado ratificada una de las principales conclusiones del documento básico que hemos utilizado para este debate y es que, aunque la situación mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación ha mejorado, subsisten muchos problemas que yo calificaría -como creo que la delegación italiana lo hizo- como problemas endémicos, queriendo reflejar con esta palabra el carácter permanente de estos problemas, algunos de ellos de naturaleza estructural, que se reflejan en la extendida difusión todavía del hambre y la malnutrición entre los sectores más pobres del mundo.

Igualmente se ha puesto de manifiesto que, aunque la situación ha mejorado, las perspectivas para el futuro no son satisfactorias, ni brillantes, particularmente en la zona del Sahel, como lo han indicado la delegación de Malí y otras. Frente a ello, cabe insistir en que una mejora en la producción es necesaria, porque quizá la situación que analizamos ahora es coyuntural, más que estructural y permanente. Por ello esta mejora que hemos apreciado no debe llevar ni a los Gobiernos ni a las organizaciones internacionales a disminuir los esfuerzos para lograr una mejora sustancial y estable en la situación agrícola y alimentaria en el mundo.

Hay además que prever desde ahora la eventualidad de que puedan repetirse situaciones graves de escasez, como las que tuvimos que vivir en el año 74, por ejemplo. Esta necesidad de continuar con los esfuerzos, queda demostrada no sólo por las cifras que hemos visto en los documentos y por los comentarios adicionales que efectuó el Director General en su intervención aquí en el seno de la Primera Comisión, sino también a nivel mundial y especialmente entre los países en desarrollo.

Los aumentos en la producción agrícola y de alimentos en el año 77 no han acompañado al crecimiento de la población. Además, el aumento del valor de las exportaciones de productos agrícolas no ha sido suficiente para contrarrestar las necesidades de divisas extranjeras para el desarrollo. A ello cabe agregar que los países más afectados continúan teniendo serias dificultades en sus pagos con el exterior.

Se han citado también los problemas fundamentales en la inestabilidad de los precios de los productos básicos, las barreras que se presentan al desarrollo del comercio y la competencia de los materiales, de los productos básicos naturales, que quedan aun sin resolverse.

Hay otro hecho que todos hemos observado y es que cuando los grandes productores logran abundantes cosechas, los precios dejan de ser remunerativos y ello desalienta a los agricultores; y mientras que, cuando los grandes productores no tienen buenas cosechas, la rigidez del hambre y la malnutrición se hace más insidiosa, porque los alimentos faltan y los precios suben a nivel que los países más pobres difícilmente pueden absorber. Este panorama nos lleva a reafirmar la necesidad de promover acuerdos sobre productos que tiendan en la medida de lo posible a lograr una estabilización en los precios, en la producción y en los mercados. Nos obligan, además, a trabajar en favor de un sistema de seguridad alimentaria mundial, a trabajar en favor de la canalización de inversiones hacia el sector agrícola, particularmente en los países en vías de desarrollo; a promover una activa transferencia de tecnología entre los países en desarrollo, a favorecer la capacitación del personal local, a favorecer un uso más racional de tierras y recursos, a facilitar el mayor y más adecuado uso de fertilizantes y pesticidas por parte de los países en desarrollo, a trabajar por la liberalización de los mercados y en definitiva a continuar con los esfuerzos en favor de los aumentos de la producción y de la productividad de la agricultura y la alimentación.

La responsabilidad de la realización de estos esfuerzos debe caer sobre toda la comunidad internacional, para lo cual es necesario continuar con la promoción de la cooperación internacional y del sentido de solidaridad internacional. Por cierto, que ello no debe reemplazar los esfuerzos que deben realizar los propios países en desarrollo, a quienes cabe la responsabilidad principal en relación con sus propios recursos en favor de un mejoramiento de su situación agrícola y alimentaria. El rol principal de la FAO en este campo ha sido unánimemente reconocido por las delegaciones que han intervenido, no sólo como Organización que debe mantener bajo permanente examen las causas del lento desarrollo de la agricultura y la alimentación, sino también como Organización que debe promover la cooperación internacional y dar orientaciones de política, tanto a nivel nacional como internacional, y por último estar capacitada para dar respuestas prontas y efectivas a los requerimientos de los países Miembros.

Existen también, según se ha dicho aquí, otros foros, de instituciones internacionales, a quienes compete la responsabilidad de apoyar los esfuerzos que la comunidad internacional y los países realizan para erradicar el hambre y la malnutrición. En tal sentido se ha citado al FIDA, al Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación, a la UNCTAD y al GATT.

El caso del GATT y de UNCTAD creo que tiene particular importancia, porque se ha hecho mención, entre las causas que retardan al desarrollo de la agricultura y la alimentación, a las políticas proteccionistas que crean barreras que obstaculizan el desarrollo del comercio.

Estas son, a mi juicio, las principales tendencias que he podido apreciar de todas las intervenciones que he escuchado, que son 46. Por cierto que este resumen persigue solamente orientar, si cabe, al Comité de Redacción, pero en modo alguno lo obliga. Pregunto si hay comentarios adicionales a cuanto he dicho.

Señores: si no hay comentarios adicionales, ustedes habrán visto que la tribuna hoy fue frecuentemente visitada por funcionarios de la Secretaría, que nos venían a pedir que insistiéramos en la necesidad de que las delegaciones aquí presentes trataran de conformar el quorum en la Sala del Plenario, donde se analiza el Informe de la II Comisión en lo que se refiere al aumento del número de puestos en el Consejo.

En consecuencia, aun cuando tendríamos una hora más de tiempo para pasar al próximo tema de nuestra Agenda, que se refiere a los Progresos Realizados en el Reajuste Agrícola Internacional, voy a levantar la sesión para posibilitar que ustedes puedan asistir a la Sala del Plenario; y anuncio ya que mañana, a las 9.30 continuaremos con el próximo tema de nuestra Agenda, que se refiere a Progresos Realizados en el Reajuste Agrícola Internacional, cuyo documento es el C 77/20.

The meeting rose at 16.35 hours.

La séance est levée à 16 h 35.

Se levanta la sesión a las 16.35 horas.

conference

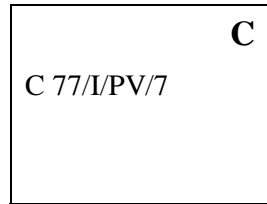
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Nineteenth Session
COMMISSION I

Dix-neuvième session
COMMISSION I

19º período de sesiones
COMISION II

SEVENTH MEETING
SEPTIEME SÉANCE
SÉPTIMA SESIÓN

(23 November 1977)

The Seventh Meeting was opened at 09.45 hours
J. C. Vignaud, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La septième seance est ouverte à 9 h 45, sous la présidence de
J.C. Vignaud,Président de la Commission I

Se abre la séptima sesión a las 09.45 horas, bajo la presidencia de
J.C. Vignaud, Presidente de la Comisión I

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

PREMIERE PARTIE- PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET QUESTIONS DE
POLITIQUE EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)

PARTE I - PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS DE LA AGRICULTURA
Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN (continuación)

8. Progress in International Agricultural Adjustment

8. Progrès accomplis en ce qui concerne l'Ajustement agricole international

8. Progresos realizados en el réajuste agrícola internacional

EL PRESIDENTE: El tema previsto para esta reunión de la mañana, como se indico ayer, es el numero 8 de nuestra agenda: "Progresos realizados en el reajuste agrícola internacional", cuyo documento es el C 77/20. El Subdirector General del Departamento de Política Económica y Social, Dr. Islam, va a presentar el tema.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): Document C 77/20 presents the Director-General's report on the progress of international agricultural adjustment, with specific reference to the eleven guidelines formulated and endorsed by the Eighteenth Session of the Conference in 1975. The guidelines fall into four groups: production, consumption, trade and international assistance. The first three guidelines relate specifically to production targets and policies.

In regard to guideline 1, which refers to the performance of the developing countries in increasing food production, there has been intensive discussion in the last two meetings of this Commission. Short-falls from the target of a 4 percent increase in food production have been emphasized; continuing difficulties faced by the most seriously affected countries have been underlined.

Guideline 2 relates to the increase in the flows of resources, both financial and physical and technical, into the agricultural sector in support of increased production and investment. There has been an increase over the past few years in agricultural investment in the developing countries. Data available on this however remain too scanty to permit very definite or firm conclusions. However, the flow of the resources for investment in agricultural, research in the developing countries has been augmented. This form of investment yields results only after a time lag. It helps generate an increase in production in the future.

Guideline 3 concerns national agricultural policies in both the developing and the developed countries. A widely held policy objective in the developing countries is the attainment of food self-sufficiency, or at least an increase in the degree of self-sufficiency. However, the progress towards increased self-sufficiency in food production has been very uneven. For the developed countries the concept of a rational use of resources has multiple interpretations. It refers in the first place to a more efficient allocation of resources between the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors, including a selective and gradual shift of the locus of increased agricultural production to producers in the developing countries, where costs are lower. In the short run it also embraces such considerations as the ability and willingness of the developed countries to meet emergency food needs, as well as to build stocks to even out fluctuations in supply and ensure world food security.

We have an effort to quantify the order of magnitude of the impact: of a wide range of policy measures in the developed countries in respect of agriculture. The domestic support policies, through their impact on the pattern and magnitude of domestic production and demand, determine exportable surpluses as well as import requirements; consequently they affect not only world stocks of food grains and world food security but also export prospects of developing countries. This analysis confirms the conclusion that agricultural protectionism in developed countries is an important fact which requires serious assessment.

Turning to guidelines 4, 5 and 6, relating to food consumption and nutrition, the years under review marked the beginnings of an increased awareness of the need for and implications of integrating nutrition policies. By now it is evident that the target set by the World Food Conference Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition cannot be achieved within the stipulated time period of a decade. Experience to date underlines the need for more realistic and politically acceptable policies and programmes of action in this area.

The experience of the last few years relating to trade and stocks shows mixed progress in terms of guidelines 7, 8 and 9. The developing countries' share of world agricultural exports continues to decrease whereas their share of world imports is rising, although 1976 appears to have been an exception. The policy framework for international trade has not undergone significant modification in the period under review. There has been some improvement in the Generalized Scheme of Preferences.

The negotiations on the Integrated Commodity Programme of UNCTAD centered on a common fund, as well as the negotiations in GATT, are progressing to a crucial stage. The report notes progress in the availability and use of financing arrangements under the International Monetary Fund and the STABEX scheme of the EEC to compensate for shortfalls in export earnings. On the whole it may be stated that in the matter of improvement of trading opportunities for agricultural products, including processed materials, little significant progress has been made. Furthermore, there is a widespread fear that protectionism in general may have been gaining increased support in recent months. It is more than ever necessary to guard against these forces.

While the terms of trade of agricultural products for manufactured goods have declined from the peak levels reached during the commodity boom of 1973/74, they remain higher than at the beginning of the seventies. In the discussions yesterday in this Commission the divergence in the movements of the terms of trade of individual commodities was emphasized. I must hasten to add that the benefits have been shared unequally among the developing exporting countries. In so far as world food security is concerned, much has already been said in the course of the last few days. The position is well known to you.

Finally, guidelines 10 and 11 relate to international assistance to the agricultural sector of the developing countries. The flow of external financial resources for agricultural development falls considerably short of target. The food aid target of 10 million tons has not quite been reached.

In the last few pages of the report we have brought together the major issues which, directly or indirectly, have emerged from the monitoring and assessment exercise. The list of issues is not, of course, exhaustive. It seeks to focus on those issues on which there seems to be neither an adequate or complete understanding nor a consensus as to appropriate approaches. These issues, therefore, may warrant your further attention.

The present report represents a first attempt by FAO to monitor and assess progress in world food and agriculture according to a set of guidelines and targets. We have linked our assessment of recent experience with international agricultural adjustment to the pursuit of the new international economic order. We look forward to your suggestions and views as to how to improve our analysis in the future so that we can proceed in a manner which will be more helpful to your discussions.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias, Dr. Islam.

El Sr. Relator Rittershaus nos va a informar sobre las opiniones que se han vertido sobre este tema en el Plenario, si es que las hay.

L. RITTERSHAUS (Rapporteur from Plenary to Commission I): International Agricultural Adjustment and further steps to achieve it have figured, in many delegations' statements. However, not many of them went into greater detail about the specific objectives the respective governments considered of foremost importance, nor did a clear picture emerge as to what priorities most countries wanted to be observed.

Many countries mentioned the elaboration of a new international economic order as one of the most urgent medium-term tasks before FAO. It appears that International Agricultural Adjustment constitutes in the eyes of many governments an essential element of this order; this was, for instance, the viewpoint put forward by the delegates of Nigeria, Austria and Kenya. The latter added that in his view progress was slow because in the relevant international negotiations the positions taken by the developed countries took only insufficient account of what were the developing countries' essential objectives. A similar position was taken by the delegate of Yugoslavia.

Most developing countries reported insufficient progress of the 4 percent increase target of food production as laid down under the DD2 strategy. Many of them felt there was a link between this insufficiency in growth and the lag in the international resource flow into the agricultural sectors of developing countries. This was in particular a viewpoint supported by the distinguished delegate of Burma. On the other hand several countries stressed the importance of self-reliance, such as the delegates from China and from Albania. They and several other delegations rather felt that maximization of domestic efforts were the key to decisive progress in the achievement of - growth targets in food production.

Most delegations reported on their countries' investments in agriculture and it was gratifying to hear that the large majority indicated strong increases in the resource flow. A particularly impressive case in point was the one reported by the delegate of Algeria who noted that in the last 10 years

fiscal investment in the agricultural sector had increased by 300 percent, not considering special programmes. However, many countries underlined at the same time that in spite of similar increases in domestic investment their agricultural sectors could still absorb many more funds.

This was closely linked with incentives to farmers encouraging them to expand production. A very impressive intervention by the delegate of Canada explained how great the production potential of farmers was, but in order to bring it out fully farmers needed adequate incomes, incomes which could sustain comparison with revenue levels in other sectors of the national economies. This also applied to the developing countries, as the delegate of Burundi indicated.

Policies such as those designed to promote better incomes for agricultural producers necessarily had repercussions upon price levels, and here the delegates of Canada, the United States and France had demonstrated how adequate producer prices were a necessary pre-condition to sufficient output levels. However, many sectors from developing countries deplored high food import prices which their countries had to pay in order to cover their food deficits. At the same time, however, most of the speakers from the Third World who touched on this subject deplored the insufficient prices which agricultural exports from the developing countries were obtaining. Most delegations seemed to feel that an adjustment between these two conflicting viewpoints would have to be a major aim of any meaningful international agricultural adjustment.

Another point touched upon was the transfer of technology required for the expansion of agricultural production while a number of delegations mentioned this point and wanted FAO to take an active hand in elaboration and transfer of particularly adapted technology, several speakers warned that a careful selection should be made in order to avoid wrong technological orientations. The delegate of Zaire, for instance, pointed out that while wheat and rice technology had been very highly developed, Central Africa was still lacking an appropriate technology for cassava production. I think this is all I have to report.

EL PRESIDENTE: Bien, señores; ustedes seguramente recordarán que la Conferencia en su 18º período de sesiones, aprobó once orientaciones como marco general de política en este tema del reajuste agrícola internacional y pidió al Director General que emprendiera un análisis de los progresos realizados en la consecución de los objetivos políticos, acorde con el tema agrícola internacional y que preparase para esta Conferencia una primera evaluación de esos progresos.

El Sr. Islam ha hecho ya una introducción del tema con unas informaciones que yo creo son interesantísimas, además de las que contamos en el documento y el Sr. Rittershaus nos ha informado sobre las principales opiniones que se han vertido en el Plenario de la Conferencia. Estoy seguro, pues, de que tenemos elementos más que suficientes como para iniciar la discusión de este tema.

L. ENE SE (Hungary): The Hungarian delegation has studied attentively the analysis called for by the Eighteenth Session of the Conference to assess progress in the achievement of the agreed objectives of international agricultural adjustment. We can acknowledge with satisfaction that this work has good results. We have criticized this work several times, but nevertheless we have also made our contribution to it.

Now the first important steps have been taken to establish and operate the system designed to monitor the implementation of 11 guidelines for international agricultural strategy.

The major agricultural and food problems, their developments and the related international and national policies are reviewed in the report in such a way as to enable governments to be adequately informed to formulate their own agricultural and food policies in conformity with the real international situation. This informative analytical activity of FAO substantially contributes to evaluating the areas and extent of common interest between various countries and indicates problems where further efforts should be made in order to reach better understanding and convergence of interests.

My delegation considers, therefore, it is desirable to continue and improve FAO work in the field of international agricultural adjustment in line with paragraph 21 of Chapter 2.1 of the Programme of Work and Budget, where it is stated that the international agricultural adjustment could help to bring about a better balanced world agriculture.

In our view, this report is a highly purpose-oriented, scientific-level work and, in accordance with the adopted guidelines, it deals properly with agriculture and food problems of developing countries. We note, however, that agricultural adjustment in developed countries is also important and must not

be neglected because it is frequently related to problems of farm development and food in developing countries on the one hand, and because a maladjustment of agriculture in developed countries adversely affects their international economic ties. The Hungarian government is very anxious to see a further improvement and development of these relations, and fully supports the efforts designed to serve this end.

Furthermore, agricultural development in developing countries is inseparable from the growth of their national economy as a whole, and this point is not covered in either the guidelines or the analysis to the extent required by its importance. The same may be noted about the agrarian structure, the modification of which seems to be an all-important condition for agricultural development in many cases.

These issues will undoubtedly arise in the periodical reviews of the guidelines, and they will have to be adjusted as required to the changing situation. But the monitoring and review of international adjustment is a permanent task and it should be carried out and improved accordingly.

A. ANDERSON (Sweden): The Swedish delegation has studied the document C 77/20 "Progress of International Agricultural Adjustment" with great interest. It has been prepared in response to the request of the last Conference and is the first analysis and monitoring of progress in achievement of the agreed policies and goals of international agricultural adjustment. The exercise has - as is said in the introduction - to a large extent been a pilot effort. With this background my delegation would like to congratulate the Secretariat on having succeeded in preparing a very clear and concise document. It must have been a very difficult task to find the relevant data. My government has for several years followed with great attention the endeavours in FAO to formulate a policy for international agricultural adjustment. At the last Conference we gave our approval to the proposed strategy and its eleven guidelines. We have been looking forward to this first assessment of the progress made with the understanding that a troubled beginning may be unavoidable before reaching a long-term result. The ambitions and preferences in the world are in many respects different. International agricultural adjustment is everywhere a slow process. Promotion of agricultural adjustment normally also must be handled with great care by the politicians and this in itself contributes to the slowness. In the market economies it is also dependent on final decisions by very many individual farmers.

In the light of these considerations my delegation can agree with the report in the beginning of its broad introductory assessment: progress has been made towards the achievement of the objectives of international agricultural adjustment during the period since the World Food Conference 1974. This progress has, however, as we all know, fallen short of what had been hoped for.

After these general remarks my delegation wants to make some comments on the monitoring of performance in relation to the guidelines.

The quantitative targets set in the strategy are very few or in effect primarily only one, concerning the increase of production in developing countries. We understand this approach, even though it makes the strategy look rather vague. Much of this data, that would have been relevant has not been available so the proceedings at this stage must of course include an element of trial and error, which we regard as normal with respect to the nature of the difficulties involved.

Among some countries in the Nordic Group - Finland, Denmark and Sweden - we have discussed the possibilities to get a more concrete and measurable basis for the systematic monitoring and analysis of the progress with respect to the policy goals. One way can be - as we see it - to divide the main statistical material on agricultural production into two main groups. One group should concern the resources involved in the production for self-support, i.e. for direct consumption at the farm; the other group should concern the resources set aside for production for sale, i.e. for consumption outside the primary production units on the farms.

We fully understand that such a grouping can be difficult in some countries. Anyway we hope that the Secretariat will try the method in some pilot areas to begin with. FAO has just finished the "Production Yearbook 1976" and is starting to prepare a new set of questionnaires for the next yearbook. It may be the right moment to introduce a new system which - if possible to carry out in practice - must be of direct benefit for the analysis of the progress in agricultural adjustment and also can make the FAO statistics more operational in general. We should highly appreciate a reaction to this idea from the Secretariat.

Finally, we have understood the indicators for monitoring the progress of the adjustment as being tentative ones to be further explored by trial and error exercises. We trust that the Secretariat will carry out the following-up in a practical and pragmatic way using all the common sense accumulated during many years.

RAM SARAN (India): As we agreed, I will discuss the first two sections relating to Food and Agricultural Production and Food Consumption and Nutrition together. Guideline we have already discussed to some extent under the subject of State of Food and Agriculture. Now an attempt has been made to analyze the position since the World Food Conference was held and this has been compared with the preceding and earlier periods. Such a comparison, it has been pointed out in the document, becomes difficult and not valid because the weather situations are not the same in different periods. Therefore for the purpose of monitoring this guideline what is necessary is to compare like with like. It is very difficult to find likes at the same time because the weather in no two periods can be the same or even similar. Therefore I would suggest for our future approach and purpose that in the last three years since the World Food Conference was held we may select the year of best production. We assume that that is a year with very favourable weather also, although other matters may have contributed to the level of higher production in that year, and then compare that year with the highest production preceding this in the last triennium.

To illustrate the point, supposing 1977 is the year of best production in the current triennium, and in the previous period I found in some cases 1970 or 1971 was the year of best or highest output. We should compare the two and work out the annual rate of growth whether near or below the 4 percent rate of growth as we say in the guideline. Our feeling is if we do the exercise this way perhaps the rate of growth comes to be less than what was apparent from the analysis just now made.

Guideline 2: an attempt has been made under this guideline to monitor the progress in various ways, one of which is of course investment. Here the paucity of data became a problem, but certain other indications have been used such as land use and irrigation, average yields, the growth of the agricultural labour force, fertilizer and fertilizer consumption, as also the high yielding varieties.

Here I might say that as the Assistant Director-General pointed out there has been some progress in a large number of countries with regard to the augmentation of financial resources or investments. If we look to the other indicators, I was quite surprised, we did not expect but it has come out in Table 5 on page 13 that in the developing market economies the rate of growth of an area has come down in the last column of 1973-75 compared to the previous triennium. This needs to be analyzed as to why this has happened despite the increase in investment. If it has happened there must be some reason.

I have a feeling that we have stopped this analysis with the year 1975. If we had analyzed the subsequent years perhaps the situation would improve because I know in my own country in the latter two years the rate of increase of the irrigated area of 2 million hectares is rather more than that. Therefore I have a feeling that this situation will considerably improve as we include later years in the analysis.

The same would be true if we take the fertilizer consumption indicator. Here we have gone up to 1975/76. These figures are very interesting. They show .9 millions tons increase in 1975/76 compared with the earlier year. I found that in the subsequent year 1976/77 in my own country fertilizer consumption increased .5 million tons and in 1977/68 we expect to increase it by .8 million tons. This is the conclusion from what has been brought out in the document. Again we are stuck with the paucity of data for subsequent years.

There is an analysis made with reference to average yields. My suggestion would be that the analysis of average yields should be made on the same basis as suggested for the agricultural food production as a whole.

With regard to tractors there is an indicator and this has been considered with reference to developing countries. I have no quarrel with that except to say in many or in some countries tractors are now being manufactured within the country also, and a better way would be to take the overall supply in the developing countries. This overall supply will include domestic production. Coming to guideline 3 here the question of incentives to the farmers has been examined with regard to the developing countries and the maximum importance has been given to the incentive in the form of suitable prices offered to the farmers. This is quite all right but I would have thought that this guideline could be monitored with reference to other incentives too, for example, in many countries' subsidies are given on certain inputs. Inputs are organized in certain local or interior areas. Credit is given on a larger scale. Marketing facilities are created in the different regions where they were not before. An integrated view of these incentives needs to be taken to determine whether in the developing countries the incentives are being given in adequate measure for achieving higher rate of growth. This guideline also refers to the

Promotion of social equality and fuller integration of the rural population in the national economy. I think this guideline also needs to be analyzed more fully than has been done so far. What is being done for small farmers or marginal farmers, and agricultural labourers with regard to the programmes for integrated rural development and similar programmes which may be taken up in the developing world, all have implications with regard to this part of the guideline.

This guideline has an implication for both developing and developed countries. I have discussed developing countries. With regard to the developed countries the position is summed up in paragraph 86 on page 27. As we read the details in the papers we realize that progress is not adequate in the interests of developing countries. For example, I am referring to paragraph 86 (ii) " Maintenance of production potential and establishment of arrangements for adequate food stocks in order to safeguard world food security." We are aware that so far not much has been achieved beyond laying down the objectives. We are also aware that things are being discussed in different national fora but this is a guideline which has brought out that a lot more needs to be done to achieve the objective of safeguarding world food security, which is one of the main aims of these guidelines.

Similarly when one goes into the details of item (iii) and item (iv) again it appears that they have not been implemented or not implemented in relation to : the long-term interests of the developing countries.

Coming to guideline 4, this guideline refers to the implementation of the "integrated nutritional policies aiming at the improvement of food consumption patterns in all countries..." The explanation of the material given under this guideline indicates that one has to feel concern over the use of food commodities for non-food purposes and the use of fertilizers for non-agricultural purposes. This is a qualitative statement which is good by itself but an attempt may have to be made in future analysis to quantify these phenomena. We would like to understand" how much food, for example, is used for non-food purposes and if it were not used for non-food purposes or if it were used in a lesser measure for non-food purposes, what would be its implications for larger consumption or better nutrition for the developing countries.

With regard to guideline 5, I am quite satisfied with the analysis given under this item.

Under the item guideline 6, I have some comments. This guideline reads "Developing countries with persistently weak balance of payments should favour wherever possible and appropriate the consumption of food which can be feasibly produced locally or regionally." An indication of monitoring the guideline is the development of self-sufficiency trends in cereals. This is all right but I would have thought that in this case we have to consider other foods also because we have to consider what are the items of food products which can be feasibly produced locally or regionally. Here, for example, I would have thought of potato as one of the crops or tapioca as another crop which could be considered as alternatives to cereal consumption in a situation of shortage. In a situation of surplus some other food products could be considered.

These are my comments on guidelines 1 to 6. I will make comments on the remaining guidelines in the afternoon as you asked.

KIM KWANG-HEE(Korea, Rep. of): On behalf of our delegation I would like to express many thanks to the FAO Secretariat for the preparation of the document which gives us a comprehensive view of progress in the achievement of the agreed objectives and policies of international agriculture, adjustment for the last few years, particularly since the scope of agricultural adjustment has been broadened from the interest mainly on market access of agricultural products of developing countries to all relevant areas, not only affecting trade of agricultural products but also production, structural questions, consumption and nutrition.

I would like to make a few observations on this subject on the basis of the document before us, hoping that my observations could make some contribution not only to this kind of analysis but also to the future meaningful work for agricultural adjustment. I do not know whether my way of proceeding in this discussion is in compliance with the procedure agreed upon by the Chairman at the outset of the discussion.

First, as a general observation, in the introductory part of the document we can see that the purpose of the document is to monitor the progress and performance of the national governments and international organizations in compliance with the agreed objectives and policies and the 11 policy, guidelines of the Adjustment Strategy, so as to facilitate discussion by the Conference of action needed to ensure as full an achievement as possible of the desired objectives of agricultural adjustment. In this connexion my delegation would like to see that the nature of the FAO work on this subject not only assesses progress in this field but also the FAO work on this subject could develop into action-oriented

programmes and also I would like to see this type of work reflect the above programmes in its work and budget in the future, since the scope of agricultural adjustment covers all related areas for food and agriculture.

Second, as observations on each section of the guidelines, I would like to refer to Table 3 on page 10. The first column of this table shows various commodities and commodity groups. I wonder whether cereals include rice. If not we would like to see a separate entry for rice in the future work.

Concerning Table 5 on page 13 on Land Use and Irrigation in Developing Countries, it might be instrumental to put a separate entry for showing land needed to be irrigated or irrigable land mainly for comparison between irrigated land and totally irrigable land.

Concerning Table 6 on page 14, Agricultural Labour Force, it might be worthwhile adding a separate sentence to show total work force by the same token for comparison.

Concerning Table 7 on page 16, we would like to see not only fertilizer consumption but also an indication of production capacity in the future.

With regard to the national policies of developed countries under guideline 3, it is noted in the document that a tendency re-emerged towards producer protection in these countries, resulting in the consequent irrational use of resources in the international concept. Producer subsidies of developed countries at a time of over-supply and a persistent tendency towards a higher degree of food self-sufficiency in these countries are matters of increasing concern among the international community.

We agree that this issue of guideline 3 is of critical importance to both developed and developing countries. Therefore more attention may well be given to the issue because it has wide and far reaching implications for location of food production as well as world trade in agricultural commodities.

I would also like to refer to paragraph 80 which deals with the most conflicting nature between the developed and developing countries on the subject of international agricultural adjustment, that is between the efforts being made towards self-sufficiency, now adopted by nearly all developing countries, and the surplus of many agricultural products faced by many developed countries. We all know that how to harmonize this problem of the conflicting nature between developed and developing countries is the hard core of the international agricultural harmonization and adjustment. In this connexion we would like to suggest that the FAO Secretariat should look into the possibility of making a study which shows the competitiveness of agricultural production by country, and by crop in terms of production cost so that it could be instrumental for the countries concerned in introducing new crops and in trying to achieve a higher degree of self-sufficiency of any agricultural products before they make a final decision on this point.

Of course this subject is comprehensively dealt with in the last part of this document, but my concern is that developing countries need the guidance of the quantitative nature of the analysis from the international community in formulating their own food production programmes.

Secondly concerning the second section of guidelines, relating to food consumption and nutrition, FAO has made valuable contributions towards improving the nutritional standards of many developing countries through helping them draw up a comprehensive and interdisciplinary plan and helping them to carry it out effectively from the top level to the bottom level.' We note that past experience shows that an applied nutrition plan being sponsored by FAO in some cases did not bring about as good a result as expected because of poor coordination among various governments and voluntary organizations involved in the process, either in the course of planning at the national level or in the course of implementation of the project at the district level. In this connection we should like to see some successful case study in this field disseminated to many developing countries, which are in need of improvements; in applied nutrition projects as widely as possible.

Under these guidelines there is one more point which I should like to mention and that is the ever-decreasing self-sufficiency ratios for all food commodities and for cereals in developing countries as shown in Table 16. In spite of efforts so far made to increase agricultural production in developing countries, the state of food and agriculture in developing countries has even been aggravated. Of course this subject has been dealt with at length in the past few days in this Commission.

Thirdly, another area where there has been virtually no progress in regard to the agreed policy objectives is the area of world trade in agricultural commodities and agro-based projects under guidelines 7, 8 and 9. This aspect is a direct consequence of the agricultural protection policies of some of the developed countries. In spite of a steady upward trend in the volume of world trade in agricultural commodities, developing countries have accounted for a larger portion of the imports and

a smaller portion of the exports since 1970. This shift in the balance of trade against developing countries may have many reasons. However, we should note with deep concern the recent tendency for strong protection policies in some developed countries.

If we look at another aspect of this subject under guidelines 7, 8 and 9, many important works affecting agricultural trade, world food security, integrated programmes for commodities and various commodity negotiations are now being dealt with outside the FAO framework. Since FAO is the most responsible and competent international body for food, and agriculture, we would like to see FAO work more closely with those international bodies and organizations which are dealing with the above-mentioned subjects.

We must also note that at a time of favourable food supplies there has been no substantial progress in international cooperation towards the eradication of hunger and malnutrition. This is confirmed by the fact that both development assistance and food aid to developing countries fell short of the targets set forth in guidelines 10 and 11. We would like here to express our hope that the international community will take more effective steps to transfer the needed resources and technology to developing countries and to expand food aid as a useful contribution to increased nutritional levels for a large segment of the world population.

In conclusion I should again like to express appreciation of the pioneering work of FAO in assessing progress in world agriculture. It is our hope that this work will be undertaken on a regular basis, with continued refinement of the methodology, that the scope of the work can be developed into more action-orientated programmes as I stated at the outset and that FAO member countries will render fuller cooperation to these international undertakings.

N. HINTIKKA (Finland): The report before us contains very interesting information about developments in the field of agriculture. The Secretariat has been faced with a difficult task, but its efforts have resulted in a good document which earns our warm thanks.

The subject under consideration, national agricultural adjustment, is as complicated as it is ambitious, so that an evaluation of its progress is an exceptionally difficult task for various kinds of judgements. Such difficulties are accentuated by the lack of sufficient and reliable statistical data. However, a considerable obstacle in making this kind of evaluation is that out of the 11 guidelines relating to the concept of international agricultural adjustment only three are expressed in quantitative terms. My comment does not mean that we envisage the reformulation of the guidelines on a more quantitative basis, but I just stress the importance of careful interpretation of whether the aims included in the guidelines have been reached or not.

The strategy of international agricultural adjustment was adopted two years ago by the Eighteenth Session of the FAO Conference. Certainly much more time is needed in order to test the guidelines in practice and to find out ways and means of following them. This first report to the Conference, however, indicates that with regard to some guidelines such development as was desired has happened to a larger or smaller extent. In this connection I would refer to the first guideline, the 4 percent increase in food production in developing countries, which has come through to a large extent. This was of course partly due to favourable weather conditions rather than the result of purposeful policies.

The analysis presented in document C 77/20 reveals clearly that the development in favour of or against the guidelines may be extremely different in various parts of the world. This holds true especially for the growth rate of food production, which in several countries and regions continues to be far below a target while in some countries it is altogether the reverse. Perhaps some small steps towards more balanced development have been achieved. However, a vast task is still left.

In trying to avoid a too lengthy discussion, I do not wish to go into a more detailed examination of the progress of international agricultural adjustment. Various speakers before me have already covered the important points which merit being taken into account when future action in this field is decided. Especially I would like to confirm our support for what the delegate of Sweden has said in the name of some Nordic countries.

Having said that, there is still one point to which I should like to draw attention. Small farmers have always had special problems to solve, whether they live in developing or developed countries. Unfortunately, in too many cases they have not been successful in finding appropriate solutions. Too many of them suffer from inadequate income, heavy work load and inconvenient living conditions, to mention just some points which characterize their situation. Very much has been done in order to help small farmers and to increase awareness of the subject. In this connection, I would refer only to the excellent work of the FAO Committee on Agriculture. However, the small farmer's special problems still exist and this fact also has an impact on the implementation of international agricultural adjustment. In relation to guideline 3, which is considered to be one of the most important guidelines, it is stated in paragraph 73 of document C 77/20:

"The area in which little progress has yet been made is in improving the conditions and prospects for small farmers. This has a direct bearing on incentives and their purposes as set out in the guidelines. Much of the new technology, institutional credit, marketing arrangements, support prices and other aspects all favour the larger farm."

Similar findings are presented also in some other paragraphs of the document. This confirms the importance and complexity of the problem, so there seems to be no danger of overestimating the efforts still needed in order to overcome the small farmer's dilemma.

H. CALLES LOPEZ NEGRETE (Mexico): Hemos estudiado detenidamente el documento relacionado con los Pro-gresos Realizados en el Reajuste Agrícola Internacional, y en virtud de que ya varios delegados han hecho muy interesantes observaciones y dado muy buenos puntos de vista, unicamente quisiéramos referir nos en términos generales a las orientaciones 4 y 5, relativas al Consumo de Alimentos y la Nutrición, y explicar que es lo que hemos efectuado en nuestro país.

Tal como lo expuso nuestro Secretario de Agricultura y Recursos Hidráulicos, Jefe de esta delegación, en la Sesión Plenaria número 3, nuestro Gobierno ha realizado cambios estructurales y administrativos que han inferido grandemente en la producción de alimentos básicos y en la alimentación y nutrición generales de sus habitantes, principalmente los de las áreas marginadas y en la incorporación de la mujer en el medio rural.

Se están haciendo progresos dentro de la agricultura y no cabe duda que el objetivo central del programa de FAO es el aumento de la producción agrícola, especialmente de alimentos básicos de los países en desarrollo; para lo cual es necesario tomar en cuenta que este aumento deberá tener diversos objetivos tales como mejoría en la nutrición, seguridad alimentaria, creación de reservas, mayores ingresos a los agricultores, aumento y distribución de la renta, y mayores ingresos por exportaciones.

Es necesario adaptar en los diversos países algunas tecnologías de países desarrollados y crear sus propias tecnologías de acuerdo con la situación de cada uno de ellos.

Es necesario reducir las pérdidas, aumentar la productividad de los cultivos, capacitar al personal y hacer que el desarrollo rural y agrícola mejore las condiciones económicas y sociales de la población rural. Es necesario también fijar precios de garantía para los productos vendidos por los agricultores para lograr que estos tengan mayores ingresos y mayor poder adquisitivo. Será necesario, y FAO tiene, el programa para un uso racional de fertilizantes. Es necesario realizar cursos de actualización para el personal de extensionismo y hacer una campaña nacional y general para el uso correcto de estos fertilizantes.

Para lograr en forma indirecta la autosuficiencia y aumentar la producción de elementos básicos, nosotros estamos iniciando un programa para determinar las pérdidas existentes post-cosecha, que incluyen el manejo, almacenaje y comercialización de productos básicos, así como de infestaciones, pérdidas por roedores y algunas otras, ya que éstas ascienden hasta un 25 ó 30 por ciento de la producción total.

Dentro de los programas de alimentación al medio rural ya las zonas marginadas, México ha visto que las deficiencias nutricionales de su población en estas zonas, se acentúan de manera aguda en las poblaciones de las zonas marginadas de nuestro país, especialmente en las comunidades indígenas. Por esto, se consideró conveniente desarrollar programas para abastecer a dichas zonas de productos alimenticios a precios adecuados y enriquecidos con elementos nutritivos. Al respecto, en abril de 1977 se inició un programa para llevar alimentos populares fortificados a todo el país. Este programa tiene por objeto mejorar la dieta alimentaria de los habitantes de esas zonas con alimentos de alto poder nutritivo ya precios al alcance de las clases económicamente menos favorecidas.

Para seleccionar los productos alimenticios que forman parte de este programa, se tomaron en cuenta criterios referentes a la dieta habitual de cada zona marginada y se eligieron de acuerdo con estudios nutriólogicos, a la harina de maíz, harina de frijol instantánea, galletas y pastas para sopas. Para hacer llegar estos productos a todas las zonas marginadas del país, se han utilizado los canales de distribución del sistema que el Gobierno tiene, a través de las Compañías Nacionales de Subsistencias Populares.

Se han implantado cursos de adiestramiento para preparar a las promotoras de las instituciones participantes en el programa en cuanto a la forma del manejo y uso de dichos alimentos, para posteriormente poder ir evaluando los resultados en cada zona.

Con relación al párrafo 105 de la página 41 del documento. México está realizando proyectos para la fabricación de aminoácidos y levaduras alimenticias a partir de mieles incristalizables de las fabricaciones de azúcar, y en algunos casos, derivados de petróleo.

Los sectores marginados de países en desarrollo, incluyendo el nuestro, especialmente los niños lactantes y las mujeres gestantes, no tienen en su alimentación los niveles de proteínas y aminoácidos esenciales recomendados internacionalmente; por lo que nuestro país está muy interesado en la fabricación de licina, metionina, triptófano y levaduras alimenticias para ser adicionadas a los alimentos que se mencionaron antes.

Hemos hecho algunos otros programas, no de productos agrícolas, sino sobre pesca y productos pecuarios. Uno de los problemas en los que más interés tenemos es la aplicación correcta y adecuada del Codex Alimentarius, ya que hasta la fecha no ha sido posible dicha aplicación en la gran mayoría de los países, por lo que será necesario, en colaboración con los diversos Departamentos de Agricultura y Sanidad de los Países Miembros de FAO, se intensifique la elaboración de normas alimentarias internacionales para productos alimenticios que puedan garantizar la calidad y pureza de los mismos.

G.K. MBURATHI (Kenya): My Chairman, my delegation does not intend to make a second intervention this afternoon. Therefore I hope you will bear with us if we do not accurately comply with your suggestions earlier on. My comments also will be of a general nature and we will not attempt to go into a detailed analysis, which has already been done by the Secretariat. We entrust this to the massive good will that has been acquired in FAO through all these years.

Turning directly to the document, I must say from the outset that the document we are considering meets the request made by the Member Governments during the Eighteenth Session of the Conference that the Director-General should prepare an assessment of the progress in the achievement of the agreed objectives and the policies of International Agricultural Adjustment. The Member Governments had also requested that the report be made very brief and that it be limited to the important aspects of the situation. As a result, as I said earlier, my comments will touch on salient features which we -thought deemed our comments at this particular time.

In this regard the Secretariat has done a very good job in the light of the limitations that were placed upon it by the Conference. Although some of the 11 guidelines debated and approved by the last Conference to be continuously monitored and evaluated are implicit in nature and lacking quantifiable goals, we do not think this is a very good reason for the Secretariat not to have a more rounded-up evaluation and thereby coming up with specific conclusions on how Member Government could accelerate the adjustment. However, we do hope that this final effort in systematic monitoring of the progress of the adjustments, given specific guidelines, will be expanded in other operations of the Organization and particularly those closely related to the individual countries.

I must say from the outset that it is disappointing that the progress made at the international level has been markedly slow.

The more this is happening, is it not the fact that an international system of grain stocks has not yet been established? This, as many of us may recall, was a subject intensively discussed during the last Conference, and indeed during the World Food Conference in 1974 here in Rome. I need not repeat the real need for such a system in obviating human suffering during the food crisis similar to the one there was in 1973.

This has been debated over and over again. Suffice it to say that the good will and commitment from every Member Nation is required if the exercise is to yield the expected results.

My delegation has also been disappointed to realize that despite all the statements made during the World Food Conference by respective nations, the assistance in real terms to agriculture in developing countries is still below the target set by the World Food Conference, and also re-affirmed by the adjustment guidelines we are now considering. Yet the international community expects the rate of food production to increase.

My delegation, however, notes that in some countries the target rate set for food production has been achieved for 1974-76. This was specifically outlined in guideline 1 of the adjustment we are now considering. However, as correctly stated in the document, this has been tempered in one way or another by problems of internal marketing and distribution which are, we believe, part and parcel of any strategy aimed at eliminating hunger and malnutrition.

In its efforts to improve the monitoring of the progress of adjustments in FAO we hope it will pay particular attention to this problem of distribution in evaluating guideline 1.

We in Kenya have initiated measures to tackle this problem with our increased output of basic food items. We have also taken various measures to increase the total flow of financial resources to the agricultural sector through various farm credit operations and projects. We believe this to be one of the most efficient and objective ways of raising the standard of living of our rural population.

Side by side with credit we have already increased, and are continuing to increase, the complementary services to the farm sector. This we are attempting to do through what we are calling our integrated agricultural development programme. We are confident that these services, and particularly marketing services, will go a long way in improving incentives for producers to expand output, as called for by guideline 3.

Furthermore, our head of the delegation, the Minister of Agriculture, in his statement in the Plenary, has already indicated that our development expenditure on agriculture and water has been very much increased by 25 percent and 105 percent respectively. We hope that by doing this the complementary services to the agricultural sector will be more adequately catered for.

My delegation supported the 10 million ton target of grains for food aid, established by the World Food Conference and incorporated in guideline 11. We would like to see the Organization undertake in future a monitoring and evaluation exercise of the progress achieved in the guideline 11 contained in the adjustment, and an evaluation of the complementary role which food aid plays in assisting those who receive it to increase their own food production. We believe that food aid should be complementary to the individual countries' efforts to increase their own food production. As I mentioned earlier, we would like to see the next progress report pointing out concretely where individual countries or groups of countries are failing to implement the respective guidelines for international agricultural adjustment. In all cases the action required should always be related to the goals and ideals of the new international economic order as endorsed by the United Nations.

My delegation would also further request the Secretariat to make the netprogress report as brief as possible and include only the salient features of the guidelines. In this aspect, and particularly in connection with the flow of capital to the agricultural sector, we would like to see an indication of the way to tackle the competitive nature of the sector within urban and rural areas as regards investments within a particular nation. I think this will give a guideline to the respective nations on the kind of undertaking they may require to correct the existing anomalies.

Mr. Shiva B. Nepali, Vice-Chairman, took the chair

M. Shiva B. Nepali, Vice-President, assume la présidence

El Sr. Shiva B. Nepali, Vicepresidente, asume la presidencia

WU TIEN HSI (China) (interpretation from Chinese): We have noted that document C 77/20 has provided much information on the progress made by the developing countries in increasing food production by diversifying agriculture and improving trade terms. Progress is mainly due to the priority given by numerous Third World countries to food production as well as the concerted and unremitting efforts made by many Third World countries producing agricultural primary products.

The facts show that the Third World countries' endeavours to develop agriculture, increase production, diversify agriculture and improve trade terms, are inseparably linked with the current struggle to establish a new international economic order. After analyzing the changes in international agricultural relationships brought about by implementing international agricultural adjustment, document C 77/20 states that the basic issue is whether they represent progress towards the establishment of a new international economic order, or rather towards the maintenance of the old. We think this is indeed an issue that merits full attention.

The international agricultural relationships which form an important component part of the overall international relationships should abide by and never deviate from the fundamental principle of establishing a new international economic order. The necessary measures must be taken to change the old international agricultural relationships which are unequal and unfair. In implementing international agricultural adjustment, this is a guiding principle of primary importance about which there must be no ambiguity whatsoever.

The third guideline for international agricultural adjustment involves some important policy questions. We hold that in implementing international agricultural adjustment, state sovereignty should be respected. The Third World countries have every right to formulate their own development policies in accordance with their specific conditions and on the basis of independence and self reliance, so as to promote the development of their agriculture and safeguard their trade interests in agricultural products. Under no circumstances should the super-powers be allowed to exploit, plunder and control Third World countries.

It is mentioned in the second section of the third guideline that the developed countries should take into account the special needs and interests of the developing countries. This is a reasonable and necessary requirement. It must be pointed out, however, that with the old international economic relationships prevailing at present the super-powers take advantage of their powerful position to bully the small and undermine the development of agriculture in developing countries through cut-throat competition, monopoly of markets and various other means. The facts have shown that the super-powers are trying desperately to uphold the old international economic order. We think, therefore, that the Third World countries must strengthen their unity; oppose exploitation, plunder and control by the super-powers; fight resolutely to change the unjustified old international economic relationships; and adhere to the policy of independence and self reliance. Only in this way will it be possible to attain international agricultural relationships based on equality and mutual benefit in the sphere of food and agriculture.

M. LIMAN (Nigeria): Coming after many delegations have commented extensively on document C 77/20, the comments of the Nigerian delegation will necessarily be brief.

We appreciate the tremendous efforts made by the Secretariat to assess the progress made so far with international agricultural adjustment. We also appreciate the difficulties inherent in such an exercise, given its enormous scope and complexity. In order not to take too much time commenting on the numerous issues covered by the paper, I will limit my comments on some specific issues. Some, like food production, have already been discussed under the document on World Food and Agriculture, but first I should like to make a general comment.

The first general comment I should like to make is on the difficulty of analyzing the progress made in international agricultural adjustment. As the paper pointed out, in a number of cases there are conceptual difficulties which must be overcome before a meaningful analysis can be undertaken. One typical example given by the document is the difficulty of interpreting the rational use of resources by developed countries. That is in guideline 3.

We accept also that there are guidelines which are not easily amenable to quantitative analysis, and they can only be subjectively determined: for example, guideline 4 on nutritional policies. Fortunately, a number of guidelines can be monitored with a fair degree of accuracy. Guideline 7 on access to markets and guideline 10 on resources transfers, amongst others, are cases in point. Therefore, our view is that despite the difficulties which are inherent in monitoring progress in international agricultural adjustment it is a worthwhile exercise and should be undertaken on a regular basis. Indeed, such an exercise should be extended to all major decisions taken by the Conference. This is the only way we can keep track of progress being made by the FAO in various fields.

My only advice is that the Secretariat should make an effort to improve the methods of selection and interpretation, and to cover those countries now left out of the exercise. Statistics can lie, if indeed we want them to lie, depending on how they are collected or presented, and while figures are not available or are deficient the document should faithfully say so. Of course, this is in no way a reflection on the integrity of the authors of this document.

Now I come to a few specific comments. This is where I depart slightly from the procedure. The document proposes that only marginal progress was made by the developing countries to gain access to markets in developed countries. Again, although the terms of trade on average may have improved, this general statement hides the glaring disparities that exist between individual commodities. This point was underlined earlier yesterday by the delegate of Argentina. Again, prices of agricultural commodities also continue to exhibit serious fluctuations, with serious implications for the export earnings of developing countries. These are serious issues which cannot be glossed over. My delegation is anxious to see progress made in these areas.

The second specific comment I should like to make refers to guideline 3, with particular reference to the rational use of resources of developed countries for agricultural production. As I mentioned earlier, I appreciate the conceptual difficulty of interpreting this guideline, and I trust that no country will exploit to their advantage this apparent ambiguity. This guideline is quite clear to my delegation. What we understand by it is that developed countries should not, by their policies, stifle efforts being made by developing countries to increase agricultural production and consumption. Paragraph 89 of this document expressed this in a succinct manner when it said:

"An equitable sharing of the burden of supply/demand adjustments between developed and developing countries requires the former to avoid taking measures which so insulate consumers from food price rises at a time of shortages that countries unable to afford such consumer protection must make an undue part of the international adjustment either through checking consumption or paying higher prices."

I do not intend to flog the issue further except to say that my delegation attaches a great deal of importance to this aspect of agricultural adjustment since it hinges directly upon the ability of developing countries to raise their production and indeed the level of trade and consumption. My delegation accepts the conclusion reached at page 73 of the document, namely, that international agricultural adjustment by its very nature must come about slowly. Nonetheless we believe that with greater political will on all sides progress can be much faster than it has been. It is our hope that the next Conference will have more positive progress to report.

B. SUSSMILCH (European Economic Community): Mr Chairman, with your permission I would like to make a statement on behalf of the European Economic Community on the subject of international agricultural adjustment, in the name of the member states of the European Community.

The document C 70/20 presented by the FAO Secretariat deals with the question whether and to which extent progress has been made in the field of International Agricultural Adjustment (IAA) since the Eighteenth Session of the FAO Conference.

From the 11 guidelines approved by this session, the following Chapters are of special interest to developed countries, particularly for the European Community.

- Chapter A: Food and other agricultural production (guidelines 1-3).
- Chapter C: Trade in agricultural commodities and production requisites (guidelines 7-9).
- Chapter D: International assistance to developing countries as regards agriculture (guidelines 10-11).

We have read document C 70/20 with great interest, although there are several points for which we have a different interpretation. In our view, the main objective of the IAA should be to help to assure food security and we think that this objective should be maintained also in the future. There is, however, a continuing dichotomy between the demand on the one hand, for the developed countries, including the Community, to limit production and expecting, on the other hand, these countries to have the capability to ensure stocks for meeting emergency situations.

Within the Community itself progress has been made in the implementation of guidelines 1-3 of the Chapter A on food and other agricultural production, in particular with reference to the results achieved in the area of improving farming structures. In this very area the Community has already carried out comprehensive and coherent measures which are already being applied effectively in the Member States.

In this context important are measures related to:

- (a) agriculture in naturally less-favoured areas (hill farming)
- (b) land use.

These two issues have been very extensively dealt with at the international level, e.g. in the deliberations of the Nineteenth Regional Conference of FAO in Bucharest (September 1975) and they have been accepted as guidelines for other European countries.

These issues will continue to feature prominently in the work of the Agricultural Committee of the EEC and in various bodies of the FAO. They are also on the follow-up CSCE Conference to Helsinki in Belgrade.

Other structural measures are:

- to inform the farming population of genuine solutions to the problems which they face and to offer them training facilities enabling them to arrive at such solutions either within agriculture or in other occupations (Directive 72/161/EEC);
- to induce, by means of financial incentives, farmers who decide to leave agriculture either through early retirement or to take up another activity, to make their land available to other farmers, thereby enabling the latter to make progress towards development (Directive 72/160/EEC);
- to help those who are professionally capable and willing to undertake farm development, by offering them a selective system of financial aid for investments needed to achieve an income per labour unit comparable to that available to non-farm workers in their region through the implementation of a farm development programme extending over a 6-year period (Directive 72/159/EEC);
- to provide financial aid for marketing and processing projects which are part of approved regional, national or Community programmes (Regulation EEC/355/77).

As regards progress in the implementation of guidelines on trade in agricultural commodities and production requisites affecting developing countries (guidelines 7-9) the Community has set an example by its activity which has been implemented in two instruments, first, the conclusion of the far reaching Lomé Convention and, second, by the introduction and expansion of the System of General Preferences (G.S.P.).

Concerning the Lomé Convention the following additional remarks are worth mentioning:

Concluded for a period of five years with 46, soon enlarged to 52, African, Caribbean and Pacific States, this Convention provides unilaterally for free entry for all products, including most agricultural and processed products to the Community market. In the case of those few farming and processed products which do not benefit from free entry preferential entry is provided for. This trade system has had a positive effect on imports into the Community of agricultural products from ACP. States. Since the entry into force of the Convention, imports have increased considerably in 1976 (from 3.312 to 4.34 million u.a).

To this may be added the advantages accruing from the Stabex system, the object of which is to guarantee stability of earnings from the export of a series of products to the Community and on which the economies of the A.C .P. States in question depend. Out of the total amount of 375 million u.a. allocated to the system, 72 million were the subject of transfers to A.C .P. States for fluctuations of prices and/or quantities of the products covered by this system which came into force in 1975.

Transfers for the 1976 financial year are of the order of 40 million u.a.

The Generalized System of Preferences (G.S.P.) which the Community had introduced already in 1973 was further improved in 1976. The quota for non-associated countries was raised to almost 1 000 million of u.a.

Another, offer for tropical products related to the multilateral GATT negotiations has again improved these arrangements since 1 January 1977 and brought the value of the products concerned to 1 250 million u.a.

Since the last Conference the Community has followed its policy of achieving closed relations with Mediterranean countries by concluding agreements with several of them. These aim at establishing a large measure of cooperation designed to contribute both to the social and economic development of the countries concerned and to a general strengthening of good relations between them and the Community.

In addition, the Community contributed to the progress made in the stabilization of the market and prices of raw materials (guideline 8) . This in particular by the participation of the Community in all negotiations on international raw materials agreement, in accordance with UNCTAD Resolution 93 IV of Nairobi within the framework of the "Integrated Programme". This applies both to the preparatory phase in negotiations in the FAO Commodity Committees and in UNCTAD. It applies, furthermore, to the positive attitude of the Community and its Member States; towards the World Food Council (W.F.C.) which was particularly manifested at its third session.

The same is true also for the implementation of guideline 9 to which the Community has made a positive contribution in questions regarding the diversification and transfer of resources both in UNCTAD and in the North-South Dialogue.

The Community is also taking a leading part in the further International assistance to the developing countries as regards agriculture (guidelines 10 and 11).

In this context through the Food Aid Convention (F.A.C.), the EEC is the second largest contributor after the United States. For its part, the Community supplies all its food aid on an outright grant basis and nothing on a long term credit sales basis.

As regards butter oil, the Community is virtually the only donor of food aid.

In the case of skimmed milk powder aid, the average of the annual quantity delivered during the years 1971 to 1975 from all sources was 112 000 tonnes, of which more than 50 percent was supplied by the Community and Member States (57 300 t).

In addition to food aid, the Community assists the developing countries to develop their own agricultural and food production by financial and technical assistance to projects within the framework of the European Development Fund and Stabex, the Special Aid to Sahel, the United Nations Emergency Fund for Most Seriously Affected Countries, aid to non-associated countries and through non-governmental organizations.

As it was decided from the Chair to speak in more detail later to the chapters and paragraphs of this document C 77/20, we would like to come back to several points of this document later on in the discussion.

F.MONCAYO (Ecuador): Quiero en primer lugar felicitar a la Secretaría por la presentación de tan valioso documento y al respecto deseo solamente hacer una breve consideración. Por nuestra experiencia en este tipo de trabajos, conocemos que normalmente en nuestros países la base estadística que sirve para la realización de los estudios adolece de deficiencias, que hacen que éstos no tengan la información necesaria *que* permita tomar decisiones adecuadas. Siendo esto una deficiencia que es general para nuestros países, debería insistirse ante la FAO a fin de que dé un apoyo más significativo a los mismos para poder mejorar los estudios estadísticos y darles una mayor flexibilidad.

Paso inmediatamente a referirme a dos aspectos que considero de mucha importancia para nuestro país.

En cuanto a las orientaciones relativas a la producción de alimentos y producción agrícola, debo decir que es más fácil dar orientaciones que poder aplicarlas, y que evidentemente estas orientaciones los países deben asumirlas en forma coordinada, tanto los desarrollados como aquéllos en desarrollo, porque sería la única forma de que nuestros Gobiernos puedan aplicarlas.

En cuanto a la orientación que se refiere a aumentar los recursos financieros y de otro tipo para la producción agropecuaria, es conveniente que se informe que nuestros Gobiernos, pese a realizar todos los esfuerzos para cumplir ésta, que más que una orientación sería una aspiración nuestra, deben estar siempre supeditados a la difícil forma de conseguir esos recursos. El recurso tierra en países como el nuestro, que está disponible en una gran extensión para la labor agrícola, difícilmente puede ser integrado, por la dificultad de realización de obras de infraestructura, como las de viabilidad, que permitieran la incorporación de grandes áreas a las labores agrícolas, satisfaciendo de esta manera y ayudando asimismo al esfuerzo internacional de la lucha contra el hambre. Del mismo modo, la situación laboral, que después de decenas de años de postergación, está empezando a capacitarse, no está muchas veces en condiciones de colaborar con los esfuerzos de desarrollo, si es que previamente no se realiza un esfuerzo muy grande de capacitación, respecto a lo cual también la FAO y los países que tienen recursos disponibles al efecto deberían dar mayor énfasis en su apoyo a los países en condiciones de desarrollo.

Se anotan también en este punto los fertilizantes, de los que tantas veces se ha hablado en esta reunión. Constituye un aspecto de primordial importancia para nuestra producción agropecuaria, pero estamos muy lejos todavía de aplicarla, dado los precios crecientes que tienen estos productos en el mercado internacional. Sería conveniente, sin embargo, este tipo de tecnología a nivel subregional en los países del subdesarrollo, en sus diferentes regiones.

En cuanto a investigación, pese a los esfuerzos inmensos que se han realizado para lograr una tecnología nacional adecuada a las condiciones de desarrollo de cada uno de los países, es necesario que se haga un esfuerzo de apoyo mayor por parte de la FAO y de los países desarrollados, a fin de evitar que nuestros países deban las más de las veces tener regresos sustantivos en pago a consultoras privadas, que no solamente no satisfacen nuestras necesidades y nuestros requerimientos, sino que constituyen algo que realmente no da resultado para la agricultura.

En cuanto a los incentivos para los agricultores, también es un aspecto que se vuelve sumamente difícil, porque la rentabilidad de la inversión en campo agrícola es sumamente baja en comparación con los sectores del comercio y de la industria; de tal forma que, dar mayor incentivo a los productores, muchas veces se contrapone con la necesidad de mantener precios adecuados de los productos agrícolas que están al alcance de las grandes masas, que no tienen capacidad en cambio para ingresar en el mercado los productos industrializados.

En el aspecto del crédito, el crédito de los organismos particulares hacia ese sector es casi nulo, debiendo asumir el Estado todo el esfuerzo de crédito para el área agropecuaria. Sin embargo, como el Estado muchas veces actúa como intermediario de otros organismos internacionales de crédito y como éstos mantienen políticas discriminatorias para aquellos países que debido a su esfuerzo han logrado un nivel un poco mejor de desarrollo y tienen ingresos per capita menores que otros países, el crédito de esos organismos se traslada a los productores del sector agropecuario a través de los Gobiernos, se vuelve sumamente difícil de manejar, porque las tasas de interés son altas.

Estos aspectos hacen que las orientaciones que son presentadas no puedan aplicarse en los países que se encuentran en desarrollo, mientras no haya un apoyo sustantivo de los países desarrollados y mientras los productos de exportación de origen agropecuario no tengan un trato adecuado en el mercado.

En cuanto al consumo de alimentos, es realmente imposible o muy difícil por lo menos, pensar en una ampliación del trabajo en el campo agrícola para satisfacer el mercado nacional, si nuestros países deben hacer cada vez mayores esfuerzos para enviar la producción agrícola al mercado, puesto que siguen recibiendo cada vez menores cantidades de dinero por él

Estos asuntos los he puesto a consideración de usted, señor Presidente, y de los señores Miembros, porque son aspectos concretos de la realidad de nuestros países, que debenser considerados en este tipo de reuniones.

I.A. IKTIAZI (Pakistan): Since our general approach on this subject was outlined in my general Statement to the Plenary on 16 November, which approach is in full support of the new international economic order, I wish to comment only on the need and measures necessary for improving nutritional standards in the developing countries and that it is why I intervene at this stage.

The nutrition problem, in order to be effectively tackled, requires an interdisciplinary approach and multidimensional effort both at the national and international levels. I do not have much to say at this stage with regard to action at the national level since every nation must devise a strategy appropriate and suited to its own peculiar conditions. However, I must say that such action must of necessity cover inter alia not only arrangements for increased food production but also those for fair distribution through fair and stable return to the producer, and reasonable pricing for the consumer and for the creation and expansion of gainful employment opportunities, particularly in the relatively neglected segments of society, for example the rural poor, for overall rural development with emphasis on improvement in living conditions, for nutrition intervention and nutrition education, particularly amongst the relatively more vulnerable groups such as lactating women and children .

For action at the international level we have the following points to make :

1. International Assistance must focus on establishing, improving and developing in the less developed countries agricultural research activities with emphasis on (a) high-yield, high-protein leguminous food crops, (b) food storage, including cold storage, (c) food and vegetable preservation and processing facilities, (d) fisheries development through the application of modern technology and (e) the provision of superior genetic strains of livestock,

2. The second area, that is other than research, of external assistance to developing countries could be training of agriculturalists, nutritionists and scientists.

3. The third area of possible assistance could be nutrition education and nutrition planning through appropriately designed and conducted household surveys to identify household expenditure and food consumption patterns amongst different groups and amongst different sub-groups within such groups.

J.A. DOS SANTOS VÁRELA (Portugal): En ce qui concerne les sujets qui sont traités ce matin, je voudrais tout d'abord, de la part de ma délégation, adresser au Secrétariat nos félicitations pour son document sur les progrès de l'ajustement agricole international.

Il s'agit d'une excellente vue d'ensemble de la situation et d'un utile essai d'évaluation. A notre avis, je crois que des progrès ont déjà été accomplis en vue d'atteindre des objectifs concrets. Ma délégation approuve de façon globale les textes de ce Rapport bien que nous reconnaissons tous que les progrès déjà accomplis sont encore loin du souhaitable et du possible.

En outre, et en ce qui concerne les deux en trois sections qui font l'objet des appréciations ce matin, notamment la section A traitant de la production de denrées alimentaires et la section B, traitant de la consommation alimentaire et nutritionnelle, je voudrais présenter un commentaire assez limité.

Pour ce qui est du critère de régionalisation, qui a été suivi par une analyse et qui nous est présenté dans le tableau I, il est évident que les différents groupements de pays considérés ne sont pas très homogènes, ainsi que nous le savons tous. Cette situation empêche de voir plus clairement la réalité et, par suite, empêche l'efficacité de jugement et des mesures à prendre. Evidemment, je ne peux pas présenter une dissertation sur ce point mais je me borne, et ce également pour une question de limitation de temps, aux sujets que mon pays peut présenter dans ce domaine.

Bien que situé en Europe occidentale, le Portugal comme vous le savez, se situe également au point de vue du développement économique, social et politique, dans le groupe des pays en voie de développement à économie de marché. Nous voyons dans le tableau I que l'analyse se limite, en ce qui concerne ce groupement de pays en termes géographiques, à l'Afrique, l'Asie, l'Amérique latine, le Proche-Orient etc. En ce qui concerne cet ensemble de situations nous trouvons des implications, par exemple, pour ce qui est de l'état des chiffres des indicateurs généraux d'augmentation de la production, tels que la ligne d'orientation que l'on nous présente, et aussi des implications à différents degrés, de la satisfaction donnée à la demande alimentaire.

En effet, comme le taux moyen de l'accroissement démographique est beaucoup plus faible en général en Europe occidentale, et en particulier dans mon pays, que dans la presque majorité des pays en voie de développement à économie de marché, en Afrique, Asie etc. tel que l'analyse du tableau I nous le montre, il en résulte que le taux annuel de l'augmentation de la production prévue dans la ligne I mérite aussi à notre avis un certain ajustement, c'est-à-dire une certaine régionalisation.

En ce qui concerne le Portugal, j'aimerais ajouter que notre plan de développement à moyen terme, couvrant la période 1978/80, donne un état particulièrement objectif de l'augmentation de la production et de l'accroissement de la productivité. En effet, un effort intensif sera fait dans le sens de l'augmentation de la consommation par les agriculteurs, par exemple des engrais, semences et plantes améliorées, etc. Le taux annuel de l'augmentation de la production ne va pas au-delà de 2,5 pour cent, compte tenu des possibilités du pays et du taux annuel de croissance de la population, lequel plafonne autour de un pour cent. Comme vous voyez, c'est un exemple concret de l'augmentation de la production bien qu'en restant sensiblement en deçà des 4 pour cent. Nous pensons que cela nous permettra de réaliser des progrès sensibles, bien que modestes encore, en ce qui concerne le besoin de réduire le décalage actuellement existant entre la production et la demande interne des denrées alimentaires, notamment des céréales et des produits d'origine animale.

Pour en terminer, il m'est très agréable de souligner dans ce cadre de notre plan, que des études importantes de projets avec la FAO sont en cours de réalisation, notamment le relèvement de la production et aussi l'amélioration des standards nutritionnels de la population. Je voudrais souligner le projet de développement de la production agricole et de l'élevage dans la zone de la réforme agraire et les projets d'éducation nutritionnelle et d'assistance nutritionnelle à la population scolaire et à la population en général.

M. ISHAQUE (Bangladesh): On behalf of the delegation from Bangladesh I take my hat off to the Secretariat for the job done in presenting this document to us which is an overall report of what is happening all over the world in respect of the guidelines laid down by the Eighteenth Session of the Conference. As the report says, this is a pilot report and a first attempt. The report also says that not very many statistical reports are available, and this is so. The delegate of Ecuador, I think it was, mentioned that statistics are not readily available in many developing countries and because of that the supporting agencies of FAO or the United Nations system will be doing a good job in providing statistical data so that future reports will be more accurate, or more comprehensive. I am quite sure that future reports will give us greater detail and greater information.

As we go through the report we find that there are shortfalls in achievement relating to almost all the guidelines. The report does not, however, try to see why such shortfalls exist. There must have been reasons for them and the developing countries are trying to work according to the guidelines, because it is to their benefit to improve food and other production.

As far as my country is concerned, we have been very much in the thick and thin of improving the nutrition of our people. As a result of the guidelines or otherwise, we in Bangladesh have established a new sector called the Horticultural Development Board with the sole objective of improving the production of such nutritional crops as are needed in the country, but we have some constraints, and I am quite sure many other countries have similar constraints, therefore we have not been able to do as we ourselves wanted to do.

When we are in the process of assessing and analyzing, with the ultimate objective of reaching the goal, doing something and taking action, perhaps it will be better - and this is my suggestion - if a chapter is added to such reports giving the reasons for the countries' shortfall in not achieving the goals. This would help in getting the conclusions and focusing on those priority countries which have greater constraints.

Finally, I again congratulate the Secretariat on presenting this review report as a pilot report, which is very good.

The meeting rose at 12.25 hours

La seance est levee à 12 h 25

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.25 horas

conference

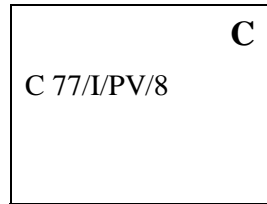
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Nineteenth Session
COMMISSION I

Dix-neuvième session
COMMISSION I

19° período de sesiones
COMISION II

EIGHTH MEETING
HUITIEME SÉANCE
OCTAVA SESION

(23 November 1977)

The Eighth Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours
J.C. Vignaud, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La huitième seance est ouverte à 14 h 45 sous la présidence de
J.C. Vignaud, President de la Commission I

Se abre la octava sesión a las 14.45 horas, bajo la presidencia de
J.C. Vignaud, Presidente de la Comisión I

PART I - MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

(continued)

PREMIERE PARTIE - PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET QUESTIONS DE POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)

PARTE I - PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLÍTICAS DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)

8. Progress in International Agricultural Adjustment (continued)
8. Progres accomplis en ce qui concerne l'Ajustement agricole international (suite)
8. Progresos realizados en el reajuste agrícola internacional (continuacion)

D. RICHTER (Germany, Fed. Rep. of)(interpretation from German) : The first progress report of the Director-General on the guidelines of a strategy for international agricultural adjustment indicates a positive development as a whole. Some areas of progress, however, could not be taken into consideration when the report was drafted and in particular the actual timetable for the negotiations in the various bodies dealing with questions of trade. Nor could the results of the Third Session of the World Food Council be included.

Regarding the subjects of guidelines 1, 2, part 1 of 3, 10 and 11, in this connection my delegation has already made its statement under item 6, The State of Food and Agriculture. This is why I should like to refer to this first statement and just add a few comments.

Developing and developed countries have made considerable efforts in order to implement the recommendations of the World Food Conference. These efforts will have to be continued because particularly in the MSA countries, or in the food priority countries, we find that the results are not yet satisfactory. Apart from making available the necessary resources, satisfactory incentives have to be created for agricultural production in the developing countries. The report quite rightly stresses that, in particular, it is necessary to take into consideration small farmers.

In part 2 of guideline 3 the report tries to analyse the role of the developed countries in the international adjustment process.

I feel that we should not repeat the lengthy discussions which took place at the 17th and 18th general Conferences. However, once again I should like to point out that adjustment on a national and international level is a lengthy and continuous process. It is a matter of adjustment on the farm level, the market level and also on the international level. All these processes of adjustment are closely related and inter-dependent and cannot be considered separately.

In previous discussions my delegation has stated quite - clearly that within the European Community all measures for adjusting agriculture can only be implemented step by step. Unnecessary hardships must be avoided, and social and environmental policy requirements must be taken into consideration. International adjustment cannot move faster than internal adjustment, and that is why I have certain hesitations in accepting the statement starting from paragraph 75 of the report which refers to the measures of the agricultural market policies of developed countries which are here represented in a schematic and isolated way from the point of view of international adjustment.

In paragraphs 87 and 88 the report acknowledges the contribution of developed countries to world food security. Within the European Community my government is pursuing the objectives of the International Undertaking on World Food Security. The European Community, in its agricultural market policy, also includes storage measures. In this way the Community is able to fulfill its commitment to the full extent. And it is in this light that the statements in paragraphs 89 and 90 are not very clear. At times of worldwide shortage we are making our contribution towards world food security; at times of surplus supply, all importing countries benefit from the dropping of world market prices. It is not very realistic to demand at the same time that developed countries should dismantle their internal market organization system and curb their production capacity, with all the implications domestically speaking, and negative implications for the world food situation.

There is agreement that the interests of the exporting developing countries must be taken into consideration more and more. This aspect is part and parcel of the agricultural market policy of the European Community. I do not want to go into detail, but I should like to note that my country, within the framework of the European Community, is participating actively in multilateral trade negotiations, and the imports to my country of food commodities from developing countries have increased in terms of value regularly. Since 1970 they have increased by an annual rate of 9 percent, and from 1975 to 1976 by 23 percent.

In that connection, I should like to make a few comments regarding Guidelines 7 to 9. The pessimistic statements contained in paragraphs 120, 128 and 132 of the report regarding the progress of international trade negotiations have now become out of date. In the course of the last months progress has been achieved. Regarding multilateral trade negotiations within GATT, the agricultural group has adopted a very strict timetable with a view to completing negotiations by next spring, negotiations on those products for which no special agreements are planned. For tropical products which were given priority in the Tokyo statement the European Community implemented the proposals on 1 January 1977. Negotiations on meat and dairy products have been intensified, and this also applies to grain. Following the second session of the Preparatory Group within the framework of the International Wheat Council, it is expected that at the beginning of 1978 a conference for negotiations on a new grain agreement will begin. The negotiating conference on the Common Fund is taking place this month within UNCTAD.

The report mentions some satisfactory developments for the developing countries in the field of trade. For instance, in paragraph 141 it is stated that there is a very great increase in the value of agricultural exports of developing countries, and in paragraph 138 and 145 it is stated that there is an increased proportion of processed products among these agricultural exports from developing countries.

In many developing countries preference is given to producing to meet their own domestic requirements. An extension of the processing industries in the developing countries aiming towards export means they would first of all have to check the chances of selling on the international market.

Guidelines 4 to 6 of the strategy for international agricultural adjustment deal with improvement of nutrition. The international community is well aware of the urgency of this task. I should like to recall the institutional changes in the United Nations system, and the clearly outlined task spelled out by the World Food Council in the Manila Communiqué.

Finally, I should like to say that we do not agree with the somewhat pessimistic conclusion contained in Part IV of the report regarding the eradication of hunger and malnutrition. In the preceding parts of the report we find that progress is noted in all areas, even though it is not satisfactory in all areas. At its third session, the World Food Council on the basis of the Manila Communiqué adopted in the view of my government a balanced and encouraging action programme, which stresses the keynotes for future measures. We therefore feel that the necessary conditions are provided for a further positive development in all these areas.

Mme E. MAMMONE LENER (Italie): J'espère ne pas déranger votre programme en vous présentant encore une fois une petite intervention de caractère général. Depuis plusieurs années, la délégation italienne suit avec intérêt les études de la FAO dans le secteur de l'ajustement agricole et c'est avec plaisir que nous constatons qu'à présent la conception d'ajustement agricole est toujours considérée comme la réalisation d'une politique des productions pour les exigences alimentaires nationales des pays et en premier lieu pour les cas d'urgence. Cette politique a un certain succès, mais les avantages qu'on espérait en retirer ont été plus limités que ceux qu'on avait prévus. A ce propos, la délégation italienne voudrait se rallier à ce qu'a proposé le délégué du Bangladesh dans son intervention de ce matin, à savoir que, dans le prochain rapport, soit prévu un chapitre consacré à l'examen des causes qui ont empêché la réalisation complète des objectifs prévus dans les buts de la FAO. En particulier, nous voudrions qu'on examine l'influence exercée sur un pays donné par l'adoption de nouvelles technologies capitales et intensives, par exemple endettement excessif vis-à-vis de l'étranger et, par suite, réduction même des programmes d'investissement.

Je voudrais ajouter qu'afin de rendre la politique d'ajustement plus efficace, c'est-à-dire pour satisfaire les exigences alimentaires des pays en voie de développement, la délégation italienne estime nécessaire d'intensifier l'interdépendance et la coordination des politiques dans les différents Etats. Par conséquent, et en conformité avec ce qui est dit dans le document préparatoire de la Conférence, il faudrait fournir aux différents pays des indications permettant de définir en priorité les productions les plus appropriées dans chaque pays et les limites de surface de ces productions, en recherchant les critères permettant de définir, dans chaque pays en voie de développement, les objectifs de programmes d'autosuffisance alimentaire et surtout les degrés d'autosuffisance à considérer comme excellents.

Il faudrait encore transférer les expériences déjà faites dans les pays en voie de développement présentant des situations presque analogues; trouver des formes d'assistance technique internationale qui respectent chaque plan national de développement agricole et enfin choisir, parmi les instruments financiers et les technologies utilisées par les pays industrialisés, les mieux appropriés à un usage plus rationnel des ressources et correspondant mieux à la situation économique locale.

Voilà les sujets sur lesquels la délégation italienne pense qu'il faudrait ultérieurement insister dans les prochaines études sur les ajustements agricoles, tout en reconnaissant que le document tel qu'il nous est maintenant présenté reflète tout à fait les suggestions qui avaient été données par la dix-huitième session de la Conférence.

W.S. STEELE (United States of America): My delegation would like to commend the Director-General on this first report to the Conference of progress made on International Agricultural Adjustment. The document is in general a well balanced and comprehensive treatment of the subject and the United States can support most of the material contained in the report. In particular, the delegation can endorse the broad assessment statement on international agricultural adjustments included in paragraph 30. We do, however, have some specific comments related to the individual guidelines discussed in the report. Many delegates have already spoken on guideline 1 and have covered the subject adequately, so I will not make any comments on that one.

Regarding guideline 2 covering the flow of resources into agricultural production, the United States recognizes the difficulty caused by the lack of information indicating the total flow of financial and other resources to agricultural production. However, it should be possible, with the cooperation of governments, for developing countries to develop a proxy indicator of such resource flows in much the same way that official development assistance has been used as a proxy to indicate total external flows. The most readily available statistic for this purpose is probably government expenditures in agriculture. FAO should encourage and assist its members in providing this kind of information.

On guideline 3, National Policies, the discussion correctly notes that this guideline is probably the most important of the guidelines and recognizes the difficulties in monitoring progress to achieve it. As we have indicated previously, the U.S. is doing a number of things that directly relate to the issue of international agricultural adjustment. As I mentioned before, we are establishing a farmer-owned grain reserve of 30 to 35 million tons of food and feed grains designed to help offset the effects of a poor crop in the future. We are proposing a special-food reserve of up to 6 million tons of wheat to ensure that our balance and special food aid commitments can be met. We have proposed in the International Wheat Council the establishment of an international grains reserve system designed to ensure a greater degree of world food security, and moderate price swings, as well as to achieve agreement on measures for participating countries to modify their policies so as to encourage greater adjustment in production and consumption in response to world supply conditions.

The United States also continues to seek ways to expand world agricultural trade in the multi-lateral trade negotiations now going on in Geneva. We are also making some adjustments in acreage in production of wheat and tentatively in coarse grains to provide greater incentives for farmers to increase production in future.

The set of responses expected from developed countries in paragraph 86 is generally acceptable, but should there not also be a similar list of responsibilities for developing countries?

Regarding guidelines 4 and 5 on nutrition, the United States welcomes the detailed review of recent activities in support of the development and implementation of integrated nutrition policies and strategies. But we would like to see greater progress on these guidelines. We would like FAO to either expand their present activities in order to make progress or if the current activities are still of doubtful effectiveness, substantially revise and redirect the programme so that progress can be made.

For guideline 6, the monitoring appears to have taken place at a level of aggregation which does not make it possible to determine whether progress has been achieved. The analysis instead should have focused on the MSA countries as probably the best list of countries with such balance of payment problems, and then discussed differences in achievement of self-sufficiency within this group,

I will limit my comments to those guidelines at this time and intervene at a later stage on the remaining guidelines.

K. BEDESTENCI (Turkey): My delegation has examined the document C 77/20 before us. In general, my delegation consider the importance of applicability and the policy issues of the International Agricultural Adjustment that are suggested at the eighteenth FAO Conference.

We do appreciate the activities regarding the International Agricultural Adjustments taken by FAO. We know that the task is not simple. My delegation does not wish to go into the details of the paper C 77/20.

The achievement of the goals of the International Agricultural Adjustment is very much related with the development of the developing countries.

The basic solution of the problem in the field of food and agriculture rests on increasing the food production. Both the developing and developed countries are fully in agreement in this view. Hence, it is imperative that a proper channel be set up between the developed and developing nations for the

effective transfer of technology, capital, resources and the financial provisions as well as provisions of suitable prices of such inputs affecting agricultural production like fertilizers, insecticides and pesticides, machinery and equipment, high yield seeds and breeding stock.

We know that solution of food problems in the developing countries rests with themselves, but the developed countries have to play an essential role to create favourable economic and trading conditions for the developing countries on world markets. I must add that the assistance must be used appropriately by the developing countries and also the assistance of the developed countries should not cause competence among the developing countries.

Mr. Chairman, in this respect you may wish to know about the activities in the development of agriculture in Turkey.

The development of the agricultural sector is regulated with the National Development Plans through the agricultural projects. The objectives set forth in the plans and annual programmes have provided guidelines for the agricultural development of Turkey. The main agricultural provision of the plans may be summarized as follows:

- Self sufficiency in food production,
- Attaining a balanced diet,
- A sufficiency of raw materials for the industrial sector,
- Increasing foreign exchange earnings,
- Raising the farm living standards.

In the light of these main objectives the agricultural sector has projects and programmes aiming at the sector's development. The development plans are almost invariably prepared for a fixed period. Five-year period plans are considered to be convenient for Turkey in which the formulation of an annual programmes system is adopted in order to activate the implementation of the plans.

Of course- the guidelines of the International Agricultural Adjustment which are very important and essential are considered by experts who prepare the plans. However, we consider that long-term programmes and work are needed in this field, and we know that many long-term problems remain unsolved although some progress has been made.

I wish to emphasize that all countries have to help each other and FAO continues to play an important role with the UN system for the development of agriculture.

A.M. BESKER (Egypt) (interpretation from Arabic): I would like to congratulate the FAO Secretariat for the excellence of the analysis which they have made in this document C 77/20. Progress in International Agricultural Adjustment has been very interesting indeed. This analysis was done against a background of major efforts in the field of scientific research and the result of a sincere wish to achieve just results, in the evaluation of the degree to which our objectives have been fulfilled.

As far as the guideline No. 1 goes, in order to increase foodstuff production in the developing countries at an average of 4 percent per year, the document provides a fairly detailed review of this, which by way of conclusion says that the mean progress in agricultural production in most developing countries falls short of the population growth rate in those same countries. The consequence of this is that the phenomena of hunger and malnutrition are getting worse and are spreading out to affect hundreds of millions of people in the developing countries.

Turning to the other recommendations and aims, the document reviews a large number of indices and factors related to the guidelines and the objectives, although in a large number of cases the study brought out how difficult it was to attain proper statistics. An analysis of the number of indices and factors has not led to a complete understanding of the problems involved or let us say that it has not been possible to discern, what weight is to be attached to each of the factors in this analysis. The Egyptian delegation considers that lack of precision is extremely difficult to avoid in this type of review because of the complexity and the vast range of the problem we are dealing with. The fact is that this whole subject embraces almost every single aspect of agricultural development in developing countries. In order to analyze these various factors in an integrated and complete way a great effort is necessary, which effort needs to be based upon a very wide basis of information indeed.

Field studies are also necessary within each country. We believe that the pursuance of these efforts and the prolongation of these studies, because of the extreme usefulness that they have in the assistance that can be offered to the developing world, leads us to support every effort made by the

international organizations to finalize and promote all agricultural development programmes. The delegation of the Egyptian Republic agrees with many of the results that this study has led to, but would add that it is necessary to add technical and financial assistance offered by the developed countries and by the international organizations. We insist also upon the necessity of mobilizing sufficient financial resources to support that average agricultural development rate which the FAO has defined and to raise the standard of living of the inhabitants of the countries involved.

T. GURMU (Ethiopia): The Ethiopian delegation has the following comments to make on the document entitled "Progress of International Agricultural Adjustment". Our comments shall be of a global nature and will concentrate mainly on two guidelines which have been stated in the report. The first one is guideline No. 3, page 19. This guideline recommended that "National policies of developing countries should provide appropriate incentives for farmers to expand production and to promote the adaptation of structures within farming, both to permit optimum use of available and suitable technology, and to promote social equity and fuller integration of the rural population into the national economy.....". This is a very important guideline in our opinion. However, this recommended objective was assessed on whether governments have provided incentives to their farmers mainly in price support programmes or whether they had extended credit for the purchase of chemical fertilizers. In its evaluation the report has significantly excluded whether governments have undertaken fundamental institutional change, particularly regarding agrarian production relations. Farmers who toil under antiquated forms of social and economic relations will definitely have no incentive either to produce more or even to adapt to new techniques. Certain governments which have undertaken tests in agrarian relations have not even been mentioned as examples in the report.

The second comment is on guideline No. 9, page 60. This guideline recommended that "specific trade-oriented policy measures are needed on the part of both importing and exporting countries to ensure a substantial and steady increase in the export earnings of developing countries and the growth and diversification of their agricultural production."

The assessment of the recommended policy in the report proudly tells us that the value of agricultural exports from developing countries in 1974/76 averaged 72 percent above the three preceding years. This information does not give a true picture of the situation in that it does not tell us how this increment was achieved, whether it was through increased production or improved prices or both. It should be restated that the Third World countries through a process of unequal exchange on the world markets still continue to be plundered and pillaged. There cannot be self-sufficiency as long as situations are allowed to perpetuate in this manner.

The Ethiopian delegation expects from the report a quantitative and qualitative analysis on how the process of unequal exchange has acted as an obstacle to our objective which is self-sufficiency.

H. RIEM (Netherlands): My delegation, like many others, wants to thank the Secretariat for the document before us, and the Assistant Director-General for his introductory speech on the item. I think that the Secretariat has made the best of a really very difficult job that the Eighteenth Conference has given them. In judging the results we have to realize that in many cases exact criteria to measure progress are lacking, and above all that the strategy of International Agricultural Adjustment is about adjustments in the structure of agriculture and nutrition in the world and that, therefore, a period of two years is really too short to assess the progress made in achieving the agreed objectives and policies. For those reasons we regard the document under discussion as being an experiment for the purpose of gaining experience for the handling of issues at later Conferences. This means - and here I believe I follow the suggestions of a number of other delegations - that we should ask the Director-General to continue the analysis until four or six years have been covered.

We also think that, to allow for a full and detailed discussion by delegations from member countries, FAO committees, like the Committee on Agriculture and the CCP, should have the possibility of dealing with those parts of any analysis that fall within their competence before the subject comes back to the Conference at later sessions.

We have heard many useful observations from delegations on the analysis by the Secretariat of progress in regard to individual guidelines or groups of guidelines. The representative of the European Economic Community has reminded the Commission of action by the Community that we consider to be in line with the guidelines.

I for my part would like only to make a few observations with regard to the interpretation of the guidelines, in the sense that we should not try, at least at this stage, to elaborate in more detail the guidelines that were endorsed by the Conference two years ago. The strategy and the guidelines

cover and bring together subjects and issues on which already much more detailed texts have been approved by the Conference and accepted by most Member Governments. I am thinking not only of Conference resolutions but also, particularly, of the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition and the Undertaking on World Food Security. We also have agreed principles of surplus disposal containing guidelines and procedures, and agreement was reached that they should be equally valid for food aid operations and we agreed some time ago on guiding principles on national agricultural price stabilization and support policies.

A second reason for not elaborating the guidelines at this stage is that all our countries are at present engaged in discussions, consultations and negotiations on many of the issues, in GATT and UNCTAD with regard to trade issues, in intergovernmental groups and United Nations conferences for individual commodities or groups of commodities, also with regard to trade and production and consumption policies for these products, for instance, in the Committee and the World Food Programme on food aid questions. The outcome of those discussions will show how our governments in practice interpret many of the guidelines for international agricultural adjustment that at present may seem to be much of a general nature, or perhaps in some cases not in complete harmony with each other.

Sra. G. SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Con relación al documento referente a los Progresos en el reajuste agrí cola internacional, nuestra delegación hará solamente algunos comentarios y lo haremos analizando el documento en términos muy generales.

En primer lugar, en lo que se refiere a las tasas nacionales de crecimiento de la producción, el documento presentado por la Secretaría plantea que solamente el 30 ó 40 por ciento de los países en desarrollo alcanzan o superan el 4 por ciento del incremento en la producción de alimentos y los que lo han logrado ha sido por condiciones climáticas favorables. En ese sentido consideramos que no podemos dejar al azar el desarrollo económico de los países. Entendemos que este crecimiento debe estar determinado por políticas racionales encaminadas al incremento de la producción de alimentos.

Con relación a la orientación 2, nuestra delegación considera que según expresa el documento analizado, efectivamente la tasa de expansión de las tierras cultivables y de regadío han disminuido en los países subdesarrollados a pesar de que, en términos generales, la expansión de la superficie cultivada y en regadíos se ha incrementado.

Nuestra delegación aboga por una ofensiva en ese sentido, ya que esa disminución que se observa en los países subdesarrollados no responde a incremento de la productividad.

Debido a la importancia que damos a este aspecto, en nuestro país se han incrementado considerablemente las áreas de cultivo aunque fundamentalmente nuestra política en ese sentido se ha encaminado al incremento de la productividad por área cultivada.

En lo que se refiere a la necesidad de aplicar medidas especiales para incrementar los niveles de nutrición, en nuestro país se ha avanzado mucho desde 1959 y actualmente además de nuestros esfuerzos internos se está desarrollando en forma muy positiva un programa de ayuda alimentaria con la colaboración del Programa Mundial de Alimentos mediante la distribución de leche descremada enriquecida con aceite de mantequilla, con el objeto de mejorar los niveles de nutrición a los grupos más vulnerables.

Otros aspectos de los analizados en el documento C 77/20 y que consideramos de gran importancia, es el que se refiere al acceso a los mercados de los productos procedentes de la agricultura, sobre todo los que proceden de los países subdesarrollados.

En ese sentido otras delegaciones se han referido a la disparidad de productos básicos, así como a las fluctuaciones de la producción de los productos básicos agrícolas. A estos aspectos quisiéramos añadir la necesidad de que se tenga en cuenta la eliminación de las trabas arancelarias que limitan el libre acceso de los productos procedentes de los países subdesarrollados a otros mercados.

Se hace nuevamente necesario recalcar la necesidad de garantizar la estabilidad de los mercados, así como garantizar precios remunerativos para los productores, pero justos para los consumidores, tal y como se plantea en la orientación 8, como una condición indispensable para mejorar el comercio internacional. Insistimos, igualmente una vez más, en la necesidad de eliminar el intercambio desigual en este tipo de comercio.

Quisiéramos añadir, y siempre referido al documento presentado por la Secretaría, que resultan aleccionadores los resultados de las compilaciones que aparecen en los cuadros 28, 29 y 30. Se demuestra en ellos que mientras los países en desarrollo cuentan con el 69 por ciento de la población mundial, sólo consumen el 59 por ciento de los alimentos. Se muestran además otras desproporciones muy desfavorables, que no deseamos comentar por estar las mismas a disposición de todos los delegados.

Nuestra delegación considera lógicas las cifras expuestas; sin embargo le ofrece dudas la proporción que refleja el indicador de tierras en regadío que aparece en el cuadro 28 y que otorga a los países en desarrollo una participación tan significativa del 78 por ciento y sólo el 22 por ciento a los países desarrollados. Quizá se deba a la forma de obtener la información primaria en los distintos países.

Nuestro país, señores delegados, ha encaminado sus pasos a la integración agrícola, a la explotación preferente de aquellos cultivos para los cuales somos beneficiados por las condiciones naturales. Ese objetivo ha encontrado eco favorable en las coordinaciones bilaterales que desarrollamos con países amigos que mantienen con nuestro país relaciones justas y totalmente respetuosas.

En el orden interno el Estado cubano participa profundamente en las orientaciones que debe brindar y brinda a la población para capacitarla en cuanto a la estructura más favorable de su dieta y además proporciona la posibilidad de que se consuman alimentos que en la etapa prerrevolucionaria eran prácticamente desconocidos por amplias masas de la población como, por ejemplo, resultaban ser los productos del mar, a pesar de que nuestro país es una isla. Ha sido preocupación también en nuestro país evitar la desigualdad de consumo entre las distintas capas de la población y entre la ciudad y el campo.

Por último, deseamos manifestar con satisfacción que a pesar de los efectos del bloqueo económico a que ha sido sometido por años nuestro país, y que aun se mantiene, y a pesar del precio casi siempre desfavorable del azúcar, nuestro principal producto, en el orden interno, decimos, que no se han incrementado desde hace muchos años los precios al consumidor de los productos alimenticios. Esto es posible, entre otros factores, por la unidad de nuestro pueblo al sistema económico-social y político que hemos adoptado y al sistema de planificación centralizada de nuestra economía.

Finalmente quisiéramos expresar que consideramos necesario analizar los motivos que han determinado que no se hayan cumplimentado todos los lineamientos referentes a la aplicación del Reajuste Agrícola Internacional, tal como han manifestado otras delegaciones.

A. DE BOUVERIE (Belgique): Monsieur le Président, comme on le sait, et comme nous l'avons rappelé au cours des déclarations générales, au problème du rééquilibrage des termes de l'échange qui avait retenu notre attention et celle d'organisations internationales comme la CNUCED et de la FAO, à cette notion qui faisait craindre une lente érosion des ressources nécessaires au développement, s'est substituée l'instabilité chronique des marchés de produits alimentaires de base.

On peut évaluer longuement et sagement sur le fait de savoir si ce sont les forces du marché ou certaines formes d'organisation des marchés internationaux, ou d'autres mesures et notamment les échanges, qui sont la meilleure formule pour sortir de nos difficultés. Quelles sont les limites d'une organisation? Quelles sont les vertus des forces du marché? Est-ce la spéculation? Est-ce la prévoyance? En réalité, ce qui importe, c'est d'arriver à un consensus sur des mesures qui soient jugées acceptables par tous sans constituer une charge excessive ou une contrainte inacceptable, qui rend compte des situations et des circonstances.

C'est dans cet esprit que les lignes d'orientation ont été conçues, c'est dans cet esprit qu'elles doivent être évaluées car c'est aussi dans cet esprit qu'elles pourront aboutir à l'objectif essentiel d'un développement économique équilibré.

Ceci veut dire que la manipulation des indicateurs économiques et sociaux et des statistiques de base que les évaluateurs ont à prendre en considération, doit se faire avec une grande prudence car ces indicateurs, ces statistiques et la méthodologie sont eux-mêmes une matière vivante et donc changeante. Monsieur le délégué de l'Inde nous a fait part de ses soucis à cet égard, appuyé en cela par nos collègues de l'Equateur, du Bangladesh et de l'Egypte; mais ce n'est certainement pas un reproche vis-à-vis du Secrétariat car il faut se rendre compte de l'extrême complexité du travail.

A propos de statistiques agricoles, nous voudrions cependant signaler à titre documentaire l'aide à la vulgarisation de la formation statistique en agriculture fournie par la Belgique à l'intervention de la FAO en faveur de certains pays en voie de développement. A cet égard, nous pouvons souscrire à ce qui est dit au paragraphe 7 de l'introduction du document C 77/20 qui est un bon document pour lequel nous remercions le Secrétariat, mais qui doit lui-même être évalué avec toute la relativité que comporte ce paragraphe 7.

En son chapitre 1, la vue d'ensemble donne un aperçu intéressant des réalisations constructives mais aussi des faiblesses. Ainsi, le paragraphe 16 est une bonne indication générale de la tendance, mais comme nous l'a rappelé le délégué de la Hongrie, cette tendance ne pourra se poursuivre que si les infrastructures connexes de la production suivent le mouvement, ce qui naturellement dépasse le cadre de la production agricole elle-même et concerne non seulement les gouvernements, mais les nouveaux organismes destinés à couvrir l'objectif du développement agricole.

S'agissant des commentaires relatifs aux lignes d'orientation 2 et 3, plusieurs choses nous paraissent devoir être dites. D'abord, que quelles que soient les politiques et qu'il s'agisse de pays développés ou en développement, on ne fait pas de l'agriculture sur cesure ; il est donc fatal, mais souvent heureux que des marges de sécurité puissent compenser les "gaps". Ensuite que si le travail agricole n'est pas encouragé au même titre que l'investissement, l'amélioration des flux financiers risque de rester en partie improductive. Enfin, que l'emploi rationnel des ressources est non seulement une notion ambiguë, mais aussi subjective et que l'interdépendance croissante entraîne aussi des nouvelles interactions qui ne sont pas toujours celles que l'on a souhaitées.

C'est dans ce sens que nous pouvons interpréter les paragraphes 86 et 87 comme un souhait renouvelé de voir se réaliser les mêmes actions de la part des pays développés si les mêmes conditions sont réunies, et c'est dans ce sens aussi que s'exercent les efforts d'un groupe de pays pour lequel la déclaration universelle sur l'élimination de la malnutrition reste un objectif sérieux qui demande des moyens de régularisation sérieux.

En ce qui concerne la ligne d'orientation 4, nous avons déjà, à propos des pertes des récoltes, exprimé notre avis, il n'a pas changé.

Quant au détournement d'aliments de leur destination normale, nous estimons, en ce qui nous concerne, qu'il ne faut pas pousser au paradoxe. En effet, il y a des hiérarchies de prix et des hiérarchies d'utilisation qui ne se conçoivent guère en période de pénurie mais qui peuvent être économiquement et raisonnablement réalisables en situation excédentaire sans rien bouleverser dans nos actions d'aide alimentaire par exemple.

L'évaluation des lignes 7 et 8 doit se poser en résultante d'une évolution que le Secrétariat lui-même entrevoit sur le long terme, suite aux efforts qui seront entrepris en commun vers une meilleure stabilité. Nous en avons parlé en session plénière, nous n'y reviendrons pas. Il en va de même pour les recettes d'exportation et les mesures de diversification de la ligne 9.

S'agissant enfin du chapitre 4 et des conclusions en forme de questions, nous constatons que de part et d'autre, des efforts considérables ont été faits avec des moyens et des fortunes diverses, que l'aide et la coopération doivent se poursuivre dans une conception intégrée du développement économique, structurel et social, développement dont la définition et les responsabilités politiques, comme nous l'a rappelé la délégation de la République populaire de Chine ce matin, incombe naturellement aux pays en voie de développement concernés, c'est-à-dire dans le respect des souverainetés nationales.

Certes, une évolution trop rapide n'est plus une évolution et risque de conduire à d'autres déséquilibres. Il nous faut donc, nous tous et les évaluateurs, rester prudents dans nos appréciations et nous garder de conclusions hâtives et malencontreuses dans ce domaine des réajustements qui, rappelons le, est une oeuvre de longue haleine.

A. PAPASSARANTOPOULOS (Greece): First of all, on behalf of my delegation I would like to congratulate the Director-General and the Secretariat on the comprehensive analysis of progress achieved in the agreed objectives and policies of international agricultural adjustment presented in the very good document C 77/20.

We recognize that agricultural adjustment is a dynamic long-term process that also mainly depends on many complex issues which have to be weighed before formulating national agricultural policies. Its assessment therefore at world level is not an easy task. Nevertheless, document C 77/20 provides a first assessment of world agricultural progress in respect of the guidelines for FAO strategy of agricultural adjustment according to the available data and information.

We think that monitoring and the assessment of performance in respect of all guidelines must be continued and enlarged in the future in order to provide more solid and detailed information, thus assisting Member Nations, FAO and other agencies to adopt more effective policy measures or to orientate their policies towards achieving these guidelines. We note with great satisfaction that progress has been achieved during the last few years in world agricultural development in respect of many of the guidelines of FAO's strategy of international agricultural adjustment, which it is necessary to accelerate.

In spite of the recent progress in increasing food output, efforts should be continued to achieve the 4 percent global rate of growth in food output, which is thought appropriate for developing countries as a whole.

Despite the lack of up-to-date data reporting the magnitude of the total flow of financial and other resources into agricultural production in developing countries, we note with satisfaction the intention of governments to mobilize increased flows of financial resources for investment in agriculture, and

to create more effective institutional structures for providing credit facilities to farmers. We hope that this trend will be accelerated in future towards improving the conditions and prospects for small farmers. FAO's responsibilities in this field are, in our view, of great importance. It has to assist developing countries in rational planning and the carrying-out of public works and other development programmes. It has to secure more financial resources on more favourable terms. It has to identify the incentives to small farmers, which are needed in all countries, or at least those for which FAO's projects are being carried out.

In this connection we think that FAO should think about participating directly or indirectly in financing incentives or subsidizing small farmers for a certain number of activities in respect of its top priority programmes, such as the activities on the reduction of food losses in countries or in certain areas that need more such support.

In our view, by supporting small farmers, food self-sufficiency can be substantially increased, resulting in the improvement of food consumption patterns and nutritional levels in developing countries. In this connection we welcome the progress that has been made.

In conclusion, we would like to repeat that the analysis of progress in the achievement of the agreed objectives and policies of international agricultural adjustment should be continued in the future, so that it will be possible to assess the changes in existing patterns of world agricultural production, trade and consumption, which are an essential feature of the establishment of a new international economic order.

K. ANDERSEN (Denmark): First, as many other delegates have done, I would like to thank the Secretariat for the substantial report prepared for the item. We realize that the subject is a difficult one to deal with both from a technical and from a political point of view. In spite of these difficulties, we find that the Secretariat has been able to produce a useful report in which a number of important issues are analyzed and clarified, and in which also a number of important outstanding questions are singled out for consideration and discussion.

In paragraph 62 the report states that guideline 3 is probably the most important of the guidelines which codify recommended national policy approaches. We in the Danish delegation agree that incentives to farmers to expand production, to promote social equity and fuller integration of the rural population into the national economy, are the very core of the matter, because they concern the environment of the rural population to implement in a practical way, and to a large degree a matter for decision by national governments.

We would like to stress the importance of reasonable price incentives to farmers with due regard to consumer interests, because without remunerative prices to farmers there would be no increase in production.

Guidelines 4 and 5, which both deal with nutritional aspects, are important elements. We support the role of FAO in formulating and implementing integrated nutritional policies and we invite FAO to work closely with the World Food Programme in preparing assistance to vulnerable groups.

On the question of guidelines 7, 8 and 9, we would like to refer to the STABEX Scheme under the Lomé Convention, mentioned in paragraph 20, which we believe could serve as a model for other countries as well.

We agree, as stated in paragraph 163, that changes in existing patterns of world agricultural production, trade and consumption, come about slowly. Perhaps the essential point here is the political will to bring about such necessary changes and also to do this sufficiently expeditiously. There can be no doubt that the will to realize adjustments is there. The report brings full evidence of this.

The message of the report seems to be that things should move fast if we are to succeed in eradicating hunger and malnutrition within a reasonable span of time. The report does not give any clear indication as to how this should be achieved but in section 4 raises instead a number of issues for consideration and discussion.

We would underline the importance of giving the highest preference to agriculture in food deficit developing countries and this context highlights the importance of the organized transfer of capital for investment in the agricultural sector.

We believe it is essential to world food security that the production potential in developed countries is maintained. At the same time, the cost of this production and its allocation should be discussed.

On the question of trade, we would repeat our support for international commodity agreements.

The final paragraph in the report deals with measures to eradicate hunger and malnutrition. The answer to the four questions raised is neither 'yes' nor 'no', We would have to combine a complex number of measures to solve these problems, and each member of this Organization has a contribution to make.

Finally, I should like to support further the idea, which my colleague from Sweden made earlier today on behalf of Finland, Denmark and Sweden, that the statistical material on agricultural production might, with advantage, be divided into two separate groups, one group covering the production for self-support and direct consumption, and the other group covering production set aside for sale. If this can be incorporated in the questionnaire for the next production yearbook I believe that the FAO statistics will be of more use in future analysis. Speaking for the Danish delegation, we would appreciate a reaction to this idea from the Secretariat.

H.S. BAR-SHAI (Israel): I should like to refer to some general aspects of the subject under discussion. I feel this subject of international adjustment is a most important subject because any future improvements in the field of food supply depends to a large degree on removal of impediments to movement over the world, and so leads towards a useful division of labour on a world scale. But the obstacles are very great and I sometimes have the impression that it is rather like the weather, about which every body speaks but does nothing to change; we tend to receive it as it is. Even what may seem a simple and objective issue like uniting the units of measurement of agricultural products, instead of having pounds and ounces, has not been achieved and there is still a very long way to go even after so many years of international activities. Imagine, then, how long it would take to integrate nutritional policies of various states to avoid wastage of food resources, as mentioned in one of the guidelines here.

Leaving aside those things, the international division of labour in the field of food supply is very necessary, and we should strive to that end. In Israel, we have tried to apply it to our local agricultural policies. We do not aim at growing all of our food requirements, but at gaining some sort of self-sufficiency by growing what can be relatively profitably grown within the country, while importing products which are unsuited to our country for climatic reasons, or because of shortage of sufficient resources like land water, etc. Today we have reached a situation where only about 3 percent of the cost of our food requirements is not covered by local production of local exports.

I feel that further progress and possibilities for the various nations depend on removing at least some of the many obstacles which hinder international trade and prevent specialization by countries which are best suited to produce specific products. In this respect, I welcome the report made by my colleague from the Federal Republic of Germany and hope that the present GATT and GSP round will produce some concrete progress towards this end of utilization of world trade in agricultural products.

As for Israel, within the recently declared new economic policy my government has decided upon certain measures designed to remove obstacles from internal and international trade. Measures are now being devised towards liberalizing the present rather rigid arrangement of quotas of growth in food producing, while ensuring at the same time a income for the farmers. We also intend to liberalize the present system of import licensing after having considerably eased our foreign exchange regulations.

May I repeat the opinion that more commodity agreements should be made so as to assure a fair income to producers along with a fair price to consumers, and eliminate the severe fluctuations in prices. This has been mentioned before, but it could bring about international cooperation in a much required field.

Some of the impediments to international trade in food and agricultural products are outside the field or the factory or outside the responsibility of the grower. To mention but one: ensuring proper transportation from the field to the consumer, whether the consumer is in a nearby village or on the other side of the globe. We try to solve it by a radical change in the marketing system where the production exports board for agricultural products in Israel have established a special air cargo company which transports agricultural produce to centres in Europe, and from there it goes to the consumption centres. Thus, we have speeded the process of delivery and greatly reduced the expenses involved in costs of transportation.

The delegate of Iran mentioned earlier the problem of big price differences between what the farmer gets and what the consumer pays. Some of the differences are undoubtedly due to actual expenses of handling, transporting or processing of the produce, but there is still a high margin of what can be called profiteering in between. I should like to call upon the FAO to devise a campaign designed to reduce considerably this difference, again to benefit the consumer and grower alike, and thereafter all the partners in the process of food growing.

M.R. LEAR (New Zealand): New Zealand would like to commend the Secretariat on an excellent document, especially given the conceptual complexity and ambiguity of many of the guidelines and the difficulty of obtaining data to measure progress towards the achievement of many of the guidelines.

We wish to restrict our comments at this stage to Guideline 3, since a number of speakers before have adequately covered the other five guidelines we are discussing at the moment. In particular, we wish to focus our remarks on the second part of Guideline 3 on the rational use of resources by developed countries.

I think it will be obvious to everyone, as the document before us makes clear in paragraph 83, that New Zealand is not considered to be in the ranks of the developed countries in this instance as we do not intervene significantly in our domestic agricultural market through price support measures.

In discussing this guideline, I would first like to take issue with the Secretariat on a rather minor matter. In paragraph 76, the Secretariat argues that the phrase "the most rational use of resources" is very ambiguous because it says it is not clear from whose point of view rational use of resources should be examined; that it is not clear whether it should be from the domestic point of view or the international point of view. We would submit that it is in fact very clear that there is no ambiguity. We are, after all, talking about international agricultural adjustment not domestic agricultural adjustment. It is clear to us, therefore, that it is from the perspective of the international community that we should examine whether developed countries are making rational use of their resources; in particular, whether given the interdependence of the world agricultural scene, certain of their domestic policies are encouraging or discouraging agricultural production in the rest of the world.

In our view, the analysis in this paper is very sound indeed on the effects of certain policies and, in particular, price support policies pursued by a number of developing countries. First, the paper provides a detailed analysis of the extent of these price support policies which are particularly high in the case of milk and milk products and rice, and the fact that price support levels, after decreasing for a number of years, are now increasing for many commodities. As to the effect of these price support policies, the paper makes it clear that these encourage and perpetuate problems of over-supply both by encouraging production and discouraging consumption. Further, since price support policies are most likely to be introduced and increased during periods of over-supply, they perpetuate the problem. As the document goes on to note, over-supply has significant international effects as well as domestic effects. They usually lead to market restrictions on imports being imposed, restrictions on access to tariff and non-tariff barriers to protect the system, and restrictions because demand is fully met by domestic production.

Further, as the paper says, over-supply usually depresses international market prices. Again, both as a consequence of the compression or constriction of the overall size of the market and because surpluses are often exported at heavily subsidized prices, this penalizes efficient procedures and robs many developing countries of the incentive to increase their output.

To repeat, we agree with and endorse the analysis in this paper on the negative effect of price support policies in some developed countries. However, we are left with the impression that these policies are justified or endorsed to some extent by the Secretariat because the paper says these policies assist with the attainment of world food security by stimulating surplus agricultural production in developed countries. I note that some developed country delegates have rationalized their policies on these grounds, that is, that it contributes to the attainment of world food security. We find it difficult to accept this. In our view, world food security comprises two elements: first, the establishment of an internationally coordinated system of cereal stocks, especially reserve stocks to be available to mitigate the effect of unexpected crop shortfalls. The second element on world food security is the more important one, that is the encouragement and stimulus of increased agricultural production by the developing countries to enable them to attain increased self-sufficiency. Yet, as we have seen, the price support policies of some developed countries dampen the incentive for developing countries to increase their food production by restricting market access and by depressing international prices.

This makes it difficult for the governments in developing countries to provide adequate incentives to their producers. In our view, in other words, there is too much emphasis in this paper on the benefits of price support policies of some developed countries in helping to maintain the world food security and too little emphasis on the negative effects on world food security and in particular on their impact on incentives to developing countries to improve their agricultural production.

We would of course accept the argument in paragraph 85 that a sudden overnight reduction in these price support policies can harm the immediate world food security situation especially in cereals, but we are sure the developing countries would prefer to rely on their own increased production to attain food security, rather than on the surpluses produced in developed countries as a result of those countries' domestic policies. I would like to conclude here and to speak later on guideline 7 onwards.

J.ROWINSKI (Pologne): Je vous prie de m'excuser si je ne suis pas exactement les lignes de la discussion proposées par le Président ce matin. Cela est assez difficile pour moi d'autant plus que l'intervention a été préparée par mon collègue actuellement absent je me demande pourquoi...

Je voudrais tout d'abord, au nom de la délégation polonaise, exprimer nos remerciements au Secrétariat pour la parfaite préparation du document intitulé "Progrès de l'ajustement agricole international". Il nous faut apprécier le fait, très important, que pour la première fois la FAO a préparé un document contenant l'analyse large et approfondie de ce problème.

D'après nous, les lignes d'orientation votées et approuvées il y a deux ans, se trouvent maintenant à la phase préalable de leur réalisation. Cela dépend soit de la prise en considération, dans la mesure du possible, des différents programmes de développement de l'agriculture préparés dans divers pays, soit de leur influence sur le déroulement des discussions menées dans les divers forums internationaux.

La délégation polonaise désirerait exprimer son opinion sur quelques problèmes ayant trait au sujet en question.

Nous sommes convaincus que beaucoup de possibilités existantes dans l'ensemble des organisations internationales, ne sont pas encore entièrement mises en valeur, ce qui permettrait au développement et à l'ajustement agricoles de faire face aux besoins toujours croissants; ce fait est particulièrement important, surtout pour les pays en voie de développement ayant un taux d'accroissement de la production des produits agricoles encore très bas, par tête d'habitant.

La délégation polonaise est d'avis que l'augmentation relativement rapide de la production de produits agricoles dans toutes les régions du monde (et en particulier dans les pays en développement) constitue un fait d'une importance de premier ordre.

La réalisation d'un tel programme exige toutefois, à notre avis, des changements essentiels sur le plan social et institutionnel de manière à mobiliser et débloquer toutes les ressources internes des pays intéressés ainsi que créer une volonté commune de toute la population pour la réalisation des objectifs planifiés.

Nous sommes aussi de l'opinion que la planification économique représente un meilleur système pour le développement de coopération économique internationale. On peut noter une corrélation directe entre la détente politique et le processus de désarmement d'une part, et la coopération économique de l'autre. La réduction des dépenses de l'armement pourrait servir de source valable pour le financement du Programme de l'ajustement agricole international et de l'augmentation rapide de la production des produits alimentaires pour toute l'humanité.

En seconde partie, je traiterai des fluctuations non fondées des prix des produits agricoles sur les marchés mondiaux. Fluctuations qui nous préoccupent beaucoup. L'incertitude et le risque qui en résultent se font fortement sentir non seulement dans plusieurs pays en voie de développement mais aussi dans les pays d'économie planifiée, dont la Pologne. Voilà pourquoi notre pays participe activement aux efforts accomplis sur les divers forums internationaux pour obtenir une stabilisation relative des prix et des importations agricoles; ces produits seraient choisis à un niveau économiquement justifié.

Il est bien évident que lorsque les liaisons économiques sur le plan international deviennent de plus en plus étroites et les interdépendances économiques toujours plus nombreuses, aucune perturbation au niveau des marchés mondiaux ne peut nous laisser indifférents.

D'autre part nous sommes fortement préoccupés par les tendances protectionnistes dans le commerce extérieur et le secteur des produits agricoles y compris. La délégation polonaise est d'avis que le commerce international, y compris les échanges de produits agricoles, doit être libéré de toute discrimination et de toute restriction. Notre gouvernement présente invariablement des demandes dans ce sens. La Pologne développe de manière toujours plus importante l'importation directe de plusieurs marchandises agricoles de pays en voie de développement, sans intermédiaire superflu. Ceci est d'un avantage évident pour les partenaires des deux parties. Nous cherchons à traiter avec pragmatisme toutes les initiatives commerciales et toutes les formes d'organisation pouvant accélérer un tel processus.

Je voudrais enfin souligner que la délégation polonaise est convaincue que les travaux que nous venons d'analyser ont favorisé les principes formulés dans les lignes d'orientation. Il est évident que durant les périodes de pénurie de certains produits agricoles sur les marchés internationaux, tous les pays désirent accélérer le processus de développement et d'ajustement de leur agriculture. C'est une tendance conforme à la tâche acceptée par la Communauté internationale. Au contraire durant les périodes d'excédents relatifs de certains produits, la convergence des efforts peut être moins universelle.

Permettez-moi par conséquent d'exprimer l'opinion que la réalisation complète des lignes d'orientation ne sera pas un processus rapide et facile.

R. ATKINSON (Canada) : We have reviewed with great interest the report before us and wish to offer a few comments in respect of the general nature of the report. The current status of international agricultural adjustments suggests that the topic has not achieved the level of significance envisaged for it. In the first place, there is now a new thrust within the FAO away from such basic studies, and in the second place several international agricultural bodies and programmes cover much of the area with which IAA was concerned. A few years ago there was hope that IAA would have provided the framework within which a transformation of world agriculture through cooperative action on production consumption and trade could have taken place. However, new institutions such as the World Food Council and new programmes such as that concerned with world food security have superseded IAA per se.

On the trade side, Canada and most of FAO member countries place a primary responsibility for international agreements and adjustment on UNCTAD, GATT and the International Wheat Council. Therefore while considerable progress has been made towards establishing a framework for achieving the objectives of IAA, the specific strategy originally proposed has ceased to be a prime mover.

Canada has always recognized the importance of agricultural adjustment at the national and international levels. However the primary emphasis for each country must be on its primary domestic policies. Our farmers are constantly adjusting to the market outlets, both domestic and international markets and trade. National policies bearing on agriculture need to be harmonized to a greater degree, and special count must be taken of problems faced by developing countries. The history of our efforts to date shows how difficult progress is.

In terms of Canadian production, we have pointed out that any proposal to impose restraints in developed countries in order to facilitate increased imports from developing countries would be difficult to impose politically, but might well involve undesirable controls on production and trade. As a major grain producing country, Canadian basic preoccupation should be to expedite her production potential to the fullest on the grounds that we have certain efficiencies over many countries in this respect. On the question of monitoring per se Canada agrees that FAO should continue to perform this function and that no new body need be established and the biennial FAO Conference is an appropriate forum for assessing progress. Canada agrees with the position at the last Conference that monitoring should be based on a limited number of key indicators.

This leads us to the question of how to proceed for the future. There are obvious problems very different for developing countries as for developed countries, different bases of adjustment, and the next study should concentrate on the more problematic areas, the LDCs, to see where bottlenecks are and what requires attention.

V. STIPETIC (Yugoslavia): In some sense the document C 77/20 is closely related to the document State of Food and Agriculture 1977 which we discussed yesterday. In fact we have discussed the same subject on both days. It is not a coincidence that so many participants in today's discussion referred to their former contributions to the Conference, the difference being mainly that so far in C 77/2, we have got an excellent informative source of facts of a basically descriptive nature. Today's paper on "Progress of International Agricultural Adjustment" is a much more analytical one based on macro-economic variables with many interesting conclusions. We in the Yugoslavian delegation are grateful to the Secretariat for such an analytical framework which gives us so many additional insights on the contemporary agricultural development.

We would like firstly to subscribe ourselves to the overall view of assessments of the progress in international agricultural adjustments as they were given in paragraphs 10 to 30, especially the following ones which I would like to underline.

In paragraph 10 it says that "... progress has however fallen short of that which had been hoped for earlier."

In paragraph 19 it says "... with little evidence that the international community takes seriously the responsibility it assumed with the adoption of the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition..."

Paragraph 23 says that the 1976 level of commitments in official assistance to agriculture in developing countries fell even further short of the revised target of US\$ 8.3 billion adopted by the World Food Council in June 1977. As of July 1977 it is still hoped that IFAD and become operational before the end of the year."

Finally in paragraph 28 there is a statement which probably gives us all much concern. It says that "basic policies and programmes, like basic trends, are not easily changed. Hopes for quick policy changes and early results were probably pitched too high in 1974. What has happened since reflects the combination of such diverse influences as natural inertia of established ways of thinking and acting . in the face of the prospect of innovations, opposition from those benefiting from or feeling safeguarded by current policies, and complexities of the issues involved. Beneath the surface of intergovernmental consensus there are deep-seated elements of contradictions as well as genuine attempts on the part of some sections in all countries to move to policies of more general benefit."

Those are general statements which I would like to underline and now I would like to make the following comments on some sections. We regard the problem of average national yields as has been dealt with in paragraphs 43 and 44 as probably not covered enough.

By one analysis which has been made in my own country we have found that in the past 25 years for maize the developed world was able to obtain annual increments in yield of 100-150 kilograms per year " France, USA and so on. But nearly all developing countries have been able to obtain an annual increase in yield of only 10 to 30 kilograms per year in the past 25 years and these things have not changed in recent years. That means that the gap in yields is growing wider and wider. Further if we are calculating the rates of productivity in the developed countries and developing ones, and that is based on the facts and figures given in Tables 1 and 6, we will find that the annual rate of growth of labour productivity in agriculture of developed countries used to be 5.3 percent annually and in the developing economies only 1.6 percent annually, which is an added factor to the concern which we feel.

The third question is the question of guideline No. 6. In paragraph 112 it says "that the self-sufficiency trends are quite different in the two groups of countries as is apparent from Chart 7. Particularly in the seventies the self-sufficiency trend has fallen quite markedly for the oil-resource countries. On the other hand there has been only the slightest of downward drifts in the degree of self-sufficiency of all other developing market economies taken as a group..."

In fact, the figures given in Table 16 show us that Africa has got a self-sufficiency ratio, of 103 percent at the beginning of the sixties, 99 percent at the beginning of the seventies and only 96 percent in the middle of the seventies. Latin America had a self-sufficiency ratio at the beginning of the sixties of 104 percent. Now it has gone down to 103 percent. There is for the developing market economies of developing countries a slight downward tendency but this is exactly what I think calls for concern and I would like to underline this fact.

As far as the terms of agricultural trade are concerned those facts are new to me and I would like to ask the Secretariat if it is possible to provide us with the original document from which those conclusions have been drawn since I have not seen those facts and figures analysed and as you know the methods of analysis might influence the results. Further, we ought to mention that worsening terms of trade in the past three years have not had a beneficial influence on the increase of self-sufficiency in many developing regions of the world. Further, the facts about the drop in international assistance to the developing countries as regards agriculture which we discussed yesterday have been given in full detail in the discussion of guideline 10, and I am grateful to the Secretariat.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to Table 13 on page 78. You might see in this table that the position of the developing countries as a whole has deteriorated quite considerably in the past ten years. Let me start with labour productivity in agriculture which used to be in the middle of the 1960's, in the developed countries of the world, nine times higher than in the developing world. In the middle of the 1970's it is twelve times higher. As far as average crop yields of food and crops, the average yield in the developed countries was 85 percent higher than in developing countries in the middle of the 1960's. Now, it is 210 percent higher, in the middle of the 1970's, so again we see the widening gap between developed and developing countries. As far as per caput food production is concerned, in the middle of the 1960's the developed countries of the world were able to produce three times as much as in developing countries. Now, the ratio is 3.4 to 1. Again a worsening situation for the developing countries. The same applies to a lesser degree to the per caput food consumption in developing countries which is mainly due to the increased imports of food in developing countries. I believe that all those figures give concern to all of us attending this Conference. For that reason I would like those facts and figures to be much more integrated into the future work of FAO and probably they should be given a due place in future Conferences.

A. CHULLIKAL (Holy See): in the absence of the head of my delegation I have been asked to intervene. The delegation of the Holy See appreciates the fact that recent increases in agricultural production have given rise to moderate optimism. However, the precarious balance existing in many situations and especially the most important problem of distribution must be re-emphasized.

Pope Paul VI said in his speech to the audience last Friday:

"We cannot fail to call your attention once more to the problems of the distribution of food products and of the balance to be achieved between all the factors governing trade in those products."

He also mentioned the problem of redistribution of incomes within poorer sections of communities. He emphasized that the international trade system, for which most of the developing countries are often not responsible, is the cause of their dependence on developed economies.

To meet the requirements of an equitable distribution, we may have to place the accent on both the dignity incumbent on self-reliance and the moral obligation of solidarity towards the least developed countries and the most disfavoured peoples in every socio-economic situation.

One essential aspect of world development is this interdependent collaboration. In order to achieve that interdependence we have to decide on revisions or practices that necessarily respect justice in the new situation.

We also wish to emphasize the evil effects of speculation and exploitation of basic human needs. Speculation though an economic factor, must be rethought in the light of the exigencies of development which has underpinnings of world justice in trade adjustment agreements.

This delegation wishes to stress the fact that the right to food, especially for the most disfavoured sections of peoples in every society, is a basic human right which must be respected by nations and all types of social and political institutions. In the light of this consideration, we call your attention to the moral obligation of those who have plenty to be constantly aware of their responsibility towards the poorest people.

Any agricultural adjustment demands, then, that priority be given to the rural peoples of the world, applying technology and services which can be integrated into their human situation.

The sensitivity towards the human person in all forms of development has been constantly emphasized by Pope Paul VI in all his messages concerning world development.

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores, esta mañana tomamos una decisión en relación con el procedimiento que se iba a seguir para analizar este tema de nuestra Agenda; la decisión que se tomó consistió en hacer comentarios generales y luego sobre los dos primeros grupos de orientaciones. Esta decisión fue tomada con flexibilidad atendiendo a la posibilidad de que algunas delegaciones tuvieran ya preparadas sus intervenciones sin prever esta decisión que hacíamos al analizar este tema.

A raíz, precisamente, de esta flexibilidad, algunas delegaciones se concentraron en los comentarios generales y en los dos primeros grupos de orientaciones, mientras que otras tomaron el tema, más genéricamente y otras hicieron referencia a algunas de las orientaciones que estaban en el grupo restante.

Por este motivo, creo que debemos ahora dar la oportunidad a aquellas delegaciones que se concentraron en los dos primeros grupos de orientaciones para que puedan referirse a los otros dos grupos, es decir, al grupo C: "El comercio de productos agrícolas y los requisitos de la producción" y luego al grupo D: "Asistencia internacional a los países en desarrollo en el sector agrícola".

Hacemos esto así porque en algunas intervenciones observamos que algunos delegados se reservaron el derecho de intervenir nuevamente en el debate.

F. CORTESI (Observer for the International Catholic Rural Association): I would like to make some comments on international agricultural adjustment on behalf of the Organizations that you have just mentioned, Mr. Chairman. All these Organizations have direct working contacts with rural people and farmers and besides being interested in the overall targets of the agricultural adjustment they have a special interest in Guideline 3. This envisages social equity and the fuller integration of the rural people into the national economy and appropriate incentives for farmers. All these Organizations are particularly concerned with small farmers.

We wish to refer briefly to this point, considering the small farmer as a worker and a manager who is productive from the economic point of view and capable of taking initiatives within his farm and in society. Unfortunately, too many small farmers have to face too extremely difficult living and working conditions to be really able to achieve self-reliance and initiative. The solutions to these problems are neither easy nor simple. We would like only to mention some, suggested by our particular experience.

- (a) Stabilization of management factors which, besides concerning the market prices of inputs and products, should include various services such as credit, technical assistance, forms of insurance, etc
- (b) The reduction in the number and weight of the farmers' ordinary and extraordinary activities especially through the encouragement of the formation of cooperatives and labour unions of different orders and types.
- (c) Respect for the local situation. The problem of rurally-oriented experts dealt with by this Conference seems vital to us in this context.
- (d) The improvement of the farmer's social status, dignity and autonomy through participation in the definition of the goals and their development and ways of achieving them.
- (e) Adequate representation at various levels of the social structure through the medium of associations encouraged by governments with an active dialogue and adequate legislative provisions. These provisions should also aim at a revaluation of women's and young persons' roles in agriculture and their rapid insertion into administrative and cooperative activities.

At the national and international level the concept should be better studied and emphasized that the values which the rural world conserves and renews are precious elements for a society which is diversified and evolving. The role of the non-governmental organization those NGOs which are present in the rural environment for various reasons should be studied more in depth. Their collaboration with governments and governmental organizations should be developed. Our Organization is certainly ready and willing to offer this collaboration.

I shall now consider the FAO Programme for the solution of these problems. We would like to express our positive appreciation particularly for the following points: the efforts made for increasing the flow of aid to countries in difficulty and an acceleration of aid procedure; the decentralization of the practical direction of aid and development activities; the appointment of FAO national representatives.

We feel that the intention to direct information and professional training towards rural persons is more important now than ever before.

We also judge as positive the programme and the relevant capital for the reduction of losses in products.

The regional approach to development now being tried seems useful to us also for the better drafting of development projects.

We would also like to express our appreciation for the planned World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. Most of our Organizations are involved in rural development and even in land reform operations in their own agricultural areas. These Organizations are ready to follow and support in various ways these FAO initiatives and other activities about which we have just expressed our appreciation.

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores, en consecuencia de lo que dije antes, ofrezco la palabra para hacer comentarios sobre los Grupos C y D de las orientaciones contenidas en el documento 77/20. El Grupo C se refiere al comercio de productos agrícolas y los requisitos de la producción, y el Grupo D a asistencia internacional a los países en desarrollo en el sector agrícola.

R. SARÁN (India) : On Guideline number 7, very useful comments have been made in the document. For example, it has been stated that the rate of increase in agricultural exports from developing countries in recent years has fallen short of the exports from the developed countries since around 1970. Again, it is stated that the index of ratio of agricultural exports of developing countries to their imports has declined sharply in recent years. These are some of the features which emphasize the need for remedial measures, in the form of removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers and the provision of stable prices.

Guideline number 8 also highlights the lack of progress on the issues involved. For example, it states that the International Undertaking on World Food Security has remained limited to statements of general objectives and guidelines. We are aware that the policy of the international coordination of national stocks for cereals, for grains and for wheat have yet to be finalized. We would hope that this policy will be finalized during negotiations on the International Wheat Agreement and in other forums.

It is also stated that a decision has been taken to establish a common fund to finance operations under the UNCTAD integrated Programme for Commodities, with the object of improving price stability for agricultural commodities, but problems of implementation of this decision still remain to be settled. There is a reference also to terms of trade.

It would be my suggestion that terms of trade for agricultural commodities should be studied product by product and also separately for the MSA countries and other low income countries. There is also a reference to terms of trade for agricultural products and fertilizer prices. I have the impression that with the recent rise in prices of fertilizers - I am not certain of the figure but I feel it is 25 to 30 percent - the terms of trade of agricultural products will have become more unfavourable.

These are the issues which need to be looked into, and measures need to be taken to ensure that the terms of trade remain steady and favourable to the developing countries. One way of doing this would be to ensure stability in the prices of fertilizers.

Guideline 9 refers to policy measures designed to ensure a substantial and steady increase in the export earnings of developing countries, as well as the growth and diversification of their agricultural production. My suggestion here is that perhaps the scope of this guideline could be widened to cover the policy measures relating to export substitution in addition to export promotion.

Regarding Guideline 10, I am quite satisfied with the treatment of it in the document. It is one of the most important subjects which relates to the transfer of resources and technology required for expansion of the production of food and other agricultural commodities. We now have a relative idea of the actual development assistance commitments and the estimate of assistance required for assuring a 4 percent growth. There is a wide gap. We have also referred to this matter in SOFA.

Regarding Guideline 11, which refers to food aid, it is stated that adequate quantities of other food commodities should also be provided. As we know, the World Food Conference recommended minimum food aid target of 10 million tons of cereals a year. No targets are laid down with regard to other commodities. Therefore, as the guideline is now framed, one can only examine the improvement, if any, in food aid in respect of food commodities other than cereals. Perhaps this guideline could also be broadened to include targets in respect of other food commodities.

I have dealt with the guidelines, but I find that there is a very interesting section in this document, section 3 on page 73 onwards, which deals with changes in international agricultural relationships. Two tables bring out the results of the analyses made. These tables show an improvement in recent years in the relative position of the developing countries vis-à-vis the developed countries in regard to world food consumption, world GDP, world fertilizer consumption and world fertilizer production. On the other hand, these tables show a deterioration in the position of developing countries vis-à-vis developed countries in respect of world irrigated land, world imports and world exports. In fact, I would think that this table is a summary almost of the statistical analysis made in respect of many of the guideline to which we have referred.

Having made these specific comments on the guidelines, I would like to make two brief general comments. I would suggest that the results of the progress made in respect of different guidelines of the International Agricultural Adjustment should have policy lessons. In fact policy prescriptions should be laid down and the international organizations and the countries should be requested to take steps to remove constraints on the implementation of guidelines, to provide resources and to take other policy measures.

We appreciate that the three-year period following the World Food Conference is not long enough for studying the subject of agricultural adjustment. We have found that the analysis made by the Secretariat is very useful. We suggest that such analyses should be continued and they may come up for the consideration of concerned committees, like the Committee on Commodity Problems or the Committee on Agriculture. Thereafter their views can go to the Council and to the Conference. My only suggestion is that the analyses should be accompanied by policy prescriptions, to which I have already referred.

J.A. DOS SANTOS VÁRELA (Portugal): Nous arrivons à la fin de la journée et aussi de notre étude du document en discussion. A mon avis, nous avons très utilement fait un survol des problèmes de l'ajustement alimentaire mondial. Ce document, nous le savons, présente beaucoup d'intérêt et suscite bien des espoirs mais nous fait entrevoir aussi des difficultés, mais nous espérons que les progrès d'ores et déjà visibles s'accroîtront à l'avenir.

D'autre part, nous reconnaissons que l'accroissement de la production des denrées alimentaires dans les pays en voie de développement est une condition de l'ajustement alimentaire mondial lui-même, tout en restant une condition essentielle pour atteindre les objectifs nationaux de développement économique et social dans lesdits pays. M'attachant à cet aspect du problème, moi-même et la délégation de mon pays n'avons pas la prétention de vous faire part de nos impressions et de nos conclusions en ce qui concerne les pays en voie de développement dans leur ensemble, mais seulement de vous présenter quelques souhaits de la part de l'un de ces pays.

Ainsi, et dans le contexte des lignes d'orientation et de l'esprit que nous venons d'apprécier, contenus dans le document qui nous est présenté, ma délégation souhaite qu'en vue de l'ajustement alimentaire mondial l'on essaie de faire quelques progrès dans les domaines suivants: développer progressivement un réseau international d'informations et de prévisions météorologiques capable d'être directement utilisé par les agriculteurs pour les services d'agriculture des pays qui le jugeront nécessaire, dans le but de rendre plus rationnelle, et plus sûre aussi, la production de la part des agriculteurs eux-mêmes; essayer de donner plus d'importance, c'est-à-dire une certaine pluralité, au problème des transferts de technologies vers les pays en voie de développement afin de les aider à établir des programmes provisionnels concernant l'évolution des tendances de la demande alimentaire et des conditions spécifiques de l'offre des produits agricoles; élaboration de projets directement liés au développement agricole, des produits fourragers, etc; enfin essayer de favoriser l'établissement d'accords bilatéraux entre pays développés et pays en voie de développement, accords qui devraient permettre la transformation de crédits à court terme, de crédits servant à l'achat immédiat des produits agricoles, en crédits à moyen ou long terme, à la condition que le pays en voie de développement acheteur utilise ces crédits pour augmenter sa capacité en termes de stockage.

R. TANABE (Japan): My comment is rather general but in particular related to the issues of trade which I have in mind. According to Resolution 9/75, which was adopted at the last Session of the Conference, countries are urged to formulate and implement their national policies taking into account the guidelines. On the other hand, as stated in the same Resolution, agricultural policies must be formulated and implemented in the light of their own specific circumstances. I would like to point out that in some cases those circumstances do not allow national policies which are in accordance with the guidelines.

X. VERGINIS (Greece): I should like to go into more detail on what my colleague said this morning, and I should like to emphasize some points in the FAO paper.

There is no doubt that climatic conditions widely affect agricultural productions, especially crop production. It is also well known that other exogenous factors such as trends in population growth, and particularly energy availability and trade difficulties, make it imperative that important economic, social and technological adjustments take place.

Recent estimates support the observation that the total demands for food have been increased, and the per capita consumption of grains in LDCs has been increased from 150 kgs. of grains per year to 180 kgs. per year, but the per capita consumption of grains in the DCs is higher, to account for the greater indirect consumption in the form of animal protein. The income elasticity of demand for grains is different between the LDCs and DCs and among LDCs. Increases in income result in substitution of indirect for direct grain consumption. At higher income levels, improvement in diet takes the form of a shift from carbohydrates to animal protein consumed as meat, dairy or poultry products. This is reflected in an increase in indirect consumption of grains. The distinction between the direct and the indirect consumption must be taken into account when production and consumption problems are examined.

Improvement of the situation, by eliminating severe malnutrition, which according to the estimates of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation affects 500 million of the world's population, would require further increases in grain and other agricultural supplies, plus redistribution schemes between DCs and LDCs and for income groups within each country.

In the latest decade world average agricultural output has been increasing at the rate of 2.6 percent per year. No doubt that rate is higher than the average rate of population growth resulting in an increase in per capita production of 0.9 percent per year for DCs and of 0.2 percent per year for LDCs. But some of the LDCs have been achieving less than 0.2 percent annual increase in production. These countries, in order to avoid real hunger of famine for some groups, must have been relying progressively more on additional grain or other agricultural products imports to meet the food gaps.

The latter leads to a greater increase in the balance of payments deficit and makes these countries more dependent on imported agricultural products. This eliminates the possibility of an increase in domestic production in these countries, causes new fluctuations in prices in the world, creates new market instability, and emphasizes more the role of available stocks. But given the slim margin of some contingency reserves a random shock in production can grow into a veritable food crisis.

The last periodic food crises do not signal an inability for the world to produce sufficient grains; in our opinion, they are associated more with the increasing reliance on trade to supply the food needs of a larger number of countries, and on the unwillingness of the large grain exporting countries to maintain at high cost grain contingency reserves in large quantities and on a permanent basis.

The ratio of food exports to reserves has been declining to a level that substantial shortfalls in production cannot be readily met without severe price disruptions. On the other hand, food from DCs can reach the LDCs only through increased trade or through massive relief operations, either of which would involve a transfer cost and, more important, the cost of maintaining larger contingency reserves.

All this leads to the conclusion that the solution can probably be found not so much in decreasing consumption by the DCs but in increasing production by the LDCs, particularly by some of them. Therefore, the development of domestic agriculture must be encouraged, and not only because it is a major determinant of the availability of food supplies but also because of the role it plays in the overall economic and social development, including here the earning and saving of foreign exchange and the provision of employment to their growing population.

Agriculture in LDCs, in close collaboration with industry, must make a positive contribution to economic development. Thus, in our opinion, in order to meet their food requirements and to avoid the effects of price fluctuations for a longer period, the less developed countries will have to accord a primary role to agriculture in their development plans. For that purpose, a greater amount of investment must be transferred to the agricultural sector for increasing cultivated land, land improvements, irrigation, mechanization, building fixed assets, agricultural industries, etc. Research and development efforts could be included.

Given the scarcity of capital resources in most of these countries, the DCs and the international organizations could finance them on very favourable terms for developing a proper technology. At the same time, these countries must pursue a greater labour intensification in agriculture.

On the other hand, certain measures must be taken into account at an international level if we want to achieve stable conditions in commodity trade, to avoid excessive price fluctuations, either to the producers or to the consumers; to improve and sustain the real income of individual countries; to encourage research and development in the developing countries; to improve marketing, distribution and transport systems for the commodity exports of developed countries, etc.

By taking such measures, the terms of trade will improve in favour of developing countries; an elimination of the economic imbalance between developed and developing countries will be achieved in the long term, and since the LDCs will expand and diversify their trade, improve and diversify their productivity and increase their export earnings with a view to counteracting the adverse effects of inflation, then we suppose that in the long term the target for a new world economic order pursued by FAO could be achieved.

B. SUSSMILCH (European Economic Community): As I mentioned this morning in my general statement, we would like to come back to several paragraphs on which we have a different interpretation or on which we cannot agree. This applies to paragraph 89. In our view, paragraph 89 seems to be in contradiction with paragraph 88 where it states that the developed countries have fulfilled the requirements in relation to food security which we consider as the main objective of FAO.

As far as the remarks of paragraph 89 about sharing the burden of supply and demand are concerned, we think this should be further examined very carefully with regard to the different social and economic structures in different countries.

In regard to paragraph 149, we would like to state that the Community and the Member countries cannot agree with what is said in that paragraph, where it is stated that relatively little attention has been given to the "feasibility of structural production adjustments for the purpose of opening the door somewhat more in a managed way to supplies from developing countries". In this regard, we would like to refer to the facts mentioned earlier in my statement: the positive results reached in the Lomé Convention, the general preference system, and our relationship and agreement with the Mediterranean countries.

In addition, we would like to remark that the concept in footnote 2 to paragraph 149 has never been seriously discussed or accepted. Therefore, we cannot speak of the re-emerging of an important current issue.

The meeting rose at 17.35 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 35

Se levanta la sesión alas 17.35 horas

conference

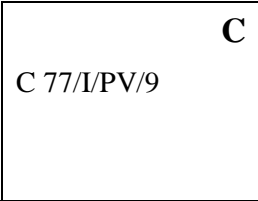
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Nineteenth Session
COMMISSION I

Dix-neuvième session
COMMISSION I

19º período de sesiones
COMISION II

NINTH MEETING
NEUVIEME SÉANCE
NOVENA SESION

(24 November 1977)

The Ninth Meeting was opened at 9.50 hours

J.C. Vignaud, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

Le neuvième séance est ouverte à 9h 50, sous la présidence
de J.C. Vignaud, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la novena sesión a las 9.50 horas, bajo la presidencia
de J.C. Vignaud, Presidente de la Comisión I

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

PREMIERE PARTIE - PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET QUESTIONS DE POLITIQUE EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)

PARTE I - PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLÍTICAS DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)

8. Progress in International Agricultural Adjustment (continued)
8. Progrès accomplis en ce qui concerne l'Ajustement agricole international (suite)
8. Progresos realizados en el reajuste agrícola internacional (continuación)

EL PRESIDENTE : Vamos a continuar con el tema 8 de la Agenda.

S. PAM ANEGARA (Indonesia) : Like many speakers before me, my delegation wishes to congratulate the Secretariat for having prepared for this Commission's review a highly useful document on Progress of International Agricultural Adjustment. Bearing in mind the scarcity of the necessary data that could be collected, the Secretariat has to be commended for the kind of report it has been able to produce.

This is the first time that my delegation is taking the floor on the subject. I may therefore be allowed to present my overall comments on the contents of the document in this one intervention.

On the increase in food production in the developing countries, at 4.1 percent on the average during 1974/76, slightly exceeding the rate recommended in Guideline 1, the report suggests that applause for this achievement must be tempered by two considerations. First, that increased production is not sufficient for the eradication of hunger and malnutrition, if not accompanied by a more even distribution. Secondly, that the achievement was largely attributable to favourable weather during the three-year period.

My delegation would like to add to this a third consideration, that is the fact that the production increase has not been shared equally by the developing countries. That should give us cause for real concern to note that particularly the MSAs and the least developed countries fell tragically below anything approaching a 4 percent growth in food production. This is certainly a serious situation which warrants the fullest consideration and, where possible, remedial action by the international world.

The fact also that only a small minority of the people in the developing countries - only one out of five - is fortunate enough to live in countries where the growth of food output is approximate to or exceeds the rate in Guideline 1, should further temper the applause for the overall achievement in food production.

This can be seen in paragraph 35 of the document.

Paragraph 36 states that adjustment in the commodity composition of output in developing countries did not coincide very closely with those implied by projections of demand. This can be seen in Table 3. In particular, production of the kinds of food generally considered to represent an up-grading of the quality of the diet, like milk, meat, pulses and vegetables, all fell much below the growth projected for demand. The same paragraph concludes by saying that:

"This reflected in part the much greater attention being given to cereals than other foods in most developing countries and may suggest a major future adjustment issue."

This conclusion, which sounds a very important one, is frankly not very clear to my delegation. Bearing in mind that shifts in consumption patterns, as referred to, are dictated by certain changes in income, is it not possible that adjustments in the commodity consumption do not coincide with those implied by projections of demand because of actual income growth in developing countries being different than what has been projected? However, I would appreciate it if the Secretary could further clarify the statement in paragraph 36 which I mentioned earlier.

Guideline 2 concerns the total flow of financial and other resources into agricultural production in developing countries.

My delegation agrees with the statement in paragraph 40 that inadequate reporting of the data concerned, as found in developing countries, could result in a most serious data gap during the course of monitoring. Hence reference had to be made to various separate data series relating to major resources and requisites like land use and irrigation, average yields, agricultural labour force, etc.

I would like to make one comment on growth in the agricultural labour force as presented in Table 6 on page 14. I suggest that not only quantitative growth is important in this respect but that qualitative growth should be equally, if not more, important. Here again, although measuring the progress made would not be easy, nevertheless such qualitative growth in the labour force, working for agriculture, which reflects the investment countries are making to develop human resources, is, in my delegations opinion, a highly important indicator which should be monitored very closely. This increase in the number of agricultural schools and students or graduates, in the number of trained extension workers, of agricultural research workers, etc, could provide useful indicators of the kind and size of investments countries are making in the agricultural sector. I suggest, therefore, that in the next report data be presented on the progress the developing world is making in this particular sector of development of human resources.

Likewise, the growth of institutional infra-structure, such as credit institutions for farmers, village cooperatives and agricultural marketing units, could provide useful supporting data in our monitoring of progress made under Guideline 2.

Regarding Table 9 on page 18, I would like to propose that: first, separate figures be given for wheat and rice, in view of the substantial divergencies that may be found in the extended application of high yielding varieties of those two foodgrains; second, that the acreage under high yielding varieties could be expressed also in percentage of the total harvested acreage of rice and of wheat respectively.

On Guideline 3, my delegation recognizes that the provision of appropriate incentives to the producers to expand production is one of the cardinal elements in national policies to be adopted by developing countries.

Table 10 on pages 22 - 23, which presents producer support prices for cereals in selected developing countries, provides highly interesting information in this regard. It is to be regretted that this valuable information is at the same time somewhat vague. How should one, for instance, explain or interpret the substantial decline in support prices in a number of countries on the list, such as Ghana, Kenya, India and Mexico, in contrast with the equally substantial increase in support prices in other countries such as Bangladesh, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Argentina?

Conversion of these prices into one common currency, say United States dollars, could help in making this Table more readable and digestible.

A better picture of the significance of support prices in individual countries could also be provided if such prices were expressed in relation to prices of agricultural inputs, fertilizers in particular, that farmers have to pay. Such relative support prices would provide a better indicator of the effectiveness of price incentives made available to farmers.

I agree that Guideline 3 on national policies by developing countries should be considered as a very important guideline, although not necessarily the most important one as suggested by number of speakers. After all, the effectiveness of such national policies in our world of interdependence is affected, if not dictated, by quite a number of external factors. Among such external factors can be mentioned notably actions and policies adopted by the developed countries and by the international world in general.

Here we touch in particular on guidelines relating the trade in agricultural commodities and guidelines relating to international assistance to developing countries as regards agriculture.

I do not wish to take more time of this Commission in commenting on these two groups of guidelines, bearing in mind also the large number of very useful suggestions already made in this regard by previous speakers. However, I wish to comment on one subject mentioned at the end of the Secretariat's report, paragraph 188, that is reduction of waste, including excessive food consumption and reduced use of food commodities as feed for livestock.

In the aftermath of the recent world food crisis, much has been said and suggested on the need for the ultra-rich countries to reduce the wasteful utilization of limited resources. Reduced consumption of meat, for instance, in countries where per capita consumption is already too high, could bring about substantial relief to millions of suffering people in the Third World, and at the same time contribute to improved health conditions in the rich countries. I suggest that I should only be more than relevant if development in this kind of reduction of waste could be reported also in the future.

C NTS.ANE (Lesotho): My delegation is grateful for this analytical document, which we regard as a good basis for individual countries to examine their own performance and contribution in respect of the 11 guidelines.

With regard to Guideline 10, we would like to underline that when such transfers occur, they should be of a self-perpetuating nature. Very often, as evidenced by many development projects, these transfers have been made without emphasis on institutional building to improve capacities and capabilities in recipient countries. Here, I am thinking of training at the site level, systems for local resource mobilization and the establishment of appropriate lending agencies.

Under Guideline 8, we welcome the establishment of a common fund by the UN CT AD North-South Conference, referred to in paragraph 131 on page 51. We hope that when this comes into operation it will pay sufficient attention to capitalization of marketing organizations so that farmers may not be discouraged at the terminal point of their production efforts.

My delegation has noted a point which could easily become sensitive and controversial. A comparison of the rate of increase in food production and the rate of population growth leaves much to be desired, especially in the spirit and circumstances in which the discussions of this Conference are proceeding. Without prejudice to those countries which have reason to do otherwise, it is the feeling of my delegation that respective countries may wish to examine their population policies very carefully.

G. VASTA (Observateur pour l'OCDE): Je voudrais tout d'abord féliciter le Secrétariat pour l'excellent document qui nous a été soumis ces jours derniers, et ce d'autant plus que le sujet est très difficile. Pour cette raison, le Secrétariat mérite toute notre gratitude.

Je m'en tiendrai strictement aux lignes générales et je dirai que ces problèmes intéressent beaucoup l'OCDE, et que les études qui sont en train d'être faites par l'Organisation entrent bien dans le cadre du tableau général des activités et des préoccupations de la FAO en vue de réaliser l'ajustement international agricole.

L'OCDE porte une attention particulière à l'agriculture en raison de l'importance économique que ces secteurs occupent dans tous les pays du monde mais aussi en raison des graves problèmes humains et sociaux posés à de larges couches de population dans de nombreux pays en voie de développement. Et, à cet égard, est bien connue aussi l'activité du Comité d'aide au développement et du Centre de développement de l'OCDE. Les travaux de l'OCDE portent surtout sur les politiques que les gouvernements des pays membres adoptent en matière agricole et ceci sous tous les aspects politiques: politiques de prix, de revenus, politiques structurelles, politiques commerciales d'aide aux pays en voie de développement, destinées à renforcer le secteur agricole et à améliorer la situation alimentaire.

Le but de tous ces travaux consiste à promouvoir sur le plan national une meilleure intégration de l'agriculture dans l'économie et sur le plan international un développement des échanges dans des conditions ordonnées et une plus grande solidarité entre pays favorisés et pays moins favorisés.

C'est dans ce contexte qu'ont été réalisées des études telles que des études sur les tendances de l'offre et de la demande mondiale des principaux produits agricoles ou encore des études sur l'utilisation des terres, sur le marché des produits laitiers, ou bien, comme il y a quelques années, sur le capital dans l'agriculture et son financement. Une place importante est donnée à la recherche agricole et à la vulgarisation agricole.

C'est avec beaucoup de plaisir et d'espoir que j'ai pu constater l'importance que l'on donne aux problèmes de la nutrition et je suis heureux que finalement ces problèmes d'importance vitale semblent avoir attiré, de façon accrue, l'attention des différents pays et des organisations internationales

les plus compétents et les plus responsables.

L'effort que fait la FAO est suivi par toutes les organisations internationales qui s'occupent de ces graves problèmes et je souhaite qu'elles aussi puissent finalement réaliser les buts de leurs efforts.

W.S. STEELE (United States of America): I would like at this time to follow up on the rest of the statement we had regarding guidelines 7-11.

Starting with Guideline 7, the Secretariat has employed a growth and volume of world trade as an indicator for progress in improvement of market and supply access. We feel this is an insufficient measure, as it does not take into account the factors which govern trade volume. Levels of protection and the use of export controls should also be monitored to gauge the access to markets and assurance of supplies. While this responsibility falls within GATT and not FAO, there nevertheless may be some cooperative efforts to develop information on this guideline.

Under Guideline 8, we would only like to point out that the United States has introduced a new proposal in the International Wheat Council to establish an international grain reserve system to moderate price swings, and we hope progress can be made in implementing such a system.

Regarding paragraph 134, the Secretariat has pointed out the two main stabilizing efforts going on now in UNCTAD and the IWC Commodity Agreement discussions. It however fails to point out progress in multilateral trade negotiations towards reducing trade barriers would enhance the degree of world price stability and food security.

Regarding Guideline 9 under paragraph 146, there is the observation that there is little meaningful linkage between international policy efforts regarding access to export markets and export promotion and those directed to increasing production for export.

The United States agrees with this observation, and believes the best available method for ensuring such linkage is to gather information on anticipated markets for agricultural products and ensure that this information is related to anticipated production plans in developing countries. FAO could serve as a focal point in collecting appropriate market information and data but not duplicate the work of GATT-UNCTAD and the International Trade Centre.

Under Guideline 10, in this context we would like to point out that the United States is increasing its bilateral and multilateral commitments for food and agriculture development programmes. Our bilateral programme for 1978 will be substantially increased for the food and agriculture sector, about \$50 million over the \$536 million in 1976/77. Our contribution in 1978 to international financial institutions will be double what it was in 1976 and much of this will be on a concessional basis.

In conclusion we would like to encourage FAO to continue monitoring progress of International Agricultural Adjustment and to develop the necessary statistics and methodology to do the job, but we should keep in mind that progress on international agriculture adjustment will depend on an outcome of negotiations in a number of other international fora.

M.R. LEAR (New Zealand): I have just a few brief comments.

On Guideline 7, regarding the need for improved market access I think our views on the necessity for liberal access and for trade as far as possible for agricultural products are very well known, so I need not repeat. I only reiterate our hope that substantial progress will be made in GATT and UNCTAD to liberalize access for exports and stabilize commodity prices.

One other matter regarding Guideline 8. Again, in paragraphs 121 and 122 we have this implication that actions taken by some developed countries for domestic political reasons, in this case restricting market access, is to some extent justifiable, and it contributes to world food security by increasing supplies available to other countries outside that market.

I do not want to repeat what I said yesterday on the subject, but it seems to us that that is a fairly short-term static analysis of what world food security is all about.

On Guideline 8, we are very interested in particular in the terms of trade analysis in paragraph 135 onwards on the terms of trade of agricultural exports relative to manufactured goods in particular. It seems to us those figures show that for most agricultural commodities although terms of trade have

slumped since the boom of 1973 they are still higher overall than the early 1970s level. The problem for us is that this does not quite square with our experience in New Zealand as an exporter of agricultural commodities, and I just wonder why this is so. Our terms of trade for about 20 years, from the 1950s onwards, although they fluctuated quite wildly because we are an exporter of agricultural commodities, nonetheless averaged at around 100 taking as a basis the figure of 100 in 1955. Since 1973 our terms of trade have not only slumped quite dramatically but appear to have stabilized at around 80, compared to the previous average of around 100 for the previous 20 years.

I wonder why this sort of experience, which I suspect has also happened to a number of exporters of agricultural commodities, is not reflected in these figures. I wonder if it is because when we talk about agricultural commodity values relative to manufactured goods, whether or not oil is taken into consideration. I suspect if oil imports, or assuming they are not taken into consideration, if they were taken into consideration they would make a substantial difference. I wonder if the Secretariat could clarify this matter for me, whether fuel or oil imports in particular are included under manufactured goods. If not, could we have this and future work on terms of trade done by the Secretariat? I think it would be a more realistic picture of what the terms of trade of actual exporters really are.

I have no other comments on other guidelines. They seem to have been very well covered by other delegates, but in conclusion I have one further question for the Secretariat, and that is, what are their intentions regarding future work on international agricultural adjustment that they have started so well with this document? We would favour its continuation as a matter of some importance. It seems to us it is comprehensive and sophisticated and does some pioneering conceptual and sophisticated work. As far as I know there is no other international body doing similar work, so it is appropriate for FAO to continue its work in this area and again I would commend it on an excellent first time study.

D. RITCHIE (Australia): I shall be very brief. It would seem at the end of the debate it is not totally inappropriate to offer comments of a very general nature.

The Australian delegation agrees in broad terms with the Secretariat's assessment. However we would have liked to have seen more attention paid to the problems faced by developed countries in recent years. The interdependence of their economies has resulted in the transference and multiplication of dislocations arising from both natural and man-made events which has impaired their ability to institute measures that have been agreed at international meetings to be necessary.

I should point out however that Australia accepts of course that the actions agreed at the World Food Conference and the two Special Sessions of the United Nations General Assembly in relation to food must be implemented.

We have some detailed comments on specific guidelines, but in the interests of brevity I think we should hand these to the Secretariat to be written into the record.

RAM SARAN (India): After listening to the delegate of New Zealand, I thought I might refer to one of his comments. He talked about the future programme of work, I did refer to this question in my last intervention but I thought I might raise another issue: that is, we have now an analysis on the basis of the guidelines that we formulated earlier. In this Conference some of the delegates have made observations on the guidelines as they are formulated. I was wondering whether it would not now be proper for us to look into guidelines again on the basis of the experience that we have had during the last two years or so. Therefore, my specific suggestion is that at the next conference the Secretariat might come up with specific proposals on the basis of the discussions held in this Conference, and on the basis of other experiences they will come up with specific proposals on the amendments or modifications that may be considered necessary in the guidelines themselves. This is my specific suggestion.

D. RITCHIE (Australia): In relation to Guideline 1, we would offer the observation that, because of the lead times involved in expansion of agricultural output, it is probably too early to discern any measurable effect of policy-induced changes.

On Guideline 3, the Australian delegation notes that the methodology used by the Secretariat represents an attempt to quantify the complex interaction of a wide range of policy measures. Therefore the results and their interpretation should be treated with caution.

In the case of the estimated trade volume effects, apart from the problem of using truly representative elasticities it is also important to keep clearly in mind that the calculated magnitudes are notional only - the effect of the policies is assumed to be instantaneous rather than gradual over a number of years. It cannot be concluded, therefore, that the estimates of trade volume effects represent actual tonnages of a particular product which were in reality available for or withheld from the export market in any one year due to the various support policies operated by developed countries. The Secretariat might have seen it appropriate to have mentioned that in the years prior to the food crisis the extra supplies of cereals available as a result of developed countries' policies helped to avert the more frequent occurrence of food shortages.

It is valid to ask whether the Secretariat's estimates of trade volume effects give an accurate indication of progress on Guideline 3. The commodities covered are all temperate zone products so that while the calculations may permit some conclusions to be drawn about food security needs, they are not particularly useful in judging whether the diversification interests of developing countries are being met, since most of these commodities offer only limited scope for diversification in many of these countries. It should also be pointed out that the Secretariat's rather pessimistic conclusions about the degree to which the "special interests" of the developing countries have been met are not fully substantiated by the evidence presented in its monitoring of Guideline 9. Here it comes to the clear conclusion that recently there has been a marked diversification of developing countries' agricultural exports.

We also wonder whether the Secretariat's comments on the achievement of Guideline 3 have taken into account an inherent contradiction which it contains. On the one hand it proposes that the policies of the developing countries aim at a rational use of resources to allow for the special diversification of interests of the developing countries, while on the other hand it requires that these policies not be operated in a way which would harm world food security. At best this calls for a degree of policy balance which may in reality be difficult to achieve. So far as food security is concerned the important point is that when shortages appear, the developed countries have always responded positively to the needs of the developing countries.

Concerning the comments on the need for an equitable sharing of the incidence of international supply/ demand market adjustments, Australia, as a major agricultural exporting country, would agree that this is a desirable objective. Our recent experience with the contraction of the world beef market has been that the special restrictions imposed by a number of major importing countries have caused the Australian beef producers to bear a disproportionate amount of the adjustments necessary to meet the changed market situation.

Concerning Guideline 6, we feel that the analysis may be a little superficial and makes no more than a token attempt to identify countries with "weak balance of payments".

On Guidelines 7, 8 and 9, the Secretariat's monitoring reveals a number of positive developments for developing countries, viz. a marked improvement in the terms of trade of their agricultural products for manufactured products; a rapid rise in the value of agricultural exports from developing countries; and a substantial diversification of developing countries' agricultural exports, both in terms of processed products and products competing directly with those exported by developing countries.

The trade policy issues raised in these three guidelines are, as the Secretariat recognizes, currently the subject of discussions in a number of international fora. It is not appropriate in our view that these policy aspects be discussed in the current context and we would limit our comments to noting that recent trade data shows evidence of an improved position for the developing countries.

There are, however, several issues raised in respect of these guidelines on which we would like to comment.

In discussing world food security, the Secretariat concentrates almost exclusively on the issue of cereal stocks, expressing disappointment that progress has been slow in getting international agreement on a stockholding system. In our view, however, this question is only one of a number of elements in efforts to preserve world food security. In particular, we would disagree with the Secretariat's reference to the International Undertaking on World Food Security as basically constituting an understanding on the establishment of a system of stocks. A number of other equally important elements, some of which are listed in the International Undertaking, include the need to improve the food production potential of developing countries; the need for a reduction of post harvest losses; the adequacy of transport, communications and marketing infrastructure in developing countries; the need for more timely and comprehensive information on supply prospects and the adequacy of storage capacity in food deficit countries themselves. In Australia's view the establishment of FAO's Committee on World Food Security, its Global Early Warning System and the establishment of the Food Security Assistance Scheme all constitute very real advances in securing greater world food security.

The establishment of an internationally coordinated system of nationally held feed grain reserves has in fact been under consideration in international fora for some time and at a global level is closely associated with international trade in grains, particularly wheat. Deliberations to date have revolved around a set of complex problems, not the least of which is that of establishing an equitable arrangement between grain exporting and importing countries regarding the financing of reserve stocks. It is Australia's view that an international reserve stock system of wheat should not be established in isolation but should be part of a new international wheat agreement to provide adequate safeguards for normal commercial trade. For its part, Australia has been an active participant in discussions on the possibility of negotiating such an agreement.

With respect to the Secretariat's comments on agricultural adjustment in developed countries, Australia has operated a rural adjustment scheme for a number of years. A new scheme introduced from 1 January 1977 provides financing for carry-on loans, debt reconstruction, farm build-up and rehabilitation assistance.

Concerning Guideline 10, Australia has consistently criticized the basis for the \$5 billion "goal". This was a somewhat tentative estimate prepared for the World Food Conference in respect to food production but has subsequently become enshrined in the documentation of FAO, the World Food Council and CGFPI. The final sentence in paragraph 154 is misleading - the figure of \$8.3 billion is no more than an indexing for inflation of the original \$5 billion and in no way represents a substantive revision.

In paragraph 155, the Secretariat notes the drop in commitments in 1976 (cf 1975) and the smaller share of total aid commitments that this represents. The key question "why?" has not been explored. Does the drop reflect a decrease in availability or a fall in demand from developing countries? Did the developing countries change their priorities or did the large increases from 1973 to 1974 to 1975 approach the limits of absorptive capacity, requiring a pause in the rate of increase? If this is so what are the constraints? It would be illuminating to have answers to these questions.

On Guideline 11, Australia supported the establishment of the 10 million ton target for cereals at the World Food Conference. This target is intended to cover the "hard core" food aid needs of developing countries. Of course, actual quantities of food aid shipped vary from year to year because of random events - good or bad harvests due to weather, natural disasters and, on occasions, political developments. We recognize also that there is considerable scope for incorporating previously determined quantities of food aid into development programmes and support the work going on in the CFA to this end.

We note that the adequacy of the target is currently under study by the Secretariat of CFA Policies and Programmes and will be considered by the Committee at its Fifth Session in April 1978.^{1/}

B.E. MATAMOROS HUECK (Nicaragua): Mi delegación desea hacer algunos comentarios en relación al documento C 77/20, Progresos Realizados en el Reajuste Agrícola Internacional,

Sobre la orientación 1, Producción Alimentaria y la Orientación 3, Corriente Total de Recursos, deseo formular las siguientes observaciones:

El Plan Indicativo Mundial para el desarrollo agrícola de FAO señala que para lograr una tasa anual del crecimiento de la producción agrícola en el orden del 4%, los países en desarrollo necesitamos una corriente anual de recursos externos del orden de 8 300 millones de dólares EE.UU. (a precios de 1975) y a precios de 1977 10 000 millones. Sin embargo, la tasa de crecimiento de nuestra producción agrícola no ha alcanzado el 2,6%.

La ayuda oficial a la agricultura en 1975 alcanzó la cifra de 5 700 millones de dólares EE.UU., en 1976 disminuyeron a 4 750 millones de dólares EE.UU., y para 1977, debido a la inflación, la imagen resultante es aún más preocupante.

Hasta ahora la asistencia a la agricultura ha sido en su mayor parte en capitales, sin embargo es necesario evaluar la asistencia técnica, en su volumen como en su contenido, y encontrar dentro del contacto de la cooperación multilateral, métodos que beneficien en forma más directa el sector agrícola tradicional, particularmente los pequeños agricultores y los trabajadores sin tierra.

En la evaluación de proyectos deberá dársele mayor atención a los factores humanos e institucionales que influyen en la ejecución y en la complementación de los mismos, tratando de incorporar en forma más adecuada la participación de las instituciones nacionales y regionales, así como la participación y capacitación del personal nacional en la ejecución de los mismos.

^{1/} Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

Orientación 3, Políticas Nacionales, incentivos a la agricultura.

La contribución del sector agropecuario en la formación del PIB alcanzo en mi país el 35%.

En cuanto al crédito otorgado por el sistema financiero de mi país al sector agropecuario, las instituciones públicas cubrieron el 60% de sus exigencias, incrementándose en 1976 en un 16% en relación a 1975.

En cuanto a la Orientación 6, segunda parte, Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, nos preocupa que aún no se ha alcanzado el objetivo de 10 millones de toneladas establecido por la CMA, en alimentos cereálícos, así como las reservas internacionales de emergencia solo han alcanzado tres quintos de la meta.

Comercio y Acceso a los Mercados. Orientación 7 y 8 .

Señor Presidente; el valor total de las exportaciones agrícolas permaneció estacionario en 1975, y los aumentos logrados en 1976 no fueron suficientes para compensar la subida de los precios de nuestras importaciones.

En los órganos internacionales la solución a estos problemas aún procede lentamente.

La necesidad de establecer precios a un nivel remunerativo para nuestras exportaciones aún no ha encontrado soluciones. Los precios de productos básicos tales como bananos, fibras duras, carne, semillas oleaginosas, arroz y otros productos, aún sufren de estas características en los mercados internacionales, y en algunos casos ha disminuido inclusive su valor real.

En algunos casos esta situación es debida a la aplicación de subsidios a la producción interna aplicada por los países desarrollados con el objeto de alcanzar la autosuficiencia, además de otras medidas restrictivas que obstaculizan las exportaciones de los países en desarrollo.

Esta situación ha sido agravada por el continuo desplazamiento de los productos naturales por los sintéticos y sus sucedáneos, además de las restricciones existentes en los países desarrollados, a los productos elaborados y semielaborados de los países en desarrollo.

A la base de esta situación es una precisa voluntad política que debería reorientarse en la ampliación del S.G.P., el apoyo al Fondo Común, del Programa Integrado de Productos Básicos, así como la implementación de las directrices elaboradas por el grupo de la carne y otros Comités intergubernamentales. En este contexto la función del CPPB es muy importante, la aplicación de las normas alimentarias tienen efectiva repercusión en el comercio. Consideramos que el CPPB, por su naturaleza, debe vigilar las repercusiones de estas normas, en los intereses de exportación de los países en desarrollo ya que consideramos que éstas deben promover prácticas comerciales justas en el comercio de alimentos y no provocar efectos negativos en el desarrollo de las industrias alimentarias y las exportaciones provenientes de los países en desarrollo. 1/

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): I would not venture to sum up the very wide ranging discussions which took place over the last two days. I would only confine myself to a few remarks giving some clarifications and comments on various suggestions.

I am very thankful to the distinguished delegates for their appreciation of our document C 77/20 on monitoring the progress of international agricultural adjustment. The discussion on this item has, I believe, emphasized the importance which the Member countries attach to international agricultural adjustment, in terms of policy issues at national and international levels as well as an area in which FAO should contribute analysis and information.

The general assessment of progress presented by the Director-General in this document appears to be broadly agreed to. Before I respond to the various suggestions made for improving the nature and content of the analysis of our future reports as well as for strengthening the statistical basis of our analysis, I would like to make a few general points. There appears to be a unanimous agreement that the Secretariat should continue to monitor the progress of international agricultural adjustment and should make a progress report to the next session of the Conference. Apart from the improvements which I will discuss in a moment, the report should be of the same general nature, that is an assessment using quantitative data wherever possible but resorting wherever necessary to partial and qualitative analysis. Its length should be approximately the same as the document presented to you at this session C 77/20.

1/ Texto incluido en las Actas a petición expresa.

A number of delegates referred to the need to give an action orientation to FAO's work on international agricultural adjustment. We agree with this but perhaps I should stress that the report on assessment and monitoring is one distinct part of the work on international agricultural adjustment. We agree that the results of monitoring of progress on international agricultural adjustment could feed directly and indirectly into the action programmes of many kinds in the FAO. As time goes on we will be endeavouring to strengthen linkages between the results of our global monitoring work on the policy issues relating to the guidelines of international agricultural adjustment and concrete action programmes relating to various problem areas covered by the guidelines.

As a number of delegates have pointed out, the guidelines may eventually require adjustment in the light of the changing situation in the field of food and agriculture. The Conference may like to consider at a future date possible adjustments which are needed in the guidelines in the light of its assessment of progress in international agricultural adjustment. The distinguished delegate from India has just now shown considerable interest in this need for possible adjustments in the guidelines.

May I now make a few specific points relating to the comments made by distinguished delegates on the analysis contained in the report. In a way we see our task of monitoring certain aspects of international agricultural adjustment, especially relating to the domestic policy issues, as complementary to the attempts of individual Member countries to evaluate and monitor their progress in the achievement of targets and objectives within their countries. Our global monitoring efforts support and supplement their efforts both in the analysis of progress and in the improvement of data base required for evaluation and monitoring of progress. At this stage, however, I would like to point out that we do recognize, as mentioned by many distinguished delegates, that several developments in the field of trade negotiations and in the field of negotiation on a new international grains arrangement have occurred since the completion of our report. A few of these are mentioned in the introductory statement of the Director-General. We hope these negotiations will be successfully completed, keeping the Guidelines of international agricultural adjustment in mind.

As distinguished delegates have rightly emphasized, many guidelines are qualitative in nature and therefore are difficult to monitor. However, we will continue our efforts to try to formulate indirect quantitative indicators to help us monitor the qualitative guidelines.

Furthermore, several suggestions have been made to improve the statistical data base. They will be considered by the Secretariat seriously for incorporation in our future report.

I may mention the specific suggestions made regarding evaluation of production performance such as comparison between peak year levels of output, analysis of irrigated land in relation to total irrigable land, use of total supply of agricultural machinery such as tractors rather than imports only, for the analysis of investment and distinction between food and non-food use of fertilizers, etc. All these suggestions will receive our close attention. Similarly the suggestions for the use of public or government expenditures or budgetary allocations in agriculture as a proxy for investment flows into agriculture is certainly a very useful one. Again, under Guideline 6, index analysis of problems encountered in obtaining increased self-sufficiency in the most seriously affected countries would be worth-while. Monitoring of incentives provided by the various government policies for stimulating increased agricultural production is an intricate and difficult exercise. We are also grateful for the suggestions made in this regard.

Suggestions have been made for distinguishing in terms of estimates of output in and resource flows between subsistence farming or farming for self consumption, and farming for the market which is for sale outside the farming units. In general in developing countries estimates of output are obtained through subjective estimates made by crop reporters or objective crop-cutting observations in selected fields. They are of little basis for the developing countries to provide as a routine such estimates for distinguishing between subsistence farming and commercial farming. Therefore, we felt it might be unrealistic to include such questions in FAO's annual production questionnaire. However, the importance of this kind of information is undeniable. What appears to be called for is specific studies or central surveys in selected or interested countries to develop appropriate methodology for arriving at such estimates. In fact, a few developing countries have attempted to collect such information in the course of their household expenditure consumption surveys. Insofar as estimates of investment flows into these sectors are concerned, the exercise may prove to have been more difficult especially for food production for self consumption. I hope that the distinguished delegates from the developing countries would indicate how practicable or feasible this would be for our next report. To a limited extent it may, however, be possible for commercial crops where a very large proportion of output is marketed and where flows of investment resources mostly pass through financial intermediaries. However, the Secretariat would be more than willing to explore this area of investigation and discuss it with interested countries or delegates.

Regarding guidelines on nutrition, we may inform the Commission that FAO is currently carrying out a survey of non-cereal food for submission to the next meeting of the Committee on Food Security. Non-cereal commodities are not at present included in food aid targets. They are under consideration by the Committee on Food Aid Policy and Programmes. If and when a consensus is reached on such targets they could be included in the guidelines.

Also with reference to the analysis of food aid for development purposes, including increases in food production, I may indicate that this is also a problem engaging the attention of the Committee on Food Aid. Suggestions for case studies of successfully applied nutrition projects is an excellent one and we will endeavour to have it carried out.

A number of suggestions have been made for improving the presentation of statistics in our various tables. We have taken due note of them and will try, to the extent possible, to incorporate them in future exercises. However, I hope you would agree that the analysis of cost and production by crop and by country all over the world in order to appraise the comparative advantages of individual countries for individual crops, is a vast undertaking. An exercise like this can possibly be best or most appropriately carried out at the country level. FAO would be most ready to help individual countries with such exercises.

Questions have been raised on matters of estimation of the terms of trade. The terms of trade analysis presented in the document are based on movements of the net terms of trade of individual commodities. Further work is in progress, especially to analyse the terms of agricultural trade on a country basis. The results of this work will throw light on the net terms of trade of different groups of countries including the MSAs. We certainly agree with the emphasis laid, in the course of the discussions, on more detailed analysis of terms of trade by commodity groups as well as country groups. This will be taken up in our next report.

The suggestions made that the import substitution policies of the developing countries should also be considered under Guideline 9 is a very reasonable suggestion which we will certainly keep in mind in the course of our future reporting on the subject.

As regards the suggestion that FAO should help stabilize world supplies and demands of individual commodities by identifying trade opportunities, we would like to inform you that we are hoping to extend our work in this field, especially in helping individual developing countries in assessing their total world market outlook.

Reference has also been made to the analysis of growth in trade as an index of increase in access to markets and assurance of supplies. We agree that additional indicators in cooperation with other agencies in this area could be developed.

Regarding Guideline 3, on domestic policies, a suggestion has been made that the list of issues requiring response or action on the part of developing countries should be specified similar to the list for the developed countries. This could be done in the next report.

A few delegates have suggested that the progress report should also contain a deeper analysis of the reasons for short-falls in achieving targets and objectives, as well as suggestions for improving the policy and action programmes as part of the monitoring exercise. We shall do our best to extend the analysis in these directions. However, we may draw the attention of delegates to two facts, or considerations: first, we are required under a Conference resolution to keep our documents very short and succinct; secondly, a few of these issues, in the form of detailed analyses of reasons for short falls from targets, as a response to suggestions and policies and programmes, are covered in other documents which are presented to various Committees of FAO, such as the Committee on Food Aid, the Committee on Food Security, the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Commodity Problems. However, it would indeed be worth while, as delegates have recommended, to pull them together in a convenient form in the present document.

EL PRESIDENTE: Pregunto si hay algún ulterior comentario en relación con lo que el Dr. Islam nos acaba de expresar.

Bien, señores; yo creo que, con esta intervención del Dr. Islam, podemos dar por concluido este tema de la Agenda. El Dr. Islam hizo comentarios y respuestas a las intervenciones que se sucedieron durante el debate. Considero que ha puesto bien de manifiesto las orientaciones principales que se expusieron en nuestras discusiones y quizá ello me releve de la obligación de leer un largo resumen que yo tenía preparado aquí.

Quizá solo quepa señalar que este es un tema que ha merecido una considerable atención por parte de las delegaciones, lo cual indica la importancia que los países Miembros dan al reajuste agrícola inter nacional. Sería también necesario agregar la esperanza de que este proceso de reajuste agrícola inter nacional se concrete y sea un proceso tangible en beneficio del desarrollo de los países, a través de una manifiesta voluntad política por parte de aquellos países con mayores recursos, que tengan que sacrificar algo de lo que disponen, en favor del desarrollo de los países que más necesitan.

Convendría quizá también señalar (y en esto estoy seguro de interpretar el sentir de todas las delegaciones) que la Secretaría, a través del documento que nos ha presentado, ha hecho un esfuerzo digno del reconocimiento y del elogio de todos nosotros, porque ha hecho una evaluación cualitativa, y en algunos casos cuantitativa también, disponiendo no siempre de datos suficientes como para poder efectuarla. He aquí por qué el esfuerzo adquiere mayor trascendencia.

Señores, si no hay otros comentarios adicionales, voy a declarar concluido el análisis de este tema, y vamos a pasar a la consideración del tema 9.

9. Developments in the Regime of the Sea and Their Implications for Fisheries

9. Evolution du régime des mers et incidences sur les peches

9. Evolución del régimen del mar y consecuencias para la pesca

The meeting was suspended from 10.45 hours to 11.00 hours

La seance est suspendue de 10 h 45 à 11 heures

Se suspende la sesión de las 10.45 a 11.00 horas

EL PRESIDENTE: El tema 9 tiene gran importancia y agradecemos la presencia del Sr. Director General junto con nosotros, el Sr. Jackson.

J.E. CARROZ (FAO staff): The document under reference is C 77/21. It has the same title as the item on the agenda. There is probably no need for me to say very much about the considerable changes that are taking place in the regime of the oceans.

Delegates are familiar with the work of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea. It is indeed a major international event and the FAO Conference has, since 1971, followed the preparations for that Conference and the progress achieved in its negotiations.

What needs repeating perhaps is that the FAO Conference has always stressed that it should not, and cannot, convert itself into a conference on the law of the sea but must limit its discussions to those aspects for which FAO has constitutional responsibility.

In the first part of the document will be found a brief and, I hope, factual account of the present state of negotiations, with particular reference to those provisions of the informal composite negotiating texts which relate to fisheries. As pointed out in paragraph 2 of the document, this composite text is not a negotiated text. It is still informal and will merely provide a basis for future negotiation without affecting the right of any State to suggest revisions in the search for a Consensus.

There is also in the document an indication of the action taken so far by numerous coastal States to extend their jurisdiction over fisheries. The document then reviews on very broad lines the implications of the new regime of the sea for the national management and use of fishery resources.

The point is made that while most resources occur in areas which are, or will be, under national jurisdiction, the biological characteristics of these resources and their migratory pattern will still make it advisable in a number of cases for governments to cooperate at the regional or sub-regional level. It is felt, therefore, that in many areas regional fishery bodies, and particularly those established within the framework of FAO, will still have a useful role to play in assisting with the assessment, management and development of resources.

The virtues of concerted action have in fact been re-affirmed at very recent sessions of our Fishery Commission for the East Central Atlantic and the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission. But this may vary from area to area and I am sure delegates realize how difficult it was to cover these complex topics on a worldwide basis, and in general terms.

The most important section of the document concerns the types of assistance that developing coastal States may wish to receive to take full advantage of the resources in extended zones of jurisdiction. It is apparent that in many cases coastal States will have increased opportunities for fishery development, but at the same time this will entail taking the necessary measures for the rational management and use of these additional resources.

A major decision of the Committee on Fisheries in April of this year was to request the Department of Fisheries to prepare a comprehensive programme to assist developing coastal States in merging and developing fisheries in their economic zones. The document before the Commission refers to the on-going, or proposed FAO activities designed to achieve this purpose.

I could mention the multi-disciplinary missions to assess the implications of the new regime on a region-by-region basis, the execution of studies leading to the formulation of fishery development plans, the assistance in drafting national legislation, and restructuring or establishing national institutions, including fishery development corporations, and the assistance in preparing for, or negotiating, joint ventures and bilateral agreements on fisheries. Some of these activities are already being carried out, sometimes within the framework of FAO regional bodies, and always of course at the request of the countries concerned.

As the document suggests, FAO has an important and continuing role to play, we believe, in identifying all the forms of assistance which will be requested by the developing coastal States, and in enlisting and coordinating the necessary financial and other support from both the United Nations system and from all appropriate bilateral and multilateral sources.

Lastly, the document before the Commission also provides some information on the potential contribution that the so-called unconventional resources could make to world food supplies. There are indeed fish species and other marine animals that are not at present harvested because it is as yet difficult, for technical and economical reasons, to catch them or to process and market them. These include small species of crustaceans and fish as well as deep ocean squids. Perhaps the best known of these resources is krill, which is abundant and widespread in the Southern Oceans. The document describes the present state of exploitation and utilization of krill.

In line with the recommendations made by the FAO Conference itself at its last session in 1975, FAO is endeavouring to promote the selection and exchange of information concerning the development of fisheries and unconventional resources in general, with a view to increasing animal protein supplies and ensuring the conservation and rational use of these resources.

The Conference may wish to note in this respect that, at its last session in April of this year, the Committee on Fisheries had a very wide-ranging debate on international cooperation in future developments of the living resources of the Southern Oceans, and particularly krill. A preliminary phase UNDP Southern Oceans Fisheries Survey Programme is just coming to an end, and has produced three reports on the living resources of the Southern Oceans and the harvesting and utilization of krill. Copies of these reports are available for you in the hall. It is obvious from these reports and from the experience of those countries which are carrying out specific operations in the area that a number of difficulties will still have to be overcome, particularly as regards product development and marketing, before any major commercial exploitation can be expected.

Realizing that FAO might act as a catalyst and assist in coordinating the necessary research and studies, the Committee on Fisheries, the session of which was attended by over 70 FAO Member Nations, recognized that the Organization has a proper and legitimate role to play in view both of its technical responsibilities and its special duty towards developing countries.

I should perhaps say that members of the Committee were fully aware that they were treading on somewhat sensitive ground, as was pointed out also by several countries in the Governing Council of UNDP. This is why the Committee stressed that in continuing its activities FAO should work in close cooperation with the coastal States in the area and other interested States, as well as the appropriate scientific bodies, and also in close cooperative working relations with the parties to the Antarctic Treaty as regards the area covered by that Treaty. This area extends to 60 degrees south latitude, while the Committee on Fisheries took the view that FAO's future studies should relate to the living resources which occur in the Southern Oceans up to 45 degrees south.

Consultations with the Antarctic Treaty parties, which the FAO Conference had also recommended at its last Session in 1975, have already started, and we are grateful to the countries concerned for having given us an opportunity to provide information on our activities to their Ninth Consultative Meeting in London last September.

The future work and studies of FAO concerning the living resources of the Southern Oceans as envisaged by the Committee on Fisheries are listed in paragraph 32 of the document before you. As mentioned in the document, the report of the Committee on Fisheries was endorsed by the Council at its Seventy-First Session last June.

To conclude my remarks, I would like to make it clear that when the Conference is invited, in paragraph 34 of the document, to offer comments or guidance, this request only refers to matters for which FAO has constitutional responsibility. Perhaps this point needs to be stressed in view of the admittedly delicate nature of some of the topics dealt with in the document.

EL PRESIDENTE: Antes de dar la palabra al primer orador quisiera pedir al Relator que nos informe sobre las opiniones que hayan expresado las delegaciones que han intervenido en el Plenario en relación con el tema que hoy tratamos.

L. RITTERSHAUS (Rapporteur from Plenary to Commission I): Compared with other more widely discussed topics, the problems of fishery and its development were not as fully in the limelight of Plenary Sessions of the Conference as may have perhaps been desired. However, several interesting points were touched upon in the statements of various more directly interested countries.

The problems of a new law of the seas, and in particular the establishment of a 200-mile fishing zone, were mentioned by the delegates of Japan and Chile, both seeing in this new feature of the law of the seas a positive and, in fact, indispensable step towards better protection of maritime resources. In the same vein, the delegate of Iceland analysed his country's measures towards the establishment of an exclusive fishing zone around the coasts of his country; he declared it was not only an economic necessity but was indispensable for the safeguarding of fish stocks from depletion. In his view, Iceland's policy might have saved the North Atlantic cod stock. He felt that more extensive protection measures were imperative.

Several delegates explained their countries' intention to expand fisheries programmes in the near future and appealed for greater assistance by FAO, both in the fields of research and expert advice as well as in those of technical support and investment. Among them were Gambia, Ghana, Somalia, Chile, Fiji and a few more.

Fiji also raised a very interesting point of more general economic relevance. Its delegate explained how small island countries like his own were subjected, due to the fact that they were bounded all round by the sea, to problems very similar to those of land-locked countries. He introduced a very appropriate neologism, that of "sea-locked" countries.

The delegates of Japan and Norway, two countries with very highly developed fishing industries, also urge Q FAO to widen its development assistance programmes in the field of fisheries, and offered their participation in association with our Organization.

EL PRESIDENTE : Quizá convenga hacer algún comentario en cuanto a lo que ha señalado el Dr. Carroz sobre la forma en que podríamos encarar el debate sobre este tema. Hay un requerimiento en ese sentido en el párrafo 34 del documento que es un tanto genérico. Quizá por ello pueda sugerir que tratemos de focalizar las intervenciones para poder llegar a conclusiones concretas en dos aspectos principales y en tanto se vinculen directamente con las responsabilidades de FAO en esta materia. Esos aspectos son la evolución del régimen del mar y las consecuencias para el sector pesquero, pero en este segundo caso, en especial, en cuanto a la asistencia y cooperación que la FAO puede ofrecer a los países costeros para tratar de optimizar la explotación de los recursos en su jurisdicción.

M.J. de OLIVEIRO RUIVO (Portugal): Mon intervention sera faite exclusivement au nom de la délégation portugaise. Nous considérons que ce fut une sage décision d'inclure ce point dans l'ordre du jour de la Conférence. En faisant cette intervention, je me concentrerai, pour le moment, sur la première partie du document qui nous a été présenté, c'est-à-dire les implications de la Conférence sur le droit de la mer et d'un nouveau régime des océans sur les pêches, tout en me réservant pour une seconde intervention sur le deuxième point concernant l'utilisation des ressources dans les mers australes. Soit dans l'intervention du Ministre de l'agriculture et des pêches du Portugal, en Plénière, soit dans no-

tre intervention en Commission I sur le Programme de travail et budget pour le biennium prochain, nous avons signalé le rôle que, de l'avis de ma délégation, la FAO, par l'intermédiaire de son Département des pêches, du Comité des pêches et des organismes régionaux des pêches aura à jouer pour faciliter l'implantation du nouveau régime pour les océans.

Le document C 77/21 et l'excellente introduction qui vient d'être faite par M. Carroz, dont nous apprécions la compétence professionnelle et l'objectivité maintes fois démontrées dans ses activités au sein de la FAO, et dans le cadre de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur le droit de la mer, nous donne le point de la situation et identifie quelques-unes des plus importantes implications pour le secteur de la pêche des négociations en cours dans la Troisième Conférence sur le droit de la mer, ainsi que du résultat des mesures prises par un nombre croissant d'Etats pour établir et réglementer leurs zones économiques exclusives ou d'autres espaces maritimes équivalents.

Pour mieux situer les questions sur lesquelles nous devons nous prononcer, je tiens à souligner que nous nous trouvons à un grand tournant historique en ce qui concerne les affaires océaniques internationales. Le vieux droit de la mer, créé dans le passé par les puissances maritimes traditionnelles, est en train de disparaître. Un nouveau régime pour les océans, créé par tous les Etats et traduisant les nouveaux besoins de la communauté internationale, est en train de s'affirmer. Fruit de longues négociations encore en cours -et dont l'objectif est d'arriver à une convention par consensus et d'une pratique- d'ailleurs fortement influencées par les principes et les dispositions élaborées dans le cadre de la Troisième Conférence- le nouveau régime porte en soi les aspirations des pays du tiers monde et les objectifs d'un nouvel ordre économique international. Il reconnaît également que la nature des problèmes et leur complexité exigent un effort accru de coopération internationale. Ceci demande un rôle de plus en plus actif des organisations internationales appropriées, en particulier de celles faisant partie du système des Nations Unies, reconnu d'ailleurs dans beaucoup de dispositions du texte unique informel de négociation.

S'il existe encore des questions très controversées et sur lesquelles la Troisième Conférence est loin d'être d'accord., il y en a d'autres sur lesquelles les positions sont très proches et le consensus semble possible. Ceci s'applique en particulier aux dispositions concernant l'utilisation et la conservation des ressources vivantes du milieu marin, ainsi qu'aux principes régissant les nouveaux espaces de juridiction nationale généralement décrits comme zones économiques exclusives.

Tel que signalé dans le document C 77/21 et au cours des débats qui ont eu lieu sur cette matière pendant la dernière session du Comité des pêches de la FAO, l'établissement par un nombre croissant d'Etats, de zones élargies de juridiction, a donné origine à des situations et des problèmes qui auront besoin d'être réglés dans les années à venir. Ainsi, l'une des premières conséquences, très importantes et positives, est liée aux opportunités nouvelles qui s'offrent aux Etats côtiers de promouvoir et d'accélérer l'utilisation des ressources situées dans leur zone économique ou espaces maritimes équivalents, à des fins de développement économique et social. Ceci exige un grand effort national et, en même temps, un effort accru d'assistance technique et de coopération internationale, de financement, d'aide mutuelle et de collaboration, pour mobiliser les moyens indispensables aux activités de recherche, de création d'infrastructures, de flottes, de personnel, -etc.

Une autre conséquence dont il faut tenir compte, c'est l'effet résultant de l'établissement des zones économiques exclusives, pour les activités de pêches lointaines effectuées pour des pays engagés dans ces activités. Ici, les implications plus immédiates, résultent des restrictions d'accès et exigent des mesures destinées à faciliter des réajustements dans des opérations de pêche et à atténuer les conséquences économiques et sociales.

Finalement, dans cette phase de transition du vieux droit de la mer vers le nouveau régime pour les océans, il est indispensable de prendre des mesures qui puissent atténuer d'éventuelles crises de production, de façon à ne pas réduire le contingent d'aliments d'origine marine dans sa totalité et, d'autre part, à ne pas affecter négativement le commerce mondial des produits de la pêche.

Ces trois implications majeures -et il y en a d'autres- du nouveau régime que je viens de signaler, sont celles qui, de l'avis de ma délégation, méritent une attention spéciale de la part de la FAO en tant qu'agence spécialisée des Nations Unies ayant compétence dans le domaine de l'utilisation et de la protection des ressources marines et des aspects associés de transfert de technologies.

Ceci va exiger de l'Organisation un rôle particulièrement actif dans les années à venir et la création d'une capacité de réponse proportionnelle à l'importance de la tâche.

Ceci va exiger, également, un effort de la part des Etats intéressés, soit en ce qui concerne la définition de leurs politiques de pêche, de leurs plans de développement et des priorités, de leur disponibilité à coopérer avec d'autres Etats voisins, dans la même région ou subrégion et, également, à l'échelle globale, selon le cas et les circonstances.

Je dois dire que, malgré la complexité de la tâche et les moyens qu'il faudra mobiliser, nous abordons cette problématique et ce débat avec la conviction que nous réussirons.

Tout d'abord, il est très encourageant de constater que le Directeur général, par les mesures qu'il a prises et par l'orientation qu'il a donnée à la FAO en vue de la préparer aux nouvelles tâches qu'elle aura à remplir dans les domaines de sa compétence, dans l'esprit d'un nouvel ordre économique international; politique dont l'origine est la volonté des Etats Membres, collectivement approuvée par le Conseil et en voie de ratification par cette Conférence.

Nous sommes également encouragés par la capacité démontrée par le Département des pêches (sous l'orientation de M. Watzinger, dont le sens pratique et la connaissance des problèmes des pays en voie de développement sont à souligner) à mettre en oeuvre la politique du Directeur général.

Non seulement le Département des pêches a su traduire dans la pratique l'orientation du Directeur général mais, en le faisant, il a su incorporer les aspects spécifiques au secteur des pêches, résultant de la diversité des situations nationales et régionales. Ceci démontre, également, la valeur du Comité des pêches et des organismes régionaux des pêches, comme mécanisme, non seulement de concertation d'efforts entre les Etats, mais également comme mécanisme générateur d'orientations spécifiques pour le Département des pêches de la FAO,

Le Programme de travail pour 1978-79 et la stratégie y proposée pour les objectifs à moyen terme, constituent un solide point de départ pour les actions nécessaires en vue de faciliter aux pays et à la communauté internationale, l'application du nouveau régime pour les océans en ce qui concerne l'utilisation et la protection des ressources marines.

Il est certain qu'il faudra encore raffiner la formulation des priorités et continuer le réajustement des moyens et du personnel en accord avec ces priorités. Il faudra continuer à appliquer les critères définis par le Directeur général en vue de réduire la bureaucratie, les activités marginales et sans impact immédiat pour le développement économique et social. Il faut intégrer dans un seul programme, au service des Etats Membres - en particulier pour les pays en voie de développement et ceux qui sont confrontés aux difficultés résultant de l'application du nouveau régime pour les océans - les composantes du Programme régulier et du Programme sur le terrain.

En ce qui concerne celui-ci, fondamentalement financé par le PNUD et par d'autres sources internationales ou bilatérales, il y a également un effort à demander à chaque Etat pour que, dans cette période de transition du vieux droit de la mer au nouveau régime, une priorité soit accordée dans le plan de développement national au secteur de la pêche.

Pour conclure, et en m'excusant d'avoir peut-être été plus long que je le désirais dans mon intervention, ma délégation proposerait comme sujets à développer dans le cadre de nos débats et, selon les cas, des organes appropriés de la FAO, les points suivants!

Le Département des pêches, tel que cela a été signalé dans l'introduction par le Secrétariat, doit poursuivre les consultations en cours et les contacts avec les pays membres en vue de préparer et de soumettre à la prochaine réunion du Comité des pêches, les bases d'un programme spécial d'action appuyé sur l'utilisation coordonnée et élargie des sources traditionnelles de financement international et bilatéral et, éventuellement, des contributions volontaires. Ce programme doit contribuer à la mobilisation d'autres fonds et moyens indispensables pour que les Etats côtiers en voie de développement et ceux qui sont confrontés aux difficultés conjoncturelles dans le domaine de la pêche, puissent utiliser les opportunités de développement économique et social résultant de la création des zones élargies de juridiction nationale. Ce programme, dont le besoin a été identifié à la dernière réunion du Comité des pêches, devra contribuer à accélérer le transfert de technologies indispensables au renforcement de la capacité de chaque pays dans le domaine de la recherche, de l'utilisation et de la gestion rationnelle des ressources marines. Il doit également contribuer à faciliter la participation de ces pays sur un pied d'égalité- et non de dépendance- dans les activités de coopération sous-régionales, régionales ou globales, selon les cas, en tenant compte des objectifs que je viens de signaler.

Sans entrer dans les détails, il est indispensable que, pour la mise en oeuvre de ce programme spécial, on puisse encourager également des efforts d'investissement accrus dans le secteur des pêches. Les chiffres dont nous disposons montrent qu'en réalité ce secteur ne reçoit pas la contribution qu'il mérite en fonction de son potentiel comme source d'aliments et de protéines, d'emploi et de devises extérieures.

Nous pensons également que la FAO, ayant en vue la future mise en oeuvre du programme spécial que nous venons de signaler, doit prendre des mesures destinées à aider, dès maintenant, les Etats Membres, s'ils le sollicitent et je souligne ce point, s'ils le sollicitent à formuler le diagnostic de la situation de leurs pêcheries et à formuler des orientations en vue de leur développement.

Cette action du Département des pêches pourrait prendre la forme de missions cela a été signalé par le Secrétariat dans ces pays ou par d'autres moyens jugés appropriés. Ceci exige, évidemment, un renforcement des moyens dont dispose la FAO, peut-être, comme je l'ai déjà dit, par l'intermédiaire de contributions volontaires. Je tiens à souligner ici que l'expérience acquise par la FAO avec le Programme de coopération technique, nous semble indiquer une ligne d'action très positive et fonctionnelle. Il faut, évidemment, encourager la mobilisation de contributions volontaires extra-budgétaires. Le Secrétariat doit donc être en mesure d'avoir accès aux moyens nécessaires pour appuyer les gouvernements à développer leurs politiques.

Dans ce contexte, nous voulons signaler qu'il revient aux gouvernements des pays côtiers de prendre également les mesures internes qu'ils considèrent nécessaires en vue de créer des conditions favorables au succès des actions d'appui à prendre dans le cadre du programme spécial ou des missions de coopération destinées à faciliter le diagnostic des problèmes et à faciliter l'élaboration des plans d'action. Il serait inutile de faire un effort substantiel de coopération internationale et d'aide mutuelle, s'il n'existait pas parallèlement un effort national correspondant. Il est indispensable de développer sur place les conditions qui rendront cet effort viable et productif.

L'élaboration, par le Département des pêches, des profils des pays qui complèteraient ceux qui existent déjà sur les activités économiques concernant les renseignements fournis par les pays eux-mêmes sur leurs structures et leurs plans de développement, pourrait se révéler utile dans ce contexte.

Outre les questions de priorité dans le programme de travail de la FAO, il y a des mesures à prendre également en ce qui concerne les structures et les mécanismes de façon à les adapter aux nouvelles fonctions. Ici la FAO a un rôle particulier à jouer pour la défense des intérêts de la pêche dans le cadre global des affaires océaniques internationales. Une coordination plus efficace entre les diverses agences spécialisées, en appui de la pêche et sous la leadership de la FAO, correspondrait aux besoins de la communauté internationale, en cette période de transition vers un nouveau régime pour les océans.

Nous voudrions encourager les gouvernements et notre Gouvernement est en train de se préparer à cet effet à préparer des propositions à présenter à la prochaine réunion du Comité des pêches en vue de déterminer quelle devrait être l'évolution du Comité lui-même, ainsi que des organismes régionaux associés à la FAO, afin de les adapter aux tâches nouvelles qui seront demandées à l'organisation.

Nous pensons que la FAO a une double fonction à jouer dans ce contexte: d'une part comme forum de concertation entre les Etats traitant de problèmes d'intérêt commun, d'autre part, comme moteur des changements déterminés par la volonté des gouvernants et dans l'esprit de coopération internationale qui caractérise la Troisième conférence des Nations Unies sur le droit de la mer, en vue de faciliter l'application du nouveau régime pour les océans, en permettant de nouvelles opportunités qui s'offrent au développement de s'affirmer, et en même temps d'atténuer certaines de ces conséquences négatives de caractère conjoncturel et plus profond.

Finalement, ma Délégation pense que les Commissions régionales de pêches et les projets du PNUD à caractère régional, ainsi que d'autres formes de coopération bénéficieront d'une plus étroite association aux activités des officines régionales tel qu'il a été proposé dans le cadre général de la décentralisation des activités de l'organisation. Mais, en le faisant, nous voulons signaler qu'il sera très important de s'assurer que la qualité technique ne soit pas affectée. Si d'une part, il est souhaitable d'assurer une coopération très étroite entre les mécanismes régionaux de la FAO et les bureaux régionaux, il faut d'autre part, tenir compte du fait que l'efficacité de ces mécanismes dépend de la capacité dont dispose la FAO dans son ensemble; celle-ci est limitée et, par conséquent, le processus de décentralisation doit être mis en oeuvre en tenant compte de ces réalités.

Les organismes régionaux ont une vocation particulière à fournir un cadre pour la coopération entre les pays en voie de développement, à encourager et à faciliter la collaboration entre ceux-ci et, d'autres pays, autour des projets d'intérêt commun, qu'il s'agisse de transferts de technologie, des activités de recherche ou autres.

Pour conclure, nous pensons qu'il est temps de passer des paroles aux actes et de mettre en oeuvre des actions pratiques; mais ceci ne veut pas dire des actions primitives. L'action du Département des pêches doit avant tout contribuer à renforcer l'autosuffisance ("self-reliance") de chaque pays et à permettre sa coopération au niveau approprié avec d'autres pays.

Nous sommes confiants quant aux résultats de ce débat et pensons qu'ils aideront la FAO et son Département, c'est-à-dire qu'ils nous aideront nous-mêmes, à trouver le juste chemin dans ce secteur très important de l'action de la FAO.

T.J. Kelly, Vice-Chairman of Commission I, took the Chair

T. J. Kelly, Vice-Président de la Commission I, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia T.J. Kelly, Vicepresidente de la Comisión I

R. HART (Canada) :The Programme of Work and Budget made important references to new developments in the regime of the sea, particularly as these related to the developing countries.It emphasized the need to ensure that the poorer segments of society benefit from the new regime and it stated that FAO would help them to become self-sufficient and self-reliant.

The report of the 33rd Session of the Programme Committee of the Council clearly recognized that a new regime of the sea had emerged and that this had to be taken into account in planning FAO's official programme.

I now turn to the document C 77/21.It is an excellent document and Canada is generally well pleased with its contents.The Assistant Director-General is to be congratulated on the preparation of the document which clearly reflects his efforts to put into practice the policies outlined by the Director-General.There are a number of interesting points in this document and I would cite four of these.

The document indicates that the Department of Fisheries is hoping to play an increased role in promoting international cooperation and accelerating the transfer of technology in connection with the implementation of the Law of the Sea.It also notes that already 53 coastal states have declared a 200 mile zone and what is even more important is the fact that the 200 mile zone covers 35 percent of the oceans and contains 90 percent of the living resources in that 200 mile zone, and it also emphasizes the fact that regional organizations will have an increasingly important role.

With respect to the developing countries, the document points out that coastal states will have to assume increased responsibilities which include the obligation to determine the total allowable catch, conservation measures, establishing the objectives of management, the promotion of the optimum use of living resources, the need to determine their capacity to harvest the resource, the obligation to give other states the resources which they cannot catch, the collection and analysis of data, the working-out of effective management measures, the formulation of national policies regarding foreign participation in coastal fisheries and the establishing of joint ventures.

This is a major chance for the poorest countries, many of which have neither the personnel, the institutions or the money to undertake these responsibilities which have been placed on them by the international community.

The report also points out that the distant water fleets fishing in these coastal areas of the developing countries caught 5 million tons in recent years each year.Five million tons does not sound very much when it is said quickly, but this represents 10 billion pounds of fish or 20 pounds of fish per year per 50 million people, or 50 tons of fish per year per 20 million people.If the developing countries are to fully benefit from the resources now available to them, they will need boats, harbours, technology and institutions.It is noted that FAO will help countries to formulate development plans and make studies which will give an evaluation of the resources, and thus enable them to have a basis for setting the objectives for development programmes.

The developing countries, in any terms, are facing a gigantic task over the next 10 years if they are to obtain the optimum benefit from their jurisdictional zones.What is needed initially is the development and transfer of what we might term soft technology which can be absorbed and applied by the smallest and poorest of the developing coastal countries, to ensure that the jurisdictional rights and privileges which are or will be theirs can be protected in their own interest.Such technology is not readily available, but it is neither difficult nor costly to create and transfer.Canada has already given a very clear indication of its appreciation of the problem facing the developing countries, by placing funds in trust in the hands of FAO for the purpose of assisting developing countries to develop an indigenous capability to develop and manage their own fishery.Canada has already committed some of its best fishery experts to assist developing countries in this task for varying periods of time. During the present fiscal year Canadian experts on the Law of the Sea and on problems relating to its implementation, will meet with over 100 specialists and administrators from 26 developing countries to assist them in coming to grips with the legal, institutional and management problems facing their respective countries.

Canada has also indicated its strong support for the development of regional organizations by making substantial contributions to such regional bodies in their task.Canada hopes that FAO will take appropriate action to place the regional bodies in a position to plan and execute their own fisheries development programmes.It is recognized that the Department of Fisheries of FAO will be called upon to undertake a major task of obtaining assistance from the countries, aid agencies, UNDP, IFAD and other international agencies in order to carry out its task in relation to the new regime of the sea. Canada was particularly glad to note that the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee of IFAD made specific reference to the inclusion of fisheries in the range of projects qualifying for IFAD financing to enable developing countries to take advantage of the opportunities available to them.

We are talking of the Department of Fisheries taking the leading role in one of the first major steps forward in pursuit of a new international order affecting both the developed and the developing countries and designed to protect the fish resources of the world for future generations. The Law of the Sea debate has been going on for eight years, and now, with unilateral declarations of a 200 mile zone by 53 countries, the Department of Fisheries of FAO will be assuming new and important responsibilities.

This intervention by my delegation is directed to what is in our opinion a very important point, which I now wish to make. The next meeting of COFI will be called upon to give serious consideration to the implications of the new regime of the seas, and my delegation requests that the Department of Fisheries be asked to prepare proposals for a medium-term programme to meet the challenge. The establishing of a six-year programme which would set out achievable and measurable objectives to meet target dates would enable all donor countries, all international funding agencies, all countries engaged in TCDC activities, all non-governmental agencies and all United Nations agencies to see the nature and extent of the problem and thus be in a position to make an effective contribution to such a programme. Such an approach would also make it possible to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the programme. Furthermore, when such a programme has been developed and defined to the satisfaction of major funding agencies, individual developing countries or regional organizations will be assisted when requesting aid from these agencies to help meet their needs and discharge their obligations as they perceive them. Because this programme will be unlike any other programme under taken by FAO or the major funding agencies it should be approached in a bold, innovative and creative manner.

My delegation therefore requests: (a) that the Department of Fisheries of FAO be asked to prepare a six-year plan which will set out the specific medium-term objectives of FAO's role in the implementation of the new regime of the sea; (b) that the plan include information on priorities, timing of programmes and resource allocations; (c) that such a plan be in the hands of member countries of COFI six weeks in advance of the next COFI meeting, scheduled for June of 1978; and (d) that COFI be asked to consider the plan at its next meeting in June of 1978.

O. LUCO ECHEVERRIA (Chile): Mi delegación ha estudiado detenidamente el documento relativo a los temas pesqueros que analizará esta Conferencia, y ha seguido con vivo interés la presentación que de este tema ha hecho la Secretaría de esta Comisión. Ella ha sido altamente esclarecedora y estamos seguros que constituirá una valiosa guía para nuestras deliberaciones. Asimismo, estimamos que el documento en cuestión, el C 77/21 constituye un excelente trabajo del Departamento de Pesca de la FAO en el que se analizan aspectos fundamentales de la actividad pesquera mundial y que son importantes para los propósitos de asegurar un crecimiento de la alimentación, y de un evidente interés para los países en vías de desarrollo.

Por ello, desearía en primer término hacer llegar al Departamento de Pesca de FAO y a la Secretaría de esta Comisión, la felicitación de mi delegación por la labor que han desarrollado en esta materia.

Me referiré a continuación a algunos de los aspectos fundamentales que contiene el documento que estamos analizando. Mi delegación desea expresar su satisfacción por la favorable acogida que ha encontrado en cuanto a la iniciativa propuesta por Chile, durante el 11° período de sesiones del Comité de Pesca, en orden a considerar como una función prioritaria de la Organización, la cooperación técnica y científica hacia los países en desarrollo para el cabal aprovechamiento de sus recursos pesqueros en sus zonas económicas exclusivas de 200 millas.

Al respecto, deseo expresar que coincido plenamente con el reconocimiento que hace el documento de FAO al hecho histórico de la ampliación de la zona jurisdiccional de pesca de los Estados ribereños, que constituye la costumbre internacional. Como se sabe, Chile junto con Perú y Ecuador fue el primer país que introdujo esta modalidad jurídica al ampliar, hace ya treinta años, sus aguas jurisdiccionales a una extensión de 200 millas, y nos complace pues que esta tesis, sustentada en un comienzo por sólo tres países, sea hoy día aceptada casi universalmente como una tesis legítima y justa.

Mi país, señor Presidente, tuvo que desarrollar sus actividades pesqueras sobre la base de enormes sacrificios con un gran gasto de recursos humanos y materiales, y haciendo frente a graves problemas derivados de la insuficiencia técnica, científica y financiera propia de los países en vías de desarrollo. Por ello, apreciamos en toda su magnitud y valor la labor que pueda desarrollar FAO en favor de los países costeros en desarrollo, que en un futuro próximo deban impulsar sus actividades pesqueras para lograr un aprovechamiento óptimo de los recursos que le brindan sus zonas jurisdiccionales ampliadas.

Por otra parte, consideramos que la labor que pueda desempeñar FAO en este campo, responde a un criterio realista y práctico cuyos beneficios podrán apreciarse en plazos relativamente cortos. Esta política de la Organización permitirá a los países beneficiarios conocer en términos tangibles cuáles son sus propios recursos y potenciales pesqueros y cuáles son sus posibilidades y limitaciones para su aprovechamiento y obtener la tecnología y financiamiento adecuado para su explotación.

Ello permitirá que recursos de FAO y otros Organismos Internacionales que se vierten en cantidades desproporcionadas hacia programas globales y de largo plazo cuya justificación no parece clara en la actualidad o cuyos beneficios son inciertos, pasen a los países en vías de desarrollo. Ahora bien, estima mi delegación que en estas acciones, si queremos que ello sea eficaz y práctico, FAO deberá actuar atendiendo a los requerimientos específicos que le formulen los países receptores de la cooperación; especialmente en lo relativo a la forma que debe revestir la asistencia y a los campos específicos hacia los cuales debe ir dirigida.

Lo anterior no es sino el reconocimiento de los derechos soberanos que tiene el país sobre sus propios recursos y que estimamos debiera quedar reflejado en los acuerdos de esta Comisión. A este respecto, es evidente que Chile, país en desarrollo, está consciente de la responsabilidad que emana del ejercicio de sus derechos soberanos hacia la Comunidad Internacional, y en consecuencia, está dispuesta a aceptar aquellas obligaciones y responsabilidades que asuma libremente en el Nuevo Orden Jurídico relativo al mar y a los recursos oceánicos, actualmente en negociación en la Conferencia del Mar.

De ahí que a juicio de mi delegación, la acción de la FAO en su cooperación hacia los países costeros, deberá necesariamente estar condicionada a los acuerdos a que llegue la citada Conferencia en materia de derechos y de obligaciones de los Estados ribereños.

Con todo existen diversos elementos en el documento que estamos analizando que son orientadores y válidos para la cooperación que pueda prestar FAO. Me refiero concretamente a aquellos asuntos en que la competencia técnica y científica de la Organización puede entrar a suplir las deficiencias existentes de los países receptores de la cooperación. Es evidente que FAO tiene mucho que aportar en materias tales como la investigación pesquera, el análisis de datos, la evaluación y vigilancia de las poblaciones, los métodos de captura y producción, la disminución de pérdidas después de las capturas, las mejoras en las tecnologías pesqueras, el estudio de inversiones para el desarrollo de los recursos pesqueros y, en otro orden de cosas, en la asistencia para el mejoramiento de la infraestructura administrativa y jurídica de los países o en la cooperación para la celebración de acuerdos bilaterales o de formación de empresas mixtas que los países deseen libremente negociar con terceros países para el mejor aprovechamiento y adecuado ordenamiento de sus recursos.

Creemos también que es interesante la sugerencia que formula el documento en orden a cooperar con los países en desarrollo para la producción y mercadeo de los productos del mar. En este campo, Chile ha tenido una ayuda inestimable por parte de la FAO a través de un programa de control de calidad que ha sido altamente beneficioso para el país, y que en esta oportunidad aprovechamos para agradecerlo.

En todos estos sectores, así como en otros a que alude el documento, creemos que FAO tiene una capacidad técnica y científica reconocida que debe volver hacia los países en desarrollo cuando esto se lo soliciten expresamente.

En síntesis consideramos que la función de FAO para el fortalecimiento de la capacidad pesquera de los países en vías de desarrollo que han ampliado sus zonas económicas exclusivas, debe ser una acción prioritaria de la Organización y particularmente de su Departamento de Pesca. Esa acción debe efectuarse en estrecha coordinación con los países receptores de la ayuda y debe permitir un efectivo ejercicio de sus derechos soberanos sobre la explotación, conservación y administración de sus recursos pesqueros en concordancia con lo que se resuelva en la Conferencia del Mar sobre los derechos y obligaciones de los Estados ribereños.

Con esto señor Presidente, termina mi primera intervención y mi delegación se reserva el derecho a volver a intervenir si las circunstancias del debate así lo aconsejaran.

E.OSSINGA (Gabon): Ma délégation désire féliciter le Secrétariat pour le document C 77/21 qui porte sur "l'Evolution du régime des mers et incidences sur les pêches". Ce document nous donne des éléments précieux d'informations générales, notamment sur l'avancement des travaux, sur le droit de la mer, où il est fait état d'un texte de négociations, composite et officieux, selon les termes traitant des propositions sur le nouveau régime halieutique, en même temps qu'il esquisse une approche du problème des pêches sur le terrain, au regard du nouveau droit de la mer.

Qu'il s'agisse d'orientations dans le domaine agricole, ou dans d'autres domaines, plusieurs délégations ont fait part de leur intérêt pour une approche par études de cas concrète et pratique des problèmes sur le terrain, par la FAO. Nous partageons cet avis.

Aussi voudrions-nous nous arrêter principalement sur le point traitant du potentiel halieutique dans les pays en voie de développement. Nul doute que l'extension de juridictions nationales des pêches soumettra les états côtiers à de lourdes charges en matière d'aménagement halieutique et de mise en place de vastes infrastructures liées à la pêche. Ceci aboutira fatalement à un réexamen des politiques nationales des pêches. La pêche, secteur économique encore marginal dans certains pays côtiers rejoindra alors le rang de toute première priorité qu'elle mérite. Le réexamen des politiques de pêche dans les pays côtiers en développement nécessitera un effort sans précédent de recherches par les équipes pluri disciplinaires: recherches dans la connaissance des stocks et dans la dynamique des populations, recherches en ce qui concerne les ports de pêche, les techniques de pêche, l'étude du problème des embarcations, recherches en ce qui concerne la fiabilité des investissements dans les pêches, recherches enfin en ce qui concerne les fonds pour le développement des pêches.

Il est inutile d'insister sur ce problème des fonds. Mon pays appuie d'une façon générale, les efforts de la FAO dans ce domaine et souhaite une adaptation adéquate et rapide de la structure régionale de la FAO, pour le secteur de la pêche qui nous intéresse, dans le cadre de ces nouvelles données.

Dans cette conjoncture, seul un effort intensif pourra sensibiliser les responsables des politiques de la pêche des pays côtiers en vue de provoquer une prise de décision pouvant débloquer le secteur économique des pêches en zone côtière. Il est indispensable de multiplier les contacts des techniciens et des responsables des pêches des pays côtiers avec les experts de la FAO. Il est également indispensable d'associer davantage les structures de recherche et les experts disponibles dans les pays côtiers en vue de la réalisation des projets relatifs à la pêche, sur le terrain et de contribuer éventuellement à l'évolution de ces mêmes structures de recherche.

Il est également nécessaire de multiplier les séminaires et les commissions d'étude et de travail dans le domaine des pêches au niveau de la région.

Voilà quelques indications que nous avons voulu apporter à ce niveau des débats.

J.L. MESEGUER SANCHEZ (España): Dado el número de oradores inscritos en la lista pretendo ser muy breve puesto que el contenido del documento C 77/21 es suficientemente explicativo de su importancia y del reflejo de la situación de los trabajos actuales de la Conferencia del Derecho del Mar y las consecuencias que se van a derivar en un futuro próximo para la pesca con motivo de este cambio de régimen de la libertad de pesca en alta mar a la situación al nuevo régimen jurídico de las zonas económicas.

Sí quiere señalar mi delegación que está plenamente de acuerdo con uno de los aspectos que se derivan de este texto y es la trascendencia y la importancia de la cooperación internacional, cooperación internacional que no solamente tiene que reflejarse en un aspecto científico, y técnico, sino también de carácter económico. Esta cooperación, no cabe duda que estamos en una Conferencia de carácter mundial, esta cooperación tiene que ser a escala mundial, bien por vía bilateral o, a través de convenios entre los Estados interesados, mediante constitución de empresas pesqueras conjuntas, etc., y, sobre todo, a un nivel multilateral.

En la Tercera Conferencia sobre el Derecho del Mar, se ha venido diciendo que el nuevo régimen de las zonas económicas, podría suponer la muerte irremediable para las Organizaciones Internacionales. Opina mi delegación que es al contrario ya que el nuevo régimen de zonas económicas habrá y deberá potenciar el sistema de organismos regionales y subregionales si queremos llegar precisamente a cooperar y a establecer un desarrollo en aquellos Estados ribereños que hasta ahora no han tenido la posibilidad de pesca en zonas reducidas de sus aguas. Para llegar a esta cooperación multilateral, un aspecto que no se refleja con la suficiente claridad en el documento, pero sin duda, y en esto estoy cierto que no se refleja porque ha sido el Departamento de Pesca quien lo ha efectuado, lo que se necesita es potenciar precisamente al Departamento de Pesca de la FAO para que pueda llevar y favorecer por la petición de cada Estado Miembro que le interese este desarrollo y esta cooperación.

El Departamento de Pesca nos ha venido demostrando a lo largo de todo este tiempo cómo ha ido creciendo su interés y posibilidades para llegar a un completo desarrollo en la cooperación pesquera internacional. En estos momentos vemos que en esta Conferencia Mundial de Alimentos organizada por la FAO, es solamente un tema de pesca el que se está tratando a lo largo de todas sus sesiones. La pesca, señor Presidente, constituye con la Agricultura las fuentes del presente y futuro abastecimiento de la humanidad.

Por ultimo, y aunque el Sr. Carroz ha dicho que no se iba a tratar de una Conferencia sobre el Derecho del Mar, sí estima mi delegación conveniente que esta Conferencia marque las directrices a la FAO para sus intervenciones en la tercera Conferencia sobre el Derecho del Mar. De forma que el nuevo régimen que se está estableciendo para los Océanos, por lo menos en relación con los recursos vivos, esté eminentemente coordinado con las posibilidades científicas y con las necesidades de alimentación de la población mundial.

S.M.L. MARIKAR (Sri Lanka): I am not capable of speaking at length like most of those who preceded me but unfortunately my Government has given me a little statement which I shall have to read out later.

Apart from the fact that Sri Lanka chairs the Law of the Sea Conference, we are also interested in the subject because of the non-protein intake of most of our people, and also because Sri Lanka is among the most seriously affected countries with balance of payments problems, and here is an area with vast potential for us.

Sri Lanka established an exclusive economic zone of 200 miles at the beginning of 1977. It appreciates the attendant responsibility for exploitation and management of fish resources in the zone and is anxious to utilize the opportunities offered by this action for improving its economy by the development of its marine fisheries. Only the in-shore and near off-shore ranges of the zone are being exploited at present. A knowledge of the fish resources and determination of the most suitable capturing methods are prerequisites for the exploitation of the outer ranges of the zone.

I will repeat a request made by the Minister of Agriculture and Lands of Sri Lanka when he spoke in the Plenary. He stated that we wish to have the assistance of FAO for conducting a comprehensive resources survey of the zone with a suitably equipped survey vessel. We understand that FAO is now providing this type of assistance to other countries.

We recognize the need to collaborate with developed countries for the best utilization of the resources of the zone in the interim period until our own fishing capability is sufficiently developed. We welcome advice from FAO to assist us in determining the strategies appropriate for this purpose. We are aware of the problem of common stocks in the Central Indian Ocean extending across the boundaries of the exclusive economic zones of Sri Lanka and those of its immediate neighbours. We believe that it is essential to discuss ways and means of rational exploitation of such common stocks and to establish an effective mechanism for management.

We strongly support an initiative by FAO in this regard, such as by bringing together a sub-regional group or committee, or other similar arrangements as may be appropriate.

We appreciate the role played in FAO in providing assistance to the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council, which is one of FAO's oldest intergovernmental regional bodies. Measures are being taken by Member Governments to transform the IPFC into an action-oriented body. We request that these measures be supported by entrusting full responsibility for its administration to a secretary posted at the regional office in Bangkok and by granting a specific allocation for this work in the FAO budget.

There is one more point which we consider very important and that is the question of the survey and utilization of unconventional resources. We note in paragraph 28 of this very excellent brief document, C 77/21, that considering the amount of research that must be undertaken, the level of the technology which will have to be employed and the magnitude of investment, it is probable that development will have to be initiated by developed countries, especially those with experience in long-range fishing. We agree wholeheartedly with the last sentence of paragraph 28, however, that steps will be taken to ensure the participation of developing countries from an early stage in this question of the utilization of unconventional resources. Sri Lanka has made this request in other fora as well.

B.F. DADA (Nigeria): The Nigerian delegation would like to express its appreciation to the FAO Secretariat and the Assistant Director-General for Fisheries for bringing into focus the topical issues contained in this valuable document, namely the recent developments in the régime of the sea and their implications for fisheries and the potential contribution of unconventional resources towards food supplies.

At this stage my contribution will be concentrated on the former, and my delegation will reserve its right to comment on the second issue at a later stage should we find it necessary.

The new developments in the regime of the sea, and especially the extension of national jurisdiction over fisheries, are most welcome. As we are all aware, one of the peculiar features of fisheries that has made it a difficult economic subject compared to the other sectors of agriculture has been the "international property nature" of the resource. With the new developments the stage is now set for changing the pattern from that of international free-for-all fishing to that in which a coastal state is able to exercise a more rational control over its marine fishery resources. This situation has been described by the document before us as offering increased opportunities to coastal states for fisheries development while at the same time placing increased responsibilities on them.

It is the view of my delegation that FAO has a great role to play in the new fisheries situation. This role should not be confined to its traditional activities of fishery research studies, analysis of data, stock assessment and monetary resources alone, but should be extended to cover concrete measures aimed at the development of these resources, for it is no longer sufficient merely to inform the developing countries what the fisheries potentials of their coasts are without assisting them to participate effectively in the exploitation of these resources.

The situation where about 66 percent of the fish production from the developing coastal states of a particular region are taken by foreign distant water fleets cannot be allowed to continue indefinitely. In line with the new FAO re-orientation policy approved by the Council, the Fisheries Department of FAO should now place greater emphasis on assisting the developing countries to derive maximum benefits from the resources of their coasts. The new policy objective should enable the developing countries to catch a greater proportion of fish by themselves. The development assistance required should cover increased fish production, improved fish preservation and processing techniques, as well as better fish marketing and distribution systems.

In that connection, my delegation would like to offer the following suggestions towards achieving the above goals. First, FAO should promote the quick transfer of technology in the fisheries sector through training at all levels. Most of the fishermen in the developing countries, including mine, are small-scale fishermen; they need to be trained in the use of modern fishing boats and gear, amongst other things, so that they can also benefit from the increased national jurisdiction over fishery resources.

Secondly, FAO should assist in attracting greater investments into the fishing industries of developing coastal states. Because the sea-fishing industry is intensive and carries much risk, it is difficult for these countries to provide the required financial resources by themselves, and through joint fishing ventures, the World Bank and other financial institutions, including the new IFAD, reasonable capital can be attracted to develop the local fishing industry in developed countries.

Thirdly, FAO should assist developing countries to develop an effective system of surveillance over their fishery resources. I notice that the document we are considering appears to be silent on this aspect which, in our opinion, is one of the increased responsibilities thrust upon the coastal states by the new development. Many of these countries will require an effective patrol system to prevent large-scale illegal fishing, which in the long run would jeopardize rational development of management and conservation of the fishery resources of the coastal states.

Finally, my delegation sees in the new developments of the ocean regime a unique opportunity for FAO to contribute in a practical way to the establishment of the new international economic order. The increased fishery resources available to developing coastal states should be utilized in such a way as to provide increased food for their teeming populations, better employment opportunities for their citizens, and increased income to enhance the social and economic conditions of their rural communities. It is in this light that Nigeria would like FAO to reorganize the priority of the fisheries programme in relation to recent developments in the regime of the sea.

Z.DUDIEWICZ(Poland):During the Eleventh Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries which was held in Rome in April this year, the Polish delegation presented in detail its position on many questions which are referred to in item 9 on the Agenda of this Conference, concerning the situation in the world fisheries.

In the present difficult situation which has arisen in the world fisheries, particularly for land locked and shelf-locked countries, Poland will support all initiatives which are aimed at rationalizing the management of the marine living resources, both by the coastal states within their extended zones of fisheries jurisdiction, and internationally where such management methods appear essential.

We are well aware of the fact that proper management of marine living resources must be based on the results of intensive research activities which are scarce for some of the areas, and their conduct would require substantial manpower and financial input. For that reason, we are ready to continue the exchange of experience in this field as well as international cooperation which might concern survey of the living resources or experimental fishing, training of staff, making experts available for field work on missions, etc

We are also prepared to join the research efforts which, under international research programmes, are to be accomplished in the high sea and ocean waters. We particularly wish to support the activities of the Department of Fisheries in working out a programme for the development of EEZs as recommended by the last Session of COFI.

Many of those forms of the management of the living resources of the sea, which have been successfully applied within regional cooperation, we also consider worthy of further dissemination within the framework of FAO activities. This particularly refers to establishing and allocating total allowable catches for given areas and species of fish, measures of protection as well as proper fishing gear and catch technology.

We share the opinion of the FAO Department of Fisheries that in view of existing and increasing deficit of animal protein, and difficulties in increasing total catches in the world, the world fisheries should concentrate their efforts on intensive utilization of traditional fishing areas as well as on new conventional and unconventional resources primarily for human consumption purposes. This refers also to further development of catch technology and processing of unconventional fish species. Today, open sea fishing fleets have many difficulties in access to shelf waters, which certainly contribute to the deepening of the world's deficit of protein.

Another important problem, which all of us face today in the new regime of fisheries, concerns the rules and conditions of joint ventures. Such rules are practically established in bilateral agreements, but there is a common demand for basic standards and guidelines which might be applied on a wider international cooperation scale.

In presenting here our position and views on some matters which we consider vital, we are of the opinion that FAO activities, supported by the conclusion of this Conference, should concentrate in the future on the directives of the Eleventh Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries.

The meeting rose at 12.40 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 40

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.40 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C 77/I/PV/10

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Nineteenth Session
COMMISSION I

Dix-neuvième session
COMMISSION I

19° período de sesiones
COMISION II

TENTH MEETING
DIXIEME SÉANCE
DECIMA SESION

(24 November 1977)

The Tenth Meeting was opened at 15.30 hours
J.C. Vignaud, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La dixième seance est ouverte à 15 h 30, sous la présidence
de J.C. Vignaud, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la décima sesión a las 15.30 horas, bajo la presidencia
de J.C. Vignaud, Presidente de la Comisión I

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

PREMIERE PARTIE - PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET QUESTIONS DE POLITIQUE EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)

PARTE I - PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLÍTICAS DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)

7. Prevention of Food Losses (continued)
7. Prévention des pertes alimentaires (suite)
7. Prevención de pérdidas en alimentos (continuación)

EL PRESIDENTE: Quisiera comunicarles algo que se refiere al tema 7 de nuestra Agenda, o sea a la prevención de pérdidas de alimentos, que fue el primer tema que tratamos. Como ustedes recordarán dejamos abierta una parte de la discusión de ese tema, que es la que se refería a "la constitución del Fondo para financiar esas actividades" y, sobre todo, la integración de ese Fondo. Y dejamos abierta esa parte del debate a raíz de que en el Plenario se manifestaron algunas opiniones - en algunos casos no coincidentes y en otros controvertidas - que no permitían tomar en ese momento una decisión que pudiera ser unánimemente apoyada.

Desde ese momento hasta ahora se han estado celebrando contactos. Ustedes seguramente estarán informados de esos contactos, porque se ha trabajado activamente en el Grupo de los 77 y también se ha consultado a los países desarrollados. Luego de esas consultas, se ha llegado a una solución de transacción, que yo preferiría no detallar ahora, porque creo que es conveniente no abrir ningún debate en relación con esa solución de transacción, que ha sido lograda después de trabajosos contactos. Creo que lo mejor sería, si ustedes así lo acuerdan, que esa solución de transacción la pasemos directamente al Comité de Redacción y que sea el Comité de Redacción quien la ponga a consideración nuestra, una vez que el propio Comité la haya analizado y ajustado en sus aspectos formales.

De modo tal que, si no hay observaciones en relación con esta propuesta que formulo acerca del Fondo y la integración del Fondo para prevenir las pérdidas de alimentos, resuelvo, con el acuerdo de ustedes, que pase directamente al Comité de Redacción, para que el propio Comité nos presente en su oportunidad - que será el lunes seguramente - los términos de esa transacción.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

EL PRESIDENTE: Continuamos con el tratamiento del tema 9, que se refiere a la Evolución en el Régimen del Mar y Consecuencias para el Sector Pesquero.

9. Development in the Regime of the Sea and Their Implications for Fisheries (continued)
9. Evolution du régime des mers et incidences sur les pêches (suite)
9. Evolución del régimen del mar y consecuencias para la pesca (continuación)

R. TANABE (Japan): Mr. Chairman, it has been recognized recently that the total world fish catch is approaching the limit of production from conventional species. In order to increase fishery production, overriding this constraint, the following three steps should be taken: (i) effective management of fishery resources, (ii) better utilization of fish after capture, (iii) exploitation of unconventional species.

I will begin with the first point, effective management. For many years, global and regional fishery bodies, including FAO bodies, have played an important role in the field of management. International cooperation and collaboration, in particular the work of these bodies is likely to remain as large as ever, whatever the future ocean regime. It is particularly important where the same stock or stocks of fish occur within the economic zones of more than one coastal State.

The concept of management does not mean simply protection. Although the main purpose of management today is to prevent overexploitation, it is also the purpose of management to ensure full exploitation of fishery resources up to a level of maximum or optimum utilization when the resources are under-exploited. Where coastal States do not have the capacity to harvest the stock to that level, the access of other States to the surplus should be allowed through agreements or arrangements. This idea is seen in the provision of the Informal Composite Negotiating Text. In implementing this provision, a coastal State should not take such arrangements as prohibit in fact the access of other States, such as too high fees, obligation of unfeasible landing of fish caught and so on.

While maximum utilization is a scientific concept, the optimum utilization includes other factors as well and a very ambiguous concept. Therefore this is sometimes apt to be abused arbitrarily by the coastal States. Accordingly, my delegation strongly urges that the Law of the Sea Conference should define the concept of optimum utilization objectively. The experience of FAO must be useful to this end. Again, I would like to stress that in the era of the economic zone, the responsibility of the coastal State becomes greater, both in preventing Overexploitation and in ensuring full utilization of fishery resources.

Secondly, better utilisation of fish is partly related to the post-harvest losses of food. We, the Commission I, discussed this matter fully. Likewise, in the field of fishery, the prevention of losses is an important task, but since my delegation expressed its view already at the 11th Session of the Committee on Fisheries, I am not going further at this moment.

Thirdly, exploitation of unconventional species. Krill is the most promising species. Japan, like some other countries, is participating in the exploitation of krill, but it is still at an experimental stage. The world total catch of krill is estimated to be less than 50 000 tons. According to FAO, the potential harvest of krill is probably in the order of a hundred million tons. Therefore, the level of the present harvest is negligibly low and does not have an adverse affect either on krill resources or on the whale and other predators. However, at the 9th Consultative Meeting of the Antarctic Treaty, Interim Guidelines for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources were recommended and my Government is going to observe the guidelines in exploiting krill.

I appreciate and support the FAO activities for collecting of information, compiling the statistics, disseminating information, krill resources and catching and processing technology. UNDP could help FAO in continuing these activities.

A lot of difficult problems are involved in utilization of krill as a food, such as fishing in the severe oceanic and climatic technology, promotion of consumption and marketing. To solve these problems, more study, highly skillful fishing technology and greater investment are required. Therefore, it is difficult to have an outlook on the profitability and mass utilization of krill for food at this stage.

In the light of such a situation, it is wise and effective to confine the task of FAO to such activities as I mentioned before. FAO also should make close cooperation with other organizations such as SCAR etc.

As to mesopelagic fish and oceanic squid, Japan has sufficient fishing and processing technology with which y country can cooperate with the developing countries.

Finally, I would like to touch on the problem of strengthening the capability of the developing; countries. My country is fully aware of the importance of the role to be played by the developed countries in this field and is going to intensify our assistance to the developing coastal countries as far as possible in cooperation with relevant international organizations.

The role of FAO is important; however, FAO should be careful in assisting the developing countries relating to the joint venture and similar arrangements and, since the climates concerned in establishing the joint venture are different from one country to another, F AO's promotional activities should be confined to basic and general ones.

A. DEUSTUA (Peru): La delegación del Perú, aprecia en todo su valor la buena disposición, la califi cada buena disposición de FAO por colaborar en la solución de diversos problemas técnicos y científicos que atañen a los tipos de pesquerías internacionales, en particular a aquellas que se desarrollan en las aguas soberanas de los países en desarrollo.

La delegación de Peru expresa su beneplácito por esa buena voluntad de FAO, específicamente para el potenciamiento de la capacidad pesquera de los países en desarrollo y exhorta, aun cuando sea innece sario, a dicha Organización para intensificar esa cooperación especializada. Por eso, Sr. Presidente, fue especialmente satisfactorio para mi delegación, no solamente el recibo del documento que está su jeto a nuestra consideración, el documento C 77/21, sino además la introducción que del mismo hizo el Sr. Carroz esta mañana al comienzo de nuestros trabajos, que tipificó o perfiló algunos aspectos que aparentemente o con razón no estaban muy claros dentro del documento en examen.

Y por eso también, Sr. Presidente, la delegación del Perú se felicita de que usted, al inicio de los trabajos, condujo la separación muy concreta que deberíamos tener respecto a un tema tan delicado y que es para todos conocido, que no queda exclusivamente circunscrito a la capacidad y competencia de

nuestra Organización de FAO, sino que puede invadir voluntaria o involuntariamente otras áreas de jurisdicción donde el tema viene discutiéndose desde hace varios años, concretamente seis, a través de 12 certámenes mundiales, 6 preparatorios y 6 ordinarios, con las secuencias o conclusiones transitorias y difíciles que conocemos todos los que estamos aquí presentes.

Introduciéndome concretamente en el papel que nos interesa, el documento C 77/21, preocupa a la delegación peruana que en la descripción del Nuevo Régimen Pesquero que figura en el mencionado documento, no se haga una referencia concreta a lo dispuesto en el llamado Texto Integrado Oficioso de Negociación que ha sido preparado dentro de la Conferencia sobre el Derecho del Mar.

Respecto al derecho soberano, y subrayo la palabra soberano, que los países ribereños tienen en la zona de 200 millas para la exploración, la explotación, la conservación y la administración, entre otros, de los recursos pesqueros, eso tal vez puede haber llevado a que en la redacción del párrafo 11, específicamente se haga referencia en más de una oportunidad a mayores responsabilidades - y recientemente lo acaba de señalar un Sr. delegado de los estados costeros - y a las obligaciones consiguientes, sin precisar que antes que ello, tales actividades constituyen un derecho soberano de los estados mencionados.

En otros términos, hay un paralelismo entre derecho y obligación de esos estados ribereños. Esta circunstancia, que ha sido más o menos contenida en las palabras del Sr. Carroz, pero que no está específicamente mencionado dentro del documento C 77/21, serviría para clarificar que todo el proceso pesquero, desde el ordenamiento de la especie, las capturas permisibles de recursos vivos, la capacidad de explotación propia o por terceros países, etc... es resultado de la determinación soberana de tales estados ribereños, lo que no excluye, desde luego, la cooperación entre estados para una mejor administración y un ordenamiento adecuado especialmente en el área de las especies altamente migratorias.

Esta mañana, por ejemplo, tuve la satisfacción de escuchar las palabras del Sr. delegado de Canadá, que concuerdan con esta manera de pensar. País que ha hecho una declaración unilateral respecto a esa zona especial de 200 millas, y país que con buena voluntad y con sentido de colaborador] ha logrado hasta ahora suscripción significativa de algunos pactos bilaterales con países que acostumbran a, tradición a lmen te, enviar sus pesqueros a sus aguas dentro de esas 200 millas.

Cualquier criterio que mudiera determinarse dentro de FAO, y parece que no fuera así según las palabras del Sr. Carroz y el contenido del documento C 77/21, trabajaría en contra de la posición definitiva que los distintos países podrán concordar dentro de la Conferencia del Mar y se alejaría del acuerdo que se busca desde hace tanto tiempo y con tanta dificultad. Esta es una materia, Sr. Presidente, en la que yo me permito insistir a riesgo de ser majadero. La Conferencia del Mar ha tenido el devenir que todos nosotros conocemos. Sus labores muy difíciles han estado en un vaivén constante para tratar de coordinar intereses, no solamente diferentes, sino a veces contrapuestos o totalmente opuestos, y lentamente se va acercando, al parecer, a una solución concordante donde para la cual este documento no comprimisorio, que se llama Oficioso de posición de Negociación, sobre la cual se ha estructurado el documento que mencionamos y examinamos, constituye un punto de apoyo de gran valor.

Por lo dicho, Sr. Presidente, en nuestro criterio constituye un elemento fundamental el que las actividades de FAO, tan valiosas por cierto, antes de ahora y, naturalmente, mucho más aun posteriormente, se circunscriban a esa esfera puramente científica y técnica a petición del país interesado, el Sr. delegado de Chile lo subrayó en dos oportunidades, dentro de los límites determinados para no afectar las labores de la Conferencia del Mar, en el entendido de que esa cooperación no ha de prejuzgar en absoluto respecto a los acuerdos futuros de esta Conferencia y, en todo caso, hoy o mañana quedará sujeta y condicionada a los resultados que finalmente se alcancen en la mencionada Conferencia Especializada de tanta trascendencia en las relaciones internacionales.

Proceder de otra forma Sr. Presidente, sería en cierta forma condenar a una paralización creciente dos actividades internacionales de enorme importancia, a mi juicio de primera prioridad, que está dentro de la consideración de la Conferencia Especializada del Derecho del Mar y a las propias de la FAO dentro del ambiente de las pesquerías.

Igualmente entendido que de las mismas preocupaciones vigentes respecto al derecho de que han hecho uso hasta ahora los Estados costeros, en el caso del Pacífico Sur desde hace más de veinte años, en legítima acción de sus derechos soberanos y en procura de un ejercicio cada vez más eficaz para el desarrollo socioeconómico de sus respectivas poblaciones.

Es posible, aunque no sería deseable, que no coincidiéramos con la opinión de todos los señores delegados presentes, y esto pudiera fomentar o dar lugar a un intercambio de ideas dispares. En ese caso yo le pido su venia para que en el momento oportuno me permita hacer uso de la palabra.

J. TROUVEROY (Belgique): Ma délégation ne voudrait pas s'étendre trop longtemps sur ce point de l'ordre du jour car, si ces dernières années et notamment depuis notre dix-huitième session, de nombreux Etats dont la Belgique dans le cadre de la Communauté économique européenne, ont adopté de façon unilatérale des mesures d'extension de leur juridiction nationale en matière de pêche, par contre dans le domaine de la coopération internationale matérialisée principalement, si l'on peut s'exprimer ainsi, par la Conférence sur le droit de la mer, aucun résultat définitif n'a, à ce jour, été acquis. Nous n'en sommes toujours qu'à un texte de négociation composite, officieux (pour reprendre l'expression exacte) d'un projet déjà plusieurs fois retravaillé qui doit encore être débattu lors de la prochaine session de la Conférence au printemps prochain, et qui est loin d'emporter l'unanimité. Mais cette extension de juridictions nationales en matière de pêche qui touche à la très large partie des ressources en poissons exploitées actuellement dans le monde, risque aussi de rétrécir le rôle des organisations régionales de pêche ainsi que, peut-être, celui de la FAO. Sans vouloir, pour notre part, penser à une quelconque limitation des activités de la FAO, nous estimons que celle-ci devrait au moins continuer à jouer son rôle de conseiller international et se spécialiser plus encore dans le domaine de l'étude scientifique des ressources halieutiques et dans celui de l'élaboration de données statistiques tout en maintenant ou même en renforçant, le cas échéant, les liens existants entre ces projets et ces organismes halieutiques régionaux.

Comme ses partenaires de la Communauté économique européenne, la Belgique a jugé indispensable, en conséquence d'initiatives prises ailleurs, de réglementer la pêche dans les limites des 200 miles, dans l'Atlantique du nord-est, pour éviter une détérioration plus grande des réserves qui s'y trouvent des principaux poissons pêchés traditionnellement. Toutefois, la Communauté reste disposée à négocier des accords de réciprocité en rapport avec les possibilités halieutiques. Ses membres ont pris toute une série de mesures auto-contraignantes en vue de mettre fin au système assez désordonné pratiqué jusqu'à présent dans cette région (système dépassé de la cueillette) pour en arriver à une structure plus raisonnée et plus planifiée des ressources en poissons.

La Belgique, pour sa part, est toujours favorable, dans la mesure des possibilités s'entend, à la négociation des accords régionaux en la matière. A ce propos, notamment, mon pays a quelques difficultés à donner son accord sur les deux dernières phrases du paragraphe 8 du document C 77/21, fort bien fait par ailleurs, où il est dit: "indispensable d'éviter toute situation dans laquelle chaque pays déterminerait de façon indépendante les captures autorisées dans sa propre zone économique exclusive". Comme je viens de le dire, la Communauté et donc la Belgique, est disposée à accorder, sur une base de réciprocité, des quotas de pêche à des Etats tiers mais n'envisage pas de les consulter avant de fixer les niveaux de ces prises totales attribuables; en anglais "total allowed catches". En outre, ce paragraphe 8 nous paraît incomplet en ce sens qu'il ne tient pas compte de l'existence du groupement d'Etats cotiers qui, tels que la Communauté économique européenne, gèrent en commun des réserves de poissons dans une large zone maritime réservée. Dès lors, l'affirmation selon laquelle il existe pour l'essentiel, des stocks communs à plusieurs aires de juridiction est inexacte en ce qui concerne la Communauté. Le chapitre du document C 77/21, paragraphes 21 à 33, sur la "Prospection et utilisation des ressources non conventionnelles" résume bien ce que l'on peut, en principe, attendre de ces importantes ressources potentielles composées du krill, des espèces mésopélagiques, dont le poisson lampe et les encornets océaniques. Le krill, peut-être la plus abondante de ces ressources potentielles, est surtout répandu dans les mers australes. Or, les pays signataires, dont la Belgique, du Traité sur l'Antarctique qui se considèrent compétents en matière de conservation des ressources marines vivantes dans la zone du Traité, estiment que les chaînes d'alimentation de la faune antarctique sont très courtes et très fragiles et qu'une surpêche du krill peut compromettre toute la faune de la région, baleines, phoques, manchots, etc.

Ici aussi le problème n'est pas mur; de nouvelles études devront être entreprises. Enfin, comme vous le savez, les pays signataires du Traité de l'Antarctique organisent, en 1978, une réunion spéciale qui se penchera sur ce problème. Ainsi donc, le paragraphe 32 du document C 77/21 sur le rôle de la FAO sur cette question doit se comprendre en tenant compte des dispositions du Traité de l'Antarctique.

CHANG KI LEE (Korea, Rep. of): First of all, my delegation would like to express sincere appreciation to the Secretariat for preparing such a meaningful and valuable document as C 77/21 before us and also my thanks to Mr. Carroz who made a very detailed presentation on the document.

I would like to make brief comments on the subjects which we are discussing now.

Firstly, on account of recent developments in the regime of the sea, as pointed out in paragraph 4 of the document, the Republic of Korea as one of the long distance deep-sea fishing countries has been losing a certain part of its existing fishing ground, from which the Republic of Korea has harvested plenty of living resources, as animal protein supply both to her own nation and for world human consumption.

My delegation agrees with the new development in the regime of the sea. However, the new regime of the sea being established for fisheries will in no way diminish the fishery production of the world. In this context coastal states, as stated by the distinguished delegate from Japan, should share the surplus resources within the zone among countries concerned through agreement or another arrangement, namely a joint venture or bilateral cooperation through which world fishery development might be accelerated with proper guidance and adjustment of FAO.

Secondly, in accordance with the development in the Regime of the Sea, the function of FAO regional bodies should be strengthened. In other words, FAO regional fishery bodies should be able to present sufficient data, information and advice, etc. to the coastal state in determination of allowable catch as a survey and evaluation of the resources within the zone for the better utilization of resources for the world's human beings.

Finally, FAO's continuous active role for the exploitation and utilization of unconventional resources such as krill is most welcome.

Ms. YU PING (China) (interpretation from Chinese): At present the Regime of the Sea is undergoing great changes. During the past few years, many littoral countries have successively declared a 200 nautical miles exclusive economic or fishing zone. This has become an irresistible trend and an important part of the new international Regime of the Sea. This represents a major victory won by the Third World countries in their united just struggle to defend their sovereignty over their maritime resources and oppose the super-powers' maritime hegemonism. Although the system of an exclusive economic zone is still under discussion and being established and developed, one can see clearly that this development will provide favourable conditions for the further promotion of the national economies and fisheries of the developing coastal countries.

Document C 77/21 lists a great number of tasks to be undertaken by littoral countries of the Third World to develop their fisheries after the establishment of the exclusive economic zone. The most important of these, in our view, is to take all necessary measures to consolidate State sovereignty over the natural resources within the national jurisdiction and to uphold exclusive national jurisdiction.

Historical experience merits our attention. The super-powers have done all they could to impose maritime hegemonism and have tried in a thousand and one ways to plunder the fisheries resources of developing countries. Worst of all is that super-power which styles itself as the natural ally of the Third World yet engages in unbridled and indiscriminate fishing everywhere. It has not only done harm to the fisheries resources of the developing coastal countries but it also pursues ulterior purposes through so-called scientific research in fisheries. After the developing countries establish their exclusive zones the super-powers might change their tactics and try various new methods of infiltration, exploitation and plunder by means of their maritime power. Therefore I think that what is of first and foremost importance for the Third World countries is to safeguard their maritime rights and interests resolutely and take necessary measures, step by step, to develop their national fisheries in a planned way.

Document C 77/21 proposes the kind of support FAO can offer to the developing countries at their request. In our opinion, these support activities must proceed from the principle of helping the developing countries to maintain independence and rely on their own efforts in tapping maritime resources. In carrying out these changed activities, priorities should be decided and focal points selected in the light of the specific conditions of the developing countries. In all these activities, particularly in studying the establishment of joint ventures, great care should be taken to respect and uphold the sovereignty and interests of the countries in possession of the resources. On no account should the super-powers be allowed to use joint ventures to plunder the fishery resources of the developing countries or control their development programmes.

P.K. MUSHINGE (Zambia) : With reference to working document 77/21, my delegation would like to join many others in congratulating the Secretariat on a job very well done, Zambia, though not a coastal State, supports the idea of extended jurisdiction from the present 12 miles to 200 miles for all coastal States because, first, there will be regulated utilization of natural resources such as oil, minerals and fisheries, our primary concern being fish of course. This is a renewable resource and food of great importance to man's survival primarily and of economic significance to the coastal States. Secondly, there will be regulated control of pollutants, especially hydrocarbons. As was stated this morning by the delegate of Nigeria, the coastal States will be expected to defend and guard the portions of the sea under their control very jealously indeed in deed.

It is Zambia's opinion that those countries sharing a common waterfront should seriously consider setting up advisory bodies for interchange of technical information among coastal States on the living and non living resources now recognized as a common heritage. Coastal States should cooperate mandatorily with landlocked hinterland nations on the utilization of essential sea resources. This should entail giving preferential rights to the landlocked nations, such as my own, on marketing and fishing quotas. It would be absurd to suggest that landlocked States should have an equal say in the control of the high seas, but this is not to imply that they have no interest in the proper management of sea resources.

With regard to the country's local situation, Zambia, being a landlocked country, has limited potential for fish production from natural waters. Most of the large producing fishery areas are on or near the peripheries of the country, which is a deterrent to efficient fish production, marketing and distribution due to unbalanced geographic relationships between producing and consuming areas. Biological research in conjunction with economic evaluation has shown that the demand for fish is increasing at a very high rate and is expected to remain above the projected supply even when the maximum sustained yield has been realized. At the moment the country produces an average of 50 000 metric tonnes per year, which is very much below the demand, estimated at well over 70 000 metric tonnes per year. Although fish farming in Zambia is quite new, this is the only area from which it is hoped that the deficit can be supplemented. So far the potential has been established on certain Tilapia fish species as being approximately 7 tons per hectare per year.

In the country's third national development plan, yet to be launched, the fish culture programme includes research and experiment with (a) different species to assess their suitability for fish farming and in some case with a view to restocking exercises in over fished natural fisheries; (b) different feed compositions and farming methods, with particular regard to the relationship between costs, nutrition content, productivity and hence financial return; and (c) induced breeding by hormone injections and other methods. Already some encouraging results have been achieved through multiculture of our local breams - Sarotherodon andersoni, Sarotherodon macrochir and Tilapia rendalii, although their prolific breeding has become a major problem and a major factor in the present production of stunted and poor quality fish. The programme I have mentioned recognizes the need for increased fish production from the present level. It also recognizes the limited fish stocks available in our natural fisheries, hence fish farming in Zambia is now receiving high priority for development.

The country intends to establish five 40-hectare fish farms which will act as models for intensive fish, farming, in which the rural communities will be induced to participate actively for their economic benefit.

We therefore feel that this is another area in which FAO should give its active support by providing technical assistance for both the construction of the farms and hatcheries and for management in the initial stages, including the on-the-job training aspects, in order to maintain continuity thereafter.

I understand at this moment in time that it has now become FAO's confirmed policy to regionalize fisheries development projects for countries with similar resources. This view is very much welcomed and endorsed by Zambia. It is my Government's intention to participate fully in all such regional projects, subject to all things being equal. However, I would like to add that country projects which can be treated according to individual needs should also be encouraged.

Since the end of the last FAO projects in Zambia, fisheries research programmes have been greatly affected mainly due to lack of adequate and qualified staff and the size of the areas to be covered.

During the first and second FAO projects, research activities were concentrated at Kariba Dam reservoir and later at Kafue River. Those are the only areas from which detailed data on various aspects of the fishery is available. Other fisheries still need some stock assessment work to be done before we overexploit our standing crops. In this regard we also need FAO assistance in the form of personnel. In brief, Zambia can be self-sufficient in fish production, given the necessary assistance in order to overcome the above-mentioned and other allied constraints.

J.A. STORER (United States of America): Mr. Chairman, in view of the hour and your own exhortation that we should be brief, I shall try to confine myself to a few remarks on the basis of the documentation that has been presented and the presentation made by Mr. Carroz, both of which, and not surprisingly so, were substantive and constructive. Both of them indicated the significant changes and challenges that concern fisheries development and management throughout the world, as well as indicating the particular responsibilities which face FAO.

Enough has been said already this morning and this afternoon about the very striking change in the pattern of extended fisheries jurisdiction by virtue of the unilateral action that many countries have begun in advance of any resolution through the forum of the Conference on the Law of the Sea. This pattern of extended jurisdiction has obviously created new opportunities for countries that have taken this action to develop their own capability in utilizing these fishery resources. It has also given them added responsibilities for the proper management and the conservation of them.

By virtue of the peculiar nature of the fish themselves, especially their migratory nature, quite apart from the highly migratory species such as tunny fish, this characteristic requires that countries adjacent to one another or in a common region, because they are concerned with common species, stocks, must coordinate and cooperate in some fashion their own programmes for management as well as their programmes for development.

For these reasons regional fishery commissions must continue to play a very key role, although perhaps at the moment that role is not fully delineated in the achievement of any kind of viable international order in fisheries. We have noted with a good bit of encouragement the efforts that some of the regional commissions followed with FAO, such as the IPFC and the IOFC have been recently making to adjust to these new demands and to find ways to exercise their responsibilities to the member countries in that region in terms of both management and development. We would urge FAO to do everything it can to assist these bodies to carry out their responsibilities, recognizing as we well do that it is not easy, particularly from the point of view of funding, nor even from the point of view of adequate numbers of stock. None the less, those functions have to be carried on by its regional bodies, including the coordination and assessment of fish resources, collection and dissemination of data and, where it is deemed proper by those concerned, development of the elements of a managerial system itself.

In trying to meet these responsibilities, we welcome the effort made by FAO, as pointed out in the document, to strengthen the linkage between its regional fishery bodies and the several FAO and UNDP regional fishery development projects which are now very helpfully being substantially augmented by bilateral assistance. This greater emphasis upon the linkage between management and development and between the regional bodies and the regional projects will, it seems to us, enable more progress to be made on both sides of what is the same coin, development and management. We suspect, however, that as the next few years unfold, that balance between management and development, that balance between the regional commissions and the projects, and the balance between FAO in the field and FAO in Headquarters, will not be an easy one to achieve and all elements of it will have to be observed and continuously reviewed, we feel, if anything like a proper balance is to be achieved. While in this respect noting the necessity and wisdom of decentralization in terms of the regional bodies and programmes, we would note the particular and important and unique function that FAO's own Department of Fisheries exercises here in Rome in terms of providing intellectual leadership and capability, and scientific, economic, statistical and many other technical fields, which it is called upon to provide throughout the world.

Having commented upon the leadership that the FAO Department of Fisheries has demonstrated in these fields, I cannot avoid referring to the presence of the Deputy Director-General, whose role in that development was so crucial and so helpful.

Document C 77/21 notes the responsibility of FAO to be concerned with helping LDCs develop the full potential not only for the presently exploited resources, but also for the unconventional fish species which, as has been noted, present special problems in harvesting, processing and marketing. This continuing concern on the part of FAO with UNDP assistance is certainly most appropriate, as is the attention which the Committee of Fisheries has given and will continue to give on this subject. As we all know, it is scheduled to consider this matter again in detail at its meeting in 1978.

Having made reference to the Committee on Fisheries, let me make one other further comment about that. For just as the roles of the regional bodies are changing and becoming more significant though somewhat unclear, so is the role of COFI becoming more significant and important, and also having to be somewhat rethought through, but it is the only body able to provide any kind of global review of fisheries development and management, and accordingly to provide advice and guidance to FAO in its own fisheries programmes.

The United States recognizes the burden that the servicing of COFI places upon the Secretariat and it is appreciative of the excellent quality of the documentation that has been made available to COFI, but which has had a usefulness and application far beyond the meetings of COFI itself. We feel that every possible effort should be made to maintain that vitality and viability of COFI so that fisheries administrators will be adequately aware of and understand the inter-relationships and interdependence of fisheries development and management throughout the world.

I am not quite clear about the details of the Canadian proposal but in general the request for more specific delineation of the FAO objectives, how it sees itself fulfilling them on the world fishery scene, would be useful. We are not quite sure how this differs from the request made at the last session of COFI for some documentation of this sort.

M.HAUGE (Norway): I think we would all agree that 1977 has been an eventful year for world fisheries. We witnessed the emergence of a new Regime of the Sea as regards the establishment of economic zones of 200 miles by a significant majority of the world's coastal states, a step taken in conformity with international law and with the broad consensus prevailing in the international community as a whole.

This development is significant and indeed has revealed a fundamental transformation as regards the entire structure of management and control over a preponderant share of the world's living resources. Substantial national authority has come to replace the traditional role and mandate of the international community in exercising jurisdiction over the living resources.

This development presents a crucial challenge - a challenge both to the fishery nations, which will be required to formulate and implement fishery policy within the framework of the new Regime of the Sea, and also to the ability of all states concerned to seek and develop new forms of international cooperation to take account of the new situation.

Extended zones of jurisdiction will provide coastal States with increased opportunities to develop their fisheries. This is particularly so for developing coastal States, many of which will, for the first time, be in a position to pursue national objectives of fisheries development based on their own fishery resources. Economic zones and the extension of national sovereignty over living resources has created a framework conducive to national planning. The planning process just now envisaged must have as a primary objective the utilization of available fish resources, the satisfaction of the nutritional requirements of the local populations, the promotion of regional development and a contribution to export earnings. At present, however, local fisheries, particularly in many developing countries, are far from developed.

There will hence be a need for substantial investment in the fishery sector of such countries. Investment should be aimed at developing a sufficient local harvesting capacity, the building up of an indigenous expertise in the fisheries sector and the general development and injection of appropriate technology, all designed to enable these countries to take full advantage of the opportunities now available to them.

To achieve these objectives, there is a need for renewed emphasis on international cooperation and joint efforts. In particular, fisheries nations already in possession of the necessary expertise and experience have a clear obligation to contribute to and participate in this development process and thus facilitate the advancement of the fisheries sector in many developing countries.

We may consider what are the appropriate means and mechanisms for such cooperation. One thing is clear, however, that substantial foreign aid from international agencies is required to assist developing countries throughout the crucial transitional phase that lies ahead, so that the level of satisfactory development in the fisheries sector of these countries can be achieved.

Of course, we do envisage that FAO itself should play an important role in this process. However, there is a need for further discussion, analysis and clarification on the particular projects to be undertaken and the appropriate mechanisms of such assistance. The object of such assistance must be to strengthen and enhance an indigenous capacity in developing countries, to promote an effective fisheries policy and thus, in the long term, lay the foundation for self-sustained development and increased self-reliance.

The new Regime of the Sea provides the basic framework for consolidation and expansion of coastal States' fisheries. It must be viewed in the broader context of our shared aspiration to produce a more equitable food procurement policy on a global basis. It is thus imperative and basic to the ideals of the United Nations itself that the appropriate agencies within the UN system should assume a prominent role in this work.

T. BUSTAMANTE (Ecuador): Mi delegación ha estudiado el documento que hoy examina esta Comisión, con la atención que corresponde al preferente interés que mi país dedica a la defensa y desarrollo de sus recursos contenidos dentro de las 200 millas de sus mares territoriales, establecido con base en la declaración de Santiago, suscrita conjuntamente con Chile y el Perú el 18 de agosto de 1952 sobre zonas marítimas de soberanía y jurisdicción exclusivas.

Cualquiera que fuese el desenlace de la actual Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Derecho del Mar, la ampliación hasta las 200 millas de la zona dentro de la cual ejercen los estados costeros derechos de soberanía, constituye un aporte histórico de nuestro tiempo de primordial importancia en la implantación del Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional, que la FAO no ha podido ni podría ignorar con todas sus consecuencias.

Entre éstas, es primordial la responsabilidad que corresponde a los órganos competentes de la Comunidad Internacional en la asistencia a los países en desarrollo para el cabal aprovechamiento, a que éstos tienen derecho de los recursos; entre ellos, los alimenticios de la pesca y de la caza sometidos a su jurisdicción exclusiva en virtud de sus respectivas proclamaciones y legislación nacionales.

A la FAO compete ciertamente participaciones muy específicas en esta nueva responsabilidad de la Comunidad de las Naciones. La FAO puede y debe ayudar a canalizar los recursos tecnológicos, los recursos financieros y la capacidad administradora de los experimentados países en desarrollo hacia el desenvolvimiento de las zonas marítimas que el nuevo Derecho del Mar ha puesto bajo la jurisdicción de los países en desarrollo.

Correspóndete, en síntesis, como viene a señalar el distinguido representante de Chile, asignar prioridad de primer orden entre sus actividades a la atención de los requerimientos específicos que le formulen los países en desarrollo, para el diagnóstico de sus problemas y la programación de esas políticas, así como para el desenvolvimiento de sus proyectos en materia de preservación y conservación cultivo, pesca y caza de sus recursos marinos, así como de industrialización y comercialización, inclusive la ampliación y creación de nuevos mercados, en beneficio ante todo del respectivo pueblo al que pertenecen tales recursos, y de la Comunidad Internacional que encuentra en ellos una de las principales fuentes de las proteínas de las que tanto está necesitando la humanidad.

Se ha resaltado en esta Comisión la inmensa tarea que tienen que cumplir los países en desarrollo en los mares de sus jurisdicción nacional. En realidad, tal tarea es enorme; pero por lo mismo, las posibilidades de la cooperación internacional, especialmente a través de la FAO, deben estar a la altura y ser proporcionadas a la magnitud de tan magna tarea. La experiencia y capacidad técnica de la FAO en estos campos resulta invaluable, pero será necesario ampliar sus recursos en la medida necesaria para que se halle en condiciones de atender satisfactoriamente y en todo momento a los requerimientos de asistencia que le formulen los países en desarrollo.

Antes de concluir, Sr. Presidente, me permito resaltar e insistir en estos dos puntos. La necesidad de que nuestra Organización sea dotada de medios suficientes para satisfacer en todo tiempo a estos requerimientos de asistencia y cooperación que reciba de los países en desarrollo; y el singular cuidado que debe observar la propia FAO para no inmiscuirse, no interferir, no constituirse en instrumento de ingerencia o de menoscabo para los derechos soberanos de los estados sobre sus recursos pesqueros, que se encuentren dentro de la zona marítima de sus respectivas proclamaciones nacionales, cualquiera que fuere la denominación con que tengan establecidos sus derechos sobre tales zonas y la naturaleza de los recursos de que se trate.

Insisto; la acción de la FAO sólo deberá desarrollarse en ese campo a pedido expreso del país en cuyo mar jurisdiccional se hallen los respectivos recursos para los fines específicos en relación con los cuales se hubiere requerido su colaboración, y en todo caso, en orden al fortalecimiento de los derechos marítimos del país soberano de esos recursos y al más efectivo y cabal aprovechamiento de los mismos para la alimentación de su pueblo y para su desarrollo nacional ante todo.

Por último, Sr. Presidente, mi país aprecia la cooperación que se halla ya establecida entre la FAO y la Comisión Permanente del Pacífico Sur, como órgano sub-regional en materia pesquera, y aspira al más amplio desarrollo de esa cooperación. Bien habría deseado ver en el documento que tenemos a la vista, que se mencionaba la cooperación entre la FAO y la Comisión Permanente del Pacífico Sur, así como se mencionan otros organismos regionales para otros mares, en que la FAO les viene prestando su cooperación.

I.A. IMTIAZI (Pakistan): The Pakistan delegation has read Conference document C 77/21 with interest. In this connection one point that my delegation would like to emphasize in particular is the unambiguous recognition of the fact that a coastal State has the sovereign right to determine the extent and the manner in which it wishes to explore, exploit, conserve and manage natural resources, whether living or non-living, or the seabed and subsoil and superjacent waters within the extended exclusive economic zone. So also does a coastal State have the sovereign right to determine the terms and conditions on which it will permit other states or organizations to participate in the explorations and exploitation of resources within its EEZS.

Subject to the above noted observations, Pakistan is willing to cooperate with other States and organizations, including FAO, in the conservation and management of living resources within her extended economic zone. We would welcome FAO's technical and financial cooperation in building up our administrative and managerial capabilities, as also in the formulation of a marine fisheries development master plan in consonance with the peculiarities of our own specific situation.

V. ISARANKURA (Thailand): Since this is the first time I have spoken in this Commission, my delegation would like to join those who have spoken before us in congratulating you, Mr. Chairman, on your election, and the Vice-Chairmen on their election. We should also like to extend our congratulations to the Director-General and the Secretariat for presenting a very concise and comprehensive document C 77/21.

My delegation has learned with great interest that FAO is undertaking a number of programmes which include the holding of regional multidisciplinary seminars on the implications of the changing law of the sea on fisheries, with particular reference to regional management bodies, bilateral agreements and national legislation and administration; direct assistance to countries in remodelling national legislation and administration; direct advice and assistance to developing coastal states in connection with the formulation of national policy regarding foreign participation in coastal fisheries, and with the negotiation of joint venture arrangements and other agreements and the preparation of general studies and guidelines on such subjects as bilateral agreements and joint venture arrangements in fisheries, the role of multistate bodies in fisheries development and the implications of the new Law of the Sea for fisheries legislation.

In addition, we are of the opinion that any coastal State with a surplus of marine fish should leave it open for neighbouring states to exploit these resources for the benefit of all mankind, particularly for an increase in low-cost protein food supply. Otherwise these resources, having a very short life cycle, will certainly be destroyed by nature.

At present, more than 50 countries have already extended their 200-mile exclusive economic zone and the effect of this unilateral move has deprived Thailand of huge benefits in fisheries. At this juncture, we are therefore most grateful for the initiative taken by the FAO in making preparations to cooperate and give advice to member nations on the impact of an extension of the 200-mile exclusive economic zone. The adverse implications of this new Regime of the Sea are a matter of vital importance to Thailand, since a substantial proportion of our catch comes from traditional fishing grounds which might fall within an extended exclusive economic zone of neighbouring countries.

My delegation would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the Organization, particularly to the leaders of the Indian Ocean and South China Sea Programmes, for approving the sending of a team of experts to my country to work with us in assessing the effects of this extended 200-mile exclusive economic zone. We welcome and look forward to favourable results accruing from this joint effort.

J. SHORUNKEH SAWYER (Sierra Leone): Sierra Leone, being one of the first states in the Eastern Central Atlantic to declare a 200-mile territorial sea, has always kept in view the responsibilities with regard to management and utilization of marine resources which such a measure entailed.

We note that FAO has very ably highlighted the problems attendant on fisheries in the new Regime of the Sea in document C 77/21, and we would like to express our appreciation.

We in Sierra Leone have no illusions whatsoever as to the magnitude of the problems regarding our capabilities and capacity to manage and exploit our marine resources. After a difficult period due to low priority rating and allied problems, we now find ourselves in a position, through bilateral arrangements, actively to embark on research and management activities in our waters. Already we have had some results which will now form the basis for rationalizing our policies, both for coastal and long-range fishing activities.

It is true that the new regime does place a lot of responsibilities on coastal States for which assistance is needed if anything at all is to be done.

There appears so far too much talk and very little actually being done to assist developing countries especially within the FAO arena. FAO could demonstrate its determination to assist countries particularly in the Eastern Central Atlantic by making CECAF the regional body much more action-orientated and allocating a vessel out of its fleet to this area on a long-term basis. Ad hoc programmes do not and cannot suffice for adequately equipping developing coastal nations to take on their additional responsibilities within the shortest time possible.

There is at present a lot of post-harvest loss from the fishing activities of the long range fleet off the coast of developing countries, and as well non-economic species are increasingly taking the place of intensively exploited species. Attention should be directed at handling and processing of those resources which will be more relevant to the needs of the developing nation than the resources of the southern oceans.

The problems of the developing countries are well known. All we would like to see is as many improvements as possible within the shortest time that would allow us to make the best use of the resources to which we have easy and direct access.

N. ODERÒ (Kenya): Mr. Chairman, I would go along with and join the other delegations who have spoken in congratulating the Secretariat for preparing this very good paper. This paper has helped us greatly in directing the discussion, and as we have seen, the comments made here are relevant to the point and very useful. For this we thank the Secretariat very much and those who have prepared this document.

Looking through the paper, the problems before us are well analysed. Many countries have taken action to expand their sea areas, and those countries which have not are preparing for such extension. This new Regime of the Sea offers an opportunity for the implementation of a new economic order, particularly for the developing countries to exploit their resources, or most of them. These countries have the opportunity to develop their resources for the general development of the country. For this matter the developing countries particularly require a lot of assistance to exploit their resources. These countries after all will need to know what are the resources available and in this aspect FAO has a very important role to play to assist these countries in finding out the resources that will become available to them. So that we are not merely talking of where resources exist; without knowing the extent of the resources it would be difficult to develop and exploit such resources.

There will be greater need therefore for FAO to come in, and maybe the international community to assist the developing countries first to survey their resources and then to work out their exploitation strategy. As has been said by a number of delegations we have come to a time when we would not be satisfied with mere words, plans and proposals. We should turn plans, proposals and programmes into action. It has been stated already, that we should implement the programmes and plans which have been indicated in the paper here before us.

There are various areas where problems have been identified, and we should work out solutions to these problems and then act. In this respect FAO has done well by proposing actions that would be taken to assist particularly the developing countries and in suggesting the sending of missions to assist in assessing the resources and ways of exploitation. In the past we have known of series of missions visiting developing countries and preparing documents. Many of these proposals involve several missions so that before any actual programme is worked out one may see as many as three missions. We do not have the time to spend in all this preliminary work of missions. So we wish that FAO comes in immediately and assists the developing countries to avoid a reduction of efficient production. The developing countries are very anxious to exploit the resources available to them. We require a lot of regional cooperation and we think FAO can assist in bringing about this regional cooperation.

A number of countries will have to come together to discuss management and exploitation of their resources. Some of these extend into a number of areas and the exploitation must be coordinated. FAO should assist here as much as possible using the regional bodies that exist, which should be capable of implementing the programmes expected of them.

I wish to reiterate that we support strongly and welcome the policy of the Director-General on decentralization of the activities of this Organization, particularly those relating to Field Activities.

We would wish to see that activities relating to various regions should be centred in those regions so that people who are involved are close to the problems that they are expected to solve. In this respect I repeat what our Minister stated to the Conference that we in Kenya, in cooperation with other nations in the area of the Indian Ocean, are very happy to host the Secretariat of the Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission and also the Centre for the Indian Ocean Fisheries Survey and Development Programme.

We hope that this gesture will be taken seriously and that prompt action will be taken to push this regional commission into the area in which it serves so that it can be close to the people and close to their problems. Talking of regional cooperation, we would wish to see FAO organize seminars and workshops in the regions so that people in the regions can discuss their problems and discuss the possibilities of their development, and look for ways of implementing appropriate development programmes immediately. In saying this, and talking about decentralization we must emphasize that we are not suggesting that the headquarters should be disintegrated, nor are we saying that the Department of Fisheries at headquarters should be reduced. In fact the Department should be strengthened if it has to cope with all the programmes that have been listed here and all the assistance that will be required by the developing nations to implement the programmes.

We think in this way we will bring development to the developing countries and thus increase the fish production from the marine area.

RAM SARAN (India): Taking note of the emerging trends of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea and that national requirements have increased food production from our marine waters India has declared an exclusive economic zone of 200 miles by the Maritime Zone Act which came into force early this year. My government has also initiated the process of demarcation of maritime boundaries with our neighbours and, in fact, agreements regarding maritime boundaries have been agreed with some countries.

Our government has fully realized that this gives us both increased opportunities as well as responsibilities. India's Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation and leader of the Indian delegation has, in a statement at the Plenary, referred to the need for exploiting the fisheries along the coastal regions of the maritime states. For this purpose countries concerned would require large trawler fleets. This will have to be accompanied by harbour development and argumentation of indigenous trawler manufacturing capacity.

In order to ensure optimum utilization of the resources, my government has already initiated steps for the introduction of about 200 deep sea fishing vessels in a couple of years. The vessels have started arriving as part of the programme. In addition, we have already introduced 13 000 coastal mechanized fishing vessels and have initiated steps for the construction of several deep sea fishing harbours on both the coasts of our country. Further, we have liberalized our programme of procurement of fishing vessels by the fishing industry.

India welcomes joint ventures in the utilization of the living resources of the economic zone in areas where indigenous know-how and equipment are not adequate. In this context the Indian fishing industry has been allowed to enter into joint ventures with foreign fishing companies for deep sea fishing, and fish processing and marketing. My delegation believes that FAO has an active role to play in assisting member countries to improve the level of production from their economic zones. The FAO could contribute substantially in this programme by exchange of information, updating of technology, provision of training for the development of technical manpower and also in the carrying out of preinvestment studies to attract funding and financing to invest in this new but important sector. We feel that FAO could also help by providing management advice on the utilization of resources that are spread out among different economic zones and also on resources that have reached a stage of stabilization. FAO has technical expertise and should help in the developing countries according to their needs.

J. GARCIA E. (El Salvador): Nuestra delegación tiene vivo interés en la discusión del tema sobre la evolución del Régimen del Mar y consecuencias para el sector pesquero. Al efecto un salvadoreño, el Dr. Reynaldo Galindo Pohl, ha presidido importantes eventos en la Conferencia del Mar y por la escasez de los recursos naturales renovables y su aprovechamiento, nuestro país ha establecido en términos prioritarios que los productos de la pesca constituyan una fuerte alternativa para la consecución de proteínas accesibles a la población rural.

El Salvador, como muchos otros países, establece una zona económica de 200 millas y en su aprovechamiento participa a nivel científico el programa de desarrollo pesquero dependiente de la Dirección General de Recursos Naturales Renovables y el concurso de Biólogos de la Universidad Nacional del Salvador. Esto demuestra que existe una infraestructura adecuada que permite un racional aprovechamiento de los recursos pesqueros sin permitir su deterioro; por ello no compartimos los criterios vertidos en el numeral 8 del documento C 77/21. Debe prevalecer a cualquier costo el ordenamiento jurídico de los países, el respeto a su soberanía y jurisdicción.

Nuestra flota pesquera, ahora incipiente, no puede permitir que unidades de países tecnológicamente desarrollados que disponen de todos los equipos para las capturas en número y en calidad, invadan nuestra área económicamente productiva. Muy por el contrario nos oponemos en forma categórica a que tal situación ocurra. No deseamos parecer negativos, el asesoramiento que puedan proporcionar los Organismos Internacionales, como la FAO, siempre lo hemos apreciado, pero esta asesoría debe encauzarse dentro de límites precisos.

Dijimos anteriormente que realizamos investigación marina y cada vez ganamos en experiencias, no damos pasos apresurados; la necesidad nos ha obligado a actuar con prudencia. En nuestro plan nacional de desarrollo, 1978-82, pretendemos optimizar el aprovechamiento de los recursos pesqueros a efectos de beneficiar el consumo interno, como por las posibilidades que ofrece el mercado externo. Los programas comprenden el desarrollo de la pesca marítima y redes de estanques piscícolas. La FAO cumple una labor encomiable, pero este rol que desempeña con eficacia no debe entrar en conflicto con los intereses de los países; apreciamos su contribución científica y estadística. En tal sentido deben proporcionarse a la Organización los recursos financieros que le permitan acudir al llamado de los países del Tercer Mundo en el momento y las condiciones que es tos lo soliciten.

W. THOMPSON (Fiji): First of all, I would like to congratulate the writers of the document for producing a very concise document. It is something that my delegation feels should be emulated by other writers of FAO documents in that it contains no unnecessary trimming or verbosity.

It has already been stressed how important the recent consensus on the regime of the Law of the Sea is to developing countries. I wanted to stress in particular how important it is to very small island developing countries such as mine and a number of others in the South Pacific.

For many years now there have been distant water fleets operating through the South Pacific Ocean travelling and fishing at will in these islands, and there has been nothing that any of the governments could do to stop it. Therefore, we particularly welcome the recent international consensus on giving the coastal states some rights in this area, and we also welcome the general consensus on the archipelago principle, which ensures that all waters within an island state are sovereign to that state.

We fully accept that the rights and privileges conferred on us by this new international understanding carry responsibilities and obligations on our part and we in the South Pacific are making attempts to establish a regional fisheries agency that will ensure that not only is the resource properly and rationally exploited and that the countries in the region benefit, but also that this resource which has been a source of protein for the international market, will continue to provide this function. In this area we realize that our own capacity to provide the technical expertise is extremely limited and we are obtaining assistance now from our developed neighbours in the South Pacific, namely Australia and New Zealand, and we have also, through the South Pacific Commission, obtained the assistance of Japan, the United States and France in their contributions to a regional skipjack tagging programme which is attempting to establish areas of migration and the population dynamics of the skipjack stocks of the South Pacific Ocean. All of this assistance is greatly appreciated and welcome. In this area also FAO has been playing a role and we look forward in the future to a far more intensive form of assistance from FAO.

It is somewhat paradoxical that in the past the assistance we have received from FAO has only been supplied by the aegis of the UNDP Country Programme, but from the regular budget of FAO we have not, to our knowledge, received any assistance in the fisheries field.

Finally, while I would like to support the proposal made by the delegate of Canada for the programme of the fisheries area over the next few years I am sure that the definition of the Programme of Work and Budget which has virtually been concluded will militate against establishing any additional work within the fisheries area. Therefore, I would like to end on a plea for ensuring that the fisheries sector of the FAO work for the future, when the new Programme of Work and Budget is formulated, should be given a far more equitable share in recognition of the increasing importance that the exploitation of the resources of the sea will play in future economic activity.

I.A. RONQUILLO (Philippines): Like other speakers before me, I would like to thank the Deputy Director General and the Secretariat for their excellent preparation of the document we have before us, C 77/21,

The Philippines is one of the two countries which claims a territorial sea, based on historic rights. This right emanates from treaties between world powers in 1898 delineating areas of the seas adjacent to the Philippine archipelago extending to what is known as our "treaty limits". This is some 160 miles on one side and a few miles beyond 200 miles in the Pacific Ocean, but in most areas the limit extends to just a few miles from the coasts.

The overall average width of such territorial sea is not more than 80 miles from the coasts. The Philippines has expounded this position since the first Conference on the Law of the Sea in 1958 and it makes our country one of the earliest states which realized the importance of full sovereignty over surrounding marine waters for the benefit of its people. The Philippines therefore welcomes the consensus now obtaining in the Third Law of the Sea Conference on the extended jurisdiction of the coastal States up to 200 nautical miles. The Philippines supports the declarations made and the positions taken by countries in this and other forums in their request that the community of nations should recognize the territorial waters claimed by such States prior to the start of the Third Law of the Sea Conference

The Philippines supports the position of FAO that it is the responsibility of member States to police their territorial waters and economic zones and prevent overfishing of the area. To this extent the Philippines realizes the importance of FAO's strengthening the regional fishery bodies as the focal point for the conservation of fishery resources and along that line welcomes the transformation of the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council into a commission. Regional action is needed for the conservation of the pelagic fisheries, especially tunas, which migrate great distances among neighbouring States.

The waters surrounding the Philippine archipelago are by and large very deep; on an average from 2 000 to 3 000 metres, hence such waters are biologically poor and we can depend only on the tunas that migrate through these waters. We welcome and need the assistance of FAO to help us look for unconventional resources within our territorial waters. With the assistance of IPFC and FAO we in the regions will try to determine the allowable catch in our territorial sea and develop and adopt necessary regional management procedures, as appropriate, for the conservation of the living resources of the region. We hope that the countries in the region will recognize this need early enough and request FAO, as a group, for such assistance.

As the Philippines is one of the fast developing nations of South-East Asia in fisheries, our fishermen are about ready to venture to fish up to the limits of our territorial seas, the high seas and even the economic zones of neighbouring states. FAO, through IPFC, could assist member States to set up regional arrangements on equitable terms for such bilateral or multilateral arrangements.

We welcome the various FAO plans for assisting the regional fishery bodies for them to be able to cope with the necessary capabilities to the emerging regime in the ocean, to make the seas most productive, and especially the plan to mount a series of multidisciplinary missions in the different regions to assess the implication of extended zones of production. We wish to thank-FAO, the United States of America for the AID Programme, the Danish Government for its soft loans and the Canadian Government for the assistance given to us to help develop our marine fisheries. We support the position of the delegate of Canada in his request for FAO to prepare a medium-term programme for consideration of member States and of COFI in the future, if not possible at the next meeting of COFI.

A. O. TAYLOR-THOMAS (Gambia): My Minister has given, on behalf of the Government of Gambia, his full support for the work programme for the forthcoming biennium in his statement in the Plenary last week.

My delegation also congratulates the Secretariat on the production and presentation of this substantive and informative document C 77/21.

My Government increased to 50 miles its jurisdictional limits a few years ago and is now considering increasing our present limits to 200 miles in keeping with recent developments in the Law of the Sea. To this end, with the help of FAO, new and more comprehensive legislation has been prepared and passed by my Government and my Government records its appreciation to FAO for the manner in which this legislation was perfected. Our present limits are set at 50 miles, covering the extent of the Continental Shelf. The results of research made known to us indicate that there are other stocks which can add up to and go beyond the 50-mile limit.

My Government, in its new endeavour, is seriously considering applying for membership of ECAT. We agree with the context of paragraph 10 on the increased responsibility of coastal States which now have fisheries development. In this regard, our Government has recently renegotiated the details of a bilateral agreement with one of our neighbouring States and is actively pursuing the possibility of hosting the next meeting of our Sub-Regional Committee on Fisheries comprising five countries. We believe that it is only by so doing that we can be able effectively to manage and conserve our stocks of fish, the greater part of which are migratory and shared by us all. FAO is therefore right to stress the importance of regional arrangements for the obvious benefit that would be gained, and it gets our support.

We are also of the opinion that the new regime will not diminish the importance of the scientific work of regional fisheries bodies.

The delegation of my country has always participated in the Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic fishery programmes and has indicated such interest to the Committee and its desire to participate in work on specific fisheries that are shortly to be taken up. With our new fisheries legislation, efforts are being made for better management measures and greater international control through the entire industry. My Government recently acquired a new State corporation and negotiations are going on for yet another such acquisition wholly or in part.

As regards the artisanal fishing sector, approval has recently been given by EEC for a project which would create the much needed infrastructure to improve the domestic marketing and distribution of fish.

The training requirements must not be overlooked as this is one very essential ingredient which will enable our States to meet the new responsibilities that will be brought about by the new regime. In this connection we express sincere gratitude to Canada for the training courses it has organized with FAO and CECAF in our region, one of which the Gambia recently hosted. Such workshops, seminars and other meetings, to be organized by FAO in conjunction with other agencies, to improve the standards of development planning in those areas requiring priority assistance, assist not only fishery personnel but also those involved in policy making, legal matters, economic planning and development.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): As regards the subject which is being discussed, it might be useful to remind the Commission that a specialized international conference, the Conference on the Law of the Sea, is still going on. In the view of the Brazilian delegation, it is important that the work which is being carried out by FAO on this subject does not prejudice the results of that Conference.

My delegation would also like to indicate at this stage that we feel that regional fisheries agreements have an important role to play.

B. SUSSMILCH (European Economic Community): With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I will now speak on behalf of the Member States of the European Communities concerning the document Developments in the Regime of the Sea and their implications for Fisheries. I would like to describe the steps recently taken by the Community in the area of fisheries, both in their international and internal aspects. Regarding the international aspects of Community fisheries policy, the Council of Ministers of the European Communities decided in November 1976 that the Member States of the Community would, by concerted action, extend the limits of their fishery zones to 200 miles off their North Sea and North Atlantic coasts as from 1 January 1977. The Community took this step, one which has far-reaching implications for traditional fishing patterns in the North East Atlantic, because of the threat to its own fisheries resources posed by the extension of fisheries jurisdiction in other areas of the Atlantic, in particular Norway, Canada and the United States. A shift of fishing activity by non-Community countries excluded from these new 200-mile zones to the already depleted fish stocks of the North Sea would have been an irreparable disaster.

In parallel with the decision to extend its fishing zone, the Community charged the Commission with a series of negotiations with its fisheries partners concerning mutual fishing rights. Long-term framework agreements, which will govern the Community's bilateral fisheries relations, have now been signed with the United States, the Faroe Islands, Sweden, (and Norway), and negotiations with many other partners, notably Spain, Finland, Korea, Japan, and Canada, are still proceeding.

Because of the serious deterioration of some of its principal fish stocks, the Community has been obliged to regulate fishing by non-member countries during 1977 on an autonomous basis, pending the outcome of negotiations. Fishing effort by the most important non-EEC countries which have traditionally fished in the North Sea have been significantly reduced, in conjunction with measures taken to restrict fishing by Community vessels. Until the recently-taken conservation measures taken by the Community are reflected in a recovery of stocks, it is the Commission's view that fishing rights in the Community zone can only be granted to countries which are in a position to offer reciprocal rights to the Community in their own waters.

The creation of 200 mile zones by a number of coastal States has resulted in a re-examination of the existing framework for multilateral cooperation in fisheries. The Community still believes that this cooperation is essential to sound management of fishery resources, and in this spirit has contributed to the debate now going on concerning the future functions of such organizations as NEAFC (North East Atlantic Fisheries Convention) and ICNAF (International Convention for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries). In order for such cooperation to be fruitful, however, the Community's participation as a single coastal State is both desirable and inevitable.

As far as the internal aspects are concerned, in spite of the political difficulties involved in imposing a programme of fisheries restraint, the Community has in the course of 1977 taken a number of steps to reduce the fishing effort deployed in its dwindling fish stocks. These measures which are only the preliminary stages of a programme to cover all types of fishing and all species fished in the Community zone, may already have reversed the downward trends of recent years.

The most important of such measures have been: a standstill on fishing for all species, which limits catches to those of 1976; a reduction in the permissible level of by-catches or industrial fishing; a complete ban on herring fishing in the North Sea; and a seasonal restriction of the areas in which certain industrial species may be caught, in order to prevent damage to spawning grounds.

The Commission has now presented a comprehensive package of measures to the Council of Ministers intended to regulate fishing activity by Community vessels in 1978. It is proposed that quotas be established for all species fished in the Community zone, and, perhaps more important in the long run, that structural aids be granted to facilitate the conversion and elimination of surplus fishing capacity. The Community is now well aware that it must make a major effort to mitigate the social, as well as the economic consequences of a rational conservation policy.

The European Community is now facing up to the implications of the enormous transition in fisheries, from a hunting to an agricultural activity, that is implied by the present scarcity of fishery resources. This transition, of course, will not be easy, involving as it does the livelihood of entire, coastal communities. Nevertheless, in the view of the Community, some sacrifices made voluntarily now will bring undoubted benefits in the not-too-distant future, not for the Community alone, but for other interested countries.

Finally, please allow me to make one remark on the documentation elaborated by the Secretariat of FAO. As my Belgian colleague stated, as far as paragraph 8 of document 77/21 is concerned, we are not able to accept it as it stands and we would therefore like to reserve our position.

Y.I. MEDANI (Sudan) (interpretation from Arabic): The delegation of the Sudan would like to express its support for document C 77/21 as regards its content, because it has dealt with the subject of the development of the Law of the Sea very clearly and explained the impact of the new regime on fisheries.

We think that the establishment of this new regime is one of the most important events that has taken place since the last session of the Conference, because it has introduced some vital amendments as regards the policy of marine fishing in some of the coastal countries in the world.

The expansion and extension of territorial waters and economic zones has enabled coastal States to benefit from new fishing resources, and, therefore, with the exploitation and the implementation of these fisheries, to guarantee an increase of their fisheries' production and a supply of nutritional protein to the populations.

But this extension in fisheries has also imposed new burdens on these countries, burdens that may exceed their technical capacities in some cases. In addition, the extension of these shores may also involve the presence of some common fisheries - common stocks - between countries which would render exploitation very difficult.

This leads us to consider the role of FAO and its specialized organs in order to fill in the gaps which might ensue and to step up the efforts exerted by coastal countries in order to complement the shortages they are facing.

The FAO can consolidate the efforts of these countries in the following fields. First, by assisting them to formulate their policies in order to benefit from fisheries and to draw up proper programmes for their exploitation. Secondly, by cooperation in the exploitation and conservation between countries which share certain common fisheries. Thirdly, by their training of local technical cadres in order to arrive at the stage of enabling these countries to rely entirely on themselves and on local capacities. Fourthly, by providing experts to undertake a survey in order to guarantee the rational use of these resources and their conservation. Fifthly, and finally, the exploitation of these fisheries would require an increase in investment and FAO has to help to provide the necessary financing from the appropriate financing agencies. This initial responsibility would call for reconsideration of the question of the specialized organs of the FAO, whether as regards Headquarters or as regards the regional levels.

As regards the regional level, they will have to step up the structures of these organizations by supplying them with the necessary know-how and by a practical programme that would determine long-term objectives. The delegate of Canada alluded to this fact. At regional level we also have to set up this machinery and to guarantee their effectiveness. With regard to some of these organs, I would like to mention as an example, the Committee on Fisheries for the Indian Ocean, Its activities cover an extensive area which comprises a large number of countries with coastal zones extending for thousands of miles.

This Committee, with the responsibilities thrown at its shoulders, cannot respond to all the requirements emanating from a new Regime of the Sea. In the Red Sea we do not actually feel the presence of this Committee, and therefore the proper way would be to reduce the number of these functions by reducing the area of fisheries supervised by these Commissions so as to create an independent Commission which would take into consideration fishery matters in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden area. In his address before the Plenary meeting, the Minister of my country mentioned this fact. This situation may also apply to some of the other fishery organs in other fields.

D. RICHTER (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): With respect to the international and internal aspects of fisheries from the point of view of the European Economic Community and its Member States, the representative of the EEC Commission has already expressed his views. This is why I would confine myself to just a few comments relating to the promotion of fisheries in the developing countries,

The Federal Republic of Germany can fully support the guidelines submitted in document C 77/21. These guidelines are largely in accordance with the ideas which are of decisive importance for our bilateral cooperation in this area.

A considerable contribution to world food security is in our opinion an intensification of fishery activities in waters which have not so much been exploited so far near the coasts of developing countries, as well as the development of fishery resources of a non-conventional type.

My government, therefore, attaches great importance to the worldwidedevelopment of fisheries within the framework of the guidelines contained in this document which is now under consideration. My government is quite prepared, within the framework of its possibilities, to aim for the achievement of these objectives. The development of fisheries in developing countries covers a vast area including the building of fleets and the provision of infrastructure facilities. This is why cooperation between partners in developing and developed countries within the framework of joint ventures is a suitable measure.

The Federal Republic of Germany therefore believes that the FAO should make a special effort through its participation to ensure that such joint ventures can be established wherever possible.

A. ANDERSON (Sweden): First, my delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for an excellent piece of work. Their presentation in document C 77/21 is brief and concentrated, just eight pages and thirty-four paragraphs - a good model for other FAO documents.

Secondly, my delegation agrees to the ideas in the Norwegian statement and gives them our full support. We fully understand the importance of close cooperation between the FAO and the authorities in the developing countries now when a fundamental transformation as regards the entire structure of management and control over the sea is taking place.

Thirdly and lastly, my delegation wishes to stress the great importance of developing countries making full use of the resources originating in the new economic zones or fishing zones. It will be a responsibility and hard work for FAO, as we see it needing much ability and attention, to assist those countries in formulating fishery plans and adopting new technology. However, this is a task with a distant aim which will last for a long time. Now measures must be taken to solve nearer problems, and here I will mention especially the urgent need to regulate the possibilities for foreign fishermen to fish inside the boundaries of the economic or fishing zones. In this area FAO can play a very important role,

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (Mexico): Nosotros consideramos que el documento bajo examen por la Comisión I nos advierte acerca de un marco eventual de actividades que la FAO desarrollaría en atención a las modificaciones que se han producido o que han estado en proceso respecto del antiguo derecho del mar. Nosotros alentamos también, como lo han expresado otros oradores, el reforzamiento que lleva a cabo la Organización de los programas concernientes al sector pesquero en beneficio de los países en desarrollo. Consideramos también, como asimismo ya ha sido señalado, que está dentro de la jurisdicción de los países que han establecido zonas económicas exclusivas el determinar el ejercicio de derecho soberano, los usos y arbitrios que mejor convengan para un mejor aprovechamiento de sus recursos pesqueros y la conservación de los mismos.

Nuestro interés en el documento C 77/21, tan bien elaborado por la Secretaría, no significa adoptar posiciones al respecto por parte de mi país, ya tendremos oportunidad de examinar con mayor cuidado y más base de juicio en la próxima o próximas reuniones del Comité de Pesca, al que mi país recientemente se ha reincorporado. Tendremos, digo, oportunidad de examinar detenidamente toda la implicación en el ámbito de FAO del nuevo derecho del mar que se está desarrollando respecto de áreas de gran interés mundial y consolidado en uno de sus principales elementos la zona económica exclusiva.

Permítame, señor Presidente, unas pocas palabras más en lo que se refiere a la explotación de los recursos pesqueros no tradicionales. Consideramos que es un tanto prematuro el pretender reforzar dentro de la FAO actividades que tienen que ver con la explotación de los recursos pesqueros en alta mar, pues se estaría prejuzgando el resultado de negociaciones finales acerca del régimen de alta mar en lo que toca a las actividades del sector de la pesca. Ciertamente los beneficios de esta empresa serían desiguales; pues tal vez se alentaría con estas nuevas actividades sugeridas las añejas desventajas de los países en desarrollo frente a los países desarrollados en la explotación e industrialización de la pesca, que poseen todos los recursos frente a los primeros tradicionalmente desprovistos.

P. HALIMI (France): A cette heure tardive je serai bref. Je voudrais simplement exprimer deux brèves remarques en complément de l'intervention du représentant de la Communauté économique européenne.

Tout d'abord, comme l'indique de manière excellente le document du Secrétariat, il nous paraît nécessaire que soient intensifiées les recherches de stocks de poissons jusqu'à présent négligés, ou sous-exploités surtout si l'on tient compte de l'évolution actuelle en matière de droit de la mer et du redéploiement des flottes de pêche que cette évolution implique.

En second lieu, nous voudrions souligner le rôle irremplaçable que joue la FAO en matière de collecte et de diffusion de l'information dans le secteur de la pêche. C'est pourquoi nous souhaitons que la documentation réunie par l'Organisation sur les évaluations de stocks des régions mal connues fasse l'objet, dans l'avenir, d'une diffusion élargie.

S. PADMANEGARA (Indonesia): Indonesia being an archipelago has a great stake in the sound development of marine fisheries. It welcomes the extension of national jurisdiction on territorial waters and the establishment of an exclusive economic zone. Such extension of national jurisdiction provides governments and the people of coastal States with increased opportunities for fishery development to accelerate and expand the economic exploitation of their marine resources and thereby improve the economic well being of their fishermen. At the same time my country fully recognizes the increased responsibilities such extension of national jurisdiction places on our Government and our people.

Aware of such opportunities and responsibilities, a comprehensive and integrated programme for fishery development has been prepared and initiated by my Government. Such programme includes (a) the strengthening of infrastructural facilities such as the building and improvement of fishing harbours, extension and improvement of fish handling and storage facilities, the expansion and modernizing of the fishing fleet, and the setting up of various kinds of fishery training centres;(b) while the accelerated increase of fish catch both for domestic needs and exports is being given top priority, the Government is also fully aware of the need to ensure that such modernization and expansion of the fishery industry should not be detrimental to the interests of the small fisherman, but that on the contrary, every effort should be made to provide as many opportunities as possible for these small fishermen to fully participate in the development process and thus benefit from the fruits of progress.

The expansion of fishing activities includes also the promotion of fishing industries and the improvement of fish products both for domestic and export markets.

The increased exploration of fish resources in our territorial waters has been conducted with valuable cooperation from foreign partners. The research and exploratory vessels used for this purpose are also used for regional activities (outside our territorial seas) such as under the South China Sea, the Fisheries Development Programme, the Indian Ocean Programme etc.

The FAO, as the highest international organization in the field of fisheries, is expected to play a prominent role in the coordination and fruitful handling of the many problems arising from the adoption of the new Regime of the Sea. Such a role is seen by my delegation to cover the following fields: (1) the maintenance of a proportionately balanced role of the developed and developing countries in the useful exploitation of fishery resources, both for meeting the food requirements of mankind as well as for improving the standards of living of the people; (2) the provision of positive guidance and assistance to increase the capabilities of the developing countries in exercising their expanded responsibilities under the new regime; (3) the exploration for new fishery resources in waters not yet exploited, including the increased catch of unconventional marine species, with the aim of expanding the scope of world fisheries.

Bearing all this in mind, my delegation suggests that it should be only prudent for FAO to reorientate its activities on the new responsibilities that will arise out of the adoption of an exclusive economic zone.

We fully recognize FAO's capabilities to provide valuable assistance to developing countries in the field of exploration, exploitation and management of fisheries resources. Such a system should take full account of the need (a) to increase the national capacities of individual countries and lessen their dependence on foreign countries, (b) to promote regional and sub-regional cooperation, and (c) to increase the action orientation of FAO's programme.

I may add that in the region of South East Asia regional cooperation in the field of fisheries has been progressing in an encouraging way. In particular, cooperative efforts among the ASEAN countries are expanding. Such efforts include studies on management of fisheries resources and training of techniques and fishermen. FAO is expected to play an increasing role in these cooperative programmes.

The meeting rose at 18.05 hours

La seance est levee à 18 h 05

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.05 horas

conference

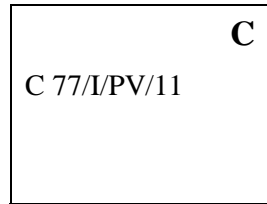
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Nineteenth Session
COMMISSION I

Dix-neuvième session
COMMISSION I

19º período de sesiones
COMISION II

ELEVENTH MEETING
ONZIEME SÉANCE
11ª SESION

(25 November 1977)

The Eleventh Meeting was opened at 9.55 hours
J.C.Vignaud, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La onzième séance est ouverte à 9 h 55 sous la présidence
de J.C.Vignaud, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 11ª sesión a las 9.55 horas, bajo la presidencia
de J.C. Vignaud, Presidente de la Comisión I

PART I - MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

(continued)

PREMIERE PARTIE - PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET QUESTIONS DE POLITIQUE EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE(suite)

PARTE I - PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLÍTICAS DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN (continuación)

9. Developments in the Regime of the Sea and their Implications for Fisheries
(continued)

9. Évaluation du régime des mers et incidences sur les pêches (suite)

9. Evolución del régimen del mar y consecuencias para la pesca (continuación)

A. STOFFELS (Pays-Bas): Comme vous l'avez demandé, Monsieur le Président, dans la section du document qui est devant nous, sur l'utilisation des ressources non conventionnelles, il s'agit des euphausidés, et en particulier du krill dans les mers australes entourant le continent antarctique. Non seulement, les captures du krill soulèvent des problèmes, mais également l'établissement d'un marché pour le krill. Néanmoins, nous approuvons le travail que fait le Département des pêches à cet égard.

D'autre part, je crois que le développement de l'aquaculture dans les pays en voie de développement donne la possibilité de produire une pêche de poissons de haute qualité. L'aquaculture demande naturellement des investissements, mais je crois que ces investissements seront bien souvent efficaces.

Nous avons parlé, il y a quelques jours, du problème des pertes après récolte. Il ne faut pas seulement penser à ces pertes dans l'agriculture, mais également à mon avis, aux pertes après récolte dans le domaine de la pêche.

Dans le document en question, on parle aussi des entreprises conjointes, et au sein du Comité des pêches auquel j'ai participé, nous avons envisagé toutes les difficultés de ces entreprises conjointes. Néanmoins, je crois que l'établissement de ces entreprises conjointes peut renforcer dans plusieurs cas la pêche et l'industrie de la pêche.

Pour terminer, je voudrais appuyer les observations faites par notre collègue de la Belgique concernant le paragraphe 8 du document.

C. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentine): Mi delegación desea efectuar la siguiente declaración. La República Argentina es consciente de la preocupación de la Comunidad Internacional por la búsqueda de nuevos recursos alimenticios mediante el mayor aprovechamiento de los recursos del mar. En tal sentido, recuerdo que la FAO tiene una importante función que desempeñar en el ámbito de su competencia en relación con los recursos vivos de los mares australes, pero insiste, tal como fuera convenido en el 11 período de sesiones del Comité de Pesca, en que de acuerdo con la práctica internacional, no debe realizarse ninguna actividad dentro de la zona de jurisdicción de un Estado costero sin que éste hubiera dado su consentimiento expreso.

Al respecto, la República Argentina que está compuesta por territorio continental, insular y antártico situados en su mayor parte en el área conocida como océanos australes, reivindica al igual que la gran mayoría de los Estados Miembros de la Comunidad Internacional, jurisdicción sobre las zonas de mar adyacentes a su territorio insular y continental y el sector antártico argentino, y sobre la totalidad de la plataforma continental hasta su borde exterior.

Por último, la delegación Argentina ratifica lo acordado en la Conferencia FAO de noviembre 1975, que tomó nota de la competencia de los países del Tratado Antártico en todas las cuestiones relativas al ecosistema del Antártico y de que la FAO mantuviera informados a los Estados del Tratado sobre sus actividades en la zona, coordinación de las mismas con los Estados del Tratado, y que estos conceptos fueran reiterados en el 11 período de sesiones del Comité de Pesca de la FAO efectuado en abril de 1977.

Señor Presidente; trataré de explicar, aunque sea brevemente, los motivos de la preocupación del Gobierno argentino por una adecuada y pertinente consideración de este tema, y la situación de la Argentina en el campo de la explotación de los recursos pesqueros. Nuestro país tiene uno de los más extensos litorales marítimos bañados por el Atlántico Sur, que como es sabido, es una de las zonas más ricas en recursos ícticos del mundo. Esta situación se ve favorecida por la presencia de una inmensa plataforma continental que abriga las más variadas y ricas especies de pescado. Una economía agraria próspera y autosuficiente, una condición de exportación de alimentos en zona templada y la carencia de una

infraestructura técnica y portuaria adecuada hizo que durante muchos años la riqueza pesquera del país estuviera a merced de las naves de cualquier país en la inmensidad de nuestros mares australes. Así en los siglos pasados, desde los legendarios arponeros de ballenas y de lobos marinos que prácticamente diezmaron estas especies hasta llegar casi a su extinción, nuestro litotal marítimo fue escenario imparable de las más variadas y constantes incursiones pesqueras.

En los últimos años, con el advenimiento de la técnica moderna y la necesidad de algunos países de ampliar sus horizontes marítimos y económicos, flotas enteras de buques pesqueros y factorías similares a grandes ciudades flotantes se han acercado a nuestras costas a explotar de modo industrial e indiscriminado nuestra zona económica exclusiva. La capacidad de captura y procesamiento de estas flotillas, equipadas con los más modernos equipos de tecnología supera todos los cálculos y puede ocasionar malos resultados en el equilibrio ecológico de la región.

La extensión del mar territorial y la zona económica exclusiva hace que las operaciones de control y de detección sean difíciles si no imposibles.

A ello se agrega, como expresé anteriormente, la falta de puertos y adecuada capacidad naval para responder a una acción constante y eficiente. Algunos episodios recientes de detección de buques efectuando actividades de pesca en violación de la legislación nacional vigente, que se basa en principios ya aceptados por el Derecho Internacional, han alertado y prevenido la permanente acción de incursores.

Por todo ello, Sr. Presidente, por haber sufrido una situación de abuso en el pasado y aun en el presente, es que mi país tiene particular sensibilidad en el tema de la explotación de los recursos pesqueros.

Pasaré ahora a efectuar algunos comentarios sobre el documento C 77/21, que debemos agradecer a la Secretaría por la manera eficiente y completa con que aborda la cuestión. Sin embargo, entendemos que el documento no hubiera sido lo suficientemente claro y completo si la pertinente y exhaustiva presentación efectuada por el Sr. Carroz. Le agradezco, Sr. Carroz, su brillante y atinada explicación, que cubre casi totalmente las dudas sobre lo que, llamémoslo así, sentido del documento. Nos daba la sensación que faltaba el énfasis que usted le dio al decir que la asistencia será dada por FAO siempre que ésta sea requerida por los estados costeros y en los campos que éstos determinen.

El Embajador del Perú amplió posteriormente, por vía de interpretación, este concepto de un modo más satisfactorio al expresar que no deben invadirse áreas de jurisdicción competentes a la Conferencia sobre el Derecho del Mar, y agregó un concepto que con otras palabras fue expresado por Chile ampliamente, y posteriormente apoyado por las delegaciones de Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Gabon, China, Zambia y otras delegaciones al decir que: "Esta colaboración debe quedar circunscrita a los aspectos científicos y técnicos de la asistencia requerida y sin que ello signifique prejuzgar sobre alcances de la Conferencia sobre el Derecho del Mar".

La declaración del Sr. Embajador del Ecuador en el sentido del derecho del estado costero de determinar las áreas de prioridades en su zona económica exclusiva, y a partir de ellas, orientar la colaboración de organismos multilaterales como la FAO, es compartida ampliamente por mi delegación.

Por lo tanto, sin perjuicio de sostener la necesidad de que la FAO se vaya preparando para procurar asistencia en este terreno del sector pesquero y preparándose bien con capacidad y recursos necesarios, esto debe hacerse con prudencia en consonancia con las alternativas que deberá aún sufrir el Texto Compuesto Oficioso de Negociación. Sabemos que este texto, como bien lo expresa el párrafo 3 del documento C 77/21, aún no es definitivo, y que habrá observaciones y reservas, pero constituye sin duda una buena base de orientación de lo que serán las normas en la materia.

Pero el establecimiento de estos principios, Sr. Presidente, el establecimiento formal y de fondo de estos principios jurídicos básicos debe tener prioridad y debe, sobre todo, dar el marco adecuado a las actividades científicas y técnicas de la FAO. Evidentemente la FAO está llamada a jugar un importante rol en el estudio del tipo de asistencia que se le podrá requerir, y esto está adecuadamente expuesto en el excelente párrafo 15 del documento. Ya en el transcurso del 71 Consejo, la delegación argentina manifestó la importancia que nuestro país asigna a la atención que ha prestado el Comité de Pesca a los aspectos socioeconómicos e institucionales y las recomendaciones expresadas en el seno del Comité en el sentido de que en las actividades del mismo, se tengan en cuenta aspectos políticos prioritarios contenidos en ordenamientos jurídicos internacionales vigentes.

Quisimos destacar aquí la importancia de los convenios bilaterales y multilaterales que junto a las legislaciones nacionales contienen las regulaciones necesarias para la adecuada organización de las actividades en los mares territoriales y las zonas económicas exclusivas, así como en áreas que por sus características peculiares han sido objeto de regulaciones especiales, como son los mares australes. Con respecto a los mares australes, permítaseme un comentario sobre lo que se ha titulado el reconocimiento y utilización de los recursos no tradicionales contenidos a partir del párrafo 21 hasta el 24, en particular el krill.

Esto es lo que llamamos un campo sensible de la soberanía y nos complacemos de la manifestación del Sr. Carroz en el sentido de tener debidamente en cuenta las estipulaciones del Tratado Antártico y las necesidades de consultas previas cuanto antes de cara a actividades que los afecten.

La amplitud e implicancias de este tema ha hecho difícil seguir al pie de la letra las recomendaciones formuladas por el Sr. Carroz de no apartarnos del espíritu de la Constitución de FAO al expresar nuestros comentarios. Sin embargo, esperamos que sean tenidas en cuenta para una más exitosa acción de este Organismo en un campo tan importante como la lucha contra el hambre y, la malnutrición en el sector de la pesca.

H.S. BAR-SHAI (Israel): First of all I would like to express my appreciation to the Secretariat for their document C 77/21. We are now in the midst of a period of transition and important changes in the pattern and systems of marine fishing which requires planning and action ensuring growth and supply of such an important source of protein as fish at least at a rate which will ensure the requirement of the growing world population. Document C 77/21 aptly indicates some of the measures required in the future for the development of fisheries for future consumption. There is no doubt, as is evident from paragraph 18, that international and regional cooperation is indeed required if any development and progress is to be attained. The very nature of fisheries requires at least regional cooperation where all the States which border on a given area take part in its activities so as to achieve a better utilization and development of the resources as well as dealing with such problems as the prevention of pollution or over-fishing.

During recent years the quantities of fishing have not risen, mainly due to over-fishing. I feel a new approach should be taken towards the enlarging of fish resources by producing new systems of growing new varieties. The yields of agricultural products of animal and vegetable origin has substantially risen over recent years, and there is no reason why this process should not take place with fisheries. In Israel where about 40 percent of fish consumption is grown in fishponds, the yields of carp and whiting have more than doubled due to new systems of feeding and culture and fish farming which are the result of constant research. I am sure the production of other fishes through efficient farming and other systems can grow substantially both in quantity and quality where scientific systems devised for this end exist, and I see a future where international and regional efforts should be directed to this end.

I regard as an important task of the FAO the need to promote research of new approaches to fisheries. May I express the wish that more funds be allocated at both national and international levels for applied research and investment to ensure availability and development of this health food, which is fish.

W.Y. WOLDEYES (Ethiopia): I would like to congratulate the Secretariat for their efforts shown in preparing this concise and to the point document on Developments in the Regime of the Sea and their implications for Fisheries. Based on the decisions of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, it is the belief and understanding of the provisional Government of Socialist Ethiopia that exploitation by the world's resources of the seas must be done by consultation and with full participation of all nations having ocean and sea coastal lines.

Ethiopia has about 2 000 kilometres of coastal line along the south-west of the Red Sea. Document C 77/21 paragraph 8 clearly outlines the problems encountered by nations whose fish stocks come under more than one jurisdiction. The narrow international water of the Red Sea is a typical example that could be cited in paragraph 8. Fish and other resources in the Red Sea are not yet exploited. Ethiopia's territorial Red Sea area overlaps with that of other nation's territorial limits in the zone. Because of this, exploitation of the resources in the Red Sea without the full participation and consultation of the Ethiopian Government is regarded as violating the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Ethiopian State. Most of all, exploitation of resources of the seas and zones without the participation of the countries concerned undoubtedly endangers international peace and order.

Ethiopia welcomes programmes of regional arrangements under which the total allowable catches can be divided between countries having common jurisdiction, as well as arrangements under which countries collect data and pool their scientific information and expertise.

Ethiopia at this time is giving due consideration to the utilization of resources available, not only in its coastal water but also in the resources in the inland waters, that is, in the abundant lakes and rivers in the country.

Ethiopia seeks maximum exploitation of its water resources for the development of local industries, through a combination of local development and other arrangements, including both bilateral and multi lateral assistance.

Ethiopia fully supports the programme for the development of economic zones for the developing countries stated in paragraph 17 of the document C 77/21 and FAO's intention to mount a series of multi-disciplinary missions to assess the implication of extended zones of jurisdiction for fishery development on a region by region basis. Ethiopia looks forward to the arrival of this Mission in the Red Sea zone.

M. ISHAQUE (Bangladesh): The coastal states, particularly developing ones, have now a better opportunity to improve their diet and economy by catches beyond their 12-mile sea jurisdiction, due to the extension.

Document C 77/21 has mentioned very correctly in paragraph 15 page 4 that the developing coastal states will need considerable assistance, covering such fields as modernization and/or expansion of fishing fleets, improvement of fishing technology, development of harbours and infra-structural facilities, strengthening of institutional services, steps to prevent quantitative and qualitative losses of the catch at all stages of the handling, processing and distribution chain.

Having appreciated the need in paragraph 16 of document C 77/21 the responsibility of FAO is outlined as being the holding of seminars and other services of an advisory nature. The document did not mention however in clear terms the responsibilities of FAO about its involvement in respect of practical, material and operational assistance that needs to be given to the developing coastal States, although such needs are appreciated. There are countries which are aware of the possibilities and have already launched programmes for coastal and sea fishing. Such countries, of which my country Bangladesh is one, are struggling to maintain, modernize, and expand their fishing fleet, and improve their harbour and marketing facilities due to constraints of an adverse nature.

FAO should include in its strategy not only remaining as friend, philosopher and guide, which position is well accepted, but should also be directly involved in practical, operational and material service.

This instance of the developing of fishing in the 200-mile zone, is an opportunity for coastal States, most of which have a protein deficiency, to have better nutrition as well as to have a better export trade. Studies are needed no doubt, but lengthy studies and scanty material aid will delay the removal of malnutrition and hunger.

May I suggest a quick study of the programmes of selected developing coastal States which have already launched a programme of sea fishing, to identify their need and take positive steps to remove the handicaps-material, technological and institutional. This will be a direct action programme of FAO and will take those developing countries which have come to the take-off stage to the position of better food availability and economic growth.

With regard to the utilization of the unconventional resources of the sea, do we know what effect, if any, there will be on the small fish and the large fish if the flora and the fauna of the food chain is disturbed? Without definite knowledge I am afraid that large-scale disturbance may lead to undesirable results. Further, should the resource investment for exploiting the unconventional get priority over the conventional? I raise through you the question whether FAO should give priority to diversion of some of the resources of the developed countries to lift up the less fortunate people of the developing countries in their bid to help themselves.

Many countries would very much like to have joint venture operations in fishing in the sea and may I suggest that FAO identify these areas and be instrumental in establishing the projects as early as possible. The distinguished delegates of Japan and the Netherlands have mentioned their support in this respect also and have suggested FAO's action. I am grateful to them.

Finally, inland fisheries at present provide the very important protein food to many developing countries in quantities that are not enough, although potentially opportunities exist for higher production. FAO therefore should involve itself in this area also more intensely. I must state here that by an act of Parliament in 1974 Bangladesh has a 12-mile territorial water and a 200-mile economic zone which is very rich in fish and other marine flora and fauna, this is awaiting authorized exploitation and protection against pilfering by unauthorized fishermen.

Bangladesh is in a serious mood to develop her economy. Our target against a 1975/76 bench-mark of 100 000 tons is 151.8 thousand tons in 1979/80, and 255.8 thousand tons in 1984/85. Our targets of inland fisheries are 760.4 thousand tons in 1979/80 and 925.1 thousand tons in 1984/85 against the present (1975/76) 650 000 tons. In respect of marine fisheries therefore, our target of growth is 150 percent by 1984/85 and in respect of inland fisheries by 50 percent. In this programme we are in need of assistance from world bodies in the form of active and material participation, including joint ventures. Already we have started a joint venture in marine fishing in the private and public sectors and there exists scope of further development of this.

We shall cooperate with missions of FAO and other bodies for appropriate programme development and implementation in the sector of marine and inland fishing.

J. R. PEREZ FERNANDEZ (Cuba): En esta breve intervención, deso plantear, como síntesis del trabajo de Cuba en pesca, que en 1977 ya sobrepasamos las 200 000 toneladas de captura, lo que demuestra un crecimiento grande si conocemos que en 1958 fue sólo de 21 900 toneladas. Para sus logros Cuba ha contado con la colaboración de FAO, PNUD y otras Organizaciones Internacionales, así como de los países socialistas y en particular de la Unión Soviética.

Ante las 12 millas de mar territorial y las 200 millas de zona económica que establece el nuevo régimen del mar, Cuba se solidariza y actúa en el marco de los pronunciamientos que FAO y COPI han emitido al respecto; está de acuerdo con el documento emitido por la Secretaría sobre la Evolución del Régimen del Mar y consecuencias para el sector pesquero, documentos C 77/21, y apoya también las actividades futuras enunciadas sobre pesca:

1. Aumento de las capturas para el consumo humano.
2. Aumento de la captura de recursos no tradicionales.
3. Mejoramiento de las técnicas de procesamiento para aprovechar la parte de las capturas que se desperdicia
4. Fomento de la acuicultura y la piscicultura.
5. Protección del medio acuático de la contaminación.
6. Promoción de mercados para los productos pesqueros, etc.

Deseo subrayar, además, aspectos que nuestra delegación considera de interés acerca de que las estimaciones de las capturas potenciales de los países en desarrollo son indirectas o responden a proyecciones de las tendencias de un período de años, y que no están relacionadas -en la mayoría de los casos- con el nivel de explotación actual de cada recurso, ni existen medidas de ordenamiento que garanticen la explotación al nivel de captura máxima sostenible. Y que la nueva situación plantea que al tratar de evaluar las posibilidades de expansión de las pesquerías de un país o grupo de países, resulta indispensable examinar no sólo las disponibilidades en recursos pesqueros de las aguas que se desea explotar, sino además las posibilidades de acceso a dichos recursos, determinadas por razones de carácter legal o político. Por ello se nos plantea la necesidad de aunar esfuerzos en el mejoramiento de la información indispensable que permita determinar con mayor precisión los recursos pesqueros disponibles, y en la explotación coordinada de estos recursos.

Analizaremos algunos datos estadísticos que fueron examinados en la Reunión de los Países no Alineados y otros en Desarrollo, celebrada recientemente en La Hahana ante la necesidad de unir nuestras acciones para enfrentar la nueva situación pesquera mundial: la captura total mundial de especies marinas reportada por FAO para el año 1975 asciende a 59 288 000 toneladas. Si desglosamos esta cifra encontramos que 33 países desarrollados, el 19,3% del total de países y territorios que reportan actividades pesqueras a la FAO, tienen el 65,8% de la captura total mundial de especies marinas; mientras los países no alineados y otros en desarrollo componen el 81% de los países pesqueros y reportan solamente el 34,2% las capturas mundiales.

También apreciamos que los países subdesarrollados pescan más, generalmente, en la región a la cual pertenecen, ocurriendo un fenómeno inverso con los países desarrollados, que realizan mayores capturas fuera de su jurisdicción. Lo anterior confirma el hecho del escaso desarrollo pesquero de los países subdesarrollados y la necesidad de que se amplíen las capacidades extractivas para poder hacer uso de partes más importantes de los recursos pesqueros frente a sus costas en una primera etapa, para beneficiarse luego de los recursos de otras regiones mediante la aplicación de tratados preferenciales sobre bases recíprocas.

Del análisis precedente se desprende la importancia que Cuba concede a hacer un uso adecuado de las jurisdicciones ampliadas sobre estos recursos, y a aplicar tratos preferenciales recíprocos entre nuestros países; sobre la base de que exista una colaboración y asistencia técnica adecuadas y de que parte de esta acción cooperativa se reinvierta en el financiamiento y ayuda a los países menos desarrollados. Nuestro país se percató de que la gran mayoría de los países que actualmente han extendido su jurisdicción sobre los recursos pesqueros en zonas de hasta 200 millas exigen, como requisito indispensable para conceder cuotas de pesca en sus zonas respectivas, el contar con los llamados "derechos históricos" determinados por la participación precedente en las pesquerías dentro de sus zonas; sin embargo, como expusimos, la participación de los países en desarrollo en pesquerías distantes de sus costas es casi nula, por lo que los "derechos históricos" le han sido negados a estos países en razón de que a los mismos no les ha sido dada la oportunidad de desarrollar sus economías y, por lo tanto, no les ha sido posible desarrollar empresas que demandan la movilización de amplios recursos y del empleo de técnicas complejas. De esta forma, paradójicamente, a los países más necesitados de mejorar la dieta proteica de sus pueblos, se les niega el acceso a fuentes importantes de proteínas invocando falta de derechos históricos.

El cuadro que presenta la explotación de las aguas interiores y la acuicultura para nuestros países, coincide con lo tratado sobre las especies marinas.

Cuba, señor Presidente, ratifica sus posiciones expuestas en las distintas reuniones internacionales, ante el nuevo régimen del mar, conocidas de todos y que, por ello, no repetimos aquí.

Está de acuerdo en que se debe favorecer el establecimiento de nuevas comisiones regionales de pesca y el fortalecimiento de las existentes para que éstas funjan como órganos de control de las pesquerías.

Asimismo, consideramos importante la colaboración para la calificación de cuadros para la industria pesquera y para la investigación científica, etc. También estimamos trascendente, no sólo la creación de empresas conjuntas entre países desarrollados y en vías de desarrollo para fomentar la pesca, sino la estrecha colaboración - incluyendo la creación de empresas conjuntas - entre los países subdesarrollados; y que FAO, conjuntamente con todos los países, asegure la participación de los países subdesarrollados en la explotación de estos recursos.

Ratificamos nuestra más generosa disposición a compartir la experiencia obtenida y a cooperar fraternalmente por el desarrollo de la industria pesquera en todos los países, en función de los intereses de nuestros pueblos y no para que las empresas transnacionales logren nuevas y más fabulosas ganancias. Como ejemplo de formas de cooperación positivas con los países desarrollados, en el marco de un estricto respeto por la soberanía de nuestros pueblos sobre sus recursos naturales y en el espíritu de beneficio recíproco, tomando en especial consideración los intereses de los países en desarrollo; debemos exponer nuestra experiencia con países que no se han beneficiado de la explotación colonial y neocolonial y con aquellos cuyo régimen económico y social ha erradicado la explotación del hombre por el hombre y de una nación por otra, en particular asociándonos a países del campo socialista y en la obtención a partir de ello de resultados positivos para el país en desarrollo.

José Martí, apóstol de nuestra independencia, escribió hace cerca de cien años: "y el único camino abierto a la prosperidad constante y fácil es el de conocer, cultivar y aprovechar los elementos inagotables e infatigables de la naturaleza. La naturaleza... no cierra el paso a nadie, porque no te niega a nadie. Los hombres siempre necesitarán de los productos de la naturaleza."

En relación con los recursos vivos del Océano Austral, debemos elaborar un programa que atienda de manera especial los problemas de la investigación y el acceso de todos los países a los beneficios que se derivaran de la explotación, para lo que previamente se hará necesario acopiar los medios económicos disponibles por FAO recabando de todas las contribuciones extras que se hagan indispensables a este fin. Nuestro país estima, por tanto, que es a través de FAO que podremos, unidos, abordar este empeño tal y como hemos planteado, para garantizar los intereses de los países en desarrollo, con la participación de los países desarrollados.

FAO debe continuar el camino ya emprendido, muy importante. Estos trabajos deben llevarse a cabo en coordinación con los estados costeros de la zona, las organizaciones científicas que estudian la región y con las partes signatarias del Tratado Antártico y con otros órganos de Naciones Unidas.

G.J. RANDAL (New Zealand): The speakers before me have forcefully argued the needs of developing countries for assistance in using and developing their marine living resources. The Secretariat paper and Mr. Carroz's excellent opening statement set out very well the dimensions of the question in an FAO context.

As the delegate of Fiji has described, the countries of the South Pacific -and these include New Zealand- have been working closely together to ensure that the best use possible will be made of their fishing resources. New Zealand fully supports the proposed South Pacific Fisheries Agency. We hope that countries and organizations outside the area will also contribute to its operations.

Like these other Pacific countries, New Zealand has proclaimed a 200-mile economic zone and we intend to ensure that the zone is used as a national asset. Under legislation passed recently we shall be strictly controlling foreign fishing in our waters. We are, however, conscious of the responsibilities that this policy imposes on us and also of the demands it will make on our resources.

The main purpose of this intervention is to give New Zealand's support to an FAO programme of work which is to be directed towards assisting developing countries to use wisely and profitably the resources of their exclusive economic zones. We would expect that in its work FAO will coordinate fully with the other bodies and donors involved in this field. In this connection we were impressed by the thoughtful statement of the United States delegate on the need for a further look at the means and channels available to us. We look forward to an early consideration of these issues at next year's meeting of the Committee on Fisheries and in other forums.

R. AMATO UDABE (Uruguay): La consideración del tema que nos ocupa refleja la capacidad fundamental y la disposición especial de la FAO en la materia, como fue reconocido unánimemente en el 11° período de sesiones del Comité de Pesca y que apreciamos es el criterio unánime de esta Conferencia.

La delegación de mi país desea en forma muy especial poner de relieve la magnitud y eficiencia de los planes formulados por el Departamento de Pesca como asimismo destacar que su cumplimiento contribuirá sin duda al bienestar y desarrollo de los pueblos de la humanidad, especialmente de los países en vías de desarrollo. La FAO debería aplicar al máximo sus posibilidades en el trabajo de coordinación con todos los organismos vinculados con el mar y la explotación de las riquezas pesqueras, concertando programas y asistiendo a todos los países que solicitaran su asesoramiento técnico y científico. Asimismo creemos que resultaría fundamental una adecuada armonización entre las actividades regionales y subregionales. A este respecto, mi delegación apoya la inclusión del tema "Actividades y desarrollo pesquero" en la próxima Conferencia Regional Latinoamericana, a celebrar en mi país en 1978.

Mi país extendió la soberanía territorial nacional a una zona de 200 millas marinas, por Decreto del 3 de diciembre de 1969, estableciendo que la soberanía de la República Oriental del Uruguay se extendía más allá de un territorio continental e insular y de sus aguas interiores a una zona de mar territorial de 200 millas marinas, medidas a partir de las líneas de base; igualmente extendió la soberanía al espacio aéreo situado sobre el mar territorial, así como al lecho y al subsuelo de ese mar. Esta proclamación se ha realizado entendiendo por 200 millas el límite exterior a que llega el ámbito espacial de validez y aplicación efectiva de las normas del Estado ribereño dictadas en ejercicio de su competencia exclusiva, conforme al derecho internacional.

La soberanía supone derechos y deberes. La proclamación de soberanía sobre el mar territorial implica la asunción de los deberes que ello involucra, entre los que particularmente está el de proteger el medio marino y el de preservar y explotar las especies racionalmente, teniendo en cuenta las recomendaciones de los organismos técnicos internacionales, así como de promover y facilitar la investigación científica.

Pero es necesario subrayar los conceptos vertidos por las delegaciones de Chile, Perú, Ecuador y El Salvador, entre otros, que me han precedido en el uso de la palabra, respecto al derecho de participar, solamente ante petición del país soberano que así lo hiciera.

El concepto del mar territorial de 200 millas había nacido en América Latina, cuando Chile, Ecuador y Perú suscribieron, el 18 de agosto de 1972, la Declaración de Santiago. Anteriormente, en 1950, El Salvador había fijado unilateralmente el mar territorial.

Es sabido que no han existido nunca normas internacionales de derecho positivo y vigente, sean éstas de naturaleza convencional o consuetudinaria, que establezcan la anchura del mar territorial de los Estados. La historia abunda en proclamaciones unilaterales de los Estados, pero en ningún momento existió una norma de universal obligatoriedad. Los resultados negativos de la Conferencia de la Haya, en 1930, y de Ginebra, de 1958 y 1960, así lo demuestran, pues en ninguna de ellas hubo mayoría suficiente en la comunidad internacional que lograra aprobar una determinada extensión del mar territorial.

Hacia 1960, además de los tres países mencionados y de El Salvador, la República de Corea había establecido zonas de pesca exclusiva entre 20 y 200 millas y la India y Sri Lanka una zona de conservación de pesquerías de hasta 100 millas. En Africa, Ghana, en 1963, estableció las 100 millas para la conservación de pesquerías y Guinea las 200 millas como zona exclusiva de pesca. Pakistán en 1966 había establecido las 100 millas para conservación de pesquerías y Panamá, en 1967, las 200 millas del mar territorial.

La Declaración de Montevideo sobre el Derecho del Mar (8 de mayo de 1970), suscrita por 9 Estados, y la posterior Declaración de Estados Latinoamericanos sobre el Derecho del Mar, suscrita por otros 14 Estados, fija la situación en la materia.

Actualmente el tema está siendo debatido en la Tercera Conferencia del Derecho del Mar, como consta en el documento C 77/21, que ha sido pulcramente elaborado y presentado de manera satisfactoria por el Sr. Carroz, pero entendemos que el tema que se plantea es muy delicado. Estamos asistiendo verdaderamente a un proceso revolucionario, en cuanto que se intenta por parte de la comunidad internacional fijar el régimen del mar. Sin embargo, nada está hecho, no hay conclusiones certeras y simplemente se dispone de un texto oficioso compuesto de negociaciones. De tal modo, estimamos que en este momento muy especial conviene formulaciones muy prudentes en la materia, que no alteren un proceso tan largo y costoso. De ahí sostenemos que las dificultades en la terminología aplicada pueden llegar a provocar polémicas que pueden ser discutidas en otro foro específico que está creándose desde hace años para la materia y que es el verdadero foro en el cual tienen que dilucidarse estos graves problemas, que decididamente y resolverán sin duda el régimen del mar y, consecuentemente, permitirán una elaboración más adecuada de un plan global de explotación de los recursos marinos y su conservación.

El Uruguay muy especialmente manifiesta su reconocimiento por la actividad de la FAO, como la de otros organismos internacionales. El plan de desarrollo pesquero, iniciado por el Instituto Nacional Pesquero, se encuadra dentro de los objetivos nacionales del Plan Quinquenal de Desarrollo del Uruguay para 1973/77 (Sector. Industrias). La mayor parte del incremento previsto de la producción pesquera se destinará al mercado externo, contribuyendo así al cumplimiento de las metas globales de exportación y a la diversificación de las industrias.

La meta propuesta para 1980 es la de llegar a una captura anual de 200 000 toneladas, sin depredación. En el quinquenio siguiente pensamos duplicar dicha cifra, para llegar a las 400 000 toneladas.

Estas cifras cobran relieve si se considera que en el año 1975 se lograron capturas del orden de las 26 000 toneladas de pescado, y para el año 1978 se estima llegar a las 140 000 toneladas-año, teóricas.

Asimismo, la producción en el año 1975 fue el doble de la obtenida en 1960 y 4 veces superior a la producción de 1950. Este éxito ha sido fruto de una feliz coincidencia entre la expansión progresiva de la flota de arrastre y el decidido apoyo del Gobierno para el desarrollo pesquero.

A comienzos del 1973, la flota costera y de altura se componía de 37 barcos, con 2 400 toneladas de registro bruto; durante el período 73/76, dicha flota aumentó en 15 barcos, triplicándose el trabajo, duplicándose la potencia y multiplicándose el número de tripulantes por 1,7.

Las plantas pesqueras procesaron en 1975 casi 18 000 toneladas, es decir, que se produjo un aumento del 100 por ciento, comparado con el año 1972.

Las exportaciones de productos pesqueros, que en 1972 eran de 1 381 toneladas, por valor de 286 000 dólares, en 1976 ascendieron a 10 300 toneladas, por valor de 4,9 millones de dólares. En 1978 se espera generar unos 25 millones de dólares en divisas provenientes de la exportación, deducidos los insumos, que serán del orden de los 2,5 millones de dólares.

Asimismo, es sumamente importante destacar las ventajas que en el sector ocupacional producirá el desarrollo del plan pesquero.

Quiero también someter a la consideración de esta Comisión un acuerdo celebrado entre dos países en desarrollo para cooperación en materia pesquera. Por Ley 14.145, de 25 de enero de 1974, se aprobó en nuestro país el Tratado del Río de la Plata. Por el Artículo 73 de dicho Tratado las partes acordaron establecer una zona común de pesca más activa para los buques con bandera debidamente matriculados. Dicha zona es la determinada por los arcos de circunferencia de 200 millas marinas, cuyo centro de trazado está ubicado en Punta del Este (República de Uruguay) y Punta Rasa (República Argentina). El Artículo 74 dispone que los volúmenes de captura de especies se distribuirán en forma equitativa, proporcional a la riqueza piscícola de cada una de las partes, evaluándose en base a criterios científicos y económicos.

Para terminar, quiero agregar que la defensa del mar territorial y la explotación que cada Estado haga de los recursos costeros que le pertenecen han sido fielmente proclamadas por la resolución 2692 (XXV) de las Naciones Unidas, proclamando el derecho soberano de los pueblos a ejercer soberanía permanente de sus recursos naturales.

A. TAFFAR (Argé debate): Je voudrais tout d'abord me joindre à tous les délégués qui m'ont précédé pour féliciter le Secrétariat qui nous a présenté un excellent document de travail sur la question.

Au nom de la délégation algérienne, permettez-moi de faire quelques commentaires relatifs au point de l'ordre du jour que nous examinons. Le régime des mers a considérablement évolué avec l'établissement des zones économiques exclusives par de nombreux Etats côtiers. Il s'agit, pour les pays en voie de développement, de la consécration du principe de la souveraineté des Etats sur leurs ressources, un des éléments du nouvel ordre économique international, mais aussi des moyens de mettre fin au pillage de leurs ressources halieutiques. Les changements intervenus vont permettre à ces pays de définir une politique rationnelle de développement des pêches afin d'élever le niveau nutritionnel de leurs populations et même de s'assurer des entrées en devises. Mais le développement de ce secteur nécessite d'énormes investissements que les pays en voie de développement ne sont pas en mesure de mobiliser. Pour permettre à ces pays de tirer pleinement profit de leurs ressources, il est indispensable d'opérer un transfert de ressources, mais aussi un transfert de technologie par le biais de la coopération bilatérale, mais surtout par le canal d'institutions internationales appropriées. Il est entendu que cette assistance doit s'insérer dans les plans nationaux de développement du secteur halieutique. Quant à la FAO, elle doit jouer un rôle important pour aider les pays en voie de développement à formuler leurs plans d'exploitation rationnelle de leurs ressources halieutiques, notamment en leur fournissant l'expertise qui leur fait cruellement défaut pour moderniser leurs flottilles de pêche et passer d'une exploitation artisanale à une exploitation moderne de ces ressources.

B.E. MATAMOROS HUECK (Nicaragua): Mi país ha establecido su jurisdicción sobre el límite de 200 millas al igual que otros países en desarrollo. Es considerada la importancia de establecer zonas exclusivas dentro de esos límites a fin de aprovechar en una forma racional nuestros recursos marinos. Consideramos que a raíz de esta determinación se presentan dos nuevos elementos. El ejercicio de la soberanía de parte de nuestros países dentro de esos límites, y la necesidad de encontrar los medios para su implementación.

Creemos que desde el punto de vista jurídico aun no se ha logrado perfeccionar los instrumentos y el marco dentro del cual se formularán de una forma exacta estos criterios. Sin embargo, es necesario tomar en consideración aquellos aspectos de orden científico y técnico que, sin prejuzgar los resultados sobre la Conferencia sobre el Derecho del Mar, podrían llevar a encauzar las actividades de los organismos competentes en este sector.

Consideramos que las actividades pesqueras constituyen un factor muy importante en algunos países en desarrollo, ya que en algunos casos han favorecido el desarrollo económico, han equilibrado nuestra balanza de pagos y han mejorado nuestro abastecimiento de alimentos. En este sentido, a criterio nuestro, la FAO tendría una función importante que desarrollar, el prestar asistencia a los países en desarrollo siempre que así lo solicitaran en algunos aspectos que coincidan con sus políticas nacionales.

Específicamente, a solicitud de los países en desarrollo, la FAO podría prestar asistencia a nuestros países en la formulación de los regímenes relativos a las empresas conjuntas, en la determinación de las legislaciones; asimismo prestandole atención a aspectos relativos como son el almacenamiento y la elaboración de estos procesos.

Creemos que la FAO también puede prestar asistencia a nuestros países siempre en el marco de nuestra soberanía en la preparación de proyectos que determinen la viabilidad de las inversiones. Creemos también que debería la FAO, siempre que así se lo solicitaran nuestros países, prestar la asistencia debida a las comisiones regionales ya existentes y también fortalecer la posibilidad de crear nuevas co-comisiones en este mismo sentido. En cuanto a las actividades desarrolladas por mi país, las actividades relativas al sector marítimo han contribuido a la formación de productos internos brutos del país en el orden del 20 por ciento, y actualmente dentro del marco de ampliación de estos recursos, se están desarrollando programas con la cooperación de FAO y otros órganos de financiamiento regional.

M.J. DE OLIVEIRA RUIVO (Portugal): I apologize for asking for the floor again but, as I mentioned during my intervention. I refrained from commenting on the second part of document C 77/21 dealing with the survey and utilization of unconventional resources. I followed that approach because my delegation attached great importance to this section and we were very pleased to hear the comments made and the encouragement given by other delegations on the role to be played by FAO in close co operation with the Atlantic Treaty powers and other interested countries in this area.

Very briefly, I would like to make two kinds of remarks. First of all, in relation to unconventional resources like long-term fisheries and others, we think that the role of FAO for many years to come is just to keep abreast of information about development and to facilitate access to that information by member countries.

In the case of the Southern Ocean resources there are certainly two categories which require different action. There are unconventional resources. I refer to fish like neothenia, crustaceans, etc., which need to be kept under monitoring in order to ensure proper conservation measures and the transfer of increased fishing power to that area. Evidently this action will in part lie within the jurisdiction of coastal countries, but there are some stocks which are outside that jurisdiction and which should be kept under survey. But certainly the most important aspect in the future in the field of fisheries and the world as a whole is the possibility of extensive exploitation of krill, and I would be tempted to say that this is possibly the feiggest confrontation in the history of the world between two sections, the biomass of krill, that is simply the biggest biomass of the species, and mankind which is the ' other biomass.

The conflict between these two categories is certain to be a very serious one under the present situation of restriction of access to certain fisheries and transfer of fishing power, particularly, as was mentioned by some speakers yesterday, since these are vulnerable resources and also the ecosystem which is rather fragile needs to be protected.

This is why my delegation is pleased to see the close cooperation which FAO is maintaining with other organizations, both in promoting scientific activities or with a view to developing the appropriate scientific basis for future conservation of fish resources.

We have noted with satisfaction that the Antarctic Treaty powers are moving towards the promotion of methods of conservation for living resources, and we hope that FAO will continue to respond positively to any invitation associated with that study.

We consider that the establishment at an early date of an appropriate convention among the interested parties for the protection of these resources is highly desirable, and it is our responsibility - as was recognized at the last session of the Committee on Fisheries within its terms of reference - to ensure that the technical competence and experience accumulated in this organization at the service of member countries is also mobilized to interact with the Antarctic Treaty and the countries involved in that very important action.

Finally, we are pleased to see the documents which have been circulated by the Secretariat from the FAO/UNDP project which has been going on for some time providing information about resources and other relevant aspects regarding krill, and we hope that the support for this activity will be maintained to ensure that at the next Session of COFI we can review the whole matter and collectively decide the appropriate action to be followed by FAO,

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores, no tenemos más oradores inscritos en la lista, de manera que si no hay otros comentarios adicionales, voy a conceder la palabra a los señores representantes de la Secretaría para que comenten las intervenciones y respondan a preguntas que se han formulado.

Va a intervenir primero el Sr. Carroz, que es el Oficial Legal Principal del Departamento de Pesca; luego, el Sr. Labón, que es el Jefe de la delegación de Industrias Pesqueras; y por último, va a cerrar las intervenciones de la Secretaría el Sr. Watzinger, que es el Subdirector General del Departamento de Pesca.

J. E. CARROZ (FAO Staff): I will attempt to give a summary of the discussions and stress the main points which were made during this debate.

First of all, I would say that the Commission has noted the striking developments that are taking place in the regime of the sea and the fundamental changes that extension of national jurisdiction entail for the management and control of most living resources of the oceans.

The Commission has recognized, however, that the third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea has not yet completed its work and that great care should be exercised to avoid prejudging the final outcome of that Conference.

Most delegations considered that the emerging regime would make an important contribution to the establishment of a new international economic order and a more equitable food production policy on a global basis. At the same time, it was pointed out that efforts should be made to avoid a decrease in world fish catches a result of the adaptation to changing circumstances, and emphasis was placed on the need for optimum utilization of resources in extended zones of jurisdiction and the intensification of fishing of under-exploited stocks or unconventional resources. The Commission has recognized that the new regime gives coastal states increased rights and in particular sovereign rights for the purpose of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing natural resources in areas under national jurisdiction. These opportunities for fisheries development could, however place greater demand on coastal states in terms of research, surveys, management measures and enforcement, as well as processing and marketing activities.

The Commission has stressed the magnitude of the task that is facing many developing coastal states if they are to make full use of the resources at their disposal, and it has urged FAO, as the leading intergovernmental body dealing with fisheries, to be ready to discharge unprecedented responsibilities for technical cooperation until developing coastal states achieve self-reliance. This would involve allotting increased resources to fishery programmes of the Organization.

The Commission has endorsed fully the request made by the Committee on Fisheries at its eleventh session in April of this year that the Secretariat prepare a comprehensive programme to assist developing coastal states in managing and developing fishery resources in their economic zones. It has recommended that this should be a medium-term programme with clearly defined objectives, priorities, target dates, and balanced proposals for resources allocations, aiming at the transfer of technology in all sectors of fisheries. It was felt that such a programme could be instrumental in promoting investment and mobilizing financial and other contributions from donor countries and bilateral and multilateral agencies. It was stressed, however, that assistance should be granted only upon request in the form indicated by the countries concerned and bearing in mind the sovereign right of coastal states over their natural resources.

The Commission has welcomed the activities already carried out by FAO to help developing coastal states to adjust to the new regime governing fisheries. These include in particular the multi-disciplinary missions to assess the implications on a country or region of fishery bodies; the execution of studies leading to the formulation of fishery development plans; assistance in remodelling national legislation and restructuring or establishing national institutions, including fishery development corporations; assistance in preparing for or negotiating joint ventures and bilateral agreements on fisheries; and promotion of investments in the fisheries sector.

The Commission has recognized that regional fishery bodies, and particularly those established within the framework of FAO, could also contribute to increasing the capability of coastal states. It has noted with satisfaction that the Mediterranean have recently assumed wider responsibilities for resource management and development. It requested that steps should be taken to make other bodies, especially the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic and the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission, more action-orientated, and in this respect it noted with approval the proposal to strengthen the linkages between regional fishery bodies and the regional UNDP/FAO Fishery Development Programme. It also welcomed the proposed decentralization of activities which should lead to an increased involvement of coastal states in the areas served by regional bodies without weakening in any way the unique essential role of headquarters.

The Commission has noted the useful contribution that unconventional resources such as meso-pelagic fish, oceanic squids and krill could make to increase world food supplies and particularly animal protein supplies. It has expressed satisfaction of the activities carried out by FAO so far to promote the collection and exchange of information on these resources, including the problems encountered in catching, processing and marketing them.

Particular reference was made to the usefulness of the UNDP/FAO Southern Oceans Fisheries Survey Programme. The Commission generally recommended that FAO continue these actions with the support of UNDP, but it stressed that such activities should only be pursued in close cooperation with the coastal states in the area and other interested states, as well as the appropriate scientific bodies, and in close cooperative working relations with the parties to the Antarctic Treaty as regards the area covered by that Treaty.

A. LABON (Director, Fishery Industries Division): Mr. Carros has summarized in an excellent way the terms of reference of the missions we are going to send to the countries. I should perhaps add a few more details regarding the programme of work of such missions and the purpose of their going there because we feel that as a practical means of helping to define and narrow the scope of the problem the implications of the exclusive economic zones for international fisheries and quantitative evaluation of the likely impact of this and the results that have emerged for the respective countries, needs to be carried out. We therefore are designing our programme so as to offer help, always upon request, of countries in their efforts to execute their new responsibilities, and particularly to maximize the benefits to be derived from their new zones of exclusive fishery jurisdiction. The political decisions are of course a matter for the government concerned, but if desired the FAO can help the decision making by demonstrating the pros and cons of the various policies and identifying and executing appropriate development projects. In fact, the recent session of the Indian-Ocean Fishery Commission has recognized the economic policies with particular reference to fishery policies of many countries will need to be reviewed in view of the changed legal regime of the oceans.

So far, eight countries have requested FAO's assistance in tackling problems emerging from exclusive zones. It has been agreed with those governments that high level missions should visit their countries in the future. Two of such missions will visit four countries in the course of December and will start to travel immediately after the Conference has finished. Those missions will be working together with the government officials and will review the fishery situation of the respective countries, with particular emphasis on policy and fisheries development options available to the country.

Among the most important elements to be analysed, the missions will review 1/ the fishery resources of the country in terms of abundance and level of exploitation both by national fishery fleets and by foreign fleets; 2/ the state of the industry and its capacity with a view to assessing further needs for development and assessment. This will include not only physical production facilities but institutional framework, manpower, and training requirements, marketing facilities, etc.; 3/ the legal framework of national fisheries development will have to be reviewed particularly in terms of licensing fishing vessels as well as fish production regulations according to national health requirements. The missions will further identify the scope and time frame of national fisheries development and the respective implications for investment on the basis of all the detailed activities. If so requested by the government they will discuss with the government officials fishery policy options available to the country.

As can be seen from what I have said and from the summary of Mr. Carros, the missions are a first step towards the implementation of the recommendation of the Eleventh Session of the Commission on Fisheries enabling countries to take quick action to make the best use of fishery resources available in their economic zone, and also make it possible for us to work out a comprehensive programme as recommended "by COFI.

H. WATZINGER (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries Department): I have two short points. In regard to the invitation by Kenya to supply host facilities for the IFC and the Indian-Oceans Programme, FAO very much appreciates this and the offer, and we are looking into the question which will be one of the major subjects for discussion at the Commission on Fisheries in June 1978, and when we have a solution we will come back and take up the discussion.

The other point refers to the general tenor of the discussion that FAO has a major role to play in guiding and helping developing countries in investment of capital and transfer of technology for utilization in fisheries. I want specifically to refer to the delegate of Canada who suggested the report which officials should prepare should contain proposals for a six-year programme to set out achievable and measurable objectives and targets data so that all supporting countries and agencies can see the nature and extent of the problem which will enable them to make a contribution to an overall programme.

Relative to these suggestions, I am sure all delegates will be pleased to know that the Department of Fisheries have in fact drawn up a proposal for a programme along these lines for which we must find the required funds to put it into operation. We have the requirements for duplication of global fisheries with reference to aid inputs. It refers to the economic zones and points out that there must be no world plan because the right decisions must be taken by the governments concerned, but an aid strategy can be indicated to indicate the levels of different types of development assistance that would be required, a strategy of the utmost value to donor agencies, international funding and so on. In addition to helping to marshal and coordinate the systems, it would "be of great assistance to governments in the programming of development and choice of strategies. The need now is for FAO to cooperate with member governments in this whole field. This, as the discussion at Conference has shown is urgent and of a continuing nature.

The work on problems of development of economic zones will become an integral part of the Department's programme. This along with the proposed Project will require substantial funding. In this respect I was gratified to hear a number of delegates call for the strengthening of our capacity to meet the demands on its services. It is an issue which will have to be resolved.

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores, pregunto si hay comentarios en relación con las respuestas que nos acaba de formular la Secretaría. Parece que no hay comentarios ulteriores.

Yo deseo, en primer lugar, agradecer al Dr. Carroz, que el mismo ha hecho el sumario de las discusiones, aunque conforme con las reglas establecidas en el documento de métodos de trabajo, hubiera debido asumir yo esa responsabilidad, así que le agradezco al Dr. Carroz que lo haya hecho; de haberlo sabido, quizá hubiera tenido más tiempo anoche para comer, pero me dediqué a preparar un poco el sumario. De cualquier manera creo que yo puedo suscribirlo, excepto en un punto que no me quedó claro en lo referente a mares australes. El Dr. Carroz indicó que la planificación y ejecución de las actividades que se emprendan en los mares australes, debería hacerse en colaboración con los estados ribereños y los miembros del Tratado Antártico. No sé si cabe aquí hablar de colaboración y consulta, quizá porque eso lo he inferido al menos de las intervenciones que escuché aquí en esta Comisión, en tanto que; de acuerdo con la práctica internacional, no debería realizarse ninguna actividad dentro de la zona de jurisdicción de un estado, sin que se hubiera dado su consentimiento expreso. Esa es la impresión que me ha quedado luego de escuchar a las numerosas delegaciones que hablaron sobre los derechos inherentes a la soberanía que se ejerce sobre los mares adyacentes, conforme con la reciente evolución del derecho del mar.

No tengo otra cosa que agregar y no sé si ustedes desean hacer algún comentario.

A. DEUSTUA (Perú): En efecto, me da la impresión de que las observaciones que usted, señor Presidente, acaba de formular, corresponden a las versiones que también me tocó escuchar a lo largo de nuestras deliberaciones de ayer y de esta mañana. Ya que estamos puntualizando algunas perfecciones del extenso relato que nos ha hecho el Dr. Carroz, yo me atrevería a sugerir una segunda concordando con la primera que ha hecho el Presidente.

Si mi recuerdo es fiel, ha habido numerosas delegaciones que han hecho hincapié prioritario en los aspectos resultantes de aquel documento que mencioné en mi intervención de negociaciones oficiosas dentro de la Conferencia del Mar, o sea, que todo deriva alrededor del conjunto de lo que podríamos llamar en una sola palabra pesquerías en general, conservación, explotación, exploración de las especies vivas, de los mares en las zonas exclusivas de 200 millas; todo ello es una derivación del derecho soberano del estado ribereño conjuntamente, desde luego de ese derecho vienen las obligaciones. El Dr. Carroz ha hecho referencia a esto que estoy diciendo, pero lo ha hecho al final de su exposición, como si fuese una secuela y no como si fuese una prioridad, por lo menos en el concepto de no menos de 25 delegaciones que han hecho uso de la palabra.

Yo me atrevería a pedir al Dr. Carroz que pusiera ese concepto en la parte delantera del informe, de tal manera que se pudiera destacar como un elemento prioritario de la preocupación de una numerosa cantidad de delegaciones que han hablado en este Comité.

EL PRESIDENTE: Estoy seguro de que la Secretaría ha tomado nota de las observaciones formuladas por el Sr. representante del Perú.

J.R. PEREZ FERNANDEZ (Cuba): A nuestra delegación le interesa destacar en este momento, más que cuestiones de forma, en relación con los países subdesarrollados, lo siguiente. Que sus economías se encuentran estancadas, sus poblaciones crecen extraordinariamente y la producción de alimentos no se corresponden con esta situación, se mantienen estáticos; por lo tanto, recursos alimentarios tan valiosos como los de los océanos australes deben hacernos pensar a todos en la cooperación en los esfuerzos comunes bajo el patrocinio de organismos internacionales de modo que los intereses de los países subdesarrollados no se vean afectados por la voracidad de las empresas transnacionales.

R. AMATO UDABE (Uruguay) : Simplemente quería hacerme eco de las observaciones formuladas por el señor delegado del Perú y manifestar que comparto plenamente las inquietudes que él ha manifestado hace un momento.

Mgr. A. FERRARI-TONIOLO (Holy See): On the occasion of the Conference on the Law of the Sea, an organ of the Holy See, the Pontifical Commission Justice and Peace, prepared a study entitled "The Universal Purpose of Created Things". In it, it is stated: "... it seems the traditional concept of the high seas as res nullius is now obsolete. It rested on the view that the oceans constituted an inexhaustible reserve, an indestructible environment, a vast expanse on which navigation, fishing and exploration called only for minor regulation. This is no longer the case. The existing regime serves the interests of the best-provided; the anarchic confrontation of interests would only multiply sources of conflict, lead to the available resources being squandered under the most devastating conditions, and jeopardize the general ecological balance of our planet. In default of reaching a general agreement on an annual limit to the harvesting of fish so as to maintain stocks at optimum level, the day would inevitably come when this renewable resource, too, would be seriously threatened."

Mr. Chairman, the high seas are part of the common heritage of mankind. The exploitation, pollution and destruction of the high seas has today become a moral issue. The destruction of its renewable resources like fish becomes thus an ethical issue when the need for food for the peoples of the developing nations and the needs of future generations are taken into consideration. Furthermore, the use of the seas for military experimentation also causes grave concern for the future. Peace on the high seas ("Pacem in Maribus") is an aspect that must be kept in our vision concerning our use of the water resources of this world. The good of mankind takes precedence over narrow national rights of unilateral appropriation and wastage of resources, and this consideration becomes the responsibility of the international community to safeguard.

For this reason we wish to add further emphasis that a coordination and management of existing things be established whereby the particular interests of individual groups and of nations be clearly subordinated to the good of mankind, and that these be increasingly placed at the service of those who reveal the greatest need or who find themselves in more backward structures or in more serious and difficult situations which impede their development 1/.

EL PRESIDENTE: Bien, señores, muchas gracias. Se toma nota de cuanto se acaba de señalar. Yo creo que con esto hemos terminado con el tema y hemos concluido también con el temario propuesto por el Comité General, el cual fue aprobado por el Plenario de la Conferencia. De manera que solo nos resta para cumplir con nuestras responsabilidades, reunimos nuevamente para analizar el proyecto de informe, que está siendo considerado ahora por el Comité de Redacción.

Está previsto en el Calendario que la Comisión I se reúna nuevamente el próximo lunes a las 9.30 en la Sala Roja. Así es que quedan todos ustedes convocados o invitados para que tengamos oportunidad de analizar el proyecto de informe que está preparando el Comité de Redacción.

The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.

La "séance est levée à 11 h 55

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.55 horas

1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C 77/I/PV/12

C

Nineteenth Session
COMMISSION I

Dix-neuvième session
COMMISSION I

19º período de sesiones
COMISION II

TWELFTH MEETING DOUZIEME SÉANCE 12ª SESION

(28 November 1977)

The Twelfth Meeting was opened at 10.20 hours
J.C. Vignaud, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La douzième seance est ouverte à 10 h 20 sous la présidence
de J.C. Vignaud, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 12ª sesión a las 10.20 horas, bajo la presidencia
de J.C. Vignaud, Presidente de la Comisión I

ADOPTION OF REPORT

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT

APROBACION DEL INFORME

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART I

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - PARTIE I

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE I

Paragraphs 1 to 15

Paragraphes 1 à 15

Párrafos 1 a 15

EL PRESIDENTE: Vamos a empezar con el análisis del proyecto de informe que nos ha preparado el Comité de Redacción, que consta de dos partes: la C 77/I/REP/1 y la C 77/I/REP/2. Supongo que todos habrán tenido oportunidad ya de leerlos, pues están disponibles desde hoy a primera hora de la mañana.

Empezaremos por el REP/1, que analizaremos párrafo por párrafo, para lo cual les propongo el siguiente procedimiento: las delegaciones que tengan cambios que proponer, yo desearía que lo indicasen concretamente, es decir, señalando cuál palabra desean excluir o cuál palabra desean agregar, señalando asimismo la línea del párrafo en examen: sin necesidad de argumentar en favor de la modificación que proponen. En el caso en que la modificación sea controvertida, es decir, que haya alguna delegación que no esté conforme con ella, en tal caso daríamos la posibilidad a quien ha propuesto la modificación de argumentar en favor de ella, cuidando por supuesto de no reabrir el debate, que ya hemos tenido oportunidad de celebrar cuando hemos analizado cada uno de estos temas.

En el caso de que hubiera modificaciones extensas, sería mejor que las delegaciones que deseen proponerlas envíen el texto a la Secretaría, de tal modo que nosotros podamos leerlo desde aquí.

Pero, antes de comenzar con el análisis, debo darle la palabra al Sr. Secretario, que ha de hacer un anuncio.

P. MEJIA (Secretario de la Comisión I): Deseo solamente aclarar a los señores delegados lo siguiente: hubo un error de imprenta en la versión francesa del documento número C 77/I/REP/2, que trata del tema 9: "Evolución del régimen del mar y consecuencias para la pesca". La versión francesa dice: "Proyecto de informe de la Comisión II, Parte 2". Debería decir: "Proyecto de informe de la Comisión I, Parte 2".

EL PRESIDENTE: Con esta aclaración, comenzamos con el REP/1 y pongo a consideración de ustedes el párrafo 6: "Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo". Si no hay observaciones queda aprobado. Pasamos al párrafo 2.

E.K. PORTE (Liberia): Paragraph 2: on line 3, my delegation would like to include at the end of that line the word "particularly" to read "and particularly in developing countries".

EL PRESIDENTE: La corrección consiste en agregar las palabras "en particular" antes de "en los países en desarrollo", En el párrafo 2, si no hay otras observaciones, aprobamos esa modificación como ha sido propuesta. Pasamos al párrafo 3. Si no hay observaciones, queda aprobado. Párrafo 4, El Sr. delegado de Argentina tiene la palabra.

C. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): En la tercera línea del texto español, la palabra empleada es "ha seguido aumentando la distancia". Yo creo que la palabra en español más adecuada es "brecha", en vez de "distancia".

EL PRESIDENTE: Por ser una corrección que interesa solamente al español, puede aceptarse.

RAM SARÁN (India): I would suggest an amendment in the last sentence of paragraph 4. The last sentence according to me, should read as follows: "FAO should also study the factors responsible for some countries achieving a production performance above the average and the production of commodities like pulses stagnating in recent years. "Then I go on" and suggest measures for increasing the production of the concerned countries and the concerned commodities".

J. TROUVEROY (Président du Comité de rédaction): Je voulais simplement dire au représentant de l'Inde que la première partie de sa phrase se trouve déjà indiquée juste avant, au milieu du paragraphe, où il est dit: "La production de légumineuses, importantes sources de protéines dans de nombreux pays en développement, est restée plutôt stationnaire. " Cela correspond à la première partie de son idée.

RAM SARAN (India): That sentence only refers to the stagnation of the production of commodities like pulses. It does not suggest measures for increasing the production of such commodities. That is why I made this amendment.

V. STIPETIC (Yugoslavia): I would like to add a small amendment to the first sentence of paragraph 4 so that it would read as follows: "It noted with concern that progress in production had been slowest in Africa, and in general in the poorest developing regions and countries where it was most needed."

EL PRESIDENTE: Sin perjuicio de que la analizaremos en su momento, quisiera primero decidir sobre la propuesta que nos formulo el Sr. delegado de la India. Creo que el Presidente del Comité de Redacción nos ha hecho una indicación muy válida en el sentido de que ya un poco más arriba, en el párrafo 4, se habla de "La producción de legumbres, que representa una fuente importante de proteínas en muchos países en desarrollo, ha tendido a estancarse." Quizás a continuación de esa frase, podríamos agregarlo que el Sr. delegado de la India propone, en el sentido de que se hagan ulteriores estudios para aumentar la producción de estas leguminosas y así dejaríamos resuelto el problema. El Sr. delegado de Egipto ha pedido la palabra. Si es sobre esta enmienda, le daré la palabra.

A.M. BESHIR (Egypt): I think the proposal of the distinguished delegate of India is covered in the same item in the last phrase of the item which reads that FAO should also study the factors responsible for some countries achieving a production performance above the average and some below.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): I thought the distinguished delegate from Egypt did clarify the issue but might I still add one point. The modification suggested to the last sentence would imply that since production of commodities like pulses is added, that implies a study commodity by commodity, country by country, because pulses is only an illustration. There will be many other commodities with below or above average rates of production, and I wonder whether a general sentence added at the end of the paragraph would not cover the general analysis that is needed, rather than extending it to a commodity-by-commodity, country-by-country study.

EL PRESIDENTE: Me pregunto si las explicaciones dadas por el Sr. Islam y por el Presidente del Comité de Redacción y el aporte que nos ha hecho el Sr. delegado de Egipto, satisfacen al Sr. delegado de la India, de modo que pudiéramos dejar el párrafo tal como está.

RAM SARÁN (India): I am not sure if the elaboration made by the distinguished delegate of Egypt will meet the situation. I would have agreed with the earlier suggestion made that there should be a reference to the study of pulses in the sentence which has already been stated with reference to stagnation in the production of pulses. If there can be another phrase added to that sentence I would be satisfied but I have not yet succeeded in working out a phrase to add at the end of the sentence "the production of pulses, an important source of protein in many developing countries, has tended to stagnate". I could give it a little later if you permit me,

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias, Sr. delegado de la India. Vamos a dejar entonces pendiente este párrafo 4 para que usted nos haga llegar concretamente la propuesta y así tendremos la oportunidad de analizarla más extensamente, y luego volveremos sobre ella.

Antes de dar la palabra al Sr. delegado de la India, quiero tomar ahora la propuesta que nos hizo el Sr. delegado de Yugoslavia, que consistía en agregar "y regiones" antes de "países en desarrollo más pobres", si le entendí bien. Creo que esta sugerencia no plantea problemas. Si es así, queda aprobada íesta sugerencia y dejamos así igualmente pendiente el párrafo 4 hasta que recibamos la pro puesta del Sr. delegado de la India.

B.A. JAMMUN (Libya)(interpretation from Arabic):I think that if we adopt this paragraph on the production of pulses, being a source of protein in developing countries, stagnating, we should also adopt what was just proposed by the delegate of India. We should adopt measures which would lead to the elimination of such stagnation.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias señor delegado de Libia. Dejamos pendiente su comentario a resultas de la propuesta concreta que nos presente el señor representante de la India. Luego volveremos sobre el párrafo 4.

Sobre el párrafo 5 concedo la palabra al representante de Cuba.

R. GARCELL CARRO (Cuba): Por haber participado en el Comité de Redacción tengo ahora una duda en cuanto a si una frase que se nos ha presentado había sido opinión del Comité de Redacción eliminarla en el texto en español. Es a mitad del párrafo 5 que empieza diciendo:"Es importante examinar las funciones relativas del tiempo y de los programas estatales y la expansión de la producción. " Creo recordar, sin tener una nota escrita de nuestra participación en este momento, que esta frase pudo haberse eliminado del texto.

J. TROUVEROY (Président du Comité de rédaction):En effet, dans les lignes que j'ai sous les yeux, je remarque que cette phrase a été mise entre parenthèses, donc nous avons en principe décidé de la supprimer.

RAM SARAN (India): My suggestion now is that after the sentence which read as follows:"The production of pulses, an important source of protein in many developing countries, has tended to stagnate", we should add a sentence "The Conference recommended that FAO should study the differences in yields among different countries, and suggest measures for increasing their output."

EL PRESIDENTE: Le voy a dar la palabra al señor Presidente del Comité de Redacción, con la aclaración de que volvemos al párrafo 4 y dejamos pendiente el 5.

J. TROUVEROY (Président du Comité de rédaction): Pour en finir avec ce paragraphe 4, je crois que nous pourrions peut-être ramasser ce que vient de nous dire le distingué délégué de l'Inde en prenant comme

texte anglais les termes suivants qui viendraient se placer à la fin de la phrase comme indiqué par le délégué de l'Inde et on dirait ceci: "This needed study by FAO, including suggestions for increasing production". Je crois qu'ainsi nous répondons au souci du délégué de l'Inde et nous ramassons la phrase.

EL PRESIDENTE: Doy la palabra al señor representante de Egipto sobre el párrafo 4.

A.M. BESHIR (Egypt): I recognize that there is a great deal of inter-relationship between the two subjects, the state of food and agriculture and the readjustment of agriculture. I think that all our requests for further studies should be included in the subject relating to the readjustment of agriculture. The state of food and agriculture, in my view, does not need to include many studies. It shows the state of food and agriculture. However, many studies have to be included in the other subject relating to readjustment.

EL PRESIDENTE: Pongo a consideración de ustedes la propuesta formulada por el Presidente del Comité de Redacción que yo creo que es una redacción más breve y soluciona la inquietud planteada por el señor delegado de la India.

Si no hay observaciones ¿debo entender que aceptamos la propuesta formulada por el señor Presidente del Comité de Redacción?

RAM SARÁN (India): Could I request the Chairman of the Drafting Committee to repeat the proposal he made?

J. TROUVEROY (Président du Comité de rédaction): Voici donc le texte que je répète en anglais: "This needed study by FAO, including suggestions for increasing production".

EL PRESIDENTE: Yo creo que esto satisface al representante de la India. Si no hay otras observaciones creo que podemos declarar así aprobado el párrafo 4.

Volvemos ahora al párrafo 5. El representante de Cuba nos había sugerido excluir la frase que dice: "Es importante examinar las funciones relativas del tiempo y de los programas estatales y la expansión de la producción." Efectivamente el señor Presidente del Comité de Redacción recuerda que fue excluida.

RAM SARAN (India): I could not follow where that sentence would come in.

J. TROUVEROY (Président du Comité de rédaction): Comme je l'ai dit tout à l'heure, ce texte viendrait après le mot en anglais: "stagnate", c'est-à-dire à l'endroit exactement où le délégué de l'Inde l'avait demandé.

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): Mi intervención es únicamente para una aclaración. Tuve oportunidad de estar en el Comité de Resoluciones y allí se nos presentó un proyecto de resolución patrocinado por el delegado de Arabia Saudita acerca del uso de la información meteorológica en todos aquellos programas relativos a la producción dentro del ámbito de la FAO. No sé si este párrafo que se piensa suprimir tiene alguna relación o constituya una base para que luego se considere ese proyecto de resolución. No estoy muy seguro si será puesto a consideración de la Comisión en alguna oportunidad o la relación que pueda tener con esto. Solamente pregunto si se me puede ilustrar al respecto.

J. TROUVEROY (Président du Comité de rédaction). Je voulais dire qu'il y a deux idées, il y a deux phrases où l'on parle des conditions météorologiques; il y a la phrase N° 2 du paragraphe 5 qui dit: "Si des conditions météorologiques défavorables recommandaient à prévaloir, l'amélioration actuelle pourrait rapidement faire place à une détérioration." Ensuite la phrase que nous venons de supprimer: "Il importe d'examiner le rôle respectif ... etc." Je crois que le délégué du Mexique faisait un lien entre les conditions météorologiques et les programmes, était-ce bien cela son idée?

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): Observamos que efectivamente hay esa mención en cuanto a la cooperación que debe existir entre los servicios meteorológicos dentro de cualquier programa de producción; pero yo quería una explicación acerca de ese proyecto de resolución. Desafortunadamente no lo tengo en mis manos, pero hacía énfasis en el papel que la FAO podría desempeñar precisamente para que dentro de esos programas se incrementara el mayor uso de los servicios meteorológicos como un elemento dentro de esos programas. ¿Ustedes me podrían aclarar dónde estamos?

EL PRESIDENTE: Es probable que si se trata de una resolución que tenga que ver con el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, seguramente estará en el seno de la Comisión II, ya que en el proyecto de informe de la Comisión I, lamentablemente no tenemos ninguna referencia a ese proyecto de resolución. Podríamos ver si de la Comisión II le pueden dar a usted esa información ya que en esta Comisión no está.

H.S. BAR-SHAI (Israel): May I suggest an addition to the paragraph under discussion? In the third line before the last, after the words "between agricultural and meteorological services", to add the words, "also at the regional level". This would cover all varieties, including the suggestions that have been made on this matter.

I should like to speak later about another addition.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Podría usted repetir, señor delegado de Israel, con precisión en dónde se deben incorporar esas adiciones?

H.S. BAR-SHAI (Israel): It is the fifth paragraph, the third line before the last. The sentence would read: "It was also necessary to improve long-range weather forecasting, where the problem in some countries was the limited cooperation between agricultural and meteorological services, and also to improve it on a regional level."

EL PRESIDENTE: Pregunto si el señor delegado de Francia desea hablar para esta misma observación.

P. HALIMI (France) : La suppression de la phrase qui est au milieu du paragraphe et à laquelle a fait allusion le délégué de Cuba ne me gêne pas beaucoup, mais je me souviens que certaines délégations, dont la mienne, avaient fait allusion à la coopération satisfaisante instituée entre la FAO et l'OMM, et je ne retrouve pas cette idée dans les documents.

Sans attendre les décisions de la Commission II sur un projet de résolution visant la coopération entre la FAO et l'OMM, je crois que nous pourrions mettre quelque chose dans notre rapport disant que nous nous félicitons des rapports institués entre la FAO et l'OMM, puisqu'une réunion au niveau mondial a été organisée conjointement par la FAO et l'OMM, et je ne retrouve pas cette idée dans le rapport.

EL PRESIDENTE: Vamos a volver sobre la enmienda del Sr. delegado de Israel y luego le vamos a pedir al representante de Francia que nos dé un texto concreto y nos indique dónde desea incorporarlo.

B.A. JAMMUM(Libya)(interpretation from Arabic): My delegation objects to the addition proposed by the delegate of Israel, considering that the cooperation should be between countries one of which does not occupy the land of other countries. From our point of view we cannot but refuse to accept the suggestion.

EL PRESIDENTE: Me pregunto si el delegado de Israel insiste sobre su propuesta.

H.S. BAR-SHAI (Israel): My suggestion was made very much en passant but really I feel it is not a matter of this country or another country. I think that regional cooperation is required because the weather knows no borders and I think the cooperation should be carried out. But if there is going to be further discussion I really do not want to hold up the progress of the Committee's work.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias por su espíritu de colaboración. Creo que en realidad si hablamos de cooperación a nivel de país, no veo inconveniente en que también esta cooperación sea a nivel regional. De manera que en principio, pienso que esa propuesta tiende a mejorar el texto,

B.A. JAMMUM (Libya) (interpretation from Arabic): The State of Israel has conducted most of its activities in another land that it has colonized, a land that does not belong to it; therefore, the delegation of my country objects strongly to the amendment proposed by the delegate of Israel because before we speak of cooperation in a region that cooperation must be preceded by a solution of the problem of the land upon which Israel is carrying out agricultural activities.

H.S. BAR-SHAI (Israel): I really do not want to carry on a discussion about what is and what is not being done. Israel does not carry on any agricultural activities in any occupied land or anything, because every farmer there is free to do what he likes and the farmers of the region are working. I do not want to discuss the matter. Again I say I do not want to enter into delicate matters. I made a suggestion. If this can be carried out, that is all right. If not, I am content with that too.

EL PRESIDENTE: Yo creo que tenemos que evitar cualquier debate que tenga matiz político dentro de un organismo como éste de la FAO, que es específicamente técnico. De manera que quizá podríamos obviar el problema dejando la redacción tal como está, para evitar tener que consignar una reserva expresa de un país en relación con un texto que figura en uno de los párrafos. Por ello, si el Sr. delegado de Israel no insiste, quizá podamos dejar la redacción de este párrafo 5 como está y volveríamos a la propuesta del Sr. delegado de Francia, si es que él la tiene redactada y nos dice dónde desea insertar la.

P. HALIMI (France): Je n'ai pas eu le temps de préparer un amendement mais je pense que nous pourrions insérer à la fin de la dernière phrase du paragraphe 5, après "il convient aussi d'améliorer la prévision météorologique à longue portée", le membre de phrase suivant:"en liaison étroite avec l'OMM".

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que esta sugerencia tiende a completar lo que aquí se dice y por lo tanto no ofrece dificultades. Si no hay dificultades, entonces tiene la palabra el Sr. Presidente del Comité de Redacción.

J. TROUVEROY (Président du Comité de rédaction): Je crois que le membre de phrase que vient de suggérer le délégué de la France devrait se placer avant, sinon le reste de la phrase ne tient pas. Il faut dire "il convient aussi d'améliorer, en liaison étroite avec l'OMM, la prévision météorologique à longue portée, pour laquelle...".

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que es atinada la observación del Presidente del Comité de Redacción. Bien, deja mos, con estas modificaciones, aprobado el párrafo 5.

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): Efectivamente, para referirme nada más brevemente a lo que había expresado. Es la Comisión 2 la que estudiará este aspecto. Por tanto, no tiene relevancia en esta Comisión, aunque la resolución a que hacía referencia tiene estrecha conexión con lo que ha propuesto el delegado de Francia, que ya ha sido aceptado. En realidad lo que se pretende es fomentar esa cooperación a nivel de organismos, entre FAO y la OMM, respecto a esta cuestión que nos ocupa, así como alentar a los Estados a que hagan más uso de los servicios que se ofrecen al respecto.

También quería hacer una pequeña observación en relación con una cuestión de redacción en el texto en español. En la cuarta línea, de abajo hacia arriba, dice "entre muchos servicios nacionales agrí colas". No sé si es eso lo que quiere decir, o simplemente "los servicios nacionales".

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias, señor delegado de México. Sí, "entre los servicios" dice en las otras versiones. De manera que es una corrección de la que tomamos nota para incorporarla en el texto español.

Pongo ahora a la consideración de ustedes el párrafo 6.

P. HALIMI (France): Il y a certainement une faute de frappe dans la dernière phrase du texte français du paragraphe 6. Cette phrase dit ceci: "Beaucoup de pays en développement ont besoin d'une aide financière et technique pour constituer des stocks nationaux adéquats à la reconstitution ...". Je pense qu'au lieu de "à", c'est "et" qui doit figurer dans le texte français.

J. TROUVEROY (Président du Comité de rédaction): Oui, je crois que le délégué de la France a raison. Le premier texte que l'on nous avait soumis disait "et". Donc il faut bien dire "et la reconstitution...".

D. RICHTER (Germany, Fed. Rep. of)(interpretation from German):I propose that the words "International Undertaking, and that it should be implemented before the end of 1977" should be replaced by the words: "and that a new International Grains Agreement should be concluded by June 1978".

I think that this wording is more in line with this paragraph because in it we speak of the need for the coordination on an international level of national stock piling and this is one of the basic elements of a future grains agreement, as has already been pointed out by the World Food Council in its Manila communique.

J. TROUVEROY (President du Comité de rédaction): Personnellement, je ne vois aucune objection à cette modification; le tout est de savoir si tout le monde est d'accord.

EL PRESIDENTE: Antes de dar la palabra al delegado de Libia y al delegado de Yugoslavia, deseo preguntar al de Libia si se va a referir también a esta observación o tiene una nueva enmienda. El Sr. delegado de Libia tiene la palabra.

B.A. JAMMŪM (Libya):I am referring to another point here.

V, STIPETIC (Yugoslavia):I am referring to this point.I see the point of the suggestion made by the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany but I would rather follow the lines laid down by the

RAM SARÁN (India): Coming first to this very sentence, are we saying that we will stop at the word "implemented"? I think if we are saying so, then this is what we also said in the World Food Conference and in earlier conferences. We have to have some target date or at least say something about it. If delegates do not want 1977 as a target date, then let us give some other date for that. I suggest that it should be implemented with some other date which the delegate of Germany might suggest.

D. RICHTER (Germany, Fed. Rep. of)(interpretation from German): Yes, it is right that paragraph 13 does refer to a new International Wheat Agreement, but nevertheless I feel that in this connection, in the case of the Undertaking and international coordination of national stock-piling, that some reference could be made to that Agreement. Perhaps we can say:"and recommended that all countries should subscribe to and implement the objectives and principles of the International Undertaking", and then we add:"and that a new International Grains Agreement should be concluded before the end of 1978".

This then contains the invitation to all countries to really recognize the targets of these agreements and to have a more complete reference to the need for this International Grains Agreement to be concluded before July,

J. TROUVEROY (Président du Comité de rédaction): Je comprends le souci du délégué de l'Allemagne, mais au lieu de proposer des dates, qui provoqueront évidemment des discussions, ne pourrait-on pas précisément se contenter du texte de la seconde phrase du paragraphe 13 qui dit "Elle attache une importance particulière à la prompte conclusion d'un nouvel Accord international sur le blé avant le terme de la reconduction de l'actuel". Evidemment ceci est vague mais cela éviterait des difficultés de date. Conference on Food and Agriculture, held in 1974, when the International Undertaking of World Food Security was a decision of the Conference. For that reason, regardless of the existing state, the words "International Undertaking, and that it should be implemented" should remain and I suggest the deletion of the words "before the end of 1977" since this does not seem to be correct and is not a realistic date.

J. TROUVEROY (Président du Comité de rédaction): Afin d'éclairer les délégués sur ce point, je voudrais leur signaler qu'au paragraphe 13, à la seconde phrase, nous parlons de cet accord sur le blé. Donc en tenant compte de cette phrase que nous avons déjà au paragraphe 6, peut-être sera-t-il possible de ne rien modifier, ou bien éventuellement, de supprimer le dernier mot "avant la fin 1977". Mais cela devient moins important.

P. HALIMI (France): Le Président du Comité de rédaction vient de dire ce que j'avais moi-même l'intention d'expliquer. En effet la proposition de notre collègue de la République d'Allemagne fédérale est couverte par la seconde phrase du paragraphe 13.

D. RICHTER (Germany, Fed. Rep. of)(interpretation from German): Then there is no problem if you omit the figure and just say this must be done before the expiry of the current extension, and by that time this Agreement should be concluded. But I should like it to be included here at this point where we refer specifically in depth to the need for having at an international level coordination of national stockpiling operations, to refer to this International Grains Agreement, because one of the basic tasks of the International Grains Agreement will be to coordinate the national stockpiling operations. Therefore, I think it would do no harm to repeat it briefly at this point, even if it is in paragraph 13. It is such an important point that I do not think it would harm the text to repeat it.

J. TROUVEROY (Président du Comité de rédaction): Pour en terminer sur ce sujet, je suggère tout simplement que l'on remplace les mots "avant la fin de 1977" par "promptement" .

EL PRESIDENTE: Me pregunto si realmente considera necesaria el Sr. representante de Alemania esta petición, porque en realidad está muy claramente dicho en el párrafo 13. No veo que sea otro contexto.

Aunque tiene otros antecedentes anteriores, está claramente dicho. Por supuesto que si él insiste y si los señores delegados no se oponen, podemos incorporar esa adición; pero yo desearía señalarle que en el párrafo 13 se dice que la Conferencia atribuyó especial importancia a la conclusión rápida de un nuevo acuerdo internacional sobre el trigo, antes de que expire la prórroga actual, el cual me parece un texto claro y categórico, que quizá no requiera ulterior repetición en otra parte del informe.

D. RICHTER (Germany, Fed. Rep. of)(interpretation from German): Could I hear the text clearly please?

J. TROUVEROY (Président du Comité de rédaction): A la fin de la phrase, je me réfère au texte anglais, à la place de mettre "before the end of 1977" on mettra en français "promptement", pour reprendre les termes du texte français. En anglais on pourrait mettre le mot "speedily", du moins un mot dans ce sens-là.

RAM SARAN (India): As I said earlier I have a few suggestions on paragraph 6. Beginning at line 5 of paragraph 6: "The existence of these large stocks...", I think these words should be replaced by the following: "The improvement in the stock position", because the word "large" is subjective.

I would also suggest that after the word "speedily", which we agreed on in place of "before the end of 1977", there should be a new sentence as follows: "The level of the reserve stocks to be internationally coordinated should be adequate to serve the objectives of world food security".

J. TROUVEROY (Président du Comité de rédaction): Je remercie le délégué de l'Inde. Il a fait deux interventions. Sur le premier point, il s'agit de la première phrase du paragraphe-, 6, si je suis bien au clair, et il fait une remarque sur l'expression "s'il n'y avait pas une reconstitution importante des stocks." Nous avons, en comité de rédaction, longuement discuté sur cette expression et, finalement, nous nous sommes rendu compte que c'était une réalité et que nous ne pouvions pas aller à l'encontre d'une réalité. Nous avons discuté de l'importance du mot "importante" et finalement nous sommes arrivés à l'expression "s'il n'y avait pas une reconstitution importante des stocks" qui est la phrase sur laquelle nous sommes finalement tombés d'accord parce qu'elle correspondait à la réalité. C'est le premier point.

Pour le second, je crois que "l'idée proposée par le délégué, de l'Inde est reprise à plusieurs endroits. de ce paragraphe, et il me semble que ce serait une répétition. L'ensemble du texte lui-même reflète le souci du représentant de l'Inde; s'il veut bien relire le paragraphe, il verra que l'on en parle à plusieurs endroits.

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (Mexico): Pensaba que estábamos todavía en la enmienda presentada por la República Federal de Alemania respecto a la que se refirió también el Sr. delegado de Yugoslavia, y en la que hizo una mención específica de que había también de indicarse la resolución de la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación. A este respecto yo tenía también algo a que referirme. No sé si ya consideramos aprobada la propuesta del delegado de la República Federal de Alemania, o indíqueme qué curso habría de seguir, ya que tengo también una observación que hacer.

EL PRESIDENTE: Entendí que a la propuesta que formuló el Sr. delegado de la República Federal de Alemania tuvimos una sugerencia del Presidente del Comité de Redacción, que según entendí, satisfizo al Sr. representante de la República Federal de Alemania; de manera que a raíz de ello di por concluido el tema en ese punto. El Sr. delegado de Alemania asiente a cuanto digo en este momento; por tanto, creo que el debate sobre esa enmienda quedó concluido. No obstante, si el Sr. delegado de México de sea volver sobre ello, le daríamos la oportunidad de hacerlo, pero me hace señas de que no desea inter venir.

V. STIPETIC (Yugoslavia): By adding the word "speedily" you are fully accepting the proposal made by Yugoslavia. Secondly, the addition of a new sentence as proposed by India fully covers the point we would like to add. For that reason we second the proposal of the delegate of India and we do not regard it as a repetition, as suggested by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

RAM SARAN (India): I proposed two amendments and I think there was some misunderstanding about the first amendment. It did not refer to the first sentence of paragraph 6 but to the third sentence. I suggested that beginning at line 5 "The existence of these large stocks" should be replaced by "The improvement in the stocks position".

As far as the second suggestion is concerned, I fully agree with the delegate of Yugoslavia that my suggestion was not already incorporated in that paragraph; it was a new suggestion, a specific idea about the level of the reserve stocks to be internationally coordinated. This is not spelt out earlier, and therefore should come into this paragraph.

J. TROUVEROY (Président du Comité de rédaction): Je voudrais m'excuser auprès du délégué de l'Inde.

En effet, je me suis trompé en ce qui concerne son premier amendement; on vient de me le faire remarquer: il ne s'agit pas de la première phrase mais de la troisième.

Pour le deuxième amendement, l'idée en est à peu près reprise, mais peut-être pas entièrement. Est-ce que le délégué de l'Inde pourrait suggérer un amendement et l'endroit exact où il voudrait le mettre? Il vient de suggérer un texte, mais à quel endroit veut-il le placer?

EL PRESIDENTE: Pregunto al Sr. delegado de la India si puede repetir a velocidad de dictado su texto e indicarnos exactamente donde desea insertarlo.

RAM SARÁN (India): Paragraph 6, so far as location is concerned, I am suggesting it should be after the word "speedily" as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee suggested. In line 4 "it should be implemented speedily" and not "before the end of 1977". Thereafter a new sentence should be inserted as follows: "the level of reserve stock to be internationally coordinated should be adequate to serve the objectives of world food security"

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): Solo para apoyar esta última enmienda que ha presentado la delegación de la India. Creo que cabe perfectamente allí.

EL PRESIDENTE :Si no hay observaciones, podemos aceptar las dos enmiendas del Sr. representante de la India. Pasamos ahora al párrafo 7.

B. A. JAMMUM (Libya)(interpretation from Arabic): As I said before, my suggestion refers to the last sentence of paragraph 7. Whereas this reads "the Conference urged all governments contemplating such action to give the fullest consideration to the possible effects of the overall world food situation", my proposed amendment will say "the Conference requested all governments contemplating such action to give the fullest consideration to the dangerous and harmful effects on the overall world food situation".

J. TROUVEROY (Président du Comité de rédaction): Si l'on devait mettre à la place de: "répercussions possibles", les mots "répercussions néfastes", on reprendrait ce qui est dit à la phrase précédente, c'est-à-dire: "que de telles répercussions de production pourraient avoir des conséquences néfastes en l'absence d'un système efficace de sécurité alimentaire mondiale". On répéterait donc la même chose. Quand, dans la phrase suivante, on parle de: "répercussions possibles", on fait précisément allusion à cette possibilité de conséquences néfastes. Faut-il le répéter encore une fois, ou bien est-ce suffisant? Au Comité de rédaction, nous avons estimé suffisant de le dire une fois.

B. A. JAMMUN (Libya)(interpretation from Arabic):I believe it is not mere repetition here but this will emphasize the previous sentence.Emphasis is by no means repetition.

A. M. BESHIR (Egypt): I want to introduce another amendment on the statement coming on line 4 in paragraph 7 which reads as follows:"Some delegations considered that such reductions in production could have adverse consequences in the absence of a properly functioning system of world food security". My proposed amendment is as follows:"Many delegations considered that such reductions in production could have adverse consequences on the world food and agriculture situation". Delete "in the absence of a properly functioning system of world food security".

J. A. BOYLE (United States of America):On this amendment, I think the Conference will recall that the issue of cereal acreage reduction was gone into at great length not only in the Conference but also in the Plenary Session by Secretary Bergland. This issue is a highly complex one.It concerns the avoidance of a boom and bust cycle in the agricultural sector, and the proposed amendments seem to ignore that totally. If one creates a situation in which efficient farmers are totally priced out of the market, you leave the boom situation and go into the bust situation, and therefore total agricultural production worldwide declines very rapidly. Now I would submit that in that is one of the biggest dangers affecting world food security. One has to ensure that farmers receive adequate returns to ensure that they keep their production up. The whole area is very complex, and the two suggestions made by the delegate of Libya and the intervention by the delegate of Egypt, I think, seem to ignore this complexity, so my delegation would resist strongly any such changes.

M. NA-AKWETTI (Zaire):C'est au sujet de la dernière phrase du paragraphe 7; je voulais revenir à votre idée pour proposer qu'on remplace le mot "néfaste" par un autre mot qui couvrirait totalement la nature des actions qu'envisageraient les Etats concernant la réduction des superficies. Je propose que cette phrase se termine ainsi: "La Conférence invite instamment tous les gouvernements qui en visagent de telles actions à examiner soigneusement leurs méfaits sur l'ensemble de la situation alimentaire mondiale". De cette façon, nous pourrions éviter la répétition du mot "néfaste" qui termine la phrase précédente.

Ms. V.F. WIGHTMANI(Canada); I would like to speak on the proposed amendment to the last sentence in paragraph 7.I feel we cannot prejudge the situation. This seems to me what is implied in such an amendmentI feel we need to keep the word "possible". We considered this in the Drafting Group. We do not know what the future will bring, most particularly if we begin the sentence with "The Conference". If certain delegates feel stronger wording is necessary, it has to be "Many delegations" or "Certain delegations", but if we are to keep "The Conference urged", the wording should be:"to give the fullest consideration to the possible adverse effect on the overall world food situation".Obviously, if they are beneficial effects we do not need to worry, but if there are possible adverse effects, governments should bear this in mind.

EL PRESIDENTE:Quizá yo pueda hacer alguna sugerencia que permita concluir este debate.El señor delegado de Egipto nos hizo una propuesta que consistía en cambiar "algunas delegaciones", por "muchas delegaciones".Luego propuso también agregar algunas palabras más.Yo creo que podríamos decir:"varias delegaciones", en vez de "algunas delegaciones", esto podría ser una transacción. Dejemos el párrafo tal como está y luego en la última oración redactarla de la siguiente manera: "La Conferencia instó a todos los Gobiernos que estén pensando en adoptar medidas de ese tipo a que presten la máxima atención a sus eventuales efectos negativos en la situación alimentaria mundial general. "

C. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Me parece que esto sintetiza muy bien las observaciones que se han efectuado. Por lo tanto, su enmienda me parece buena.

G. DUCOMMUN (Suisse): Je voulais parler dans le sens de la Déléguée canadienne, c'est-à-dire qu'on doit laisser le mot "possible" à la fin; si vous dites "possibles négatives" je suis d'accord également. Effectivement, il y a des délégations dans la Conférence qui ne sont pas d'accord qu'il y ait forcément des répercussions néfastes et dangereuses, par conséquent on ne pourrait pas commencer la dernière phrase par " la Conférence" si nous disions "néfastes et dangereuses" à la fin. Je suis d'accord avec votre proposition de dire "possibles négatives".

EL PRESIDENTE: De acuerdo con la última sugerencia del delegado de Suiza, la oración quedaría tal como está, excepto que a continuación agregaríamos la palabra "negativos". Si no hay otras observaciones, creo que podríamos aceptar esta enmienda y con ello concluimos el análisis del párrafo 7. Pasamos al párrafo 8.

C. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Siguiendo el procedimiento que sugirió usted al principio me voy a limitar a proponer los cambios que estimo reflejando de una manera más adecuada lo que pasó en nuestra Comisión. A partir de la cuarta frase del texto en español: "estructuras sociales", en lugar de la palabra "sociales" poner la palabra "rurales". En lugar de "medidas de redistribución", "la distribución de los ingresos". Y al principio de la frase, en lugar de "se examinarán cambios en las estructuras sociales, en vez de la palabra "cambios", decir "se examinarán los problemas de las estructuras rurales y la distribución de los ingresos". Posteriormente al final de esa misma frase, en lugar del término "masas pobres rurales" habría que poner "de las poblaciones rurales de bajos ingresos".

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que conviene analizar cada enmienda. Por eso le pido al representante de Argentina que me lea la primera.

C. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Se trata de la cuarta frase del texto en español: "aunque en la próxima Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural se examinarán cambios...", ahora viene la primera enmienda. En lugar de "cambios" poner "los problemas de las estructuras rurales". "Rurales" en lugar de "sociales". Y la "distribución de los ingresos", en lugar de "medidas de redistribución de los ingresos, así como diferentes políticas y medidas encaminadas a aumentar la producción y productividad en las zonas rurales, para así ayudar a los países en desarrollo a elevar el poder adquisitivo y mejorar la situación económica y social en general de los pequeños agricultores". Aquí viene otra enmienda. En lugar de "las masas pobres rurales", poner "de las poblaciones rurales de bajos ingresos".

EL PRESIDENTE: Pongo a consideración de ustedes la primera enmienda formulada por la delegación de Argentina.

B. SAMANEZ CONCHA (Peru): Considero que el cambio propuesto por la delegación de Argentina varía profundamente lo expresado en el párrafo 8 por el Comité de Redacción. Se dice: "La Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural se examinarán cambios en las estructuras sociales". Yo creo que aquí se ha querido abarcar el total, la integridad, puesto que estamos hablando de reforma agraria y desarrollo rural, y el desarrollo rural lo hemos concebido y se ha discutido como que debe abarcar no sólo a las áreas rurales, sino también a lo íntimamente ligado al desarrollo del medio urbano y al desarrollo de las otras actividades. Circunscribirlo a los problemas de estructuras sería circunscribir el concepto de desarrollo únicamente a áreas rurales y sería un concepto sumamente restringido. El desarrollo debe abarcar todos los sectores de la economía y el desarrollo rural debe formar parte o estar inserto dentro de los planes de desarrollo nacional y lo mismo ocurre en las medidas de "distribución de ingresos", difiere totalmente del concepto de medidas de redistribución de ingresos, lo que

se busca es un desarrollo y no un crecimiento. Creo que el concepto que ha recogido el Comité de Redacción para poner claramente la "redistribución" y no "distribución" está bien, ya que son conceptos totalmente diferentes.

C.KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Agradezco al representante de Perú la aclaración que hace, pero yo entiendo que lo que reflejó el Comité de Redacción debe ser lo que sucedió en la Comisión, y en la Comisión se habló de los problemas de las estructuras rurales. Algunas delegaciones formularon efectivamente la ampliación del temario a aspectos específicos que pueden significar el estudio de eventuales cambios. Por tanto, quisiera proponer, si tratamos de encontrar una solución que acepte la mayoría de las delegaciones, el poner en lugar de "se examinaron cambios", se "examinará el desarrollo de las estructuras", pero no en los cambios, porque significa prejuzgar que la Conferencia va a hablar de cambios, y hay países que no necesitan más cambios y otros que los necesitan. Me parece que debemos adecuar el texto del Comité del Informe, no sólo a lo que sucedió en el Comité de Redacción, sino a lo que sucedió en la I Comisión. Todo esto con respecto al primer punto.

Respecto a la observación de Perú sobre la "redistribución", a mí me parece que prejuzgar sobre las medidas de redistribución de ingresos es un poco optimista y aventurada por parte de una Conferencia de este tipo. La Conferencia podrá analizar la distribución de los ingresos y tratar de hacer alguna recomendación, pero no puede prejuzgar sobre la necesidad de la distribución de los ingresos. Por lo tanto yo creo que tendríamos que dejar: "la distribución de los ingresos", en lugar de "medidas de distribución".

Me reservo la oportunidad de intervenir en otra ocasión y estoy dispuesto a cualquier sugerencia que se haga no sólo de lo que sucedió en el Comité de Redacción en el cual no intervine, sino en los debates de la primera Comisión.

EL PRESIDENTE: Quizá podríamos decir: "En la próxima Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural se examinarán", y aquí viene un cambio que voy a proponer: "los problemas que pudieran existir en las estructuras rurales". Y "las medidas para una mejor distribución de los ingresos". Esta es una solución de transacción que yo propongo y someto a consideración de ustedes. Por supuesto que entienden la posición del Presidente cuando tiene que referirse a una enmienda propuesta en la propia delegación, pero de cualquier manera les aseguro que actúo con la mayor objetividad y que son ustedes los que deciden.

R. GARCELL CARRO (Cuba): Ha sido muy interesante oír los criterios de los delegados de Argentina y Perú. Nuestra delegación apreció estos documentos que recogían en una forma más amplia lo que pudieran ser los efectos de una reforma agraria. Quizá la propuesta del Sr. Presidente realmente constituya una transacción. Sin embargo, considero que debe mantenerse siempre lo de "estructuras sociales" y no "rurales", porque, realmente, en nuestros países en desarrollo los cambios sociales están íntimamente vinculados a los rurales y viceversa y siempre el social es mucho más amplio.

EL PRESIDENTE: Se me ocurre que quizá pudiéramos decir: "Los problemas que pudieran existir en las estructuras sociales y particularmente en las rurales".

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): Agradezco sus esfuerzos por llegar a una componenda respecto del problema que nos ocupa. Nosotros también deseamos hacer una pequeña observación con el mismo ánimo constructivo, puesto que al igual que ha sido mencionado por la delegación de Cuba, yo creo que debemos dejar "estructuras sociales" porque todo el contexto de este párrafo está dirigido a las zonas rurales, como efectivamente se dice dos renglones más abajo. Es parte integrante de este párrafo.

Nosotros también consideramos que se examinarán los problemas de las actuales estructuras sociales y nos atreveríamos a sugerir un cambio que resulte aceptable. Cuando se dice, precisamente, se examinarán los problemas de las actuales estructuras sociales y los cambios que resulten necesarios. De acuerdo con esto último que he dicho "y los cambios que resulten necesarios", propondríamos las palabras "para una mejor distribución de ingresos". Ahí suprimiríamos "medidas", ya estoy sugi-

riendo si resultan aceptables y "los cambios que resulten necesarios", y dejamos lo que ha dicho usted para "una mejor distribución". Este es el principal problema que nos ocupa, de lo demás no tengo ninguna objeción a la propuesta de Argentina de cambiar "masas pobres" por "poblaciones rurales de bajos ingresos".

O. LUCO ECHEVARRÍA (Chile): Con el propósito de esclarecer esta discusión y para llegar a una forma de transacción, mi delegación se permite proponer como frase alternativa a la propuesta por usted, el señalar en el párrafo 8, la parte pertinente a la discusión la siguiente frase: "Aunque en la próxima Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural se examinarán problemas en las estructuras rurales y aquellos sociales que incidían en el proceso de reforma agraria; y seguirá a continuación y "medidas de distribución y, eventualmente, de redistribución de ingresos".

C. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Sr. Presidente, agradezco a las delegaciones de Cuba, Mexico y Chile el aporte constructivo que han hecho para salir de este pequeño problema. Solamente tengo que añadir una pequeña observación y es que cuando se trató del tema agrario de desarrollo rural, quedó especificado como item determinante de la Conferencia los cambios que resultaba necesario efectuar. Sería una falta casi de consideración prejuzgar sobre los resultados finales de la Conferencia, pero ciertamente hay cambios que resultan necesarios, pero otros no. Ahora bien, da una sensación de choque creo que no corresponde a un informe de este tipo.

Con respecto a redistribución, estoy totalmente de acuerdo con la propuesta del delegado de Mexico, que pide poner "para una mejor distribución".

En cuanto a los problemas de las "estructuras y aquellos sociales", yo creo que hay que poner "las estructuras rurales", porque hay muchos países, como el mío, que tienen una estructura fundamentalmente urbana, pese a ser un gran productor de alimentos. Yo insistiría en que quede la relación que se hace al tema específico de la Conferencia, que es "estructuras rurales" y no "sociales".

EL PRESIDENTE: Desearía leer el texto que más o menos recoge las observaciones que se han formulado. Quizá podría decir así: "aunque en la próxima Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural se examinarán los problemas que pudieran existir en las estructuras rurales y aquellos sociales que inciden en el proceso de reforma agraria y las medidas que tiendan a una mejor distribución de los ingresos, etc.". Pregunto si esto es satisfactorio.

R. GARCELL CARRO (Cuba): El distinguido delegado de Argentina ha visto con satisfacción el aporte de los distintos delegados a su propuesta original. El delegado del Gobierno de Chile retorna a las estructuras rurales y no sociales. En nuestra intervención sobre este mismo tema, el documento nuestro, que fue una exposición hecha en esta Comisión, decía que los documentos de la serie C 77/2 manifiestan que muchos países aun son particularmente vulnerables a los riesgos naturales y a la inestabilidad del tiempo y que además las inversiones son insuficientes. Nuestra delegación considera acertado tal fundamento y sobre ello quisiera añadir que unos y otros países están muy vinculados entre sí, de una parte, y muy independientes de otra, por el sistema económico-social imperante en los diferentes países. Nuestra delegación insiste en que se le de el mayor énfasis a los cambios en las estructuras sociales y en segunda instancia a las rurales. De todas maneras, mi delegación se siente satisfecha por la conducción del trabajo, por la dirección en esta Comisión y se encuentra en la disposición de aceptar la sugerencia que ha hecho el Sr. Presidente.

B.A. JAMMŪN (Libya) (interpretation from Arabio): The change in social structure and economic and social operations are closely linked with the social structures of other activities in one and the same country. That is the reason why the term "social structures" has a broader meaning, and my delegation asks that we maintain the term "social structures".

E. OSSINGA (Gabon): Ma délégation voudrait soutenir la proposition que le Président a bien voulu faire, celle qui consiste à insérer le mot "sociales" car nous sommes convaincus que les mesures sociales sont indispensables à l'évolution du régime agraire.

EL PRESIDENTE : Gracias, señor representante de Gaben.

Señores, voy a leer nuevamente cuál era mi propuesta, para que ustedes estén seguros y puedan así tomar una decisión sobre esto. Diría así: "Aunque en la próxima Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural se examinarán los problemas que pudieran existir en las estructuras rurales y aquellos sociales que inciden en el proceso de reforma agraria y la adopción de medidas para una mejor distribución de los ingresos... Y luego la oración queda como está.

A.M. BESHIR (Egypt): After considering all that has been said, really I feel that no amendments are needed at all in the paragraph and I would prefer it to be maintained as it is.

O. LUGO ECHEVARRÍA (Chile): Mi delegación desea apoyar la propuesta hecha por el Sr. Presidente.

EL PRESIDENTE: Bien, señores; me doy cuenta de la preocupación del Sr. delegado de Egipto, pero debe tener también presente todo cuanto se plantea en el curso de nuestras discusiones y lo cierto es que algunas enmiendas se han planteado y es difícil ahora dejarlas todas de lado.

R. GAR CELL CARRO (Cuba): Queríamos resaltar que, de acuerdo a la forma en que se han manifestado la mayoría de los distinguidos oradores que han hecho uso de la palabra sobre esta propuesta de enmienda, prevalece el sentir de que "cambios en las estructuras sociales" y de ello pudieran particularizarse después las rurales. Nuestra delegación insiste - y se ve fortalecida por la opinión de otros delegados - en que éste debe ser el texto.

EL PRESIDENTE: Esto me lleva a la primera propuesta que yo formulé, que era hacer referencia a los problemas que pudieran existir en las estructuras sociales, particularmente en las rurales y luego quedaría, como habíamos dicho, las medidas para una mejor distribución de los ingresos. Quizá este enunciado podía satisfacer a todos.

R. GAR CELL CARRO (Cuba): Ese enunciado satisface a nuestra delegación.

C KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Señor Presidente, por las razones que he expuesto sobre estructura sociológica, a la Argentina no le satisface, pero lo acepto en función de la necesaria colaboración que hay que tener con este texto,

EL PRESIDENTE : Señores, si no hay otras observaciones, damos por aprobado este párrafo 8, con las dos enmiendas que se plantearon y pongo a consideración de ustedes el párrafo 9, Argentina tiene la palabra.

C. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Señor Presidente, no tengo una clara idea de qué es lo que hemos aprobado. Entiendo que hemos aprobado su enmienda, la que usted ha leído. Se propuso que, en lugar de "masas rurales", se dijera "poblaciones rurales de bajos ingresos". Esa enmienda no fue objetada. Fue acogida por el representante de México, que intervino después de usted. No sé si hay observaciones. Entendí que no había habido observaciones.

I. OROZOO GUZMAN (México): Nos parece correcto lo que usted dijo, como primer extremo. Mi delegación no objetó las enmiendas propuestas más abajo. T ya que estoy en el uso de la palabra, señor Presidente, quiero decir que hay un cambio de palabra o de redacción en el texto español, en el siguiente renglón. Después de "masas pobres rurales", dice que es necesario también prestar atención a los programas de las grandes masas y desnutridos. No sé si es "programas", o si quiere decir más bien "problemas".

EL PRESIDENTE : Gracias, vamos a comprobar con el texto inglés. El texto inglés dice: "problemas". To oreo que es un error de transcripción. Quizá es más lógico que diga "problemas" y no "programas". Tomamos nota para corregir la versión.

Si no hay otras observaciones, pongo a consideración de ustedes el párrafo 9.

M. NA-AKWETTI (Zaire): Il s'agit du paragraphe 9 au sujet duquel nous avons à faire une proposition concernant l'amendement de la troisième phrase où l'on parle de "développer la capacité de production des inputs agricoles". Je pense que le développement de la capacité des inputs est intimement lié à la nécessité de développer avant tout la capacité de production. Nous pensons donc qu'en ce qui concerne les pays du tiers monde il faudrait, avant la capacité de production, développer la capacité de consommation. Il faudrait tout mettre en oeuvre pour développer la capacité de consommation et de production des inputs agricoles dans les pays du tiers monde,

J. TROUVEROY (Président du Comité de rédaction): Puis-je demander au délégué du Zaïre de préciser le sens de son amendement?

M. NA-AKWETTI (Zaire): Je disais qu'au cours des débats sur ce chapitre, beaucoup de délégations, dont la nôtre, avaient souhaité qu'il y ait, au niveau des débats, des politiques tendant à favoriser la consommation des inputs agricoles. Nous pensons que cette politique est nécessaire à celle qui tendrait à développer la production des inputs agricoles dans les pays intéressés. C'est pour cela que nous proposons cet amendement qui consisterait à souhaiter le développement des capacités de consommation en même temps que la capacité de production. Je pense que le problème qui se pose dans les pays du tiers monde consiste non seulement dans la capacité de production mais aussi dans la consommation. On ne peut pas parler de la production des inputs dans nos Etats si préalablement rien n'a été fait pour favoriser le développement de la consommation de ces mêmes inputs.

A.M. BESHIR (Egypt): I think that the statement reading: "The development of production capacity for farm inputs in developing countries should be vigorously pursued" should be kept as it is, because consumption capacity has been dealt with before and after this statement.

S. TOURE (Sénégal): J'approuve la proposition du délégué du Zaïre et je voudrais la préciser en disant qu'il faudrait encourager, dans les pays du tiers monde, non pas la capacité de consommation des inputs agricoles mais la propension à la consommation des inputs agricoles et ensuite la production de ces inputs.

EL PRES HEUTE : Quizá podamos proponer como una solución de transacción decir: "Es necesario empeñarse enérgicamente en desarrollar la mayor utilización". Agregaría yo "La mayor utilización" y luego seguiría como está, la capacidad de producción, insumos agrícolas, etc. Pregunto si esto puede ser satisfactorio.

¿Está de acuerdo el Sr. representante de Zaire con esta enmienda que yo propongo a modo de transacción? M. NA-AKWETTI (Zaire): Oui, Monsieur le Président.

EL PRESIDENTE: Entonces incorporamos estas palabras en el párrafo 9 y si no hay otras observaciones pasaremos al párrafo 10.

B. SAMAUÏZ CONCHA (Pera): Posiblemente lo que vaya a decir se refiera únicamente al texto en español. Comienza el párrafo 9 expresamente con „Los suministros de fertilizantes y plaguicidas son hoy más suficientes. ...¿Eso o es suficiente o es insuficiente. No puede haber más suficiente, y creo que no estamos en la situación para poder decir que los suministros de fertilizantes y plaguicidas son suficientes. Habría que buscar el término preciso para reemplazar esto, posiblemente sólo en el español, porque no sé lo que dice realmente en los otros idiomas.

EL PRESIDENTE: En francés está correcto y en inglés dice „más adecuados“. Pregunto si le satisface. Veo que le satisface. En consecuencia, tomamos nota de que en español dirá: "Los suministros de fertilizantes y plaguicidas son hoy más adecuados", en vez de "más suficientes".

RAM SARÁN (India): I would like an amendment in the last but one sentence. Just now the sentence reads: "The Conference recommended that FAO should continue to study the high and unstable prices of inputs in relation to the prices received by farmers." I would like to insert the following phrase: "and urged the producing countries to take measures for assuring supplies at prices reasonable to farmers in consuming countries."

EL PRESIDENTE : Voy a pedir al Secretario que lea la enmienda, ya que él ha podido tomarla bien.

P. MEJIA (Secretario de la Comisión i): Entonces diría así: "e instó a los países productores para que adopten medidas con miras a asegurar el suministro a precios razonables para los agricultores en los países más necesitados".

EL PRESIDENTE: Tengo la impresión de que no es toda la enmienda propuesta por el Sr. representante de la India. Quizás él esté dispuesto a leerla nuevamente a una velocidad que nos permita tomar nota de ella.

RAM SARÁN (India): The sentence will continue with the words: "and urged the producing countries to take measures for assuring supplies at prices reasonable to farmers in consuming countries."

EL PRESIDENTE: Quizás, como estamos hablando de insumos, habría que agregar la palabra insumos en esa oración para mayor claridad. Pregunto si es aceptable esta enmienda.

D. RICHTER (Germany, Fed. Rep. of)(interpretation from German): The proposal by the delegate of India is a problem for us. A country with a free market economy cannot possibly have government intervention in the free trade pattern of that country and we cannot have an effect on the import of other countries. Also the text suggested here goes beyond what the committee on fertilizers

discussed, because what it considered was to try to find possibilities for long-term supply contracts between industry and trade. In any case, speaking for my Government, when it is a matter of trade and industry in our country, we cannot intervene to that extent,

EL PRESIDENTE: Quizás podríamos recoger la observación del Sr. delegado de la India y la observación del Sr. representante de Alemania diciendo que "se subrayó la conveniencia de que se suministren insumos a precios razonables para los agricultores de los países consumidores". Con un enunciado así, quizás superamos el inconveniente que nos señaló el representante de Alemania y tomamos en una buena medida, la observación del Sr. representante de la India. Pregunto si es aceptable este texto.

Si no hay observaciones, aceptamos este texto de transacción.

D. RICHTÉH (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): Perhaps the Secretariat could read out the "text once more.

EL PRESIDENTE: Voy a leer yo mismo, porque he tomado nota de ello. Luego de la palabra "agricultores" pondríamos "y subrayó la conveniencia de que se suministren insumos a precios razonables para los agricultores de los países consumidores". Si no hay observaciones, puedo considerar entonces que se acepta este texto y aprobamos así el párrafo 9.

Pasamos ahora al párrafo 10, que pongo en consideración de ustedes.

WU TIEN-HSI (China) (interpretation from Chinese): Paragraph 10 mentions "world-wide interdependence". The Chinese delegation has pointed out in many international forums that such wording lends itself to being used by the super-powers to uphold the old international economic order. We wish, therefore, to reserve our position as regards this wording, and to have this position duly recorded in the minutes of the Conference.

EL PRESIDENTE : Si entendí bien, el Sr. representante de la República Popular de China formulará una reserva a la mención que se hace a la interdependencia mundial. ¿Es eso correcto?

Wü TIEN-HSI (China) (interpretation from Chinese): We wish to reserve our position as regards this wording, and to have this position duly recorded in the minutes of the Conference.

L. GOMASES CU (Romania): With regard to the last sentence of paragraph 10, we think it might be better to rephrase this, and I am ready to submit a proposal in this regard. Everybody here has underlined the importance of cooperation among developing countries, so we would suggest the following phrase: "The Conference also emphasised the importance of the cooperation among developing countries themselves and the necessity of taking measures to further increase this cooperation".

EL PRESIDENTE: Si no hay observaciones a la propuesta de la delegación de Rumania, espero que todos hayan tenido oportunidad de tomar nota. No hay observaciones y oreo que podemos aceptarla.

En relación con la reserva que formuló la delegación de la República Popular de China, le pediría que me diera más tarde un texto para especificar en modo concreto a qué parte del párrafo formula la reserva con la aclaración que debe ser un texto breve, como normalmente figura en los Informes en que se formula alguna reserva.

Paras. 1-15 not concluded

Par. 10-15 en suspens

Parrs. 1-15 sin concluir

Meeting rose at 12.40 hours.

La séance est levée a 12 h 40.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.40 horas.

conference

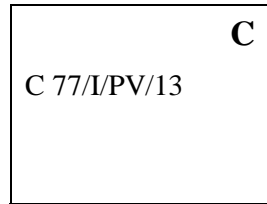
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Nineteenth Session
COMMISSION I

Dix-neuvième session
COMMISSION I

19º período de sesiones
COMISION II

THIRTEENTH MEETING
TREIZIEME SÉANCE
13ª SESION

(28 November 1977)

The Thirteenth Meeting was opened at 14.50 hours,
J.C. Vignaud, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La treizième seance est ouverte à 14 h 50, sous la présidence
de J.C. Vignaud, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 13ª sesión a las 14.50 horas, bajo la presidencia
de J.C. Vignaud, Presidente de la Comisión I

ADOPTION OF REPORT(continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART I (continued)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - PARTIE I (suite)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE I (continuación)

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 15 (continued)

PARAGRAPHERS 1 a 15 (suite)

PARRAFOS 1 a 15 (continuación)

EL PRESIDENTE: Buenas tardes, señores delegados. Vamos a continuar con el análisis del proyecto de informe que nos ha preparado el Comité de Redacción, bajo la Presidencia del Sr. Trouveroy, y esta mañana comenzamos con el examen del documento C 77/I/REP.1. En el capítulo que se refiere al estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación, analizamos los párrafos 1 a 10. En el párrafo 10 la delegación de la República Popular China indicó que formularía una reserva, que haríamos constar como una nota al pie de la página correspondiente, que pediría al Sr. Secretario tenga a bien leer.

Antes de leer la nota, me señala muy atinadamente el Secretario que el proyecto de la delegación de la República Popular China nos ha enviado al final dice:(leído en francés). Entonces la pregunta es si desean ellos que conste en las Actas que se elaboran de nuestras deliberaciones, o si lo que piden es que conste como una nota al pie del informe final de la Conferencia, en la parte que se refiere al tema que estamos tratando; es decir, una nota al pie de la página donde está reproducido el párrafo 10, que es el que dio lugar a estas observaciones. Le pregunto al Sr. delegado de la República Popular China si es que desea que conste solamente en el acta de la reunión, o si desea que conste en el Informe Final de la Conferencia.

WU TIEN-HSI (China) (interpretation from Chinese): We hope that this point can be recorded as part of this report.

P. MEJIA (Secretary, Commission I): A footnote on paragraph 10, at the end of the paragraph, would read like this: "The Chinese delegation has pointed out that many international fora that such wording may be used by the super powers to continue upholding the old international economic order."

EL PRESIDENTE: Esta reserva de la delegación de la República Popular China habrá que hacer constar que se refiere específicamente a la mención que se hace sobre la interdependencia mundial. Si no hay otros comentarios, creo que podemos incorporar esta reserva, y pongo a consideración de ustedes ahora el párrafo.

H.S. BAR-SHAI (Israel): If we are still on paragraph 10, when I spoke at the general discussion there was a recommendation that the Secretary-General should investigate the possibility of setting up an international fund to cover nature risks and act as the cooperation of an international insurance company and bank, including development banks. I would suggest that it might be possible to include that recommendation in the report.

EL PRESIDENTE: Quizá el Sr. representante de Israel nos quiera brindar un texto concreto sobre lo que él desea que figure en el informe, y luego lo analizaríamos para ver si es pertinente.

H.S. BAR-SHAI (Israel): Thank you. I will write it down. I feel it belongs under paragraph 10 because it deals with international cooperation. In a few minutes I will give you the exact text,

J. TROUVEROY (Président du Comité de rédaction): Je voudrais dire au représentant d'Israël que nous avons pensé à cet aspect du problème, notamment de l'assurance contre les mauvaises récoltes, comme il apparaît dans la dernière phrase du paragraphe 5. Si le délégué d'Israël le veut bien, il peut s'y référer.

EL PRESIDENTE: Pregunto si esa aclaración satisface al Sr. representante de Israel.

H.S. BAR-SHAI (Israel): I dare say that indeed there is a short reference to it in paragraph 5 but I feel it does not specify ways and means. We have suggested here specific ways and means which would be good towards the world, so if you allow me I will give the text and I request that it be included in the report.

J. TROUVEROY (Président du Comité de rédaction): Je voudrais demander au représentant d'Israël, au cas où il veut présenter un texte, de bien vouloir l'introduire, au paragraphe 5, plutôt qu'au paragraphe 10. Je pense que c'est au paragraphe 5 qu'il serait mieux à sa place. Il est bien évident toutefois que nous tenons compte de toutes les propositions qui nous seront faites.

H.S. BAR-SHAI (Israel): I do not object to its being in paragraph 5.

EL PRESIDENTE: Entonces esperamos la sugerencia concreta, el texto que usted nos haga llegar, para ponerlo a consideración de la Comisión,

Bien, señores, pasamos al párrafo 11 de nuestro informe.

C. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Señor Presidente, para tratar de interpretar de una manera mas clara lo que sucedió en la Comisión, quisiera proponer que, en lugar de iniciar el párrafo con "varias delegaciones señalaron", yo pondría "la Conferencia señaló la importancia de los problemas relacionados con los productos básicos y el comercio?". Y ahí haría un punto. Posteriormente la frase seguiría del mismo modo: "Varias delegaciones expresaron que, a su juicio, merece un tema separado en el programa de la Conferencia". O sea, separar lo que la Conferencia aceptó, la importancia de los problemas relacionados con los productos básicos y el comercio, y posteriormente si se quiere, en tema separado, que varias delegaciones hicieron hincapié en eso. Esa sería una modificación.

La segunda, que en la siguiente frase, habría que agregar, después de la primera coma, (voy a leerlo) "Los países en desarrollo insisten en el tema del desarrollo exterior de los mercados de países desarrollados" y ahí agregaría yo "y el mayor acceso a los mismos". Posteriormente, la frase seguiría de la misma manera; no habría otra modificación. Después en la otra frase, que está en el texto español, en el noveno renglón, en lugar de poner "algunos países en desarrollo estimaron que el acceso a los mercados de países desarrollados...", yo pondría "varias delegaciones...". Porque esto es un hecho que no ha sido controvertido y si bien es cierto que fue mencionado por algunos países en desarrollo, me parece que es más pertinente expresar: "Varias delegaciones...".

Por último, señor Presidente, en la última frase del párrafo 11 (leo el texto en español): "Algunos países desarrollados, si bien convenían en que hacían falta ulteriores mejoras de las condiciones del comercio internacional de productos agrícolas, estimaron que en los últimos años se habían hecho grandes progresos...". Yo, señor Presidente, entiendo que uno de los principales temas de las intervenciones de los representantes de los países en desarrollo era precisamente recalcar que no había habido grandes progresos, sobre todo grandes progresos relativos, si bien las cifras pueden indicar un incremento grande de los países desarrollados y de los países en desarrollo. Si se compara el incremento del comercio entre los países en desarrollo, veremos que la proporción del incremento de estos

aumentos ha sido mucho menor entre los países desarrollados que en los países en desarrollo; es decir, que los países en desarrollo han aumentado proporcionalmente mucho más el volumen de su intercambio comercial y mucho menos con los países desarrollados. Por lo tanto yo tacharía las palabras "grandes progresos..."

EL PRESIDENTE: Tenemos cuatro propuestas de modificación, que voy a poner a consideración de ustedes, pero antes el Sr. delegado de Egipto ha pedido la palabra.

A.M. BESHIR (Egypt): The fourth and fifth lines of paragraph 11 read: "and it was suggested that improved conditions of international trade were even more important to them than an improved flow of external assistance." I feel that there is not much need for comparison, because both improvement in trade and assistance are needed. I therefore propose a slight amendment, to read as follows in line 4: "and improved conditions of international trade were very important to them."

EL PRESIDENTE: Bien, señores, si no hay otras observaciones a este párrafo, pondría a consideración de ustedes las observaciones que ya tenemos. Antes daré la palabra al señor representante de la República Federal de Alemania y luego al del Reino Unido.

D. RICHTER (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): With regard to the first draft amendment, I would suggest that we leave the wording as it now stands, "A number of delegations..." On behalf of my delegation I can say that we are well aware of the importance of trade problems but we do not say that this should be a separate item on the agenda of the Conference. We consider that within the framework of items such as agricultural adjustment and the situation of agriculture and food there is sufficient cause to discuss these problems and that is what indeed we did when we came to those two items.

As to the second draft amendment, the words "certain developing countries" to be replaced by "various delegations", I can agree to the amendment, it being understood, however, that this does not reflect the views of my delegation. When we came to relevant items we said that the market outlet for products from developed countries had improved in my country. That is what we said at the time.

G. BELCHAMBER (United Kingdom): I agree with what our colleague from the Federal Republic of Germany has just said, although as I understood it the amendment suggested at the beginning of paragraph 11 would read:

"The Conference stressed the importance of commodity and trade problems. A number of delegations stated that in their opinion this merited a separate item on the Agenda of the Conference." That wording would certainly give us no problems. Could I suggest also three other amendments.

In the English text at the beginning of page 5 there is a sentence beginning "The development of livestock production in developing countries ..." I would suggest that that be prefaced by the phrase: "Certain developing countries considered that..." In the following sentence I would suggest that the phrase: "While agreeing that further improvements were necessary in the conditions of international trade in agricultural products" should be deleted and that the sentence should begin: "Certain developed countries considered that progress" - or "significant progress" - which ever is agreed - "had been made in recent years ..." and that there should be a sentence at the conclusion of that paragraph as follows: "The Conference hoped that further improvements in the conditions of international trade in agricultural products could be achieved."

EL PRESIDENTE: Lamentablemente, Sr. Delegado del Reino Unido, no hemos podido tomar nota de sus observaciones, y si usted nos pudiera indicar concretamente el texto y en qué lugar exactamente las quiere insertar, se lo agradeceríamos.

G. BELCHAMBER (United Kingdom): My suggested amendments are as follows: at the top of page 5 in the English text the sentence beginning: "The development of livestock production ..." should be altered to read as follows: "Some developing countries considered that the development of livestock production in developing countries was discouraged ...", The next sentence would then begin by deleting the existing phrase: "While agreeing that further improvements were necessary in the conditions of international trade in agricultural products..." and the sentence would then read: "Certain developed countries considered that progress ..." - or "significant progress" - "had been made ..." The final sentence would read: "The Conference hoped that further improvements in the conditions of international trade in agricultural products could be achieved."

EL PRESIDENTE: Tenemos dos oradores, pero yo desearía antes de darles la palabra, que vayamos tra tando ahora enmienda por enmienda; pongo a consideración de ustedes la primera enmienda.

La primera enmienda consiste en excluir la mención que se hace de que varias delegaciones subrayaron la importancia de los problemas relacionados con los productos básicos y el comercio, y poner "La Conferencia subrayó la importancia de estos problemas, es decir, de los problemas relacionados con los productos básicos y el comercio". Ahí iría un punto y luego diría "Varias delegaciones señalaron que, a su juicio, merecen un tema separado ... etc.". Esa es la primera modificación que se nos ha sugerido y que pongo a consideración de ustedes. Si no hay observaciones, aprobamos esta enmienda.

Me doy cuenta de que el Presidente del Comité de Redacción tiene alguna preocupación por esta enmienda, pero quiero aclarar que en realidad no se cambia nada, porque es obvio que la Conferencia subraye la importancia de los productos básicos en el comercio. Nadie lo pone en duda; lo que puede estar en tela de juicio es si debe s?r un tema de la Agenda o no y eso es lo que algunas delegaciones han dicho y queda perfectamente claro.

Con respecto a la segunda enmienda que iría incluida en el segundo párrafo, donde dice "Los países en desarrollo necesitan el estímulo de la demanda exterior de los mercados de países desarrollados", ahí se agregaría "y el mayor acceso a los mismos" y luego continuaría "y se indicó que el mejora miento ... etc.", como sigue la frase. Pregunto si hay observaciones a esta propuesta. Si no hay observaciones, se acepta en consecuencia esta enmienda.

La tercera enmienda consiste, en la misma oración, donde dice "y se indicó que el mejoramiento de las condiciones del comercio internacional es", y ahí cambia todo lo que sigue, se excluiría todo lo que sigue y en su lugar se pondría "es de mucha importancia para ellos". Pregunto si hay observaciones a esta enmienda.

M. LIMAN (Nigeria): I think that the comparison here is extremely important, My delegation has consistently said that better trading conditions are what we want in preference to continued aid and continued reliance by developing countries on external assistance. I think this focuses on this problem and the comparison here should be left as it is.

S. JUMA'A (Jordan): I quite agree with the delegate of Niperia but in order to accommodate the proposal of my friend from Egypt we might use the words "important to some of them". Maybe some countries feel that external aid is more important than access to the international market. Some have different views.

EL PRESIDENTE: Quizás y sin perjuicio del valioso aporte del Sr. representante de Jordania, se podría decir que "el mejoramiento de las condiciones del comercio internacional y el incremento de la ayuda exterior son ambos de mucha importancia para los países en desarrollo". Quizás esto coincida con el punto de vista del Sr. delegado de Nigeria y con el punto de vista del Sr. delegado de Egipto.

G. GAMO-KUBA (Congo): Ma délégation aurait quelques ennuis à accepter ce dernier amendement, parce que cela reviendrait à mettre sur le même pied d'égalité l'amélioration des conditions d'échange et l'aide extérieure. Je crois que tel que formulé, cela revient à mettre sur le même plan ces deux concepts et si vraiment on ne trouve pas une solution de compromis, je préférerais garder la formula tion présentée par le délégué du Nigeria et insister seulement sur l'amélioration des échanges interna tionaux, à moins qu'il y ait une autre formulation, parce que - c'est le reflet des débats en plénière - on ne peut Pasmettre au même niveau ces deux concepts.

S. JUMA'A (Jordan): I think the argument of my friend from the Congo is valid. What I am saying is that to some developing countries the flow of external aid is still far more important than access to the market. To some other developing countries it is the other way round. So we could say "important to some of them". To some it is still not very important so when we say "some of them" it might put them on an equal footing.

EL PRESIDENTE: Yo creo que es una buena sugerencia que pongo a consideración de ustedes. Me pregunto si tenemos ya un texto, y si es así, convendría quizás leerlo.

En consecuencia de lo que hemos escuchado, el Sr. delegado de Jordania diría "y se indico que el mejoramiento de las condiciones del comercio internacional es incluso más importante para algunos de ellos que el incremento de la ayuda exterior". ¿Es aceptable? Bien, entonces queda modificado el párrafo con esta enmienda.

Pasamos a otra enmienda que se ha propuesto, que se refiere a la oración que en el texto español está en la línea novena, donde dice "Algunos países en desarrollo estimaron que el acceso..."; la enmienda propuesta reza de la siguiente manera: "Varias delegaciones de países en desarrollo estimaron que el acceso...".0 sea, en vez de poner "algunos países en desarrollo" se diría "varias delegaciones de países en desarrollo".¿Es aceptable esta enmienda?

R. TANABE (Japan): The final text of this paragraph was prepared by the Secretariat after careful examination of the verbatim record. Therefore I would like to ask the Secretariat about the facts.

J. TROUVEROY (Président du Comité de rédaction): Je crois que le délégué du Japon parle bien de la modification qui se trouve vers la neuvième ligne, c'est-à-dire remplacer dans le texte français "Certains pays en développement" par "Plusieurs délégations". Personnellement, je ne vois pas très bien la grande différence qu'il y a entre les deux formulations, parce que "Certains pays", c'est un certain nombre de pays, et "Plusieurs délégations", c'est aussi un certain nombre de pays, en tous cas en français, je ne sais pas dans les autres langues, mais en français, il y a peu de différence entre les deux expressions.

C. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Agradezco al Presidente del Comité de Redacción la explicación, pero me parece que, en todo caso, ya que son las dos iguales, yo me quedaría con "varias delegaciones", con esa expresión.

EL PRESIDENTE: Pregunto, señores, si hay observaciones a esta enmienda.

S.B. NEPALI (Nepal): I understand that we have dealt in great detail with trade and external assistance for developing countries but in this regard I would like to add one thing which is missing. In short, there should be mention of easy transit of the developed world to the land-locked countries, primarily my own country. So my request is that easy transit facilities should be mentioned somewhere in the recommendations in paragraph 11.

EL PRESIDENTE: Le pediría que me formule concretamente el texto que usted quiere que figure y dónde quiere que sea insertado, y lo pondríamos a consideración de la Comisión.

Mientras tanto, seguimos analizando otra enmienda que está en la línea quinta del párrafo 11 contando de abajo hacia arriba, y dice "estimaron que en los últimos años se habían hecho grandes progresos, en particular con la introducción... etc.". La enmienda propuesta es excluir la palabra "grandes". Pregunto si hay observaciones al respecto.

P. HALIMI (France): Ce membre de phrase se réfère à la déclaration qui a été faite par le représentant de la Communauté économique européenne. Je pense donc qu'il faut maintenir la rédaction qui nous est proposée.

B. SUSSMILCH (European Economic Community): I propose that we delete the words "and the restricted measures adopted by them" in the first sentence on page 5. As far as the Community is concerned, since April 1975, as well as in 1976, we have changed our policy for livestock and meats to facilitate imports of meat from the Community and exports from developing countries to the Community respectively. We have explained these changes in detail in GATT, in the inter-governmental meeting on meat in FAO, in UNCTAD and in the Economic Commission for Europe. We have the impression that most of the developing countries have accepted these revisions and consider them to be a real amelioration of the situation under the present circumstances. Therefore, I would like to ask you to delete the last phrase.

G. GAMO-KUBA (Congo): Je crois que la suggestion qui vient d'être faite de biffer les termes "mesures restrictives" ne nous poserait pas de problème si la phrase était gardée telle quelle. Or, si j'ai bien suivi, cette phrase a été amendée comme suit: "Les pays en développement estiment que l'excédent de la production des pays développés..." S'il en est bien ainsi, j'estime qu'on ne devrait pas supprimer les termes "mesures restrictives", et que le représentant de la Communauté économique européenne n'aurait aucune difficulté à voir figurer ici ce qu'ont dit les pays en développement.

EL PRESIDENTE: Efectivamente es una propuesta de la delegación del Reino Unido introducir una enmienda en esta oración. Pasamos a considerarla ahora.

El representante del Reino Unido propuso que al inicio de esta oración se diga: "que algunos países en desarrollo consideraron que". Deseo señalar que esta oración se vincula con la anterior que empieza hablando ya de que "varias delegaciones" me parece que no es necesario incluirlo si se considera que no cambia el sentido de la oración.

G. BELCHAMBER (United Kingdom): I take your point Mr. Chairman, except that there is another sentence in between talking about competition from synthetic products; in other words, it goes on to another subject, and I rather thought it read like a Conference decision and so it was necessary to put the qualification in.

RAM SARAN (India): I would agree that the reference in this sentence relating to the development of livestock production is really on behalf of some developing countries only. Therefore, I would have thought that this was quite in order although, if it is added, I do not see any difference either, because it is only repetitive.

Since we are talking of these one or two sentences I should like to add a few words after the last sentence on page 4, so that it would read: "Moreover, the competition of synthetic products continued to pose grave problems calling for international assistance for research and development in natural products".

I do not feel there is any necessity to say: "Certain developing countries considered...", but if it is felt to be very important by the United Kingdom delegate I would have no objection.

EL PRESIDENTE: En consecuencia y en relación con la propuesta del señor representante del Reino Unido, agregaríamos antes de la palabra "Además" en la oración que dice, antes de "los efectos de una producción excedentaria", diríamos: "algunos países en desarrollo consideraron que los efectos de una producción excedentaria en los países desarrollados etc."

G. GAMO-KUBA (Congo): Je crois que la première phrase disait "plusieurs délégations" et je ne vois pas pourquoi on dirait "quelques délégations", ce serait comme deux ou trois délégations; on affaiblirait la portée de la déclaration.

Qu'on reprenne "ces mêmes délégations", ou, "plusieurs délégations". On ne peut avoir dit "plusieurs délégations" et en bas "quelques délégations".

M.A. de FONSECA COUTO GOMES PEREIRA (Brazil): Referring to the sentence beginning: "The development of livestock production", if the United Kingdom's amendment is to say: "Certain developing countries considered that we can maintain "and the restrictive measures adopted by them" at the end of the sentence, can we not?

EL PRESIDENTE: El representante del Congo sugiere que en lugar de decir: "algunas delegaciones", se diga, "varias delegaciones de países en desarrollo consideraron que los efectos de una producción excedentaria etc. etc."

C. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Ya tenemos "varias delegaciones de países en desarrollo" y me parece atinado lo que dijo el representante del Congo, pero para no repetir dos veces "varias delegaciones de países en desarrollo", podemos trasladar la frase, que esta descolocada: "Además, la competencia de los productos sintéticos continúa planteando graves problemas". De esa manera lo que sigue a continuación de esa frase, o sea "los efectos de una producción excedentaria en los países", continúa siendo lo que dice: "varias delegaciones de países en desarrollo".

Además con la enmienda que ha propuesto el delegado de la India a ese problema de la competencia de los productos sintéticos, ya dará lugar a que esto vaya en otra frase.

EL PRESIDENTE: La última intervención nos propone, si entendí bien, cambiar la ubicación de la oración que hace referencia a la competencia de productos sintéticos. Lo que no entendí es donde el señor delegado de Argentina desea colocar esta oración.

C. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Me es indiferente-donde puede colocarse, pero puede ir perfectamente al final del párrafo.

J. TROUVEROY (Président du Comité de rédaction): Je voudrais répondre à la remarque faite par le Délégué de l'Argentine. Je crois en effet que dans une idée d'améliorer la présentation du texte, on pourrait peut-être mettre la phrase commençant par: "l'excédent de la production ... etc.", ou bien "plusieurs pays estiment que l'excédent ...", on supprimerait alors "plusieurs pays en voie de développement", on garderait cette expression de la phrase précédente, "plusieurs pays en voie de développement estiment que leur accès aux marchés...", et aussi que "l'excédent de la production...".

Mais alors, la phrase: "En outre, la concurrence des produits synthétiques ..." était une phrase qui avait trait précisément à la phrase précédente; on pourrait bien sur la décaler mais alors il faut la décaler après la seconde partie de cette phrase nouvelle qui est double maintenant et commence par: "plusieurs délégations Evidemment nous aurons une petite difficulté car l'idée ne suivra pas exactement, mais il faudra que cette phrase intervienne avant la phrase où on parle des pays développés. A ce moment là, il y a une petite gymnastique pour essayer de présenter un texte où il n'y ait pas de répétition de "certains pays en développement" d'une part, mais que d'autre part, les idées se suivent et il y a une petite opposition et je voulais simplement faire remarquer ce détail là.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas veces lo perfecto es lo enemigo de lo bueno. Podríamos evitar mayores complicaciones repitiendo antes de "los efectos de una producción excedentaria en los países desarrollados", volviendo a decir que: "varias delegaciones de países en desarrollo consideraron que los efectos de

una producción excedentaria en los países desarrollados y las medidas...". Dejaríamos la oración tal como está e incorporaríamos, si no hay observaciones a la oración anterior en lo que se refiere a la competencia de los productos sintéticos, la sugerencia formulada por el representante de la India.

Voy a pedir al Secretario, si la tiene a mano, que lea esta propuesta.

P. MEJIA (Secretario de la Comisión I): Además la competencia de los productos sintéticos continúa planteando graves problemas, lo que exige la ayuda internacional para investigación y desarrollo de los productos naturales."

EL PRESIDENTE: Pregunto si esta adición propuesta por el representante de la India es aceptable.

J. TROUVEROY (Président du Comité de rédaction): Je voudrais demander à la Délégation de l'Inde si elle accepterait dans un but de logique de dire ceci: "En outre, la concurrence des produits synthétiques etc.", "ce qui pourrait nécessiter", parce que cela ne nécessite pas nécessairement un fait international, ou "pourrait nécessiter", ou "pourrait nécessiter dans certains cas", parce que ce n'est pas dans tous les cas et c'est pour être plus précis que je voudrais demander à la Délégation de l'Inde si elle pourrait accepter ce texte là.

RAM SARAN (India): This makes it rather weak. Could we say: "calling inter alia for international assistance for research and development"? We could add the words "inter alia" so that if there are other things also they could be taken into account, but we should not make it weak.

J. TROUVEROY (Président du Comité de rédaction): Je propose qu'on mette ici: "Dans certains cas". Cela non plus n'est pas acceptable par le Délégué de l'Inde?

RAM SARAN (India): I do not see any harm in retaining the words I suggested "calling inter alia for international assistance". I do not think it is a clumsy sentence.

EL PRESIDENTE: Yo no puedo ayudarles en francés lamentablemente, pero lo voy a leer en español: "y las medidas restrictivas por éstos adoptadas han desalentado el fomento de la producción pecuaria en los países en desarrollo".

G. GAMO-KUBA (Congo): Je crois que nous en avons fini avec l'amendement de l'Inde, mon souci est ailleurs, c'est toujours la même phrase qui dit: "...les mesures restrictives qu'ils ont adoptées, détournent les pays en développement d'accroître leur production animale." Je ne sais pas comment est libellé le texte dans les autres langues, mais en français j'ai du mal à comprendre cette fin de phrase "détournent les pays en développement d'accroître leur production animale", en français cela ne paraît pas très lisible. Je ne sais pas si le Président du Comité de rédaction peut nous aider.

J. TROUVEROY (Président du Comité de rédaction): Il s'agit donc du texte français uniquement je crois, "pourraient empêcher les pays en développement d'accroître leur production animale", ou, "pourraient constituer un obstacle...".

G. GAMO-KUBA (Congo): Oui, le Président du Groupe de rédaction nous donne une explication; je voudrais savoir si les textes sont harmonisés en anglais, en espagnol et en français, si c'est le même terme? Il ne s'agit pas de mettre ici "détournent" s'il y a un autre terme en anglais et en espagnol.

EL PRESIDENTE: Con esta modificación ¿queda conforme la delegación del Congo?

J. TROUVEROY (Président du Comité de rédaction): Je crois que cela devient une question de traducteur et plus de Comité de rédaction, mais j'essaie de vous aider mais il faut que je mette au clair et que je voie quels sont les termes en anglais pour essayer de traduire, Si on veut une traduction plus proche, c'est simplement: l'excédent de la production des pays développés... "a découragé les pays en développement d'accroître leur production animale". Est-ce que cela satisfait le Délégué du Congo, "a découragé"?

B. SUSSMILCH (European Economic Community): Even if the text starts with "Certain developing countries considered that" I would like to delete this phrase, as I explained.

EL PRESIDENTE: Voy a pedir al señor Secretario que lea la propuesta que nos formuló el señor representante del Reino Unido que debemos analizar a continuación.

P. MEJIA (Secretary, Commission I): On page 5 on the third line down it starts with "While agreeing that further improvements" that would be deleted until "products". "While agreeing that further improvements were necessary in the conditions of international trade in agricultural products". That would be deleted and the sentence would start with "Certain developed countries considered that".

EL PRESIDENTE: Someto a consideración de ustedes la enmienda del Reino Unido que consiste en eliminar si bien convenía en que hacían falta ulteriores mejoras de las condiciones del comercio internacional de productos agrícolas.

J.E.J. RODRIGO (Sri Lanka): I think we cannot delete that phrase altogether and start with the word "Certain" because it would read "Certain developed countries considered that significant progress had been made in recent years including international". Significant progress in what? To make the sentence complete it should read "Certain developed countries considered that significant progress in the conditions of international trade in agricultural products had been made in recent years" and then go on. Will the United Kingdom delegate agree to that change?

M.A. de FONSECA COUTO GOMES PEREIRA (Brazil): The Chairman of the Drafting Committee can confirm that this paragraph was viewed after many discussions in the Drafting Committee and this last sentence was carefully written by the Secretariat after carefully reading the verbatim of the discussions held in the Commission so I would have some difficulty in accepting the United Kingdom amendment.

J. TROUVEROY (Président du Comité de rédaction): Je crois en effet que le représentant du Brésil a raison, nous avons eu beaucoup de peine à mettre au point ce paragraphe 11. Il nous a fallu plusieurs jours pour le préparer et nous sommes enfin arrivés à un texte assez équilibré. Je suis d'accord avec le représentant du Brésil en ce qui concerne tout ceci, et je crois qu'il ne faudrait pas toucher au texte qui est le résultat d'un long compromis. Je crois que la pensée du délégué britannique n'est pas suffisamment exprimée, car je pense que son idée était de supprimer cette phrase et de la reprendre sous une autre forme à la fin du paragraphe, en attribuant ce membre de phrase "Tout en reconnaissant qu'il faut encore améliorer les conditions du commerce internationale de produits agricoles" ce qui est je crois, l'idée de tout le monde, il fait passer sous le chapeau "la Conférence espère qu'une nouvelle amélioration..." ceci est l'idée du délégué britannique, si j'ai bien compris.

G. BELCHAMBER (United Kingdom): Yes, I am grateful to the Chairman of the Drafting Group, he has understood me quite correctly. It is, in fact, misleading to look at this one deletion in isolation. One has to read it in the context of the re-introduction in the last sentence of further references to conditions in international trade, which I have tried to extend into a Conference view rather than as, at present, certain developed countries.

M.A. de FONSECA COUTO GOMES PEREIRA (Brazil): I insist on my opinion in spite of the explanations given by the Chairman of the Drafting' Committee and the delegate of the United Kingdom. English is not my mother language but I think this was accepted from what the Secretariat could see in the verbatims. The two are very well related here. It was a problem of certain developed countries to extend this and that while agreeing it is a problem of those countries.

B. SAMANEZ CONCHA (Peru): Señor Presidente, gracias. Únicamente, y voy a ser muy breve, para mani festar que mi delegación está de completo acuerdo con lo planteado por el distinguido representante de Brasil.

EL PRESIDENTE : Tengo dos oradores más en la lista, pero antes de darles la palabra quisiera decir que está claro, como ha surgido de lo que ha manifestado el Presidente del Comité de Redacción, que esto fue extraído de los verbatim y no creo que haya inconveniente en que se consigne en el informe, sobre todo porque son manifestaciones de algunos países desarrollados y podemos agregar al final la oración que ha propuesto el Sr. representante del Reino Unido, que dirías "La Conferencia expresó qué mejoras en el comercio internacional de productos agrícolas podrían lograrse".

D. RICHTER (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): Mr. Chairman, if I understood you rightly, you have just said that the first part of the second sentence on page 5 "While agreeing" remains as it is and at the same time we have the proposal of the United Kingdom delegate which is added at the end of the paragraph. That sentence "begins with "The Conference hoped". Have I got all that right?

EL PRESIDENTE: La respuesta es afirmativa, en base a lo que hemos escuchado del Presidente del Comité de Redacción y el apoyo del representante del Perú. Tiene la palabra el delegado de México,

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): No sé si la respuesta ha sido bastante clara para el delegado de la República Federal de Alemania. Sin embargo, nosotros consideramos, en base a la afirmación que ha hecho nuestro Presidente del Comité de Redacción y según ha sido aceptada y afirmada también en el mismo sentido, como lo expresó el delegado del Brasil; consideramos, digo, que la frase, como está, queda sin tocarse y que después se agregaría, como una expresión de la Conferencia, la parte que usted leyó después, que recogería lo propuesto por el delegado del Reino Unido, Si es así, nosotros en todo caso apoyamos la expresión y tenemos confianza en el Presidente del Comité de Redacción.

EL PRESIDENTE: Sí, es así.

Pregunto si hay observaciones a esta propuesta.

Señores, no hay observaciones. En consecuencia, dejamos la oración tal como está, con el agregado que propuso el delegado del Reino Unido.

Creo que no hay otras modificaciones a este párrafo 11. Perdón, olvidaba que teníamos una observación del Sr. representante del Nepal, que había pedido incorporar al final del párrafo 11 una oración, que voy a pedir a la Secretaría que lea.

P. MEJIA (Secretary, Commission I): "In connection with the easy flow of trade, transit facilities should be provided to the landlocked countries."

EL PRESÍDEME : Pregunto si presenta dificultades la propuesta del Sr. representante del Nepal. No hay observaciones. Queda aceptada. La incluiremos a continuación de la propuesta del Sr. representante del Reino Unido.

RAM SARÁN (India): I have a suggestion to make in the last sentence suggested by the delegate of the United Kingdom. If I have noted it properly, he said the Conference hoped that further improvements in international trade in agricultural products could be achieved. My suggestion is that the word "could" should be replaced by "would", would be achieved, and after this add a few words at the end of the sentence "particularly taking into account the interests of developing countries."

G. BELCHAMBER (United Kingdom): I was going to ask, before the further intervention of the Indian delegate, if you would read the paragraph from the top of the page as it now stands.

EL PRESIDENTE: Perdón, ¿usted se refiere, señor representante del Reino Unido, a la modificación del Sr. representante del Nepal, o a las notas que hemos tomado de su propuesta?

G. BELCHAMBER (United Kingdom): I was referring to the earlier note concerning the elements that I had suggested.

P. MEJIA (Secretary, Commission I): "...The Conference hoped that further improvement in the conditions of international trade in agricultural products would be achieved, particularly taking into account the interests of developing countries."

EL PRESIDENTE: Pregunto si es aceptable esta propuesta. No hay observaciones. En consecuencia, se incluye...

El Sr. representante de la Comunidad Económica Europea tiene la palabra.

B. SUSSMILCH (European Economic Community): Could you please read again the sentence which starts with "Certain developing countries considered that the development of livestock..."

P.C. KUHONTA (Assistant Secretary, Commission I) : shall read the first line on page 5 in English: A number of developing countries considered that the development of livestock production in developing countries was discouraged by the effects of surplus production in developed countries and the restrictive measures adopted by them."

B. SUSSMILCH (European Economic Community): This does not reflect the facts as I explained before. If there were restrictive measures, they have been abolished since the last Conference and therefore I propose again to delete -and the restrictive measures". It might refer to a previous stage but not to the last year.

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores, hace una hora y veinte minutos que estamos con el párrafo 11. Yo desearía evitar en lo posible la discusión del fondo de la cuestión. Lo que refleja aquí este párrafo supongo que ha sido propuesto a raíz de que el Comité de Redacción ha examinado lo que consta en las Actas. Entonces, si alguno o varios países en desarrollo han indicado esto, pues que también conste en el informe, guste a quien guste, pero hay que reflejar lo que aquí se ha discutido.

C. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Señor Presidente, perdón por hacer uso otra vez de la palabra; pero entiendo que la frase debe quedar como estaba. Ciertas medidas restrictivas que emplea la Comunidad Económica Europea no existen en la práctica tal vez en la medida en que existían antes, pero existen ciertamente restricciones para el acceso de productos de los países en desarrollo a ciertas organizaciones de países desarrollados. Además de que esto se menciona en los debates, entiendo que esto debe quedar reflejado.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si no hay otras observaciones, debo entender que la oración queda bien reflejada y está adecuadamente consignada, como nos dijo el Presidente del Comité de Redacción.

En consecuencia, si no hay ulteriores observaciones, creo que debemos dar por aprobado el párrafo 11 y pasar ...

A.M. BESHIR (Egypt): I think this statement concerning the development of livestock production in developing countries being discouraged by the effects of surplus production in developed countries is very controversial indeed. We request the developed countries to increase their plant production and then we request them to decrease their livestock production. I propose that we delete this whole statement.

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores, yo no quiero actuar como un dictador aquí, pero realmente pienso que estamos aprobando modificaciones y luego que hemos llegado a un consenso, volvemos a revisarlas. Tengo el temor de que vamos a tener dificultades en estas condiciones de trabajo para aprobar el Informe. De manera que desearía que en lo posible, cuando hemos tomado una decisión, no la revisemos, porque, de lo contrario, nos va a ser difícil seguir adelante.

M. TRKULJA (Yugoslavia): I hope I will help you by indicating very strongly our view that the sentence as you read it out should be in the report. We ourselves mentioned in Plenary and here in the Commission the same idea, and we could not see anything which would-justify the deletion of such statement.

EL PRESIDENTE : Pregunto, antes de dar la palabra al Sr. Presidente del Comité de Redacción, si la explicación del Sr. representante de Yugoslavia satisface al Sr. representante de Egipto. Caso negativo, quizá el Sr. Presidente del Comité de Redacción pueda darnos alguna solución alternativa.

A.M. BESHIR (Egypt): This does not satisfy me at all. My point is that the increase in livestock production anywhere helps the world and does not result in any harm to any country unless it is a matter of competition between rich producers. But poor countries welcome the increase of animal production and " plant production anywhere in the world.

EL PRESIDENTE: Me doy cuenta de que estamos entrando en una discusión de fondo del tema que creo que no cabe en el análisis del Informe, y lo digo no sin cierto embarazo porque precisamente pertenezco a un país que es productor agropecuario y que en alguna medida pudo haberse sentido resentido por estas medidas. Pero vamos a ver si el Presidente del Comité de Redacción tiene alguna aclaración que pueda satisfacer a todo cuanto se ha dicho.

J. TROUVEROY (President du Comité de rédaction): Je n'ai pas la solution miracle, mais je vous proposerai simplement ceci: c'est que, pour répondre à ce que disait le représentant de la Communauté, mais aussi pour tenir compte des autres remarques qui ont été faites, on garderait la phrase telle quelle, mais on dirait: "et les mesures restrictives encore existantes qu'ils ont adoptées". Il en existe encore d'après ce qui a été dit, et certaines ont été abrogées. Dans ce cas, on dirait: "les mesures restrictives encore existantes qu'ils ont adoptées". C'est une suggestion.

EL PRESIDENTE: Pregunto si esta transacción satisface a ustedes.

H.S. BAR-SHAI (Israel): I am glad that I am of the same mind as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee because I was going to suggest something similar.

A.M. BESHIR (Egypt): Then I propose that we emphasize the restrictive measures rather than the progress of production.

EL PRESIDENTE: Me veo en la obligación de tomar una decisión. Aun cuando me doy cuenta del derecho que tiene el representante de Egipto de formular estas observaciones, en tanto no veo que sean apoyadas, quizás él desee hacer una reserva al pie de página.

RAM SARÁN (India): The reference in this sentence is to "several developing countries". That does not mean all developing countries; therefore, I think we can retain the sentence as it is, because if there are some countries which do not agree to this sort of formulation they are free not to agree. Therefore, we should retain this sentence as it is with a reference to several developing countries or some developing countries.

EL PRESIDENTE: Le voy a dar la palabra al ultimo orador y luego voy a decidir en definitiva, qué hacemos con este párrafo.

B. SUSSMILCH (European Economic Community): If this phrase must stand, I would prefer it to stand as it is, not as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee suggested. If it is necessary to have "restrictive measures", and it seems to be, we prefer the wording as it is.

EI PRESIDENTE: Creo que tenemos que ordenar un poco el debate. En consecuencia, voy a volver a mi punto inicial, que ha sido recordado recién por el Sr. delegado de la India, en el sentido de que esta oración refleja la opinión de varios países en desarrollo. Por supuesto que al decir varios países en desarrollo, dejamos abierta la posibilidad a que otros países en desarrollo puedan estar en desacuerdo y les asiste el derecho a formular inclusive si lo creen pertinente, una reserva. Pero yo creo que vamos a dejar la oración como está, iniciándola como habíamos dicho al principio, con "varios países en desarrollo consideraron que los efectos de una producción excedentaria... etc.". Espero que esto pueda ser aceptable para todos ustedes.

Estoy seguro que el Sr. delegado de Egipto va a colaborar para que salgamos, de este impasse en el párrafo 11 que nos ha llevado una hora y media discutirlo y podamos pasar al párrafo 12.

1 Si no hay otras observaciones, pasamos al párrafo 12.

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): Tal vez afecte nada más al texto en español. En todo caso, rogaría tomar nota. Tenemos en la línea número 3 que dice "la situación de los productores de una serie de productos básicos importantes...", habría que completar esa frase y decir "de los países productores" o si se quisiera decir enfáticamente "de los países en desarrollo productores de una serie de productos básicos". Esa es una primera observación.

Más abajo, en donde dice "La Conferencia recomendó que la FAO siga controlando", en español no creo que esa sea la idea de que la FAO vaya a controlar las relaciones de intercambio. No sé si sea mejor "siga de cerca" o "siga vigilando".

Luego, más abajo, en la penúltima línea dice - viene regida por la frase de atrás, por esa misma frase que comienza "la Conferencia recomendó..." - y luego viene en español "y a los alimenticios en lo que se refiere a fertilizantes y otros insumos". Yo no sabía que los fertilizantes y otros insumos fueran alimenticios; parece que viene alimenticios de productos básicos, pero que no sean los fertilizantes y otros insumos. No sé si habrá que adaptar sólo el texto español al texto original o si el mismo texto original haya que corregirlo.

EL PRESIDENTE: En realidad para el español yo creo que tiene razón el Sr. representante de México. Vamos a excluir la palabra "controlando" que es una traducción quizás desafortunada del inglés, y pongamos quizás "examinando".

En lo que se refiere a la mención de los fertilizantes junto con productos alimenticios, en inglés y en francés está bien. De manera que le vamos a pedir a la Secretaría que tenga en cuenta la observación para ajustar el texto español a las versiones inglesa y francesa.

También omití señalar la primera modificación propuesta por el Sr. representante de México, que quedaría de la siguiente manera, en el párrafo 12, tercera línea: "y la situación de los productores de los países en desarrollo de una serie de productos básicos importantes".

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): Yo había expresado "de los países en desarrollo productores de una serie de productos...".

EL PRESIDENTE: Nosotros alteramos el orden para no reiterar la palabra productores con productos. Podemos decir "la situación de los países en desarrollo productores de productos básicos". ¿Es eso correcto? Se trata de evitar una repetición.

S. TOURE (Sénegal): C'est une observation de pure forme ayant trait à la deuxième phrase du paragraphe 12. On pourrait en effet éviter de répéter "les produits agricoles et en particulier ceux qui intéressent particulièrement les pays en voie de développement", et on pourrait mettre: "la Conférence recommande que la FAO continue à surveiller les termes de l'échange des produits agricoles et notamment de ceux qui intéressent particulièrement les pays en voie de développement"; ou alors, si l'on veut retenir le premier terme de "particulier", on peut mettre: "les termes de l'échange des produits agricoles, en particulier ceux qui intéressent singulièrement les pays en voie de développement".

EL PRESIDENTE: La observación que se nos formula, yo creo que la podemos acoger. Vamos a hacer la mención de "países en desarrollo productores" y vamos a confiar en la Secretaría para que la incorpore de modo tal que no se produzca una repetición que desde el punto de vista gramatical puede resultar desagradable a la lectura.

Pero quiero recordarles además que solamente tenemos una hora y cinco minutos para concluir con el informe, y recién hemos revisado doce párrafos, y que necesariamente debemos concluir el día de hoy. De manera que les insisto en cuanto a que es necesario que las observaciones que formulen sean concretas, es decir, que digan exactamente qué palabras desean incluir o excluir y dónde, sin necesidad de argumentos, excepto en el caso en que sea controvertida la enmienda.

Si no hay otras observaciones, dejamos el párrafo 12 y pongo a consideración de ustedes el párrafo 13.

RAM SARAN (India): Considering the appeal you have made I will propose only one amendment. In the first line, second line, "... further concrete results could be achieved ..." to be replaced by "... further concrete results ought to be achieved ... " .

EL PRESIDENTE: Si el Sr. representante de Alemania se va a referir a esta observación le daré la palabra. Si no es así, le pido que espere un momento.

H.M. CARANDANG (Philippines): I support the amendment proposed by the delegate of India.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si no hay observaciones, podemos aprobar la enmienda propuesta por el Sr. representante de la India: "La Conferencia instó ... etc".

D. RICHTER (Germany, Federal Republic of)(interpretation from German): I have two small points to make. I suggest that in the fourth line in the English text we should not speak of a new International Wheat Agreement but of a new International Grains Agreement. We do not know whether this will refer to other products or only to wheat.

In the third sentence mention is made of the fact that negotiations should also extend to food assistance. The World Food Council at its Third Session discussed this matter in detail and came to the conclusion that the question as to whether and how and to what extent food aid should be included in a new agreement should not prejudice this. The new wording I would suggest is that in the sixth line after the words "reserve stocks" there should be a full stop and new sentence should begin as follows [continued in English]: "A new food aid convention should be negotiated in connection with a new International Grains Agreement... " .

J.A. BOYLE (United States of America): Regarding the last point raised by our German colleague, I think this is just a factual matter. We already have an International Wheat Agreement which extends to 30 June 1978 so changing the text and calling it "a new International Grains Agreement" would be inaccurate. I believe I am correct in that, but I am certainly open to correction if I am wrong.

EL PRESIDENTE: Yo creo que el Sr. delegado de los Estados Unidos tiene razón, pero de cualquier manera, quizás el Sr. representante de Alemania quiera desistir de su propuesta.

D. RICHTER (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): I want to point out that one is negotiating about grains and not just wheat. We could perhaps get away from this lack of clarity if the last sentence said "to cover the expiry of the current convention of the International Wheat Agreement".

RAM SARAN (India): I could not take in the second amendment regarding food aid. Could that be repeated?

D. RICHTER (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): I have suggested the following: in the sixth line after the words "reserve stocks" we have a full stop and then delete the words "and for food aid" and replace this by the following sentence [Continued in English]: "A new food aid convention should be negotiated in connection with a new International Grains Agreement."

EL PRESIDENTE: Pregunto si hay observaciones a la enmienda propuesta por la República Federal de Alemania.

H.M. CARANDANG (Philippines) : I think we can go along with the amendment since we have the exact words in the Manila Communiqué.

EL PRESIDENTE:¿Se aprueba la enmienda tal como ha sido propuesta? Someto a consideración de ustedes el párrafo 14.

J.A. BOYLE (United States of America): I am still not clear if you have substituted "International Grains Agreement" in line 5 where it initially read "International Wheat Agreement", which is the correct terminology.

EL PRESIDENTE: La Secretaría va a leer la enmienda propuesta por la representación de Alemania.

P. MEJIA (Secretario de la Comisión I): La enmienda de la República Federal de Alemania dice así: [Continuación en Inglés] After the word "stocks" on the sixth line there would be a full stop and then it would begin with:"A new food aid convention should be negotiated in connection with a new International Grains Agreement".

J.A. BOYLE (United States of America): I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, but that was not my question. It was the first reference, in lines four and five, to the International Wheat Agreement. My German colleague had proposed a change to "International Grains Agreement" and I informed you that that title is inaccurate. The title of the current agreement is the "International Wheat Agreement" and I presume we are retaining the present title.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General,Economic and Social Policy Department):I just wanted to point to the amendment suggested by the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany. I thought he said that he attached great importance to the speedy conclusion of an International Grains Convention before the expiry of the current International Wheat Agreement.

J.A. BOYLE (United States of America): Not really. The talks in London currently going on in the International Wheat Council are devoted exclusively to wheat. There is the possibility that they will also include rice. Talks on feed grains will be taking place in Geneva at the NTM talks so if you make the changes you are suggesting it creates a certain amount of confusion because it is just not accurate.

EL PRESIDENTE:¿Satisface al representante de Estados Unidos esta explicación? J.A. BOYLE (United States of America): Yes, it does.

EL PRESIDENTE: Yo creo que podemos dejar la frase tal como está, en tanto tiene una referencia a que debe tomarse una decisión antes de que expire la prórroga actual y debe referirse al Convenio Internacional del Trigo, sin perjuicio de que se haga una referencia a cereales en general como una posibilidad futura.

¿Satisface esto al representante de Estados Unidos?

Señores pongo a consideración el párrafo 14.

RAM SARAN (India) : I wanted to verify with the Secretariat the statement which has been made by the delegate of the Philippines, that this sentence - "A new food aid convention should be negotiated in connection with a new International Grain Agreement " - is in accord with the Manila Communiqué.

EL PRESIDENTE:¿Cuál es concretamente la propuesta del representante de la India?

RAM SARAN (India) : I want to check up with the Secretariat whether the way this sentence has been formulated is in accord with the Manila Communiqué, This is what the Philippine delegation mentioned.

EL PRESIDENTE: Lo vamos a controlar en unos minutos y tendremos disponible la información. Tenemos un anuncio que va a dar la Secretaría,

H.M. CARANDANG (Philippines): I want to bring to your attention that I have before me a copy of the Manila Communiqué, page 6, paragraph 3, number 10. It reads as follows: " A food aid convention being negotiated as an element of the new International Grains Agreement .etc. If that is the information which is being sought we have it.

RAM SARAN (India): I request that the sentence just read out should be incorporated as such, that is that a new food aid convention should be incorporated as an element of the new international agreement, or whatever the words are. The same sentence may be repeated so there is no confusion.

D. RICHTER (Germany, Fed. Rep. of)(interpretation from German).I fully agree with my colleagues from India that we should use exactly the same wording as that used in the Manila Communiqué.I would like to add that in the text read out by the delegate of the Philippines there was an inaccuracy. The text was amended and it was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in the amended form. The text was exactly the one I read out in connection with paragraph 5 of the Manila Communiqué and I think we have adopted the text for paragraph 10 in the General Assembly, so the final text is the one I read out earlier on.

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que sobre esto hemos llegado ya a un acuerdo y me parece ocioso seguir debatiendo este tema.

Hemos dicho que se va a incorporar la mención a cereales, sin perjuicio de la mención que se hace al convenio de trigo.

Si no hay observaciones pasamos al párrafo 14, tantas veces repetido.

¿Alguna observación a este párrafo 14?

Pasamos entonces al párrafo 15 y doy la palabra a la República Federal de Alemania.

D, RICHTER (Germany, Fed. Rep. of)(interpretation from German):I have a small proposal for an addition to paragraph 14.I propose that after the words "development assistance for agriculture" we should say "in line with the specific requests received".

EL PRESIDENTE:Pregunto al representante de Alemania si me puede indicar concretamente dónde desea incorporar su adición, que me diga la línea y la palabra.

D. RICHTER (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): I refer to page 5 of the English text. In the fourth line from the end it says "development assistance for agriculture". I suggest we add the following words: [Continued in English] "in accordance with concrete requests".

EL PRESIDENTE: Pregunto si es aceptable para usted esa propuesta.

G. GAMO-KUBA (Congo): Ce n'est pas que je veuille susciter un débat de fond, mais "conformément aux demandes concrètes", qu'est-ce que cela voudrait dire? Cela a été ou n'a pas été dit et qu'est-ce que cela voudrait dire "conformément aux demandes concrètes"? Ce n'est pas que je veuille susciter un débat de fond, mais il faudra qu'on s'en tienne aux débats qui ont été soulignés en plinière.

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que sí, ya que lo lógico es que el informe refleje lo que se ha expresado en el curso de los debates de cada tema.

G. IBAÑEZ (Peru): En la línea 12, y solo para el español, habría que agregar después de "el desarrollo" en la medida que sea necesario reexaminen, etc."

EL PRESIDENTE: Analizamos primero la propuesta del señor representante de la República Federal de Alemania, que ha sido contravertida por el señor representante del Congo. Si la propuesta de Alemania no tiene apoyo el texto quedará como está.

P.C. de OLIVEIRA CAMPOS (Brésil): D'après ce dont je me souviens, le débat ne mentionne pas "une demande concrète" de la part des pays en développement, mais seulement une augmentation du niveau d'aide aux pays en développement.

D. RICHTER (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): As far as I remember, in the course of the discussion the question was raised of increasing development assistance for agriculture on the basis of concrete requests made by developing countries. This means that an increase of development assistance for agriculture should be seen in connection with concrete requests made by developing countries.

When my delegation spoke on Agenda item 6, it referred to the document Review of Field Programmes which lasked for the reason why there was a slight decrease in development assistance for agriculture. The reason given was the fact that probably there were not enough offers of concrete projects. That is why I made this proposal which establishes the link between an increase of development assistance for agriculture and, as a prerequisite, concrete requests.

H.M. CARANDANG (Philippines): If the implication of the delegate of Germany's amendment is that this will be bilateral aid, we would not go along with that suggestion, because it is recommended that more and more aid should come through multilateral agencies. If the delegate of Germany would kindly 'explain the meaning of his amendment, then we would be able to express our reactions to it.

J.A. BOYLE (United States of America): I should like to support what the delegate of Germany has said. If I may be permitted to speak to the last point, it is clear that multilateral aid going through the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development and also bilateral aid has been greatly hampered by the lack of identification of specific concrete projects in certain developing countries. This is certainly what the FAO Investment Centre is all about; it is what the Consultative Group for Food Production Investment has been trying to do. So I think the amendment is entirely consistent with the aims and objectives of FAO and all of us, and I would certainly support it.

EL PRESIDENTE: Pregunto si la explicación, satisface a la delegación de Filipinas, de lo contrario le pediríamos una ampliación al representante de Alemania.

H.M. CARANDANG (Philippines): I am afraid that is not a categorical answer, and we would appreciate a more definite answer to this.

D. RICHTER (Germany, Fed. Rep. of): (interpretation from German): As far as I can see, I think "increase development assistance for agriculture" refers to bilateral and multilateral assistance.

EL PRESIDENTE: Yo me pregunto si realmente vale la pena discutir demasiado sobre esta enmienda. Creo que lo importante es que los países donantes aumenten sustancialmente su ayuda y, por supuesto, que en todos los casos esa ayuda irá destinada a unos objetivos que pueden ser concretos y determinados a un proyecto, o quizá un poco más general cuando va a organismos multilaterales.

De manera que frente a esas dos alternativas no se si vale la pena incorporar la mención a peticiones concretas recibidas.

RAM SARÁN (India): I agree that there should be no change in this sentence. I have another reason also: there is one sentence bringing out the responsibilities of the donor countries, and there is another sentence following this which brings out the responsibilities of the recipient countries in a way. Therefore, we should not bring in here matters other than those which are relevant to the subject, asking the developing countries to re-examine their investment patterns, etc. Therefore, we should not suggest any further amendments in this sentence.

EL PRESIDENTE: Me pregunto si estos comentarios han satisfecho al Sr. representante de Alemania y podemos dejar la oración tal como está.

D. RICHTER (Germany, Fed. Rep. of): (interpretation-from German): It still seems logical to me to connect the increase of agricultural help with concrete requests. Perhaps we might hear other speakers' views on this.

EL PRESIDENTE: Lamentablemente no tenemos más oradores. Este silencio me hace suponer que, en general, se apoya el texto tal como está.

H.M. CARANDANG (Philippines): I think we can accept the German proposal.

G. DUCOMMUN (Suisse): Nous appuyons également l'amendement fait par le représentant de la République fédérale d'Allemagne. En ce qui concerne le problème d'augmenter l'aide à l'agriculture, on ne peut pas faire une aide à fonds perdus et le délégué des Etats-Unis a fort bien annoncé la chose à propos l'aide à la Banque internationale pour la reconstruction et le développement.

R. TANABE (Japan) : My delegation accepts the amendment by the German delegation.

G. GAMO-KUBA (Congo): Je ne voudrais pas jouer le trouble-fête et j'étais prêt à me rallier à ces changements, mais lorsque j'entends les explications que l'on nous donne, que l'on nous parle de l'aide multilatérale et bilatérale et que l'on nous dit que l'on ne peut pas engager des fonds perdus pour les investissements agricoles, nous nous inquiétons. Du point de vue de l'aide bilatérale il est normal que l'on étudie la question d'investir dans un projet, mais malheureusement, et cela a toujours été dit, on oublie souvent certains aspects de la rentabilité sociale. On constate souvent que la rentabilité financière est faite par le canal de l'aide multilatérale. L'accent est mis sur la rentabilité sociale d'un projet, par exemple un projet agricole. En agriculture, tous les projets ne sont pas économiquement rentables. Ils peuvent être socialement rentables et il ne faut pas perdre de vue cet aspect du problème. Je ne peux donc pas me rallier à l'amendement de l'Allemagne.

G. IBÁÑEZ (Peru): Solo para apoyar la posición de la India y del delegado del Congo, en el sentido de que que no se acepta la enmienda propuesta por el delegado de la República Federal de Alemania.

EL PRESIDENTE: Yo creo que el texto prevé por una parte la posibilidad de que se aumente la ayuda para el desarrollo de la agricultura. Más abajo sugiere a los países en desarrollo que examinen su sistema de inversiones, para dar mayor importancia..., etc., etc. De manera que creo es una frase equilibrada que, a la vez que pide mayores contribuciones a los países desarrollados, hace recaer en los países en desarrollo la obligación de hacer adecuadas inversiones con esas contribuciones. Así, frente a esta situación controvertida, yo me inclino por sugerir que dejemos el texto tal como está, que ha sido acabadamente analizado por el Comité de Redacción, en base a cuanto se ha manifestado en el curso de los debates. Pregunto si quizá el Presidente del Comité de Redacción quiere decirnos algo al respecto.

J. TROUVEROY (Président du Comité de rédaction): Je dois vous dire que cette phrase a été modifiée, si je revois mes anciens textes, lors de la rédaction que nous avons faite il y a trois jours. Le premier texte que le Secrétariat nous avait fourni était pratiquement le même; il avait simplement rajouté une partie de phrase et c'est celle qui est exactement après l'endroit où l'on veut faire une incise: "qu'ils améliorent les conditions dans lesquelles elle est accordée". Ce texte-Là ne se trouvait pas dans notre première mouture, et nous avons, à la demande du représentant des pays en voie de développement, ajouté "qu'ils améliorent les conditions dans lesquelles elle est accordée". Voilà exactement ce qu'historiquement nous avons fait dans notre Comité de rédaction.

EL PRESÍDEME: Señores, creo que podemos dejar este texto tal como está. Si no hay otras observaciones, aprobamos el párrafo 14 y pongo a la consideración de ustedes el párrafo 15.

Párrafo 15. No hay observaciones. Queda aprobado.

Tenemos una enmienda, una adición que quedó pendiente del párrafo 5, que nos propuso el Sr. delegado de Israel y que voy a dejar que el Secretario la lea.

P. MEJIA (Secretario Comisión I): Esta enmienda vendría al final del párrafo 5 y dice así: [continúa en inglés] ... In this respect it is recommended that the Secretariat investigate, the possibility of setting up an international fund which will cover nature risks with the cooperation of international insurance companies and banking as well as with development banks".

EL PRESIDENTE: Pregunto si hay observaciones a la adición propuesta para el párrafo 5 ¿hay observaciones? Queda aprobado.

Paragraphs 1 to 15, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes la 15, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 15, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 16-25. INCLUDING RESOLUTION

PARAGRAPHERS 16-25. YCOMPRIS LA RESOLUTION

PARRAFOS 16-25, INCLUIDA LA RESOLUCION

EL PRESÍDEME: Párrafo 16. No hay observaciones. Queda aprobado.

Párrafo 17. Señores vamos a leer una nueva propuesta en relación con el párrafo 17 que dejamos pendiente a raíz de las observaciones que formuló el señor delegado de la India.

RAM SARÁN (india): In this paragraph I have three amendments to suggest.

One is in line 5. It says "Many examples of successful intervention were given". I suggest "The Conference emphasized the need for such projects as the introduction of drying equipment" etc.

If this is all right, then I can go on.

Page 7, line 1 - "the improvement of processing" - I would suggest "the improvement of conservation, processing, distribution and marketing system".

It should continue "and the introduction of legislation on food policy coupled with developmental activities" after the "food quality" in the second line.

Then in the third line, where it ends with "the post-harvest system" I would add a new sentence. "The Conference emphasized the need for cooperation among developing countries and for building a network of institutions, making use of the existing institutions within these countries to assess, modify and transfer appropriate technologies as well as to train manpower required for this purpose, with the object of transforming the social-economic structure for building a New International Economic order".

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores, vamos a analizar rápidamente las enmiendas propuestas por el Sr. representante de la India. La primera sería reemplazar la oración donde se dice "se citaron numerosos ejemplos de intervenciones fructíferas, incluida la introducción de equipo para el secado...".

¿Es eso lo correcto, Sr. delegado de la India? Si no hay observaciones, se aprueba esta enmienda.

La segunda enmienda es, en la línea 11 del texto español, donde dice "la mejora de los sistemas de elaboración y mercadeo", el delegado de la India propone "la mejora de los sistemas de conservación, elaboración, distribución y mercadeo".

¿No hay observaciones? Se aprueba esta enmienda.

Luego, la tercera enmienda es en la línea del texto español, para agregar "calidad de alimentos, unida a actividades de desarrollo o asociada a actividades de desarrollo". Si no hay observaciones, se aprueba esta enmienda.

La última enmienda propuesta por el Sr. representante de la India se refiere a la penúltima oración, donde se dice "varios miembros mencionaron distintas actividades de investigación, etc.". Si entendí bien, antes de esa oración, el señor delegado de la India propone se diga: "La Conferencia recalcó la necesidad de cooperación entre los países en desarrollo y la necesidad de establecer una red de instituciones, recurriendo a las instituciones existentes en los países en desarrollo, para evaluar, modificar y transferir tecnología adecuada, así como para la capacitación de personal, que se necesitará a este fin, con el objeto de transformar las estructuras económicas, que permiten llegar al nuevo orden económico internacional".

Espero que todos hayan podido tomar nota de esta larga enmienda. Pregunto si presenta dificultades. No hay dificultades.

El Presidente del Comité de Redacción tiene la palabra.

J. TROUVEROY (Président du Comité de rédaction): Je crois qu'il s'agit d'un nouvel ordre économique international. C'est un point que nous avons discuté dans notre Comité de rédaction et nous avons toujours été d'accord sur l'expression "d'un nouvel ordre" et pas "du nouvel ordre". C'est donc pour éviter qu'il y ait une différence entre les points de vue pris dans le Comité de rédaction et à ce niveau il faudra revoir tous les textes que nous avons établis dans ce domaine.

G. BELCHAMBER (United Kingdom): I am sorry to come back to an earlier point in this paragraph, we have had so many amendments, the point that now concerns me is the paragraph in toto, coming back to the original amendment which reads "The Conference emphasized the need for such products as". This provides the chapeau for the whole sentence. I am concerned about "The Conference emphasized the need for the introduction of legislation on food quality... with developmental activities" for instance. I have some reservations about the first intervention of the Indians which certainly reads satisfactorily in connection with the introduction of drying equipment. I am concerned as to its wider use as a chapeau for that whole sentence.

I suggest "The Conference emphasized the need for such projects as the introduction of drying equipment. Many examples of successful interventions were given including the development and construction of improved storage structures at farm" etc.

EL PRESIDENTE: El Sr. representante de Filipinas si es para referirse a ese punto. Si no, preferiría agotar primero éste. ¿Es aceptable la propuesta del Sr. representante del Reino Unido?

RAM SARAN (India): This changes the position completely. That was not in my mind. I referred to entire projects in an entire sentence, not only the introduction of drying equipment. Therefore, I suggest the amendment suggested by me should stand.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si he entendido bien, hay coincidencia, porque el Sr. delegado del Reino Unido tiene su misma posición. Simplemente ha redactado la enmienda que usted propuso de modo tal de incorporar el problema, de los equipos para el secado y continuar con los otros temas u otros aspectos que aquí se señalan, como construcción de almacenes, etc. De manera que no hay diferencias y yo creo que bien podría aceptarse lo que ha dicho el Reino Unido. Ello no implica cambiar lo que usted propuso, si he entendido bien.

RAM SARAN (India): There must be some lack of understanding, I am afraid. Can you repeat the amendment suggested by the United Kingdom delegate?

EL PRESIDENTE: El representante del Reino Unido quizás pueda leer nuevamente el texto.

G. BELCHAMBER (United Kingdom): My suggestion was "The Conference emphasized the need for such projects as the introduction of drying equipment. Many examples of successful intervention were given, including the development and construction of improved storage structures at farm, village ..."etc. The sentence then goes on as amended.

EL PRESIDENTE : ¿Satisface esto al Sr. representante de la India?

RAM SARAN (India): Could it be left as I have suggested "because what the United Kingdom is suggesting is not exactly the same thing. Drying equipment does not cover, for example, several other projects which are in this sentence. Therefore this gives the impression that the major heading is something like "Introduction of drying equipment" and the others are something illustrative under drying equipment, which is not exact.

J. TROUVEROY (President du Comité de rédaction): Toute la question, ici, est de savoir ce qui a été dit. Est-ce que la proposition faite par le délégué de l'Inde a été exactement prononcée ainsi par certains délégués, ou bien est-ce que le représentant de la Grande-Bretagne traduit l'esprit de ce qui a été dit, ou bien s'agit-il de deux choses différentes? Parce que ce que nous essayons de faire, c'est de mettre noir sur blanc ce qui a été dit par les délégations lors de la discussion générale. Je crois qu'il faut en revenir là. S'il y a une discussion de fond sur un texte comme celui-ci, il faut se reporter au verbatim, et à ce qui a été dit.

EL PRESIDENTE: No creo que sea necesario que volvamos a consultar el verbatim, porque de lo contrario no terminaremos esto. Yo creo que el Comité de Redacción ha tenido oportunidad ya de analizarlo en su momento. Quizás se pueda dejar la oración tal como está.

A.M. BESHIR (Egypt): I just want the Drafting Committee to enter a statement which says "the Conference noted that the model projects outlined in this document were only examples and that the Programme should be flexible in meeting the real needs of developing countries."

J. TROUVEROY (Président du Comité de rédaction): Je crois devoir répondre à ce qui a été dit. Au Comité de rédaction, nous avons tenu compte d'un certain nombre d'éléments, et nous sommes arrivés évidemment au texte que nous vous présentons. Je voulais dire simplement que celui-ci n'est pas un texte qui sort sans avoir été étudié. Il a été travaillé et retravaillé. Tout à l'heure, on a parlé des verbatims, etc. Nous nous penchons sur ces verbatims lorsque nous rencontrons des difficultés et c'est pourquoi j'ai posé la question: "Le verbatim a-t-il été mal interprété par le Comité de rédaction?". Y a-t-il alors une opposition fondamentale au texte que nous proposons? Là, je crois que le délégué de l'Égypte a raison, nous tenons compte notamment du texte qu'il vient de signaler.

EL PRESIDENTE: Estoy seguro de que el representante de la India con su espíritu de colaboración quizás esté de acuerdo en que dejemos el texto tal como está, en tanto que tal como nos indica, refleja lo que en realidad fue materia de discusión cuando tuvimos el tema en el Plenario.

RAM SARAN (India): I am very sorry that we are being told that what happened at the Drafting Committee must be accepted. If that is the position then we have very little to contribute here. It is for the Secretariat to tell us what the discussions were like but I remember that I myself have referred to several of these projects and emphasized their need. Perhaps other delegations have also referred to the need for such projects. It is for the Secretariat to come up if I am wrong but I regret to say that this Commission is meant to discuss the report given by the Drafting Committee and we should go along with the discussion as we think proper here and not what the Drafting Committee do. They have done an excellent job but that does not mean that we should not look into it further.

EL PRESIDENTE: Hace exactamente, dos horas y media que estamos haciendo lo que usted dice que no hacemos. Estamos discutiendo precisamente el Informe del Comité de Redacción. Lo que sucede es que aquí hemos incorporado lo que usted ha citado que es la introducción de equipos de secado, pero usted nos pide que lo diga la Conferencia y lo ha dicho su delegación, y eso presenta dificultades porque si cada delegación desea que su propia exposición figure como de la Conferencia, esto nos pondrá ante problemas difíciles de resolver.

Me doy cuenta de su interés en clarificar y mejorar este informe, pero en modo alguno tengo yo la intención de limitar a usted sus intervenciones, pero por cierto, dentro del margen que nos da el tiempo disponible para analizar este informe. Por eso es por lo que le hice el llamado para que usted aceptara la mención que se hace a la introducción de equipos de secado, como usted lo señaló en tanto fue mencionado por una delegación y a lo mejor por otras.

De manera que dado que veo que es un punto particularmente sensible para usted, no quiero que quede con la impresión de que restringimos su posibilidad de intervenciones. Voy a dejar su enmienda pendiente para yo mismo redactar algo que pueda satisfacer a usted y al Sr. delegado del Reino Unido para no demorar a todas las delegaciones.

H. M. CARANDANG (Philippines): I am very sorry, I should have introduced another amendment before the last sentence because I think that during the course of the debate on this matter the question of the lack of adequate technology has been mentioned. Many delegations mentioned that there was a need for consultations and in fact you have mention of this at the end. Therefore we would like to intrduce the following sentence before the last sentence: "The Conference agreed that expert consultations be held as appropriate do build up a technology for the reduction of harvest and post-harvest losses which at present is woefully inadequate."

A. M. BESHIR (Egypt): I think the amendment we have just heard is well covered in item 18.

EL PRESIDENTE: Tengo en consideración de ustedes la propuesta de Filipinas de insertar una nueva oración antes de la última oración del párrafo 17, cuyo texto ustedes han tomado. Aunque hay alguna referencia en el párrafo 18, como bien señaló el Sr. delegado de Egipto, la referencia es un poco más genérica y quizás no estaría de más incluir una referencia particular en este párrafo 17.

Si no hay observaciones, queda aceptada la adición propuesta por el Sr. representante de Filipinas.

Pongo a consideración de ustedes el párrafo 18, Si no hay observaciones, queda aprobado.

Párrafo 19. Si no hay observaciones, queda aprobado.

Párrafo 20. Si no hay observaciones, queda aprobado.

J. TROUVEROY (Président du Comité de rédaction): Je voudrais essayer de me rapprocher ici de ce que nous a proposé le délégué de l'Inde. Je suggère que nous acceptions le texte du délégué indien, mais en remplaçant les mots: "La Conférence" par "Certaines délégations", ou "Un certain nombre de délégations", mais il est bien certain que si nous mettons "La Conférence", nous modifions entièrement l'esprit du paragraphe. Je crois donc que nous pourrions garder la nouvelle proposition indienne, mais en l'attribuant à un certain nombre de pays; maintenant, la présentation de ces pays pourrait être évidemment discutée.

EL PRESIDENTE: Pregunto si esta propuesta satisface al representante de la India.

RAM SARAN(India) : Often we say "some delegates" have said so and so, but that is done where there is a difference of opinion and some others want to say something different. If that is the position I cannot object, because that is reasonable, but if that is not the position then it makes a difference. I suggest that we keep the sentence, "Many examples of successful intervention were given, including the introduction of.....", as long as my other suggestions are accepted.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias por su espíritu de colaboración. Si no hay otros comentarios dejamos el párrafo 17 y seguimos con el párrafo 21.

Mme. L. DE AZEVEDO (Portugal): Je voudrais dire quelque chose encore au sujet du paragraphe 20 et je vous propose l'amendement suivant: au lieu de dire: "plusieurs délégués ont appelé l'attention sur le rôle important que jouent les femmes, surtout dans les zones rurales.....", Je propose de dire: "la Conférence souligne l'importance du rôle que jouent les femmes, surtout dans les zones rurales, dans la production, le stockage, la conservation et l'utilisation des produits alimentaires et souhaite qu'elles puissent avoir les mêmes possibilités que les hommes de participer aux programmes de formation, aussi bien qu'à toutes les actions pour l'augmentation de la production et la prévention des pertes de produits alimentaires".

EL PRESIDENTE: Yo estoy seguro de que no hay en la Conferencia ningún antifeminista, de manera que posiblemente podamos llegar a un acuerdo en que se diga que la Conferencia llamo la atención sobre el lugar importante que ocupa la mujer en las zonas rurales.

Quizá esto satisfaga a la señora representante de Portugal y no sé si está dispuesta a intervenir sobre la otra modificación que propuso.

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): Deseamos apoyar la propuesta y el espíritu de la propuesta formulada por la señora representante de Portugal, pero no logramos tomarla en su conjunto y antes de decidirnos sobre la misma quisiéramos tomarla en su conjunto.

EL PRESIDENTE: Hemos tomado nota de la enmienda. No estoy seguro de que esto haya sido planteado en el Plenario, pero de cualquier manera pregunto si hay observaciones con respecto a la adición que nos propone la representante de Portugal. Creo que es una buena enmienda y la pongo a consideración de todos ustedes.

Si no hay observaciones, aceptamos la propuesta de Portugal para incorporarla en el párrafo 20 que reemplazará la oración que empieza con: "varios delegados llamaron la atención etc."

El párrafo 21 ha sido puesto a consideración de ustedes. ¿No hay observaciones?

Pasamos al párrafo 22.

RAM SARAN (India): I would suggest the addition of a sentence at the end of paragraph 22 as follows:

"The Conference noted that the projects to be implemented under the FAO's Action Programme would not be identified with any donor countries and would be financed by FAO on a truly , multilateral basis."

EL PRESIDENTE: Es una adición que usted propone, ¿me puede indicar si al inicio o al final del párrafo?

RAM SARAN (India) : At the end of the paragraph, Mr. Chairman.

G. DUCOMMÜN (Suisse): Si le Délégué de l'Inde désire que oette adjonotion soit faite au paragraphe 22 il faudrait que la phrase commence différemment, en tous cas, pas par "la Conférence", parce que présentée de oette facon-lâ nous ne pouvons pas l'accepter.

D. RICHTER (Germany, Federal Republic of) (interpretation from German)! I merely want to ask that the proposal be read slowly.

P.C. KUHONTA (Assistant Secretary, Commission I): The proposal reads as follows:

"The Conference noted that the projects to be implemented under the FAO's. Aotion Programme would not be identified with any donor countries and would be financed by FAO on a truly multilateral basis."

EL PRESIDENTE: Espero que todos hayan podido tomar nota de la enmienda, o más bien, quiero deoir de la adición.

J.A. BOYLE (United States of America): Like my colleague from Switzerland, I do not believe that my delegation could accept this amendment right now because I think there are a great many details in the Action Programme yet to be worked out, and until these are worked out, such an amendment is somewhat premature.

EL PRESIDENTE: Pregunto si no sería una fórmula de transacción decir que "algunas delegaciones señalaron que los proyectos, etc., etc.". ¿Es esto aceptable para usted?

RAM SARAN (India): A number of delegates have raised this issue and in fact the Secretariat have also clarified the position in this regard. But in the interests of saving time I see no objection if there is" an objection -but really it is a question of grave substance, if you ask me, because - if an Action Programme of FAO is not to be a multilateral programme, then we are discussing something quite different from what we really know. I remember the delegate of Brazil and his position, and therefore I feel that this is an important point. There was no difference of opinion because when the Secretariat answered the query raised at the end of the meeting, there was no objection raised whatsoever. Therefore I would think that this is not something which has been raised by some countries because some countries did suggest it. In fact, most of the report is written on the basis that "some countries pointed out." Not all countries talk about everything, but in this particular regard some countries "pointed out" and in the end the Secretariat replied and made the point clear. Therefore I thought it was no longer the position of some countries because' there was no objection to the response given by the Secretariat.

EL PRESIDENTE: Pregunto si deberíamos decir "several delegations". ¿Sería aceptable? ¿Están de acuerdo los representantes de India, Suiza y Estados Unidos? Veo que asienten.

Se aprueba la adición propuesta por el señor representante de la India con la modificación de que en vez de decir: "la Conferencia", diría "varias delegaciones."

Señores pongo a consideración de ustedes el párrafo 23.

RAM SARAN (India): I am still on paragraph 22 because I was trying to consider the observation that you, Mr. Chairman, made. I still am not quite clear whether the explanation that I gave was not adequate to make it the view of the Commission. I think after the point was raised in the Commission the query was then raised with the Secretariat, an answer was given and there was no discussion thereafter. That showed that the point was accepted. I do not know the function of the Commission; I thought this was the way we functioned, when the matter was clarified and there was no objection to that.

EL PRESIDENTE: Recuerdo que el problema fue planteado por dos o tres delegaciones y si no recuerdo mal se le formuló una pregunta a la Secretaría. Respondió el Profesor Bommer; pero no estoy seguro si ello implica la aceptación por parte de toda la Conferencia o digamos por toda la Comisión.

T.J. KELLY (Australia): I intervene simply to make a practical point in relation to what has been said by the delegate of India, that it is in the nature of things at the Conference that small • delegations cannot be everywhere at once, and in principle it would be quite mistaken to assume that because a point had been raised, explained, and not commented on, that it had universal assent.

EL PRESIDENTE: Pregunto, si insiste el Sr. delegado de la India en su propuesta. Yo me inclino más bien por señalar que varias delegaciones citaron lo que él desea señalar en su párrafo adicional.

G. DUCOMMUN (Suisse): Si le délégué de l'Inde accepte de laisser "plusieurs" je n' ai rien à dire.

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores, la propuesta es poner "Varias delegaciones señalaron que los proyectos... etc."

RAM SARAN (India): It is our understanding that an Action Programme of FAO has to be financed on a multilateral basis. If there is any reservation on this point, then I would suggest that this sentence should not be in the Report at the moment. We will perhaps discuss it with other colleagues and take up the matter at the Plenary when this Report comes up.

EL PRESIDENTE: Debo entender entonces que usted por ahora retira su propuesta de adición.

Bien, señores, no sé si el Sr. representante de Alemania desea intervenir.

Entonces, podemos dar por aprobado el párrafo 22.

Párrafo 23. - El Presidente del Comité de Redacción tiene la palabra.

J. TROUVEROY (Président du Comité de rédaction): C'est une question purement formelle. Dans le texte français on doit commencer la phrase par "Le Programme ne fera" et non pas "Il ne fera". Il en est d'ailleurs ainsi dans le texte anglais.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias por su aclaración.

¿Hay observaciones al párrafo 23? No hay observaciones.

Queda aprobado. Pongo a consideración de ustedes el párrafo 24.

D. RICHTER (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): I have a very slight addition to propose. After the word "Resolution" in the fourth line we should add the words: [Continued in English] "agreed upon as a compromise".

El PRESIDENTE: En el párrafo 24, "sobre la base de la resolución que sigue, adoptada sobre una base de transacción, la Organización dispondrá..., etc." ¿Es eso aceptable para todos ustedes? No hay observaciones. Queda, entonces, aceptada la propuesta del Sr. representante de Alemania.

Señores, voy a poner a la consideración de ustedes en su conjunto la resolución que forma parte del párrafo 25. Es una resolución que se ha redactado luego de trabajosos contactos entre todas las delegaciones, o casi todas, que ha logrado una redacción equilibrada y espero que no sea objeto de modificaciones. Si no hay observaciones...

D. RICHTER (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): I have a very slight comment to make in respect of the draft. It refers to the third consideration on page 9 of the English text at the top. I propose that the words "as proposed by the Director-General" after "prevention of food losses" be deleted because in the first line reference is made to the proposal of the Director-General, as well as to the proposals that he has submitted to us. We feel that this is just a slight improvement.

El PRESIDENTE: Ahora el Sr. representante de la República Popular China. Pero, prefiero antes de darle la palabra, preguntar si es aceptable la modificación propuesta por el Sr. representante de Alemania. Si no hay observaciones aceptamos excluir la segunda mención al Director General., según lo propuesto por el Director General.

Se me indica, y creo que de modo muy atinado, que las dos menciones que se hacen a la propuesta del Director General tienen distinto sentido. La primera se refiere a las medidas especiales para prevenir las pérdidas de alimentos, mientras que la segunda se refiere a la cuenta especial para la prevención de alimentos. Por ese motivo, quizá convenga dejar la redacción tal como está. Veo que el Sr. representante de Alemania acepta.

WU TIEN-HSI (China) (interpretation from Chinese): In their statements at the Plenary delegates of many countries repeatedly emphasized the importance of food production. Hence the Chinese delegation wishes to suggest the following amendment to the first paragraph of the Resolution: after the words "Recognizing the crucial importance of preventing food losses, particular by post-harvest food losses" insert "on the basis of increased production." The amended text would seem more complete in its meaning.

El PRESIDENTE: Tiene la palabra el Sr. representante de Egipto, si es para referirse a esta enmienda.

A.M. BESHIR (Egipto): If we kept the words "as proposed by the Director-General" this would mean an acceptance of the definite projects presented in the document, while in previous items we have said that these are only models.

I. -OROZCO GÜZMAN (México): Para referirme a la adición propuesta por la delegación de China. De la cabina española nosotros anotamos que decía la frase que propone "sobre la base de una mayor producción alimentaria en el mundo". Más bien la palabra "alimentaria" no estaba. Entonces, no sé si la idea es con objeto de lograr una mayor producción de alimentos en el mundo. Si es así, no tendríamos inconvenientes en incluirla.

El PRESIDENTE: Efectivamente, en castellano, la adición propuesta por la delegación china no se leía bien. No obstante, el sentido lo hemos entendido y trataremos de ponerlo en castellano correctamente.

Vamos ahora a redactar la adición que propone la delegación de China para que en castellano se lea correctamente y mañana se les dará a conocer. Vamos a aprobar el proyecto de resolución, en el entendido de que no hay otras observaciones y que mañana no vamos a abrir el debate nuevamente sobre este proyecto de resolución.

Paragraphs 16 to 24, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 16 a 24, ainsi amendés sont approuvés

Los párrafos 16 a 24, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 25, including Resolution, not concluded

Le paragraphe 25, y compris la résolution, est en suspens

El párrafo 25, incluida la Resolución, queda pendiente

The meeting rose at 18.00 hours

La séance est levée à 18 heures

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.00 horas

conference

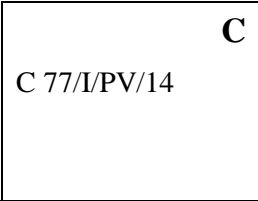
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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Nineteenth Session
COMMISSION I

Dix-neuvième session
COMMISSION I

19º período de sesiones
COMISION II

FOURTEENTH MEETING
QUATORZIEME SÉANCE
14ª SESION

(29 November 1977)

The Fourteenth Meeting was opened at 9.30 hours
J.C. Vignaud, Chairman of Commission I, presiding.

La quatorzième séance est ouverte à 9 h 30, sous la présidence
de J.C. Vignaud, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 14ª sesión a las 9.30 horas, bajo la presidencia
de J.C. Vignaud, Presidente de la Comisión I

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART I (continued)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - PARTIE I (suite)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE I (continuación)

PARAGRAPH 25, INCLUDING RESOLUTION

PARAGRAPHE 25, Y COMPRIS LA RESOLUTION

PARRAFO 25, INCLUIDA LA RESOLUCION

EL PRESIDENTE: Seguimos con el análisis del proyecto de informe, primera parte del documento C 77/I/REP/1. El último punto que vimos ayer fue la Resolución sobre Prevención de las Pérdidas de alimentos; hubo sólo una sola observación antes de cerrar el debate que fue, en principio, acogido. Esta observación fue formulada por la delegación de China.

C. DUCOMMUN (Suisse): Sur la résolution que nous avons discutée hier soir, le Délégué de la Républi que fédérale d'Allemagne avait proposé qu'au 3e considérant nous enlevions le dernier membre de la phrase et vous l'avez réintroduit après que la Délégation chinoise ait fait son amendement.

Nous ne sommes pas d'accord avec la formulation du troisième considérant et vous proposons, afin que l'on tienne compte du fait que cette résolution est une nouvelle résolution qui a été totalement modifiée par rapport à la résolution proposée par le Directeur général, qu'au début du troisième considérant on dise: "Estimant que le programme d'action qu'a proposé le Directeur général", donc on enlève "les mesures spéciales"; et ensuite, tout à la fin, on dirait: "de créer un compte spécial pour la prévention des parties alimentaires". On enlèverait donc les derniers cinq mots de la phrase du texte français; nous pensons que cela correspond mieux aux trois semaines de débat et aux changements qui sont intervenus dans cette résolution,

EL PRESIDENTE: Hemos tomado la primera observación del señor delegado de Suiza, que es el tercer considerando, poniendo: "Estimando que el programa de acción para prevenir la pérdida de alimentos, etc., etc.," es decir, que excluíamos, una vez que esto se debata, "la adopción de medidas especiales"; pero la segunda enmienda no la hemos tomado. Rogamos al señor delegado la repita y, particularmente, nos diga dónde desea incluirla.

Quiero señalar algo que ya dije ayer y es que esta Resolución fue objeto de dos semanas de trabajo con consultas entre el Grupo de los 77 y los países industrializados y yo creo que luego de esas consultas cada palabra fue puesta tratando de guardar un equilibrio en todo el contexto de la resolución; tengo el temor de que si empezamos a hacer modificaciones, aunque sean formales, corremos el riesgo de romper el equilibrio de esta Resolución que ha tratado, a través de esas consultas que se han hecho, de conciliar las posiciones de todas las delegaciones, y es por esto que yo deseo hacer un llamado a los señores delegados a fin de evitar en lo posible hacer cambios a este texto que, según creo, en esas consultas informales, fue aceptado por todos.

G. DUCOMMUN (Suisse) : Je comprends fort bien votre point de vue et au fond cela ne me plaît pas d'intervenir. Mais, j'ai la conviction profonde qu'il faut écrire ce qui est dit et la dernière partie du considérant dit: "considérant à cet égard qu'il convient de créer un compte spécial pour la prévention des pertes alimentaires comme l'a proposé le Directeur général"; or, vous savez comme moi, comme nous le savons tous, que la création de ce compte spécial est l'aboutissement d'une longue négociation qui n'est pas la proposition originale du Directeur général. Donc nous enlevons les derniers mots "comme l'a proposé le Directeur général" et nous ne faisons par là que rendre justice à ce qui s'est passé dans les trois semaines qui se sont écoulées et nous n'enlevons rien par là à l'excellente proposition qu'est la création de ce programme d'action et de son mode de financement.

J.A. BOYLE (United States of America): I do not want to address myself directly to my Swiss colleagues' remarks though perhaps indirectly I will address them. Like you, Mr. Chairman, I believe that equilibrium has now been reached after long and arduous negotiations and I personally, am not inclined to see this equilibrium upset. I also would like to get the views of my delegation on record, and they are as follows.

My government places a very high priority on the prevention of post-harvest food losses and we believe that the prevention of such losses can be highly effective in ensuring a greater amount of food, particularly for the rural poor in the most seriously affected of the developing countries. As you are aware, sir, and my Swiss colleague alluded to this, there were some very difficult problems presented to my government and several other governments relating to the Director-General's original proposal to transfer monies from the Suspense Account to the proposed Post-Harvest Losses Special Account. Because of the complexity of this problem we were pleased that the Director-General and the Secretariat suggested the formation of a small group to search for ways in which this problem could be resolved most effectively.

My delegation believe that these problems have now been resolved and we hope that this process of informal consultation, which worked so well in this instance, will be used by the Director-General and the Secretariat when and if future problems of this type arise.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias señor delegado de los Estados Unidos, Tal como usted lo ha solicitado su intervención por supuesto va a contar en las Actas de nuestra reunión, como la opinión de su delegación. De manera que en el verb atim usted podrá ver su intervención reflejada palabra por palabra.

P. HALIMI (France): Je voudrais appuyer la proposition qui a été faite par notre collègue de la Suisse. Je pense que cette proposition ne détruit pas l'équilibre du texte, car les négociations qui ont eu lieu sur cette Résolution ont surtout porté sur le Dispositif. Je ne crois pas qu'une modification apportés aux Considérants puisse créer des problèmes, d'autant que vous avez voulu accepter une modification proposés par notre collègue de la Chine.

EL PRESIDENTE: Quiero decirle que yo no he dicho que voy a aceptar la propuesta formulada por China.

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): Nosotros creíamos que ya todos nos atenderíamos a su interpretación de la decisión que se había expresado respecto a este proyecto de resolución, sobre todo después de la intervención de los Estados Unidos de América, que fue una de las partes involucradas en estas arduas negociaciones.

Nosotros nada más queremos hacer un llamamiento para que todos nos atengamos al espíritu y a la forma en que usted ha expuesto la situación. No sé si el distinguido delegado de Suiza y el de Francia hayab sido partes estrechamente consultadas, pero entendemos que tanto de un lado como de otro se había manifestado confianza por parte de ambos grupos. Así es que nosotros estamos conformes con el texto de la resolución, como está.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias por su espíritu de colaboración, señor representante de México.

D. RICHTER (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (Interpretation from German): I would like to support the Swiss proposal and the arguments presented by the delegate of France. I think that this is really only a correction and would not bring about imbalance in the resolution.

R. GARCELL CARRO (Cuba): Realmente en los albores de este debate en la Comisión I nos parece estar en sus inicios y que el resultado de todas las negociaciones llevadas a cabo no podía haberse cristalizado eficazmente ya en este momento.

Nuestra delegación apoya lo planteado por el distinguido delegado de México en el sentido de acogernos a esto y realmente creemos que debe permanecer tal cual ha sido redactado, después de estas deliberaciones. Han sido eficaces algunas de las delegaciones que han intervenido para hacer alguna modificación, pero me atrevo a asegurar que sean muchas más las delegaciones que estamos en conformidad con que permanezca de esta manera.

A. STOFFELS (Pays-Bas): A mon avis, la proposition faite par notre collègue de la Suisse est très claire et présente seulement une amélioration du texte. C'est pourquoi, je puis, de ma part, appuyer la proposition faite par notre collègue de la Suisse.

EL PRESIDENTE: Bien señores; vamos a analizar las dos propuestas que tenemos frente a nosotros. La primera, que se refiere a excluir "las medidas especiales" y cambiarlo por "el programa de acción", propuesta que ha sido formulada por la delegación de Suiza, ha sido apoyada, pero también controvertida por otras delegaciones, que desean que la resolución quede tal como está. Yo me resisto realmente a entrar en la discusión de modificaciones de una resolución que ha sido ya discutida, sobre todo porque me doy cuenta de que estas propuestas no son de fondo, aunque, claro es, este argumento llevaría a ustedes a suponer: si no son de fondo, entonces ¿por qué no lo analizamos? Pero yo pienso que quizá convenga hacer un esfuerzo por dejar el texto como está, precisamente porque ha sido un texto ya negociado por dos semanas y no quisiera yo que corramos el riesgo de un verdadero desastre de cambiar palabras y más palabras, en algo, que ha sido ya discutido y teniendo en cuenta las opiniones de todas las delegaciones que se han consultado. Por eso, me pregunto si es que el Sr. delegado de Suiza, frente a la intervención del Sr. delegado de los Estados Unidos, y a la intervención de aquéllos que se han expresado en favor de que el texto se mantenga tal como está, me pregunto, repito, si realmente el Sr. delegado de Suiza entiende que es un problema de fondo y él está dispuesto a insistir en sus modificaciones.

G. DUCOMMUN (Suisse): Je n'insisterai pas. Je pense que mon intervention, et l'appui qu'elle a reçu, suffit à montrer qu'elle représente l'avis d'un certain nombre de délégations et que c'est ce qu'il fallait dire.

Mais laissons le texte tel qu'il a été établi à l'origine car nous ne voudrions vraiment pas perdre du temps sur cette Résolution, d'autant plus que nous sommes convaincus qu'il faut réaliser une activité importante dans ce domaine et nous l'appuyons totalement.

EL PRESIDENTE: Señor delegado de Suiza, permítame que elogie su espíritu de colaboración y sobre todo de comprensión en el sentido de que es mejor, yo creo, dejar este texto como ha sido negociado. Por tanto, como dije ayer, voy a cerrar el debate sobre esta resolución. Vamos a dejar el texto tal como está y vamos a pasar a los reajustes agrícolas. Si no hay otros comentarios, así lo decido.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

Paragraph 25, including resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 25, y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 25, incluida la resolución, es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 26 to 32

PARAGRAPHES 26 à 32

PARRAFOS 26 a 32

EL PRESIDENTE: Párrafo 26; sobre reajustes agrícolas internacionales. ¿No hay observaciones? Aprobado

Párrafo 27:¿no hay observaciones? Aprobado.

Párrafo 28:¿no hay observaciones? Aprobado.

Párrafo 29

V. STIPETIC (Yugoslavia): I would only like to remark that in the fourth-sentence of paragraph 29 we have the following sentences:

"Nevertheless, deep concern was expressed by many delegates at the persistence of obstacles to the more rapid improvement in situations relating to production, consumption, trade and external assistance in the developing and of the continuing barriers to trade."

In such a situation it might seem that the developing countries are imposing the continuing barriers to trade and that is not the case. So I would say that there are continuing barriers and sometimes even increasing barriers to exports from developing countries. That is the substance of my amendment. I would accept any other solution which would state that the continuing barriers to trade are non existent, or not so important if they do exist in developing countries. But agrarian protectionism is rife in the developed countries of the world.

EL PRESIDENTE:Gracias, pero ¿podría sugerir el Sr. Representante de Yugoslavia concretamente cuál es la enmienda y donde la desea incorporar?

V. STIPETIC (Yugoslavia): After the words "external assistance in the developing countries" there should be a full stop. After that we would start with the following words:

"Deep concern was expressed by the continuing barriers, sometimes even increasing ones, to the trade in agricultural products."

That is a new sentence which I would like to have inserted instead of this one which exists now as part of the fourth sentence in paragraph 29.

EL PRESIDENTE: La propuesta, si lo hemos entendido bien, es incorporar a continuación de la oración que finaliza con las palabras "por la persistencia de barreras comerciales", incorporar, digo, una oración que sea: "se expresó la preocupación sobre las barreras que algunas veces afectan al comercio de productos agrícolas. "

Pongo esta adición a consideración de ustedes.

V. STIPETIC (Yugoslavia): If my amendment is going to be accepted this portion of the former sentence is going to be deleted.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias por la aclaración, señor representante.

Pregunto a los señores delegados si plantea dificultades esta adición.

D. RICHTER (Germany, Federal Republic of) (interpretation from German): I must confess that I see no urgent need at this particular point to bring in the idea suggested by the delegate of Yugoslavia. I rather tend to feel that if we look at the paragraph as a whole that this particular point is adequately covered elsewhere. For instance, in the penultimate sentence on page 10 of the English text, in the fourth line from the end it states:

"Delegates from developing countries referred to the effects of agricultural protection in developed countries in limiting the extent and assurance of market access."

So I think that this is where the whole thing is adequately covered and therefore it is my suggestion that we leave the text as it stands and as it has been proposed by the Drafting Committee.

EL PRESIDENTE: Yo creo que el Sr. delegado de Alemania tiene razón. La idea que nos propone Yugoslavia está reflejada en el párrafo y quizá convenga no modificarlo. Ello implicaría en un cierto modo repetir algo que ya está dicho al final.

V. STIPETIC (Yugoslavia): I would say that the delegate of Germany is correctly reflecting the point raised by the delegates from some developed countries, but you will remember that others coming from developing countries presented their points of view which are not fully presented in paragraph 29. That is the point I am raising. If the statements of the developed countries have been correctly presented in the penultimate sentence of paragraph 29, I believe it is correct to present the points raised by the many delegations from the developing countries in the same way and we should state their position. Therefore, I would ask the Commission to give careful consideration to the substance if not the words of my amendment.

EL PRESIDENTE: Un punto de aclaración es que no es la penúltima oración la que ha citado el Sr. representante de Alemania, sino la oración anterior, que dice "Algunos delegados de países en desarrollo hicieron referencia a los efectos del proteccionismo agrícola ... etc", donde me da la impresión, a primera vista, de que está incorporado ahí el concepto que usted desea incluir un poco más arriba.

J. TROUVEROY (President du Comité de rédaction): Je voulais simplement dire au représentant de la Yougoslavie qu'au Comité de rédaction, il n'y a pas eu de discussion sur ce point. Je désirais ajouter cet élément à la discussion.

A. FASLA (Algérie): Je crois qu'il n'est que justice de prendre en considération la proposition de notre collègue de Yougoslavie qui reflète effectivement ce qui s'est passé au cours du débat. Nous aurions ainsi un texte équilibré. Nous avons la phrase que nous a citée notre collègue de la République fédérale d'Allemagne, et je crois que nous pourrions accepter la proposition de notre collègue de Yougoslavie car il y a effectivement une préoccupation très vive de la part des pays en voie de développement.

P. HALIMI (France): Je comprends très bien les préoccupations de notre collègue de la Yougoslavie, qui ont été reprises par notre collègue de l'Algérie, mais il me semble que ces préoccupations sont couvertes dans le texte qui nous est proposé par le Comité de rédaction. On parle bien du point de vue des pays en développement dans la phrase qui précède celle qui exprime le point de vue de certains pays développés. Je ne vois pas l'utilité de répéter les mêmes choses.

EL PRESIDENTE: Yo deseo aclarar que en modo alguno está en tela de juicio, por lo menos desde mi punto de vista, la necesidad de reflejar el concepto que el Sr. delegado de Yugoslavia ha señalado. Yo creo que él tiene razón; este concepto tiene que estar en el párrafo; en el castellano está y no sé en otros textos si ocurrirá lo mismo.

M. LIMAN (Nigeria): I agree with your comment, Mr. Chairman, that the point which has been made by the delegate of Yugoslavia is indeed reflected, although in part, in that sentence on page 10. I do not think the Yugoslav delegate means the penultimate sentence. The one we are referring to is on page 10 which reads: "Delegates from developing countries referred to the effects of agricultural protection in developed countries in limiting the extent and assurance of market access." I said that it covers the point he is making only in part because it says "referred", but I think what we should like to see are the words "expressed grave concern" about the effects of agricultural protection in developed countries. Once we change that I think the point he is making about the earlier sentence would be adequately covered.

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que es una buena transacción quizás decir que "algunos delegados de países en desarrollo expresaron su preocupación por los efectos negativos al comercio del proteccionismo agrícola en países desarrollados que militan la amplitud y la garantía del acceso a los mercados". ¿Puede ser esto una transacción?

A. FASLA (Algérie): Ce serait peut-être un bon compromis. Le délégué de la France nous a rappelé qu'il y avait une référence à cette idée, je suis d'accord avec lui, mais elle n'était pas tout à fait complète, car on a fait observer que les délégués des pays en voie de développement, qui se sont exprimés sur cette question, se sont montrés vivement préoccupés; peut-être pourrait-on reformuler la phrase autrement en disant que: "plusieurs délégations des pays en voie de développement se sont montrées vivement préoccupées par les mesures protectionnistes et autres barrières commerciales prises par les pays développés, qui ont pour effet de limiter et de rendre aléatoire l'accès des produits des pays en voie de développement à leurs marchés." On pourrait avoir une phrase similaire qui prendrait en considération ce qu'a dit notre collègue de la Yougoslavie.

EL PRESIDENTE: Está a consideración de ustedes la propuesta formulada por el representante de Argelia, que creo que es una buena transacción. Solamente quizás por un motivo de ordenamiento en el párrafo y para hablar en cada parte de cada tema y no hacer repeticiones, no sé si valdría la pena mantener más arriba, en la línea séptima de la versión castellana, la persistencia de las barreras comerciales, porque ya ese concepto lo incluimos conforme con la propuesta de Argelia en la oración antepenúltima de este párrafo 29.

Pregunto si esta transacción es aceptable para todos.

B. SUSSMILCH (European Economic Community) (interpretation from German): The Chairman of the Drafting Committee said that this item was not discussed in depth, and now all of a sudden a number of developing countries feel that this is of great importance. Also, as the German and French delegates have pointed out, this matter is referred to twice in this paragraph, so it is my suggestion that we retain the paragraph as it stands.

EL PRESIDENTE: Yo hubiera querido que el Comité de Redacción estuviera integrado por toda la Comisión, pero lamentablemente ello no es posible. De manera que no podemos excluir la posibilidad de que algunos párrafos sean motivo de controversia o de comentario en el seno de la Comisión. De lo contrario, corro el riesgo de que el Sr. delegado de la India me recrimine, como lo hizo ayer, diciendo que no le permitíamos discutir los párrafos.

De manera que yo creo que la solución de transacción que ha propuesto Argelia quizás se podría aceptar porque refleja algo que se ha expresado en el curso de los debates, y excluiríamos la primera referencia a las persistencias de las barreras comerciales porque ya la incorpora el Sr. delegado de Argelia en la oración que él nos ha propuesto como transacción.

A. FALSA (Algérie): Ce que je voulais dire, vous l'avez déjà exprimé, mais je voudrais lancer un appel à notre collègue de la Communauté pour qu'il accepte la formule de compromis que j'avais proposée. Naturellement, le Comité de rédaction n'est pas infallible et les délégations sont souveraines pour exprimer leur point de vue. Je peux ne pas être d'accord avec le Comité de rédaction, après tout je ne lui donne pas un mandat total pour parler au nom de l'Algérie. Il nous propose des solutions que nous devons discuter.

J. TROUVEROY (Président du Comité de rédaction): Je voulais simplement dire que notre collègue algérien a tout a fait raison sur le fond. Il est bien certain qu'un comité de rédaction est une sorte de première étape. J'ai tout simplement voulu signaler dans le débat que le Comité de rédaction n'avait pas fait de modifications sur un premier texte à ce sujet, mais je répète encore une fois que le Comité de rédaction n'est pas la loi et qu'évidemment c'est ici que son texte doit être discuté.

P. HALIMI (France): J'ai écouté avec le plus grand intérêt la proposition qui nous a été faite par notre collègue de l'Algérie. Je pense que si nous supprimons, à la première phrase, la référence aux barrières commerciales et si nous incluons cette référence dans la phrase amendée par notre collègue de l'Algérie, le texte sera acceptable.

V. STIPETIC (Yugoslavia): If the improvements in the text as suggested by Algeria and Nigeria are going to be accepted, Yugoslavia will withdraw its amendment.

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que estamos de acuerdo con esto. Podemos concluir la discusión del párrafo 29 con las modificaciones propuestas por la delegación de Argelia y espero que todos hayan tenido ocasión de tomar nota.

Le vamos a pedir al Sr. delegado de Argelia si puede repetirnos su texto, por favor; o en todo caso, para no demorar el debate, le vamos a pedir que nos lo haga llegar acá a la Secretaría y a sí le damos tiempo para redactarlo. Luego lo vamos a leer nuevamente y así seguimos ahora con el párrafo 30.

¿Está de acuerdo el Sr. delegado de Argelia con esto?

A. FALSA (Algerie): Je n'avais pas préparé un texte écrit, j'ai essayé de le formuler, mais je vais dire exactement ce que j'ai déjà dit: "Plusieurs délégations des pays en voie de développement ont exprimé de vives préoccupations devant les mesures protectionnistes et autres barrières commerciales prises par les pays développés en faveur de leur agriculture et qui ont pour effet de limiter ou de rendre aléatoire l'accès des produits agricoles des pays en voie de développement à leurs marchés." C'est l'idée, je donnerai au Secrétariat un texte qui reprendra exactement ce que je viens de dire.

EL PRESIDENTE: Vamos a esperar su texto y luego vamos a volver sobre él. Y mientras tanto, creo que podemos pasar al párrafo 30, hasta tanto tengamos ocasión de analizar, palabra por palabra, su propuesta.

D. RICHTER (Germany, Fed. Rep. of)(interpretation from German):I am somewhat perturbed by the proposals of the delegate of Algeria.I had understood that this sentence beginning;"Delegates from developing countries ..." was being amended, and that it would continue with "expressed grave concern", not that the text would remain as it is in this paper.

EL PRESIDENTE: Vamos a esperar, si el Sr. delegado de Alemania está de acuerdo, recibir el texto de Argelia para discutirlo. Lo está redactando ahora y podremos continuar mientras con el párrafo 30, que pongo a consideración de ustedes.

Párrafo 30.Si no hay observaciones, aprobado.Párrafo 31.

P. MEJIA^(Secretario Comisión I): En la versión inglesa, Dágina 11 del párrafo 31, en la séptima línea, se acordó durante el Comité de Redacción que la palabra, las letras NIEO, en mayúsculas, se eliminarían. Lo mismo ocurre en la versión española, página 14, párrafo 31, en la séptima línea, donde se eliminarían las iniciales NOEI, en mayúsculas.

J. TROUVEROY (President du Comité de rédaction): Je voudrais compléter ce que vient de dire notre secrétaire. Il a fait une modification et il a raison. C'est ce qui avait été décidé. Il faut supprimer ces lettres entre parenthèses dans le texte français et il faut mettre: "d'un Nouvel ordre économique international", comme cela se trouve d'ailleurs dans le texte français. Donc, il y a bien une erreur dans le texte français.

EL PRESIDENTE: La Secretaría toma nota para compatibilizar los textos. Pregunto si hay observaciones al párrafo 31.

V. STIPETIC (Yugoslavia): It is a new situation for me. I thought by the capital letters New International Economic Order we are referring to a different set of measures and resolutions adopted by the U.N. If we are leaving that with small letters, to what new international economic order are we referring? Since English is not my mother tongue I would like to get a correct English interpretation of the text by the Chairman of the Committee.

EL PRESIDENTE: Observo que en los textos, el Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional está en mayúsculas excepto en español, que la palabra "nuevo" está en minúsculas. Habrá que ponerla también en mayúsculas. No sé si en francés está todo en mayúsculas. En francés se me indica que está de acuerdo. En consecuencia, pienso que no se plantean problemas. ¿Esto satisface al Sr. delegado de Yugoslavia?

A. FASLA (Argérie): J'ai des préoccupations de même nature que notre collègue de Yougoslavie. Naturellement, "un Nouvel ordre économique", c'est indéfini, même avec une majuscule. Peut-être pourrait-on, pour tenir compte des préoccupations des uns et des autres, dire: "tenant compte des buts et objectifs" (au lieu de "visées", parce qu'en français cela ne sonne pas très bien), "des Textes fondamentaux de l'Assemblée générale sur un Nouvel ordre économique international". Alors, nous avons les Textes fondamentaux, à savoir la Déclaration du programme d'action, la Charte des droits économiques des Etats. On met "un nouvel ordre économique international", et ceci donne satisfaction tant aux pays en voie de développement qu'aux pays développés, car nous savons que ces questions sont controversées, mais cela a toujours été la formule de compromis, tout au moins à New York, qui nous a permis d'arriver à l'adoption rapide de textes qui étaient difficiles à adopter.

V. STIPETIC (Yugoslavia): I am probably suggesting that if we are going to keep the small letters "new international economic order" let us add "as it was defined by the General Assembly of the United Nations". In that case we are covering all those documents.

R. TANABE (Japan): My delegation has understood this New International Economic Order as a general concept and if by this is a reference to the U.N. Resolution my delegation cannot go along with this line.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si yo entendí bien, el representante de Yugoslavia nos dijo que si íbamos a dejar al Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional en minúsculas, en ese caso habría que agregar, tal como fuera dicho por la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas. Lo cierto es que en los textos están en mayúscula, como un título, tratando de reflejar algo que todo el mundo sabe de qué se trata, no es una mera mención a un deseo de acuerdo que va a suceder en el futuro, sino se hace referencia como un título, decir en mayúscula algo que ya se ha decidido o por lo menos está en proceso de discusión en las Naciones Unidas; no veo que haya problemas en tanto hemos decidido dejarlo en mayúscula como está en el texto español y francés.

Frente a esto pregunto si será necesario agregar más, o si quieren ustedes y quizá como transacción ponerlo entre comillas.

¿Satisface a los delegados de Yugoslavia, Argelia, Alemania y Japón esto?

D. RICHTER (Germany, Fed. Rep. of)(interpretation from German):As far as I can remember in the English text this whole concept of New International Economic Order is always given capital letters, and it is the case here as well. I think if we stick to that practice having New International Economic Order with capital letters, that covers the problem of the delegate of Yugoslavia.

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (Mexico): Es cierto que hay diferencia de matices y de profundidad en cuanto a la concepción y disposición. El que esté aquí en mayúscula es porque se identifica como una nueva tendencia, un nuevo objetivo, y esto ha sido debatido muchas veces. Lo debemos mantener como un concepto y como un objetivo. Yo creo que debemos mantenerlo con mayúscula.

EL PRESIDENTE: Yo creo que estamos discutiendo en círculo ya que nadie ha propuesto que se deje en minúscula, no veo yo que haya diferencia y que por tanto valga la pena que continuemos analizando este tema.

P. HALIMI (France): Je vous avoue que je suis un peu surpris de cette discussion sur le nouvel ordre économique international car nous avons accepté le paragraphe 10 de notre rapport sans discussion et ce paragraphe parle d'un nouvel ordre économique international et aucun délégué ne s'est exprimé pour de mander que cette phrase soit complétée par: "tel que l'a désiré l'Assemblée générale" et je suis très surpris et me rallie volontiers à votre proposition de ne pas modifier le texte et de maintenir les majuscules.

A. FASLA (Algérie): Je suis d'accord avec notre collègue de la France mais si on regarde bien le paragraphe 10, on voit qu'il n'y a pas les majuscules; d'abord je demanderai que la version française soit revue en conséquence. Je parle au moins pour le texte français.

Pour ce qui est de ce paragraphe 31, je pourrais accepter votre proposition en disant: "Tenant compte des buts, des objectifs et des impératifs d'un nouvel ordre économique international", et je voudrais que dans le procès-verbal on dise que pour nous ce nouvel ordre économique international doit être celui qui a été défini par l'Assemblée générale, par les décisions de la Sixième Session spéciale, ainsi que par la Charte des droits et devoirs économiques des Etats.

EL PRESIDENTE: Sin duda, señor delegado de Argelia, de cuanto usted acaba de señalar queda reflejado en las actas porque están tomando nota de todo lo que se dice en nuestros debates. En relación con la referencia al párrafo 10, quiero indicar que, lamentablemente, se debe a un error en la versión francesa que se ha consignado el Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional en minúsculas, pero en inglés y en español está en mayúsculas. Damos instrucciones a la Secretaría para que compatibilice los textos de modo tal que figure en mayúsculas en las tres versiones.

J. TROUVEROY (Président du Comité de rédaction): Concernant cette question de majuscules, je crois qu'au paragraphe 10 il n'y avait peut-être pas de majuscules tout simplement parce qu'en français ce n'est pas l'habitude de mettre des majuscules à tous les mots; on met la majuscule au premier mot et cela suffit, ce n'est pas l'habitude de mettre des majuscules partout.Évidemment on peut toujours le faire si on veut et c'est peut-être pour cela qu'il y a eu une erreur au paragraphe 10, il aurait fallu mettre un "N" majuscule à "nouvel".

D. RICHTER (Germany, Fed. Rep. of)(interpretation from German): I just wanted to make quite sure that what is going to be put down in the records is reflected as being the opinion of the delegate of Algeria, and not the general opinion.

EL PRESIDENTE: Sí, señor representante de Alemania, de eso no hay ninguna duda. Bien señores, se resuelve en consecuencia que la mención al nuevo Orden Económico Internacional que figura en el párrafo 31. se incluye en las tres versiones con mayúscula, lo mismo que hicimos cuando discutimos el párrafo 10 de este mismo documento, cuyo texto vamos a compatibilizar de modo tal que en las tres versiones, ingles, francés y español, figure con mayúscula.

Pongo ahora a consideración el párrafo 32. ¿No hay observaciones? Aprobado.

Antes de pasar al documento C 77/I/REP/2 a raíz de que está urgido por la preparación del informe final para la Plenaria, volvemos al párrafo 29 donde estamos pendientes de recibir una sugerencia de la delegación de Argelia.

J. TROUVEROY (Président du Comité de rédaction): Voici le texte que m'a fait parvenir la délégation d'Algérie: "Plusieurs délégations des pays en voie de développement ont exprimé leurs vives préoccupations devant les mesures protectionnistes et les barrières commerciales adoptées par les pays développés qui affectent négativement l'économie des pays en voie de développement, car elles limitent ou rendent aléatoire l'accès de leurs produits agricoles aux marchés des pays développés." En ce qui concerne l'endroit où cet amendement devait se placer, il s'agirait, et je voudrais que le délégué de l'Algérie veuille bien le confirmer, de l'ajouter après la phrase: "Quelques délégué de pays en développement on fait observer que les mesures protectionnistes adoptées par les pays développés en faveur de leur agriculture ont pour effet de limiter ou de rendre aléatoire l'accès des marchés." Il faudrait donc remplacer la phrase plutôt. Je demande au délégué de l'Algérie d'être précis en ce cas.

A. FALSA (Algérie): Je voudrai simplement que la phrase proposée remplace: "Quelques délégué de pays en développement ont fait observer...", c'est tout.

D. RICHTER (Germany, Fed. Rep. of)(interpretation from German): I had understood from the discussion on the point that the sentences would be unchanged and only the words referred to be replaced by a wording something like "deep concern". I thought that emerged from the debate.

A. FALSA (Algérie): Peut-être que notre collègue de l'Allemagne fédérale n'a pas bien compris, c'est possible, mais ce qu'on lui demande c'est s'il est d'accord ou non avec la formulation.

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores está a consideración de ustedes el texto que nos ha presentado la delegación de Argelia.

D. RICHTER (Germany, Fed. Rep. of)(interpretation from German): Could we very slowly get the text once again?

J. TROUVEROY (President du Comité de rédaction): Je relis donc l'amendement algérien: "Plusieurs délégations des pays en voie de développement ont exprimé leurs vives préoccupations devant les mesures protectionnistes et les barrières commerciales adoptés par les pays développés qui affectent négativement l'économie des pays en voie de développement car elles limitent ou rendent aléatoires l'accès de leurs produits agricoles aux marchés des pays développés". En réalité, cette phrase reprend le texte précédent, mais en y ajoutant l'une ou l'autre expression; par exemple, après "devant

les mesures protectionnistes", elle ajoute "et les barrières commerciales" ce qui est évidemment une mesure protectionniste aussi, mais je crois que le Délégué algérien a voulu renforcer ce, au'il entend dire par "mesures protectionnistes". Et évidemment le texte se réfère aux mesures protectionnistes des pays développés uniquement et aux marchés des pays développés, c'est la précision qu'à apportée l'Algérie.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si no hay observaciones podemos incorporar este párrafo que refleja lo que se expresó en los debates por las delegaciones de los países en desarrollo. Si no hay observaciones queda incorporado este párrafo en el párrafo 29.

Paragraphs 26 to 32, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 26 à 32, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 26 a 32, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Commission I - Part I, as amended, was approved

Le projet de rapport de la Commission I, première partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe - Parte I, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART 2

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - PARTIE 2

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN I - PARTE 2

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 7

PARAGRAPHES 1 à 7

PARRAFOS 1 a 7

P. MEJIA (Secretario de la Comisión I): Deseo recordar a los señores delegados que utilicen versión francesa que el REP/2 que vamos a estudiar ahora, en el título dice: Proyecto de informe de la Comisión II debería decir de la Comisión I.

EL PRESIDENTE: Pongo a consideración el párrafo 1 ¿no hay observaciones? Aprobado. Párrafo 2. Sobre este párrafo ¿quién desea intervenir?

A. DEUSTUA (Perú): Solamente un factor de redacción en el texto español, que está correcto en el francés y en el inglés. En el texto español en la línea séptima, la frase que comienza diciendo: "Al propio tiempo, se señaló que debería procurarse a medida que los Estados ribereños se adaptasen los nuevos..." se debe decir "a los nuevos derechos", falta la conjunción "a".

EL PRESIDENTE: Tomamos nota para incorporar en el texto español su observación.

L. COMANESCU (Romania): I only want to make a suggestion concerning the last sentence of this paragraph and I should like to add some words at the end of the sentence. I should like the whole sentence with the addition I want to read like this: "Emphasis was placed on the need for optimum utilisation of resources in extended zones of jurisdiction and the intensification of fishing on under-exploited stocks or unconventional resources, taking into account the necessity to enable all countries and particularly the developing ones to satisfy their needs in fishery". If there are no objections I would like this inserted in this sentence.

A. DEUSTUA (Peru): Yo concuerdo en la generosidad de las expresiones del señor delegado de Rumania al tratar de incluir esta frase final en el párrafo 2, pero me parece que es utópico permitir a todos los países del mundo que satisfagan todas sus necesidades en materia de pesca; significa un objetivo extraordinario que creo que el avance de la ciencia y de la investigación sobre la pesquería mundial no permite afirmarlo todavía. Creo que la expresión final dada por la Comisión de Redacción es la más lógica ya que habla de la necesidad de una utilización óptima de los recursos y en español óptimo significa lo mejor posible, lo máximo a lo que se pueda aspirar, y es, desde luego, con carácter de finitivo, es lo óptimo hoy y será lo óptimo mañana, pero no significa llegar hasta el límite de la satisfacción total de las necesidades de todos los países del mundo en función de todos sus efectos dentro de los alcances ilimitados que ha dado Rumania.

Creo por eso, señor Presidente, que sería mejor mantener la expresión tal como está concebida en la parte final del párrafo 2.

M. ATRIA RAWLINS (Chile): Para apoyar el planteamiento efectuado por la delegación del Perú en el sentido de mantener el párrafo tal y como está redactado, por cuanto creo es el reflejo exacto de cuando se discutió este tema en el Comité.

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): También para expresar nuestra preferencia de que la frase se mantenga tal como está de acuerdo con las observaciones hechas por Perú.

Después me referiré a otras cuestiones.

C. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Aparte de compartir los argumentos expresados por la delegación de Perú y posteriormente la de Chile, yo creo que la inclusión de una frase que aliente una mayor explotación a satisfacer las necesidades de pesca por parte de los países en desarrollo, en la práctica se convertiría en una exhortación a que los países que estén en condiciones de efectuar esa pesca en zonas no accesibles a los países en desarrollo lo hagan; es decir, yo creo que no se debe agregar un concepto nuevo, lo que sí tendría que hacer es una pequeña observación a la última frase del párrafo 2. Donde se dice: "Se recalcó la necesidad de una utilización óptima de los recursos en las zonas I ampliadas...", creo que la palabra más adecuada sería una "utilización racional" de los recursos en las zonas ampliadas de jurisdicción. Con respecto a la última parte de la frase "y la intensificación de la pesca de poblaciones infraexplotadas, o de recursos no convencionales", yo entiendo que esta última parte se refiere a la explotación de los krill, entre otras cosas.

Mi delegación en otra oportunidad hizo una reserva sobre la posibilidad de no incurrir en una explotación irracional de las especies, aún no convencionales; por lo tanto entendemos que esta última parte de la frase no refleja exactamente todo lo que sucedió en el debate, sino que es simplemente una manifestación de deseos expresada no por todas las delegaciones; yo preferiría que no figure en el texto aunque, de todas maneras, no tengo fuertes reparos a que si hay alguna intención general dejarla.

L. COMANESCU (Romania): I see that my proposal is raising some questions and therefore I would prefer to withdraw it.

EL PRESIDENTE: Le agradezco, señor representante, su espíritu de colaboración. La segunda enmienda era cambiar las palabras "utilización óptima" por "utilización racional". Quizá se podría decir "utilización óptima y racional", que incorpora las dos ideas.

Con respecto a la última observación de la delegación de Argentina, no entendí exactamente cuál era la modificación que usted proponía.

C. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): La propuesta mía es eliminar de la última frase "y la intensificación de la pesca de poblaciones infraexplotadas o de recursos no convencionales."

R. TANABE (Japan): On the first point of the amendment by the delegate of Chile, my delegation think that the word "optimum" is used in the informal composite negotiating text in the Role of the Sea Conference. The concept of optimum utilisation is rather ambiguous. Nevertheless I prefer this wording and I would like the Role of the Sea Conference to define this concept. On the second part of the amendment, I rather prefer to maintain part of the sentence because many delegates referred to the importance of the exploitation of unconventional stocks and unexploited stocks. Therefore I strongly insist on maintaining this part.

I. BONQUILLO (Philippines): The definition of optimum probably should stay - optimum utilisation in the technical sense meaning seeing to it that we get the best available. This would change from year to year depending on the data that has been taken from year to year, and I would support the position of Japan that we should develop under-exploited stocks and unconventional resources because we believe that this will be the only source of food for the fast-growing population of the world in years to come. If we do not use these undeveloped resources they will be destroyed biologically and they will not be useful to the increasing human population. The krill are one of the most important species. There are so many of them and we should study them; but we should see to it that we do not go beyond the optimum. Probably we could also add the other term as suggested by the delegate of Argentina and say "optimum and rational utilization".

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias, yo creo que esa propuesta contempla la opinion del representante del Japón, de Filipinas y la de Argentina, es decir, habla de óptima y racional, y si incorporamos la palabra "racional", quizá ello podría llevar a la delegación de Argentina a revisar su propuesta anterior, en el sentido de excluir "la intensificación de la pesca en poblaciones infraexplotadas ...", quedando bien..aclarado con la inclusión de esa palabra, después de "óptima".

C. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Solamente para decir que si la Argentina tuviera un décimo de la flota pesquera de Japón, seguramente estaríamos de acuerdo con la enmienda propuesta por el distinguido delegado de Japón; pero no es ese el caso, pues nosotros estamos en la necesidad de proteger las especies, si bien aun no amenazados por un peligro de desaparición. Pero no tengo ningún inconveniente en aceptar su propuesta, si con poner la palabra "racional" se resuelven parte de sus problemas.

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): Desde luego, estoy de acuerdo en la primera solución que usted ha dado, de enmendar las palabras "racional" y "óptima".

En segundo lugar, en referencia a la propuesta al segundo extremo de la delegación de Argentina, nosotros estamos dispuestos a apoyar la segunda parte de la frase, o sea, después de la coma, donde continúa "o de recursos no convencionales", también reflejaba una actitud de mi delegación, si lo que se pretende decir es "la intensificación de las actividades de investigación", porque en realidad de eso es de lo que se está tratando. Es la etapa en que nos encontramos. Yo creo que estaríamos de acuerdo, si se habla de la "intensificación".

En cuanto a los términos "recursos no convencionales", me refiero a si se dijera "la intensificación de las actividades"...

EL PRESIDENTE: Perdón, ¿Las últimas cuatro palabras?

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): Nosotros, señor Presidente, estamos de acuerdo en lo que había expresado el Sr. delegado de Argentina en cuanto a la frase que comienza "o de recursos no convencionales", porque lo que se ha querido decir es "intensificación de las actividades de investigación de los recursos no convencionales".

R. TANABE (Japan): The concept of optimum utilization is ambiguous but it is based on scientific research and other considerations. The intensification of fishing of underexploited stocks and unconventional resources does not mean unlimited exploitation. The limit of the exploitation is, of course, at the optimum level. I therefore again insist on the wording of the last sentence.

EL PRESIDENTE: Antes de dar la palabra al Sr. representante de Cuba y en relación de lo que señaló el Sr. representante de México, yo creo que la última oración se interpreta en función de lo que dice la oración anterior; es decir, donde se indica que los Estados ribereños deberían adaptarse a los nuevos derechos de su jurisdicción ampliada, y se hace una exhortación para que hagan una utilización óptima y racional de los recursos pesqueros existentes en su jurisdicción ampliada.

Yo creo que esto no presenta problemas para nadie y quizá así se pueda aprobar el párrafo, ya que la Argentina ha retirado su enmienda.

J.R. PEREZ FERNANDEZ (Cuba): Nosotros no vamos a proponer algo nuevo, sino que, como se ha debatido bastante este punto, quisiéramos expresar nuestra opinión en el sentido de que la palabra "óptima" tal y como está redactada, encierra el concepto "racional". En segundo lugar, sobre la preocupación de si es investigación en relación con los recursos no convencionales, si se trata de investigación, de explotación, etc. Queremos emitir un concepto no para que se añada sino para que lo tengamos presente, sobre incluir en particular a los países en desarrollo en todas estas actividades, y especialmente quiero recordarles a los señores delegados que en todas las propuestas de cualquier naturaleza que puedan significar la mejora de la alimentación de los seres humanos, nosotros preferimos participar y colaborar todos, en lugar de comernos unos a otros en el año 2000.

EL PRESIDENTE: Su observación, por supuesto, constará en acta. Yo creo que el problema está concentrado en determinar si la palabra "óptima" lleva consigo el concepto de "racional".

Yo pregunto al Sr. representante de Argentina si él insiste en la inclusión de la palabra "racional". De lo contrario, podemos dejar el texto tal como está, que a mi juicio pienso que cuando hablamos de óptimo es un concepto que quizá incluye también lo "racional".

C. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Señor Presidente, es cierto que "óptimo" es una palabra ambigua, que pueda también involucrar lo "racional", pero también la palabra "óptima" puede involucrar asimismo a la compañía explotadora de recursos pesqueros; es decir, que puede también significar que puede pescar todo lo que quiera y elaborarlo en sus buques-factorías, y ahí en eso no hay nada de racional.

Yo me permito insistir en la inclusión de la palabra "racional" en este texto.

A. FASLA (Algérie): Je n'ai aucune difficulté à laisser le mot "optimum" et si notre collègue estime que l'insertion du mot "rationnel" ne change rien au texte, je ne vois pas pourquoi on ne lui donnerait pas satisfaction. Si dans la langue espagnole le mot "optimum" peut-être interprété différemment que dans une autre langue, ce n'est que justice de prendre note de la proposition exprimée. D'autant plus que cela ne changera pas le sens de l'idée. Nous pourrions avoir "optimum" et "rationnel?", cela ne serait nullement gênant. Je pense donc que nous pourrions accepter la proposition de l'Argentine.

L. COMANESCU (Romanía): I do not want to postpone a decision on this point and I do not object to including the words "and rational", but my understanding, as an economist, is that "optimum" when one is speaking in economic terms includes "rational", I think not everybody here is an economist. In that case I have no objection to including "and rational", but it seems to me that there is a duplication.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias. Así es que se agregue "racional". Quizá el Sr. representante del Japon desee decir que está de acuerdo.

En consecuencia, no vamos a prolongar la discusión. Dejamos el texto tal como está, con la excepción de agregar a continuación de la palabra "óptima", "y racional".

Señores, pongo a consideración de ustedes el párrafo 3.

E. OSSINGA (Gabon): La premiere phrase du paragraphe 3, ne nous satisfait pas tout à fait pour ce qui est de la version française car les mots "transformation" et "commercialisation" ne sont pas liés à un objet. De quelle transformation et de quelle commercialisation s'agit-t-il? Est-ce la transformation et la commercialisation du développement halieutique ou, encore mieux, la transformation et la commercialisation des ressources halieutiques? Pour cette raison, nous aimerions ajouter après le mot "commercialisation" dans la première phrase, l'expression "des ressources halieutiques". Je vais donc relire cette première phrase du troisième paragraphe: "On a fait observer que les nouvelles possibilités de développement halieutique imposeront aux pays cotiers un effort accru en ce qui concerne la recherche, la prospection, les mesures d'aménagement et leur application, la transformation et la commercialisation des ressources halieutiques."

N. ODERÒ (Kenya): I was not going to speak on the same amendment but we would wish to support the amendment. I think it would improve the sentence.

I have two other additions to suggest. They relate to the third line from the bottom of paragraph 3 in the English text. After the words "ocean affairs", we would like to add:

"in the framework of cooperation with other organisations which are part of the United Nations system and have competence in international ocean affairs,"

C. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): También estoy de acuerdo con la propuesta del distinguido delegado del Gabon, pues me parece que enriquece la frase y la completa.

Con respecto a la enmienda del distinguido delegado de Kenya, si él no la hubiera propuesto, y me permito apoyarla, yo hubiera hecho hincapié sobre la posibilidad de suspender, de suprimir, la parte esa de la segunda frase del penúltimo renglón, donde se dice "está encargado de proteger los intereses pesqueros en los asuntos marítimos...", pero creo que la enmienda de Kenya completa la idea de una manera pertinente. De manera que no tengo ningún inconveniente en dejar las cosas como están y aceptar la enmienda de Kenya.

Pero más adelante, en la otra página 3 del texto español, al comienzo de la página dice "que estuviera dispuesto a asumir sus responsabilidades de cooperación técnica hasta que los estados ribereños en desarrollo estuvieran en condiciones de hacerlo por su cuenta". Creo que esta parte, así como está expresado el texto, no refleja exactamente lo que sucedió en el debate. Yo entiendo más bien que lo que se trató de expresar en el curso del debate fue que los estados que no estuvieran en condiciones de hacerlo, pudieran solicitar a la FAO esta asistencia, pero no que la FAO pudiera actuar de oficio.

Mi propuesta, por tanto, es que se agregue, se suprima la palabra "hasta que" y en su lugar venga "a solicitud de los estados ribereños en desarrollo" y luego agregar "que así lo soliciten por no estar en condiciones de encarar este proceso por su cuenta."

Si usted me permite, Sr. Presidente, leería otra vez esta parte: "dispuesta a asumir sus responsabilidades de cooperación técnica a solicitud de los estados ribereños en desarrollo que así lo soliciten por no estar en condiciones de encarar este proceso por su cuenta". Me parece que de esta manera se interpreta de una manera más cabal lo que se dijo en el curso del debate, en el curso de las exposiciones, de

que la FAO debe intervenir en esos asuntos, debe ayudar a los países en desarrollo, pero de una manera coordinada y que esté de acuerdo a lo que establece la Conferencia sobre el Derecho del Mar.

A. DEUSTUA (Perú): Ha habido tres proposiciones. Con la primera, de Gabon, mi delegación está de acuerdo. Con la segunda no, porque se circunscribe solamente a las organizaciones del Sistema de Naciones Unidas la perspectiva, la posibilidad de poder cooperar como se intuye o se prevé que pueda cooperar la FAO. Puede haber organizaciones regionales no incorporadas al Sistema de Naciones Unidas, y las hay. Existen, por ejemplo, en el Pacífico Sur, que podrían dar ese tipo de cooperación a petición de algún país subdesarrollado interesado, y las ha habido también.

En consecuencia, estaríamos en concordancia con la propuesta del Sr. delegado de Kenya si suprimiera la categoría de Organizaciones del Sistema de Naciones Unidas por "otras organizaciones", pero eliminando la calificación de "Sistema de Naciones Unidas" y agregando el resto "que sean competentes en los asuntos marítimos internacionales."

En cuanto a la última propuesta del Sr. delegado de Argentina, estoy de total acuerdo. Además, es muy razonable que sea así, no solamente porque se ha dicho y repetido varias veces en el seno de la Comisión nuestra, sino porque el concepto se repite en el párrafo quinto y no sería congruente que en el párrafo tercero se mantuviera una frase que llevara la duda cuando en el párrafo quinto existe una frase que dice precisamente lo que acaba de afirmar el Sr. delegado de Argentina.

En el párrafo quinto, versión española, al decir en su primer párrafo "La Conferencia mencionó elogiosamente las actividades realizadas o proyectadas por la FAO..." en su siguiente párrafo dice "Entre ellas figuraban, sobre todo, las misiones multidisciplinarias, enviadas previa solicitud"; desde luego el concepto no es exactamente el mismo. En el párrafo tercero el concepto es más genérico y aquí es más concreto, pero la condicionalidad de la petición de parte se mantiene. En consecuencia, es lógico que se agregue la frase que el Sr. delegado de Argentina, con mucha razón a mi juicio, acaba de sugerir a esta reunión.

EL PRESIDENTE: Tengo tres oradores en mi lista. Yo desearía preguntarles si es para referirse concretamente a estas enmiendas o si tienen nuevas enmiendas, porque si es para referirse a estas enmiendas, las tocaríamos una a una para ir las aprobando. Si los oradores que son: Yugoslavia, Cuba, México e Irak, tienen nuevas enmiendas, entonces les doy la palabra. De lo contrario, vamos a ir, si están de acuerdo ustedes, enmienda por enmienda.

Irak insiste.

K.I. MOSLEH (Iraq)(interpretation from Arabic): I would like to draw attention to what is expressed in the document in Arabic. As regards paragraph 3, what exists in the Arabic text is only the first part of the first sentence in English and the rest of the paragraph is not there at all. Paragraph 3 is totally incomplete in the Arabic text.

EL PRESIDENTE: La Secretaría toma nota para completar el párrafo en la versión árabe y adecuarlo a los otros textos.

M. ZUHUR (Syria)(interpretation from Arabic): Yes, I actually want to deal with the same subject of the Arabic translation, because it is incomplete, as was pointed out by the delegate of Iraq.

EL PRESIDENTE: Tomamos nota para corregirlo. Vamos ahora a la primera modificación propuesta por el Sr. representante de Gabon, que es incorporar "de los recursos pesqueros", luego de las palabras "de elaboración y comercialización" que están al final de la primera oración del párrafo 3. Yo creo que esa sugerencia no plantea problemas; al contrario, mejora la redacción. De manera que si no hay problemas creo que la podemos adoptar. Queda aceptada entonces la sugerencia del Sr. representante de Gabón.

En relación con la sugerencia del Sr. representante de Kenya, nos propuso incorporar en la última línea de la versión española, después de las palabras "los intereses pesqueros en los asuntos marítimos", "dentro del marco de la cooperación con otras organizaciones del Sistema de Naciones Unidas competentes en asuntos marítimos internacionales." Esta sugerencia del Sr. representante de Kenya fue modificada por el representante de Perú, que nos dijo que hay organizaciones que no están en el marco de Naciones Unidas, pero que también tienen competencia en asuntos marítimos internacionales, y propuso que excluyéramos la mención de "Naciones Unidas". Así lo dejamos enunciado de un modo más general. Pregunto si esta sugerencia del Sr. representante de Perú plantea dificultades.

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): Pues sí y no nos causa un poco de dificultad porque también con un ánimo de mejorar el texto, a la luz de las realidades, nosotros estamos de acuerdo, desde luego, con la adición que se refiere a "dentro del marco de la cooperación con otras organizaciones competentes. En eso estamos de acuerdo. En lo que ya no estamos tan de acuerdo es con esa frase a que primeramente había aludido el Sr. delegado de Argentina y que se refiere a "y está encargado de proteger los intereses pesqueros"; nosotros consideramos que éste es un asunto que compete a la soberanía de los estados dentro de su jurisdicción.

Nosotros sugeriríamos que se suprimiera esa frase, y encajaría también perfectamente la enmienda que se refiere a "dentro del marco de la cooperación con otras organizaciones competentes". O sea, nosotros sugeriríamos que esa frase, después de "e instó a la FAO", quedara como voy a leer: "e instó a la FAO como principal Órgano Intergubernamental que se ocupa de la pesca, dentro del marco de la cooperación con otras organizaciones competentes, etc.", y lo que sigue queda igual.

J.R. PEREZ FERNANDEZ (Cuba): Nosotros apoyamos la inclusión de la propuesta de Kenya tal y como se planteó. En relación con la propuesta de Argentina, nos preguntamos si es que la FAO ha actuado de oficio alguna vez sin la aprobación de un país. Que nosotros conozcamos, no.

Y por último, en relación con este párrafo, Cuba desea plantear que seguramente por lo arduo del trabajo y la rapidez con que ha habido que elaborar los documentos, no aparece en el penúltimo y último renglón, lo que se aprobó en el Comité de Redacción, en cuanto a lo siguiente. Dice aquí: "Esto podría requerir" y allí acordamos suprimir "podría requerir la asignación de mayores recursos" por la palabra "esto implicaría la asignación de mayores recursos". Seguramente que al traducirlo al español, hubo esta confusión y lo recordamos.

V. STIPETIC (Yugoslavia): The last sentence puzzles me a little bit. To which institution are we addressing this last sentence? Are we now trying, to tell Commission III that they ought to re-allocate the existing budget for the year 1978-79, or are we telling the Organization that it should be an increase in the budget, since it says "increased resource", or what is the meaning of this sentence? That is the question I would like to put to the Chairman, because I cannot remember that we discussed it in this Commission. I believe that this sentence is not a case for this Commission.

EL PRESIDENTE: Pregunto si los Sres. delegados de habla francesa han entendido la propuesta. Si no la han entendido, yo lo puedo resumir. El Sr. delegado de Yugoslavia lo que me pregunta es si es que estamos pidiendo a la Comisión III que revise la asignación presupuestaria para asignar mayores recursos a los programas pesqueros de la Organización.

Yo creo que vamos a analizar ahora cada uno de los puntos que estamos tratando, y cuando llegemos a él, que es el último, podremos darle una satisfacción al Sr. delegado de Yugoslavia.

Hemos quedado en que aprobamos la enmienda de Gabón. Con respecto a la enmienda de Kenya, yo creo que podría adoptarse con la sugerencia que nos formuló la delegación de Perú porque al hablar dentro del marco de la cooperación con otras organizaciones competentes en asuntos marítimos internacionales, lo hacemos de un modo más general que no implica excluir a las organizaciones de la familia de Naciones Unidas, ni tampoco a otras organizaciones que estén fuera de la familia de Naciones Unidas. Veo que el Sr. representante de Kenya está de acuerdo, y de tal modo, podemos adoptarlo.

Y luego tenemos la propuesta formulada por México de excluir la parte del párrafo 3 que indica que la FAO está encargada de proteger los intereses pesqueros. Yo creo que la observación del Sr. representante de México es atinada y que quizás podríamos redactar esta oración como él propuso, incluyendo la sugerencia de Kenya como la señalaba precedentemente.

De manera que pregunto a la Secretaría si ha tomado nota de la redacción que nos propuso el Sr. representante de Mexico. Si no la ha tomado, quizás el Sr. representante de México nos pueda leer nuevamente su sugerencia para estar seguros de lo que él desea que figure en este párrafo 3.

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): En la penúltima línea, en español, diría: "e insto a la FAO como principal órgano intergubernamental que se ocupa de la pesca, dentro del marco de la cooperación con otras organizaciones competentes" y ahí continua la frase como está.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si no hay observaciones, yo creo que podemos aceptar esta enmienda de México. Se acepta la enmienda de México con la adición de Kenya y pasamos a la penúltima enmienda, que consiste en excluir, en la primera línea de la página 3 de la versión española, las palabras 'hasta que' y reemplazarlas por "a solicitud de". De modo tal que quedaría "dispuesta a asumir sus responsabilidades de cooperación técnica a solicitud de los estados ribereños en desarrollo", luego aquí agregaríamos dos palabras que serían "que no" de modo tal que quedaría: "dispuesta a asumir sus responsabilidades de cooperación técnica a solicitud de los estados ribereños que no estuvieran en condiciones de hacerlo por su cuenta".

Si no hay observaciones, se adopta esta enmienda.

Luego, antes de dar la palabra al Sr. representante de Nigeria, desearía concluir con la enmienda de Yugoslavia, salvo que el representante de Nigeria quiera referirse a esta observación que estábamos tratando ahora.

B.F. DADA (Nigeria): I would refer to the amendment just inserted, that is regarding the question of requests by the countries themselves. If we are not careful, we are going to continue to repeat this in the subsequent two paragraphs. In the last sentence of paragraph 4 it states: "Some delegations recalled that assistance may be granted only upon request, in the form indicated by the countries concerned." In paragraph 5 there is reference to requests with regard to multi-disciplinary missions. I just wanted to point out that if we wanted to repeat this in the three paragraphs it has already been taken care of in paragraph 4.

With regard to the comments of the delegate of Yugoslavia on the last sentence in paragraph 3, it seems to me that this was discussed and a suggestion was made that the FAO Fisheries Department itself might be strengthened. I believe some delegations, including my own, also drew attention to the fact that FAO might need increased financial resources itself to be able to carry out the additional duties which it is being called upon to perform. Perhaps it is necessary to elaborate on this sentence, saying: "This might involve allocating increased financial resources to fishery programmes of the Organisation." I do believe that something appertaining to the subject was discussed.

EL PRESIDENTE: Antes de dar las palabras al Presidente del Comité de Redacción quiero decir que el señor representante de Nigeria tiene razón en cuanto a que la referencia a la solicitud de los Estados ribereños está consignada en otra parte del informe y fue lo que llevó al representante del Perú a pedir que incorporáramos esta modificación, precisamente para compatibilizar el texto de tal modo que sea coherente el informe en todo su desarrollo.

No sé si el Presidente del Comité quiere intervenir sobre este tema.

J. TROUVEROY (Président du Comité de rédaction): Oui, précisément, je voulais simplement ajouter que cette aide "sur demande" se retrouve dans de nombreux paragraphes, qu'elle clôture le texte lui-même au paragraphe 7 où il est dit: "Elle souligne que, conformément au droit et aux usages internationaux, aucune activité ne devrait être entreprise dans la zone de juridiction d'aucun Etat sans l'accord explicite de l'Etat en cause." Il y a donc une abondance de répétitions de la même idée.

A. DEUSTUA (Peru): Usted ha tenido razón al recoger la frase inicialmente propuesta por la delegación argentina y apoyada por mí. Lo que me preocupa es que el señor en este momento Presidente del Comité de Redacción compatibilice o asemeje la frase 'a solicitud', con la frase "consentimiento expreso". Hay una enorme diferencia entre esas dos concepciones, ya que una cosa es pedir algo y otra cosa es verse obligado a aceptar algo. Esa es la diferencia y es una de las razones por las cuales cuando llegue el momento de discutirlo mi delegación solicitaría la palabra para proponer algo sobre la última línea.

EL PRESIDENTE: Podemos dejar el párrafo con las modificaciones que señale al principio, excluir: "hasta que", para que diga: "a solicitud de los Estados ribereños" y agregar allí: "que no" y siguiera la frase como va: que no estuvieren en condiciones etc., etc. En relación con la fórmula que hizo Yugoslavia y luego recogió Nigeria me pregunto si no podríamos decir en este último párrafo, más bien en esta última oración: "Esto podría implicar requerir la asignación de mayores recursos a los programas pesqueros de la Organización". Para evitar la palabra "requerir": decir: "esto podría implicar", entiendo que habla de recursos, se refiere a recursos financieros y personales, lo que sea necesario para potenciar o ratificar a las dependencias de la Organización.

Leo nuevamente: Esto podría implicar la asignación de mayores recursos a los programas pesqueros de la Organización.

Pregunto si esta redacción está de acuerdo y si no merece observaciones por parte de ustedes.

J.R. PEREZ FERNANDEZ (Cuba): Solamente repetir la observación que hicimos referente a lo que acordó el Comité de Redacción, que acuerdo justamente que la oración dijese: "esto implicaría la asignación de mayores recursos".

J. TROUVEROY (President du Comité de rédaction): Je voulais confirmer ce qu'a dit le délégué de Cuba. Il est exact que nous avons discuté très rapidement sur ce point; la première version était: "Cela signifie peut-être le dégagement de crédits" et alors nous avons été un tout petit peu plus loin et de "signifie", nous avons dit: "cela impliquerait peut-être le dégagement de crédits plus importants". Il s'agissait donc, comme l'a dit le délégué de Cuba, d'une possibilité, d'une implication possible.

EL PRESIDENTE: Esto significaría, tal vez, la predicción de recursos, pero fuimos más lejos y decidimos esto: "implicaría la asignación de mayores recursos", como lo ha dicho el delegado de Cuba se trata de una posibilidad.

Precisamente pensando en que es una posibilidad es por lo que los estamos poniendo en condicional: "esto implicaría". Yo creo que sí se puede aceptar esto.

J,R. PEREZ FERNANDEZ (Cuba): Me impresiona que a usted le agrada más redactar "podría implicar". Está bien.

EL PRESIDENTE: No quiero que le impresione, a mí no me agrada o desagrada, simplemente trato de recoger lo que se debate. Da la sensación de que en tanto estamos hablando de posibilidades en ese sentido, habría que ponerlo en condicional; pero si usted piensa de otro modo lo sometemos a la Comisión.

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): Creo que hay un reconocimiento explícito de que los deseos de estas actividades requerirán sin duda algún mayor recurso dentro de la Organización. Creo que la frase: "implicaría" es la más acertada. Ahora que si va a ser ahora, o en un futuro posterior, es una indicación clara. Nosotros alentamos a que se amplíen las actividades y se aumentarán los recursos.

EL PRESIDENTE: Podríamos dejar: "implicaría la asignación de mayores recursos a los programas pesqueros, de la Organización".

¿Cuba está de acuerdo? ¿Están todos ustedes de acuerdo? Entonces adoptamos ese texto. Párrafo 4.

A. DEUSTUA (Peru): Simplemente para hacer concordar el texto final de este párrafo en su versión española con lo que creo fue motivo de la expresión de numerosas delegaciones en el curso de los debates de nuestro Comité, dice al final en español: "Algunas delegaciones recordaron que la asistencia sólo puede concederse previa solicitud". Yo tengo anotadas once de las más o menos 16 ó 17 intervenciones que participaron en ese momento y en ninguna de las restantes tuvo un concepto diferente; sobre esta base me da la impresión, casi tengo la seguridad de que hubo consenso en la sala. En consecuencia si el sujeto de todo el párrafo es como vemos en la parte inicial "la Conferencia", en el texto español dice mente está subrayada. Aquí podríamos decir lo mismo: "la Conferencia recordó", quitando la palabra, "La Conferencia recordó que la asistencia sólo puede concederse etc., etc." En esa forma me parece, señor Presidente, que sería coherente con la redacción del párrafo y sobre todo coherente con lo que hubo en el pleno de las discusiones.

J.R. PEREZ FERNANDEZ (Cuba): En realidad y como una cuestión de recordatorio, solamente dire que hubo más de 60 intervenciones en la Comisión I sobre la pesca. Nosotros únicamente queríamos proponer, al final del párrafo 4, a continuación de "recursos naturales", incluir un renglón más, que diría (a velocidad de dictado): "y que la asistencia debe considerarse cuando se prevea que va a repercutir directamente en beneficiar a la población del país de que se trate".

Es nuestra única propuesta en relación con el párrafo 4, que por demás es algo comúnmente aceptado y que esperamos no encuentre objeciones por los compañeros y señores delegados.

M. ATRIA RAWLINS (Chile): Mi intervención está de más, por cuanto que se me adelantó el delegado del Perú, proponiendo una modificación en el párrafo 4. Mi delegación, al igual que la del Perú, considera que no fueron solamente "algunas delegaciones", sino que fueron "la gran mayoría de ellas". Para mí es indiferente el que se ponga "la Conferencia recordó" o bien "la Conferencia reconoció". Lo importante es que quede reflejado lo que fue en efecto el proceso de la mayoría de los delegados de la Comisión.

En cuanto a la proposición de Cuba, mi delegación no tendría objeciones que formular.

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores, la primera enmienda, propuesta por el Sr. representante del Perú, si le entendi bien, es que la oración empiece con la palabra "recordó" que la asistencia sólo puede concederse a previa solicitud, etc.

Si no hay observaciones: Queda aprobada.

Luego incorporamos a continuación de las últimas palabras de este párrafo 4°. Sacaríamos el punto y pondríamos: "y que la asistencia debe concederse cuando se prevea que va a repercutir directamente en beneficiar a la población del país de que se trate".

Pregunto si hay observaciones.

A. DEUSTUA (Perú): Estoy de acuerdo con la propuesta hecha por el Sr. delegado de Cuba, pero la redacción me lleva a algunas dudas al utilizar el adverbio "directamente". Por ejemplo, ¿en que forma puede interpretarse en la labor de investigación? Porque una labor de investigación de un país cualquiera puede ser obra de 8, de 10 ó de 15 años, sin que haya una objetividad de beneficio directo para la población a la que naturalmente está dirigida esa investigación. ¿Se considera en el caso de este ejemplo que el adverbio es útil o dificultoso? Es una pregunta.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si entendí bien, lo que usted propone es excluir la palabra "directamente". No sé si el señor representante de Cuba está de acuerdo. Podíamos adoptar la propuesta de la delegación de Cuba, pero excluyendo la palabra "directamente" ; es decir que diría sí: "la asistencia debe considerarse cuando se prevea que va a repercutir en beneficio de la población del país de que se trate".

A. da FONSECA COUTO GOMES PEREIRA (Brazil): As I understand it we amended the first sentence in page 3, English version, as "It recalled that ..." and we inserted by means of an amendment "and assistance should be granted when it is foreseen etc". It seems to me that we cannot link the two ideas here because one idea was expressed by a majority of the delegates, but I wonder if the second one was also expressed by the majority of the delegates.

EL PRESIDENTE: Antes de darle la palabra al señor representante de India, yo creo que - aunque es un argumento que no se haya dicho - todas las actividades que se puedan hacer para desarrollar el potencial pesquero, ya sea de investigación o para facilitar una mejor explotación, tienen como una consecuencia directa o indirecta beneficiar al país de que se trata. De manera que, aun en el caso de que expresamente no se haya dicho, es una consecuencia que surge para la colaboración de FAO. De manera que el señor representante del Brasil podría aceptar ...

RAM SARAN (India): I have a point to make on a different issue. Would this be the appropriate time, or would you like me to take it up later?

EL PRESIDENTE: Tomamos en consecuencia la decisión de adoptar la enmienda propuesta del señor representante del Perú y la adición propuesta por el señor representante de Cuba, ¿es así?

RAM SARAN (India): In the sixth line from the top of paragraph 4 the last word is "transfer". I would suggest the insertion before "transfer" of the words "updating and" so that the phrase should read "updating and transfer of technology ...".

I have one more point to make and that is that either paragraph 4 or paragraph 5 should refer to a recommendation on the provision of training facilities. I would request the Secretariat or the Chairman of the Drafting Committee to find a suitable place for that.

EL PRESIDENTE: Con respecto al entrenamiento, como dijo el señor representante de India, le pido concretamente me diga dónde la quiere incluir o si desea que la incluya la Secretaría; pero es preferible que usted no se lo diga y así tendríamos ocasión de analizarlo entre todos.

RAM SARAN (India) :I do not want to take much time on this - that is why I suggested that the Secretariat and the Chairman of the Drafting Committee could be of help, because perhaps this has been discussed in the Drafting Committee. Nevertheless I would have thought that you could even include it in this second sentence of paragraph 4 where I suggested "updating and transfer". Just before that you could have said "providing training facilities". The sixth line of paragraph 4 would then read "priorities, target dates and balanced proposals for resources allocation aiming at providing training facilities and updating and transfer". But I would not insist on this place for the insertion if there is a better place available.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si he entendido bien, la oración quedaría redactada de la siguiente manera: "con propuestas equilibradas para la asignación de recursos, con miras a suministrar facilidades de capacitación y la puesta al día de transferencias de tecnología". ¿Es eso lo que usted propone?

Esta es señores la propuesta que pongo a consideración de ustedes. Si no hay observaciones, creo que completa la idea que está reflejada en este párrafo y la podemos adoptar. Así se adopta.

Señores, pongo a consideración de ustedes el párrafo 5.¿No hay observaciones? Aprobado. Párrafo 6.

N. ODERÒ (Kenya): I wish to make a small amendment here in paragraph 6, line 3 of the English text at the end of the first sentence. We wish to bring in the phrase which is contained at the end of the second sentence, that is after "activities" we wish to add the words "as well as protection of the marine environment".

EL PRESIDENTE: La propuesta de Kenya consiste en incorporar, luego de las palabras "ordenación y de desarrollo", con que se concluye la primera oración del párrafo 6:"así como a la protección del medio marino", que lo excluiríamos del segundo párrafo.

A. DEUSTUA (Perú): No he entendido bien, porque en mi variación española la frase de "protección del medio marino" está incluida.

EL PRESIDENTE: Sí, señor representante del Perú. Lo que propone Kenya es que la cambiemos de lugar; es que la incorporemos a continuación de "ordenación y desarrollo", que son las dos últimas palabras de la primera oración.

A. DEUSTUA:(Perú): Le agradezco la aclaración y, si usted me lo permite, quería hacer una pequeña su gestión. El párrafo está referido, como dice su texto, a reconocer por la Conferencia que los órganos pesqueros regionales deben contribuir a incrementar la capacidad de los Estados ribereños en lo que respecta a actividades de ordenación y desarrollo y ahora se agrega "protección del medio marino", haciéndose mención satisfactoria solamente de dos Organizaciones, cuando también existe otro organismo de pesca en el Océano Indico. Mi felicitación, pues, para la primera parte y críticas para la segunda parte.Creo que hay aquí una omisión que me siento obligado a mencionar, porque mi país forma parte de una organización desde hace 25 años y me refiero a la Comisión del Pacífico Sur, que viene realizando estas actividades de desarrollo y colaboración de una forma intensa, continuada y fructífera; recordando yo inclusive que el delegado del Ecuador la mencionó de una forma expresa en su intervención.

Me permito por lo tanto sugerir que se incorpore también el nombre de la Comisión del Pacífico Sur.

EL PRESIDENTE: En consecuencia, la primera enmienda del Sr. representante de Kenya no ha merecido observaciones, y por ello la adoptamos:"la protección del medio marino", que la pondríamos al final de la oración.

La segunda adición, que nos ha propuesto el Sr. representante del -Perú, es agregar, a continuación de "el Consejo de Pesca del Pacífico y Consejo del Mediterráneo", "la Comisión de Pesca del Pacífico Sur".Si están todos de acuerdo en ello, y creo que no presenta problemas, entonces incorporamos también la adición propuesta por el Sr. representante del Perú.

Si no hay observaciones al párrafo 6, vamos a pasar al párrafo 7.

N, ODERÒ (Kenya): I thought we were still on paragraph 6; I apologize. I wanted to make an addition at the end of that paragraph: the full stop after "Headquarters" to be replaced by a comma and the following words added: "particularly in maintaining information and data services of common interest to all regions as well as competence in highly specialized technical matters".

EL PRESIDENTE: Espero que hayan podido tomar nota de la adición que propone el Sr. representante de Kenya y pregunto si hay observaciones al respecto.

A. DEUSTUA (Perú): No sé, señor Presidente, si puedo molestar al Sr. Secretario para que dé una redacción del texto en español, si fuera posible, su traducción al español.

EL PRESIDENTE: Señor Embajador, la propuesta es agregar, a continuación de la palabra "Sede", que es la última del párrafo 6, poner una coma y luego "particularmente en lo tocante o en lo referente a mantener servicios de información y datos de interés común para todas las regiones, así como competencia en cuestiones técnicas especializadas".

Quizá la palabra "competencia" deberíamos analizarla, porque en español no queda bien; no sé bien qué es lo que el Sr. representante de Kenya quiere decir. Quizá él nos lo pueda explicar.

N. ODERO (Kenya): This is actually looking at the technical services that would be rendered by Headquarters of a specialized nature relating to fisheries. That would mean such services as could be rendered to all regions and which require high competence.

EL PRESIDENTE: Me pregunto si podría decir, "particularmente en lo tocante a mantener servicios de información y datos de interés común para todas las regiones así como facilitar la cooperación en cuestiones técnicas especializadas".

¿Al Sr. representante de Kenya le satisface el texto así?

Si no hay observaciones, podemos incorporar este texto al final del párrafo 6 y pongo a consideración de ustedes el párrafo 7.

J.R. PEREZ FERNANDEZ (Cuba): Acerca del párrafo 7. Sólo propondríamos agregar al final del mismo, poniéndole una coma al punto después de la palabra "estado", e in situ añadir lo siguiente a partir de esa coma: "como se ha venido haciendo hasta el momento por la FAO, y recomendó a ésta propiciar el que los países en desarrollo puedan tener una participación más activa en las investigaciones que actualmente se llevan a cabo en el Océano Austral.", y poner punto final.

EL PRESIDENTE: Pregunto si han podido tomar nota de esta propuesta.

G.A. de SANTA CLARA GOMES (Portugal): Ma délégation voudrait ajouter, après la phrase qui vient d'être ajoutée par la délégation de Cuba, une autre phrase qui serait la suivante: "La Conférence recommande que la FAO maintienne des contacts étroits avec les Etats parties et les mécanismes du traité de l'Antarctique, et soit associée à tout travail préparatoire et à la promotion d'un Accord ou convention en vue de la protection des ressources vivantes des mers australes".

EL PRESIDENTE: Pregunto si todos han tenido ocasión de tomar nota de las dos adiciones.

A. DEUSTUA (Perú): Cuando hace unos minutos discutíamos el párrafo anterior a propósito de una frase que se repite en varios párrafos del documento que estamos considerando, en esa oportunidad se estaba modificando el párrafo 3 a la luz de lo que se escribía en el párrafo 4 y en el párrafo 5 sucesivos. Esta Comisión aprobó incorporar la misma frase, vale decir, más o menos "previa solicitud de parte interesada" en ese párrafo 3 y así está aprobado el párrafo 3, el 4 y el 5.

Yo anuncié entonces al hacer el comentario sobre la modificación que el mismo concepto estaba considerado en diferentes partes del documento, y el Sr. Presidente del Comité de Redacción, que desafortunadamente no está presente en este momento para abundar en mayores razones, dijo que el mismo concepto estaba repetido el final del documento, cuando se refería al consentimiento expreso del estado interesado.

En esa oportunidad, yo dije que el consentimiento expreso, la concepción de la frase "consentimiento expreso" no me parecía similar ni igual a la frase "solicitud de parte". Eran momentos diferentes y admitían posibilidades de presiones de diferente naturaleza que no vale la pena mencionar, multi laterales o bilaterales. Pero ahora, a la luz de las sugerencias que se están haciendo para agregar al párrafo 7, me convengo de una forma muy contundente que es necesario cambiar esa frase, porque la frase invita a tener interpretaciones de diferente naturaleza, y a hacer de la parte relativa a la petición de parte interesada no el factor determinante del concepto de soberanía que se ha concebido, reiterado, repetido y aprobado en el párrafo segundo del documento ya examinado por nosotros y que constituye, se ha dicho numerosas veces en las discusiones anteriores, constituye parte fundamental de lo que se viene discutiendo en la Conferencia del Mar.

Es el caso de no traer a esta Conferencia técnica concepciones discutidas en la Conferencia del Mar, aun no aprobadas pero en marcha, y que aquí con gran inteligencia se han podido obviar en la forma como hasta ahora este documento ha sido aprobado.

Por eso yo me permito, a la luz de estas consideraciones, sugerir como cuestión previa, no como cuestión de orden, sino como cuestión previa dentro de la discusión, que se admita la modificación de esa frase y se ponga en esa última línea la misma frase que se ha incluido en el párrafo 3, 4 y 5.

EL PRESIDENTE: Le pediría al Sr. representante de Perú que nos diga qué palabras desea reemplazar y por cuáles.

A. DEUSTUA (Perú): En lugar de "consentimiento expreso", como se dice, poner "previa solicitud del país interesado", o "previa solicitud del estado ribereño". En plural o en singular, según sea el caso.

EL PRESIDENTE: Observo que quizás tendríamos que redactar toda la oración porque no podríamos incorporar esa adición tal como está redactada el texto en español, porque queda: "Se recalcó que de conformidad con el derecho y la práctica internacional, no debía llevarse a cabo ninguna actividad dentro de la zona de jurisdicción de un estado sin su previa solicitud".

Señores, voy a leer cómo queda la enmienda con las adiciones de Cuba y Portugal: "Se recalcó que de conformidad con el derecho y la práctica internacional, no debía llevarse a cabo ninguna actividad dentro de la zona de jurisdicción de un estado sin su previa solicitud, como se ha venido haciendo hasta el momento por la FAO y recomendó a ésta propiciar que los países en desarrollo puedan tener una participación más activa en las investigaciones que actualmente se llevan a cabo en el Océano Austral. La Conferencia recomendó que la FAO mantuviera contactos estrechos con los estados partes del Tratado Antártico y esté asociada en toda labor preparatoria y en la promoción o elaboración de un acuerdo o convenio con miras a proteger los recursos vivos actuales."

Quedaría así redactado el párrafo 7 en su parte final conforme con las modificaciones propuestas por el Sr. representante de Perú y las adiciones de Cuba y Portugal. Pregunto si hay observaciones al respecto.

M. ATRIA RAWLINS (Chile): Mi delegación concuerda con la apreciación que ha formulado el Embajador de del Perú respecto a que la asistencia o la actividad de la FAO debe efectuarse a petición expresa de parte.

Lamenta no poder estar en pleno acuerdo con la modificación que promueve la delegación de Cuba por cuanto, en primer término, considera que no fue esto discutido en la Comisión ni hubo acuerdo para recomendar que la Conferencia propiciaría que países en desarrollo tuvieran una participación más activa en las investigaciones de los mares australes.

Por otra parte, mi delegación siempre reconoció la competencia técnica que la FAO tiene en esta materia; y por otra parte siendo una zona que comprende prácticamente una tercera parte de su territorio jurisdiccional continental, le cuesta aceptar una proposición de que todos los países en desarrollo puedan tener actividades de investigación. Se podría eventualmente aceptar, siempre y cuando ésta fuera canalizada a través de FAO y con las mismas limitaciones que establece el párrafo 7 al señalar que debe hacerse con el consentimiento expreso, en concordancia con las partes del Tratado Antártico y en consulta con los países ribereños que tienen zonas interesadas.

Creemos que este tema, tal como lo propuso la delegación de Cuba, no fue debatido en la Comisión y por ende le pediría que se redactara de otra forma o de tal forma que lo condicionara a las mismas limitaciones que tiene la FAO sobre aguas jurisdiccionales de los estados ribereños.

EL PRESIDENTE: Yo le pediría al Sr. representante de Chile nos diga cuál es su propuesta.

M. ATRIA RAWLINS (Chile): No he formulado propuesta alguna. He hecho ver a la Comisión que mi delegación no está de acuerdo con que sea la Conferencia la que haya recomendado que todos los países en desarrollo investiguen los recursos existentes en aguas jurisdiccionales de otros países. Creo que si se reformula esta proposición sobre la base de condicionarla a las limitaciones que tiene la FAO en "aguas jurisdiccionales, puede ser aceptable. De otra forma, no estaría mi delegación en posibilidad de aceptarla.

J.R. PEREZ FERNANDEZ (Cuba): En relación con lo expresado por el delegado de Chile, podríamos argumentar que en la Conferencia no se tomaron acuerdos de ninguna índole. Cada país expresó su posición, pero que yo sepa, terminó con unas conclusiones tratando de recoger todo lo planteado, y no hubo acuerdos. El se refería a que esto no había sido un acuerdo de la Conferencia; lo aceptamos. Ahora bien, el hecho de que muchos países plantearon la mayor participación de los países en desarrollo en los trabajos que se realizan actualmente en el Océano Austral, ya sea mediante la información, ya sea mediante todas las vías existentes, esto sí fue cierto.

Nosotros lo planteamos y lo plantearon otras delegaciones, y además no discordamos de él cuando se plantea con el respeto debido a los países costeros, a los países del Tratado Antártico, y a las organizaciones científicas que trabajan en esa zona; incluso está dentro del texto expuesto por Cuba en la Conferencia.

EL PRESIDENTE: Pregunto si podría ser una solución de transacción poner un punto en FAO, es decir, que diríamos: "como se ha venido haciendo hasta el momento por la FAO. Varias delegaciones recomendaron a esta Organización propiciar que los países puedan tener una participación etc., etc."

J.R. PEREZ FERNANDEZ (Cuba): La delegación de Cuba acepta ese cambio.

J.M. SCOLAR (United Kingdom): I have been looking at the text in front of me in the light of what the delegates from Cuba and Portugal have suggested. It seems to me that really the major interest is already covered by paragraph 7 where the Conference has recommended that FAO continue these activities in support of the UNDP. It seems that we do not actually need the additional bits at all. We should leave the paragraph as it stands.

R. TANABE (Japan): I agree with the suggestion made by the delegate of the United Kingdom.

B.F. DADA (Nigeria): I think some of the additions are likely to run the discussions into deeper waters. I will go along in agreeing that we should leave this paragraph as it is, particularly as most of the points discussed were adequately covered. Some of the issues being raised appear to me to be fairly new.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si el señor delegado de Cuba insiste en su adición, en ese caso veríamos si formulado, quizá, en otro modo, pueda, como dijo la delegación de Nigeriano caer en la posibilidad de navegar en aguas turbias.

J.R. PEREZ FERNANDEZ (Cuba): La única propuesta no es la de Cuba, existían otras dos y en la última intervención sobre dejar el párrafo tal como está aparecen reflejadas las tres propuestas, no sólo la de Cuba, así que no estaríamos dispuestos a valorar la modificación del párrafo emitido por Portugal inicialmente; repito que son tres las propuestas que se han hecho.

EL PRESIDENTE: Entendí que las habíamos aprobado y que no estaban en discusión. Creí que estábamos discutiendo solamente la adición de Cuba y luego la de Portugal.

M.R. LEAR (New Zealand): My delegation wishes to express its support for the points made by the United Kingdom, Japan and Nigeria, that it would probably be best if we left this paragraph as it stands, although, as the delegate of Cuba has just said, I understand that we have accepted the amendment proposed by Peru. I think it is clear that this paragraph has been carefully drafted. It seems to me to cover all points of view and covers them well, and I do not think we need to add additional sentences to what we have got here.

EL PRESIDENTE: Son tres las modificaciones que hemos analizado. La primera que fue, según entendí, aprobada; la segunda que fue observada, pero luego la modificamos y que pareció aceptable, y, la tercera, que aún no hemos discutido, que es la propuesta por Cuba. En consecuencia creo que debe abocarse a decidir en relación con la propuesta formulada por la representación de Cuba.

Realmente, aun cuando el párrafo parece hablar de que "la Conferencia recomendó que la FAO prosiguiera esas actividades con el apoyo del PNUD...", no me parece superabundante el hecho de incorporar la mención de que "varias delegaciones recomendaron propiciar la participación de países, en desarrollo, etc., etc.," "en labores de investigación".

Creo que realmente esto no presenta dificultades y me pregunto si el delegado del Reino Unido insistiría en que no incluyamos esta adición al párrafo que nos ha propuesto la delegación de Cuba y que hemos modificado conforme con la intervención de Chile.

¿Desea intervenir el representante del Reino Unido?

J.M. SCOLAR (United Kingdom): My point simply was that it seemed to me that the arguments had already been adequately covered in this very useful paragraph we have. If the wording of the Cuban addition and the Portuguese addition is such as not to change in any way the meaning of the paragraph, then I will be content.

EL PRESIDENTE: El Presidente del Comité de Redacción que nos abandonó por unos momentos, pues tenía unas cosas importantes que hacer, no tomó nota de la enmienda. Creo que sería oportuno que le pidiéramos a él que nos dé su opinión en relación con la adición propuesta por Cuba y por la representación de Portugal. La oración última del párrafo 7 concluiría de este modo: "no debía llevarse a cabo ninguna actividad dentro de la zona de jurisdicción de un Estado sin su previa solicitud, como se ha venido haciendo hasta el momento por la FAO. Varias delegaciones recomendaron a la FAO propiciar que los países en desarrollo puedan tener una participación más activa en las investigaciones que actualmente se llevan a cabo en el Océano Austral. La Conferencia recomendó que la FAO mantuviera contactos estrechos con los Estados partes del Tratado Antártico y esté asociada en toda labor preparatoria y en la promoción o elaboración de un acuerdo o convenio con miras a proteger los recursos vivos australes".

J. TROUVEROY (Président du Comité de rédaction): Je crois que c'est un amendement assez long et j'ai l'impression qu'il touche à certains points qui relèvent du Traité de l'antarctique. Vous connaissez dans ses grandes lignes le Traité de l'antarctique, vous savez qu'un certain nombre de pays en sont membres et que d'autres peuvent le devenir, que d'autre part, un certain nombre de règles concernant ce traité ou du moins l'évolution de ce traité sont encore en suspens, ce qui fait que j'ai l'impression que d'une manière générale on veut ici donner à notre Conférence un rôle qui est un peu celui du traité de l'antarctique. C'est ma première réaction en lisant l'amendement qui est proposé.

Si j'ai bien compris, le Délégué de la Grande Bretagne tenait à garder le texte primitif sans cet amendement, était-ce bien cela? Je dois dire qu'en tant que Représentant de la Belgique je serais moi aussi un petit peu enclin à suivre cette idée, parce qu'ici nous nous engageons dans une série de recommandations qui empiètent sur les activités d'une autre organisation internationale, le Traité de l'antarctique, dont certains des pays ici présents sont membres. C'est là que se pose le problème et je serais plutôt d'avis de laisser le texte tel qu'il était et qui était le résultat de ce que nous avons décidé au Comité de rédaction.

Voilà un petit peu mon impression où je mélange un peu une opinion de président de Comité de rédaction, mais aussi de Représentant de la Belgique qui est, comme vous le savez, membre et partie au Traité de l'antarctique.

EL PRESIDENTE : Yo creo que el Presidente del Comité de Redacción nos ha dado un argumento importante y es que, como hemos dicho en el curso de nuestras deliberaciones ese es un campo, diríamos, sensible en el que quizá conviene evitar referencias demasiado concretas que nos lleven a navegar, como dijo el representante de Nigeria, en aguas turbias. Por eso pregunto si los señores representantes de Cuba y Portugal insisten en sus adiciones.

J.R. PEREZ FERNANDEZ (Cuba): Lamentablemente continuamos pensando que sería bueno se incluyera la frase propuesta por Cuba y enmendada posteriormente por los aquí reunidos.

G.A. de SANTA CLARA GOMES (Portugal): Le Président du Comité de rédaction craint qu'il y ait des interférences avec d'autres domaines mais lorsqu'on dit que la Conférence recommande que la FAO maintienne des contacts étroits avec les mécanismes du Traité de l'antarctique et soit associée - on peut dire aussi "accompagne" - aux travaux préparatoires visant la promotion ou l'établissement d'un accord ou d'une convention dans le but de protéger les ressources biologiques dans les mers australes, je ne crois pas qu'il y ait de problèmes d'interférences dans d'autres domaines. Il s'agit d'une compétence qui appartient à la FAO et nous suggérons que la Conférence recommande que la FAO se maintienne au courant et accompagne ce qui se fait. Je ne vois pas une raison pour supprimer ou retirer notre amendement.

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): Usted corríjame, señor Presidente, si estoy equivocado, pero entiendo que estábamos únicamente actuando para beneficio del Relator, que se había ausentado, dando lectura a las enmiendas que creo ya habíamos aprobado.

Estamos de acuerdo con las enmiendas y no creo que se interfieran sino que se propicien unas con otras en algo que va a tener sus frutos, ya que se dice "con miras a proteger etc., etc."

EL PRESIDENTE: Antes de dar la palabra quiero decir que se había aprobado una enmienda y que las otras dos habían sido contravertidas.

M.R. LEAR (New Zealand): On reading these proposed amendments by Cuba and Portugal, even though we do not think they are strictly necessary given that the points in essence are covered in the paragraph as originally drafted, I can appreciate that there is some strength of feeling on these issues. I would be happy, therefore, to accept the sentence proposed by the delegate of Cuba with your amendment in front of it, namely "A number of delegations recommended that FAO..." rather than "The Conference".

Similarly, with the amendment of the delegate of Portugal: we can accept this amendment provided that the words "The Conference recommends" is deleted and "Some delegates also recommended" is substituted. This is probably a more accurate reflection of what actually took place during the discussion on this item,

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que es una buena transacción que todos podemos aceptar.

Si no hay otras observaciones vamos a aceptar esas dos adiciones con las aclaraciones que nos acaba de hacer el representante de Nueva Zelanda, que en lugar de decir: "la Conferencia", en el caso de Portugal diría "algunas delegaciones". Lo mismo aplicaríamos para la adición propuesta por Cuba.

Señores, si no hay otras observaciones, hemos concluido con el análisis de nuestro informe y hemos terminado así con las tareas de la Comisión I; de manera que lo único que nos queda por hacer es remitir el informe que hemos aprobado en la Comisión al Plenario para su aprobación definitiva en dicho Plenario.

Paragraphs 1 to 7, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 & 7, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Lob párrafos 1 a 7, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Commission I - Partas amended, was adopted

Le Pro .jet de rapport de la Commission i. deuxième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Comisión I - Parte 2. así enmendado, es aprobado

EL PRESIDENTE; Antes de concluir con nuestras deliberaciones, deseo agradecer la colaboración de todas las delegaciones y particularmente la colaboración de los Vicepresidentes: del Sr. Embajador de la República del Irak, Samir H. Al-Shaklr; Sir Mohammed Najem Ben, de Marruecos, y el Sr. Kelly, de Australia; así como al Sr. Shiva B. Nepali, de Nepal.

Deseo también agradecer muy especialmente la muy valiosa colaboración del Sr. Presidente del Comité de Redacción, el Sr. Trouveroy, que en todo momento ha tratado de conciliar a través de su gestión aquellas opiniones que no eran coincidentes en el Comité de Redacción y luego nos ha dado aquí en el plenario una valiosa cooperación para superar las dificultades que se fueran planteando.

También agradecer al Sr. Rittershaus, el Relator, que no está ahora entre nosotros, pero que con mucha eficiencia nos fue informando sobre lo que sucedía en el plenario y lo que se decía en relación con los temas de que tratábamos.

Igualmente deseo agradecer muy particularmente al Sr. Pedro Mejía (sentado a mi izquierda) y al Sr. Kuhonta también, que han facilitado muchísimo, con su eficiencia y su afán por cooperar, las tareas de la Mesa.

Quiero asimismo agradecer a los intérpretes que han facilitado, también con su esfuerzo, nuestra comunicación y el recíproco entendimiento; a los traductores, que nos han facilitado los textos en tiempo para poder analizarlos; a las señoras, que transcriben silenciosamente las intervenciones nuestras, que permitirán que en el futuro podamos tener conciencia exacta de cuanto hemos dicho en los debates; a las mensajeras, también, que con su presencia graciosa daban una nota de alegría en estas sesiones,-y especialmente a todos los representantes de la Secretaría, que presentaron también con eficiencia los temas que hemos discutido y que respondieron a muchas de las inquietudes que plantearon las delegaciones en relación con los distintos argumentos que la Comisión I debía de analizar conforme con su agenda.

A. DEUSTUA (Perú): Señor Presidente, no me tocaría hablar a mí, porque mi intención es emitir una opinión muy concreta y justa en nombre del Grupo hemisférico al cual pertenezco. En consecuencia, sería el representante de un país que desafortunadamente en este momento no está entre nosotros, el que lo hiciera y quizás asumiendo una representación un poco forzada, pero seguro de que es justa y acertada, quisiera expresarle en cuatro palabras el agradecimiento de todos nosotros, delegados latinoamericanos, en cuanto a la forma tan justa, tan equilibrada, tan satisfactoria y tan fructífera como usted ha sabido dirigir los debates difíciles de esta Comisión; difíciles, no solamente porque consiste en poner en concordancia el número realmente muy elevado de los diferentes criterios de los delegados,

sino difíciles también por la materia propia de la Comisión, que han sido diversos, pero que gracias a su buena voluntad y capacidad de conducción de las discusiones, ha podido ir desarrollándose en la forma como ahora hemos concluido nuestros debates.

Este agradecimiento público, señor Presidente, se hace extensivo a la integridad de la Mesa que usted preside y a todos los Miembros de la FAO que han intervenido y cooperado con nosotros.

Finalmente, nuestro agradecimiento también a nuestros colegas de diferentes partes del mundo, que, con sus luces, capacidad y sentido de comprensión y tolerancia - y sobre todo de espíritu de colaboración -han permitido que nosotros terminemos estas labores con un positivo éxito. Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, señor delegado del Perú; agradezco sus palabras.

RAM SARAN (India): I should also like to convey our thanks to you, Mr. Chairman, for the excellent work you have done. You have conducted the meetings efficiently and kept to the time schedule which was very important; you have allowed all of us to speak as much as we wanted, and you have kept cool and have guided the discussions in a masterly way.

Our thanks are also due to the Vice-Chairman and to the Secretariat who have helped in the conduct of these meetings.

EL PRESIDENTE : Muchas gracias, señor delegado de la India.

Bien, señores; no sé si está prevista ya la reunión para el Plenario, cuando vamos a analizar nuestro informe.

The meeting rose at 12.45 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas