

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 83/PV

Twenty-second Session
PLENARY

Vingt-deuxième session
PLENIERE

22° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

Romé, 5-23 November 1983

VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE
PROCES-VERBAUX DES SEANCES PLENIERS DE LA CONFERENCE
ACTAS TAQUIGRAFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS DE LA CONFERENCIA

FIRST PLENARY MEETING
PREMIERE SEANCE PLENIERE
PRIMERA SESION PLENARIA

(5 November 1983)

	<u>Page/Página</u>
<u>OPENING OF THE TWENTY-SECOND CONFERENCE SESSION</u> <u>OUVERTURE DE LA VINGT-DEUXIEME SESSION DE LA CONFERENCE</u> <u>INAUGURACION DEL 22º PERIODO DE SESIONES DE LA CONFERENCIA</u>	1
<u>Opening Statement by the Director-General</u> <u>Discours d'ouverture du Directeur général</u> <u>Discurso de apertura del Director General</u>	1
<u>INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION</u> <u>INTRODUCTION ET QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE</u> <u>INTRODUCCION Y CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO</u>	2
1. <u>Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen</u> (C 83/12; C 83/LIM/6; C 83/LIM/9)	
1. <u>Election du Président et des Vice-Présidents</u> (C 83/12; C 83/LIM/6; C 83/LIM/9)	2
1. <u>Elección del Presidente y de los Vicepresidentes</u> (C 83/12; C 83/LIM/6; C83/LIM/9)	
<u>Address by the Chairman of the Conference</u> <u>Discours du Président de la Conférence</u> <u>Discurso del Presidente de la Conferencia</u>	4
2. <u>Appointment of General Committee and Credentials Committee</u> (C 83/12; C83/LIM/6)	
2. <u>Constitution du Bureau de la Commission de verification des pouvoirs</u> (C83/12;C83/LIM/6)	7
2. <u>Nombramiento del Comité General y del Comité de Credenciales</u> (C 83/12; C 83/LIM/6)	
 SECOND PLENARY MEETING DEUXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE SEGUNDA SESION PLENARIA (5 November 1983)	
<u>INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION</u> (continued) <u>INTRODUCTION ET QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE</u> (suite) <u>INTRODUCCION Y CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO</u> (continuación)	10
3. <u>Adoption of the Agenda</u> (C 83/1)	
3. <u>Adoption de l'ordre du jour</u> (C 83/1)	10
3. <u>Aprobación del programa</u> (C 83/1)	
4. <u>Arrangements for the Session and Allocation of Agenda Items</u> (C 83/12)	
4. <u>Organisation de la session et répartition des questions, inscrites à l'ordre du jour</u> (C 83/12)	10
4. <u>Organización del período de sesiones y asignación de los temas del Programa</u> (C 83/12)	
5. <u>Admission of Observers</u> (C 83/13, C 83/13-Sup.1)	
5. <u>Admission d'observateurs</u> (C 83/13, C 83/13-Sup.1)	10
5. <u>Admisión de observadores</u> (C 83/13, C 83/13-Sup.1)	
<u>First Report of the General Committee</u> (C 83/LIM/7) <u>Premier rapport du Bureau</u> (C 83/LIM/7) <u>Primer informe del Comité General</u> (C 83/LIM/7)	10

THIRD PLENARY MEETING
TROISIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
TERCERA SESIÓN PLENARIA

(7 November 1983)

	<u>Page/Página</u>
<u>INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION</u> (continued)	
<u>INTRODUCTION ET QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE</u> (suite)	20
<u>INTRODUCCIÓN Y CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO</u> (continuación)	
<u>First Report of the Credentials Committee</u> (C 83/LIM/8)	
<u>Premier rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs</u> (C 83/LIM/8)	20
<u>Primer informe del Comité de Credenciales</u> (C 83/LIM/8)	
<u>PART IV - APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS</u>	
<u>QUATRIEME PARTIE - NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS</u>	21
<u>PARTE IV - NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES</u>	
22. <u>Applications for Membership of the Organization:</u> (C 83/14; C 83/14-Sup.I)	
- Antigua and Barbuda	
- Belize	
- Saint Christopher and Nevis	
- Vanuatu	
22. <u>Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation :</u> (C 83/14; C 83/14-Sup.I)	21
- Antigua et Barbuda	
- Belize	
- Saint-Christophe-et-Nevis	
- Vanuatu	
22. <u>Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización:</u> (C 83/14; C 83/14-Sup.I)	
- Antigua y Barbuda	
- Belice	
- San Cristóbal y Nieves	
- Vanuatu	
<u>THIRTEENTH McDOUGALL MEMORIAL LECTURE</u> (C 83/INF/9)	
<u>TREIZIEME CONFERENCE McDOUGALL</u> (C 83/INF/9)	22
<u>13° DISERTACIÓN EN MEMORIA DE McDOUGALL</u> (C 83/INF/9)	

FOURTH PLENARY MEETING
QUATRIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
CUARTA SESION PLENARIA
(7 November 1983)

	<u>Page/Página</u>
<u>PART IV - APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS</u> (continued)	
<u>QUATRIEME PARTIE - NOMINATION ET ELECTIONS</u> (suite)	32
<u>PARTE IV - NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES</u> (continuación)	
22. <u>Applications for Membership of the Organization:</u> (continued) (C 83/14; C 83/14-Sup.1)	
- Antigua and Barbuda	
- Belize	
- Saint Christopher and Nevis	
- Vanuatu	
22. <u>Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation:</u> (suite) (C 83/14; C 83/14-Sup.1)	32
- Antigua et Barbuda	
- Belize .	
- Saint-Christophe-et-Nevis	
- Vanuatu	
22. <u>Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización:</u> (continuación) (C 83/14; C 83/14-Sup.1)	
- Antigua y Barbuda	
- Belice	
- San Cristóbal y Nieves	
- Vanuatu	
<u>DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S STATEMENT TO THE CONFERENCE</u> (C 83/INF/19)	
<u>DECLARATION DU DIRECTEUR GENERAL A LA CONFERENCE</u> (C 83/INF/19)	39
<u>DECLARACION DEL DIRECTOR GENERAL A LA CONFERENCIA</u> (C 83/INF/19)	
<u>PRESENTATION OF B.R. SEN AWARD FOR 1982 AND 1983</u> (C 83/INF/6)	
<u>REMISE DU PRIX B.R. SEN POUR 1982 ET 1983</u> (C 83/INF/6)	44
<u>ENTREGA DEL PREMIO B.R. SEN PARA 1982 Y 1983</u> (C 83/INF/6)	
<u>PRESENTATION OF A.H. BOERMA AWARD FOR 1982 AND 1983</u> (C 83/INF/7)	
<u>REMISE DU PRIX A.H. BOERMA POUR 1982 ET 1983</u> (C 83/INF/7)	48
<u>ENTREGA DEL PREMIO A.H. BOERMA PARA 1982 Y 1983</u> (C 83/INF/7)	

FIFTH PLENARY MEETING
CINQUIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
QUINTA SESION PLENARIA
(8 November 1983)

<u>STATEMENT BY THE INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL</u>	
<u>DECLARATION DU PRESIDENT INDEPENDANT DU CONSEIL</u>	52
<u>DECLARACION DEL PRESIDENTE INDEPENDIENTE DEL CONSEJO</u>	
<u>GENERAL DISCUSSION</u>	
<u>DEBAT GENERAL</u>	56
<u>DEBATE GENERAL</u>	
- <u>STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATION</u>	
- <u>DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION</u>	56
- <u>MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES</u>	
Italy, Pakistan, United States of America, Liban, China, Bulgaria, Brazil, Holy See, Cyprus, France.	

SIXTH PLENARY MEETING
SIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
SEXTA SESION PLENARIA
(8 November 1983)

	<u>Page/Página</u>
<u>INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION</u> (continuation)	
<u>INTRODUCTION ET QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE</u> (suite)	82
<u>INTRODUCCION Y CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO</u> (continuación)	
- <u>Second Report of the General Committee</u> (C 83/LIM/17)	
- <u>Deuxième rapport du Bureau</u> (C 83/LIM/17)	82
- <u>Segundo Informe del Comité General</u> (C 83/LIM/17)	
<u>GENERAL DISCUSSION</u> (continued)	
<u>DEBAT GENERAL</u> (suite)	82
<u>DEBATE GENERAL</u> (continuación)	
- <u>STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS</u> (continued)	
- <u>DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATIONS</u> (suite)	82
- <u>MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES</u> (continuación)	
Netherlands, Gambia, Greece, Communauté économique européenne, President of the World Food Council, Austria, Sri Lanka, Cape Verde, Kenya, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Federal Republic of Germany, Australia, Zambia, Sweden.	

SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING
SEPTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
SEPTIMA SESION PLENARIA
(9 November 1983)

<u>GENERAL DISCUSSION - (continued)</u>	
<u>DEBAT GENERAL - (suite)</u>	118
<u>DEBATE GENERAL - (continuación)</u>	
- <u>STATEMENT BY HEADS OF DELEGATION - (continued)</u>	
- <u>DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION - (suite)</u>	118
- <u>MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES - (continuación)</u>	
Denmark, México, Belgique, Finland, Colombia	
<u>STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY JAAFAR MOHAMED AL NIMERI, PRESIDENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE SUDAN</u>	
<u>ALLOCUTION DE SON EXCELLENCE JAAFAR MOHAMED AL NIMERI, PRESIDENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU SOUDAN</u>	
<u>DECLARACION POR SU EXCELENCIA JAAFAR MOHAMED AL NIMERI, PRESIDENTE DE LA REPUBLICA DEMOCRATICA DEL SUDAN</u>	
<u>GENERAL DISCUSSION</u> (continued)	
<u>DEBAT GENERAL</u> (suite)	127
<u>DEBATE GENERAL</u> (continuación)	
- <u>STATEMENT BY HEADS OF DELEGATION - (continued)</u>	
- <u>DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION - (suite)</u>	132
- <u>MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES - (continuación)</u>	
España, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Roumanie	

EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING
HUITIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
OCTAVA SESION PLENARIA
(9 November 1983)

	<u>Page/Página</u>
<u>GENERAL DISCUSSION</u> (continued)	
<u>DEBAT GENERAL</u> (suite)	142
<u>DEBATE GENERAL</u> (continuación)	
- <u>STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS</u> (continued)	
- <u>DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION</u> (suite)	142
- <u>MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES</u> (continuación)	
Suisse, United Kingdom, Tunisie, Canada, Sierra Leone, Turkey, Chile, Niger, Hungary, Norway, Haute-Volta, Jamaica, Zimbabwe, Uruguay, República Dominicana, Tanzania	
<u>Second Report of the Credentials Committee</u> (C 83/LIM/16)	
<u>Deuxième rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs</u> (C 83/LIM/16)	179
<u>Segundo informe del Comité de Credenciales</u> (C 83/LIM/16)	

NINTH PLENARY MEETING
NEUVIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
NOVENA SESION PLENARIA
(10 November 1983)

<u>GENERAL DISCUSSION</u> (continued)	
<u>DEBAT GENERAL</u> (suite)	182
<u>DEBATE GENERAL</u> (continuación)	
- <u>STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS</u> (continued)	
- <u>DECLARATION DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION</u> (suite)	182
- <u>MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES</u> (continuación)	
Japan, Bangladesh, Pologne, Indonesia, Barbados, Bahamas	

TENTH PLENARY MEETING
DIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
DECIMA SESION PLENARIA
(10 November 1983)

<u>GENERAL DISCUSSION</u> (continued)	
<u>DEBAT GENERAL</u> (suite)	196
<u>DEBATE GENERAL</u> (continuación)	
- <u>STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS</u> (continued)	196
- <u>DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION</u> (suite)	
- <u>MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES</u> (continuación)	
Kuwait, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Israel, Nepal, Costa Rica, Yugoslavia, Argentina, Cuba, Perú, Mozambique, Uganda, Mali, Benin, Guinée, Madagascar, Arab Organization for Agricultural Development.	

ELEVENTH PLENARY MEETING
ONZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
11ª SESION PLENARIA
(11 November 1983)

	<u>Page/Página</u>
<u>INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION</u> (continued)	
<u>INTRODUCTION ET QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE</u> (suite)	236
<u>INTRODUCCION Y CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO</u> (continuación)	
- <u>Third Report of the General Committee</u> (C 83/LIM/21)	
- <u>Troisième rapport du Bureau</u> (C 83/LIM/21)	236
- <u>Tercer Informe del Comité General</u> (C 83/LIM/21)	
<u>GENERAL DISCUSSION</u> (continued)	
<u>DEBAT GENERAL</u> (suite)	237
<u>DEBATE GENERAL</u> (continuación)	
- <u>STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATION</u> (continued)	
- <u>DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION</u> (suite)	237
- <u>MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES</u> (continuación)	
Sao Tomé-et-Principe, Ethiopia, India, Philippines, United Arab Emirates, Sénégal, Portugal, Thailand, Rwanda, Iceland, Lesotho, Burma, Venezuela	

TWELFTH PLENARY MEETING
DOUZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
12ª SESION PLENARIA
(11 November 1983)

<u>GENERAL DISCUSSION</u> (continued)	
<u>DEBAT GENERAL</u> (suite)	262
<u>DEBATE GENERAL</u> (continuación)	
- <u>STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATION</u> (continued)	
- <u>DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION</u> (suite)	262
- <u>MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES</u> (continuación)	
Nigeria, New Zealand, Yemen (People's Democratic Republic of),Czechoslovakia, United Nations Environment Programme, Nicaragua, Afghanistan, Vanuatu,Ghana, Albanie, Somalia, Viet Nam, Mongolia, Iran, Organisation of African Unity.	

THIRTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
TREIZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
13ª SESION PLENARIA
(14 November 1983)

	<u>Page/Página</u>
<u>GENERAL DISCUSSION</u> (continued)	
<u>DEBAT GENERAL</u> (suite)	292
<u>DEBATE GENERAL</u> (continuación)	
- <u>STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATION</u> (continued)	
- <u>DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION</u> (suite)	292
- <u>MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES</u> (continuación)	
Iraq, Cameroun, Suriname, Egypt, Ireland, Bahrain, Laos, International Fund for Agricultural Development, Bolivia, Malawi, Botswana, International Federation of Agricultural Producers	
- <u>RIGHT OF REPLY</u>	
- <u>DROIT DE REPOSE</u>	273
- <u>DERECHO DE REPLICA</u>	
Netherlands	

FOURTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
QUATORZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
14ª SESION PLENARIA
(14 November 1983)

<u>GENERAL DISCUSSION</u> (continued)	
<u>DEBAT GENERAL</u> (suite)	316
<u>DEBATE GENERAL</u> (continuación)	
- <u>STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATION</u> (continued)	
- <u>DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION</u> (suite)-	316
- <u>MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES</u> (continuación)	
Maroc, Panamá, Swaziland, Togo, Syrie, Guinée-Bissau, Congo, Namibia <u>Tribute to Mr. Arrhenius F.M. DE FREITAS, Permanent Representative of Brazil to FAO</u>	
<u>Hommage à M. Arrhenius F.M. DE FREITAS, Représentant permanent du Brésil auprès de la FAO</u>	332
<u>Homenaje al Sr. Arrhenius F.M. DE FREITAS, Representante Permanente del Brasil ante la FAO</u>	
<u>GENERAL DISCUSSION</u> (continued)	334
<u>DEBAT GENERAL</u> (suite)	
<u>DEBATE GENERAL</u> (continuación)	
- <u>STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATION</u> (continued)	
- <u>DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION</u> (suite)	334
- <u>MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES</u> (continuación)	
Mauritanie, Yemen Arab Republic, Haiti, Burundi	
- <u>RIGHT OF REPLY</u>	
- <u>DROIT DE REPOSE</u>	341
- <u>DERECHO DE REPLICA</u>	
Israel	

FIFTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
QUINZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
15a SESION PLENARIA
(15 November 1983)

	<u>Page/Pagina</u>
<u>GENERAL DISCUSSION</u> (continued)	
<u>DEBAT GENERAL</u> (suite)	344
<u>DEBATE GENERAL</u> (continuación)	
- <u>STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS</u> (continued)	
- <u>DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION</u> (suite)	344
- <u>MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES</u> (continuación)	
Bhutan, El Salvador, Algérie, Ecuador	
<u>STATEMENT BY HER EXCELLENCY MARY EUGENIA PRIME</u> <u>MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FINANCE, DOMINICA</u> <u>DECLARATION DE SON EXCELLENCE MARY EUGENIA CHARLES, PREMIER</u> <u>MINISTRE,</u>	
<u>MINISTRE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES ET MINISTRE DES FINANCES,</u>	352
<u>DOMINIQUE</u> <u>MANIFESTACION POR SU EXCELENCIA MARY EUGENIA CHARLES, PRIMER</u> <u>MINISTRO,</u>	
<u>MINISTRO DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES Y MINISTRO DE FINANZA, DOMINICA</u>	
<u>GENERAL DISCUSSION</u> (continued)	
<u>DEBAT GENERAL</u> (suite)	355
<u>DEBATE GENERAL</u> (continuación)	
- <u>STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS</u> (continued)	
- <u>DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION</u> (suite)	355
- <u>MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES</u> (continuación)	
Liberia, Honduras, United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia, Confédération mondiale du travail, World Federation of Trade Unions	

SIXTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
SEIZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
16° SESION PLENARIA
(16 November 1983)

	Page/Pagina
<u>INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION</u>	
<u>INTRODUCTION ET QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE</u>	366
<u>INTRODUCCION Y CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO</u>	
- <u>Fourth Report of the General Committee (C 83/LIM/27)</u>	
- <u>Quatrième Rapport du Bureau (C 83/LIM/27)</u>	366
- <u>Cuarto Informe del Comité General (C 83/LIM/27)</u>	
- <u>Fifth Report of the General Committee (C 83/LIM/28)</u>	
- <u>Cinquième Rapport du Bureau (C 83/LIM/28)</u>	366
- <u>Quinto Informe del Comité General (C 83/LIM/28)</u>	
<u>ADOPTION OF REPORT</u>	
<u>ADOPTION DU RAPPORT</u>	368
<u>APROBACION DEL INFORME</u>	
<u>DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 1 (from Commission II)</u>	
(C 83/REP/2) (C 83/REP/2-Sup.1)	
<u>PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE – PARTIE 1 (de la Commission II)</u>	368
(C 83/REP/2) (C 83/REP/2-Sup.1)	
<u>PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 1 (de la ComisiónII)</u>	
(C 83/REP/2) (C 83/REP/2-Sup.1)	
11. <u>Programme of Work and Budget 1984-85 and Medium-Term Objectives</u>	
11. <u>Programme de travail et budget 1984-85 et Objectifs à moyen terme</u>	368
11. <u>Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1984-85 y objetivos a plazo medio</u>	
- <u>Background (paras. 1-4)</u>	
- <u>Généralités (par. 1-4)</u>	368
- <u>Antecedentes (párrs. 1-4)</u>	
- <u>Format and presentation (para. 5)</u>	
- <u>Présentation (par. 5)</u>	368
- <u>Estructura y presentación (párr. 5)</u>	
- <u>Approach (paras. 6-7)</u>	
- <u>Approche (par. 6-7)</u>	368
- <u>Criterio (párrs..6-7)</u>	
- <u>Strategies, priorities and objectives (paras. 8-12)</u>	
- <u>Stratégies, priorités et objectifs (par. 8-12)</u>	368
- <u>Estrategias, prioridades y objetivos (párrs. 8-12)</u>	
- <u>Level of the budget (paras. 13-14)</u>	
- <u>Niveau de budget (par. 13-14)</u>	368
- <u>Cuántía del Presupuesto (párrs. 13-14)</u>	
- <u>General policy and direction (paras. 15-16)</u>	
- <u>Politique et direction générales (par. 15-16)</u>	368
- <u>Política general y dirección (párrs. 15-16)</u>	
- <u>Major Programme 2.1: Agriculture (paras. 17-18)</u>	
- <u>Grand programme 2.1: Agriculture (par. 17-18)</u>	368
- <u>Programa Principal 2.1: Agricultura (párrs. 17-18)</u>	
- <u>Programme 2.1.1: Natural Resources (paras 19-24)</u>	
- <u>Programme 2.1.1: Ressources naturelles (par. 19-24)</u>	368
- <u>Programa 2.1.1; Recursos naturales (párrs. 19-24)</u>	

	<u>Page/Página</u>
- <u>Programme 2.1.2: Crops</u> (paras. 25-33)	
- <u>Programme 2.1.2: Cultures</u> (par. 25-33)	368
- <u>Programa 2.1.2: Cultivos</u> (párrs. 25-33)	
- <u>Programme 2.1.3: Livestock</u> (paras. 34-40)	
- <u>Programme 2.1.3: Elevage</u> (par. 34-40)	368
- <u>Programa 2.1.3: Ganadería</u> (párrs. 34-40)	
- <u>Programme 2.1.4: Research and Technology Development</u> (paras. 41-47)	
- <u>Programme 2.1.4: Développement de la recherche et de la Technologie</u> (par. 41-47)	368
- <u>Programa 2.1.4: Fomento de la investigación y la tecnología</u> (párrs. 41-47)	
- <u>Programme 2.1.5: Rural Development</u> (paras. 48-55)	
- <u>Programme 2.1.5: Développement rural</u> (par. 48-55)	368
- <u>Programa 2.1.5: Desarrollo rural</u> (párrs. 48-55)	
- <u>Programme 2.1.6: Nutrition</u> (paras. 56-58)	
- <u>Programme 2.1.6: Nutrition</u> (par. 56-58)	368
- <u>Programa 2.1.6: Nutrición</u> (párrs. 56-58)	
- <u>Programme 2.1.7: Food and Agricultural Information and Analysis</u> (paras. 59-63)	
- <u>Programme 2.1.7: Information et analyse en matière d'alimentation et d'agriculture</u> (par. 59-63)	368
- <u>Programa 2.1.7: Información y análisis en materia de alimentación y agricultura</u> (párrs. 59-63)	
- <u>Programme 2.1.8: Food and Agricultural Policy</u> (paras. 64-70)	
- <u>Programme 2.1.8: Politique alimentaire et agricole</u> (par. 64-70)	368
- <u>Programa 2.1.8: Política alimentaria y agrícola</u> (párrs. 64-70)	
- <u>Major Programme 2.2: Fisheries</u> (paras. 71-80)	
- <u>Grand programme 2.2: Pêches</u> (par. 71-80)	368
- <u>Programa Principal 2.2: Pesca</u> (párrs. 71-80)	
- <u>Major Programme 2.3: Forestry</u> (paras. 81-88)	
- <u>Grand Programme 2.3: Forêts</u> (par. 81-88)	368
- <u>Programa Principal 2.3: Montes</u> (párrs. 81-88)	
- <u>Development Support Programmes</u> (paras. 89-93)	
- <u>Programmes de soutien du développement</u> (par. 89-93)	368
- <u>Programas de apoyo al desarrollo</u> (párrs. 89-93)	
- <u>Decentralization</u> (paras. 94-97)	
- <u>Décentralisation</u> (par. 94-97)	368
- <u>Descentralización</u> (párrs. 94-97)	
- <u>Technical Cooperation Programme</u> (paras. 98-101)	
- <u>Programme de coopération technique</u> (par. 98-101)	368
- <u>Programa de Cooperación Técnica</u> (párrs. 98-101)	
- <u>Support and Common Services</u> (paras. 102-103, including Resolution)	
- <u>Services de soutien et charges communes</u> (par. 102-103 y compris la résolution)	368
- <u>Servicios de apoyo y comunes</u> (párrs. 102-103, incluida la Resolución)	

SEVENTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
DIX-SEPTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
170 SESION PLENARIA
(21 November 1983)

	<u>Page/Página</u>
<u>PART IV - APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS</u> (continued)	
<u>QUATRIEME PARTIE - NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS</u> (suite)	376
<u>PARTE IV - NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES</u> (continuación)	
23. <u>Election of Council Members</u> (first ballot for first period - Nov. 1983-Dec. 1986) (C 83/11; C 83/LIM/14; C 83/LIM/28)	
23. <u>Election des membres du Conseil (premier scrutin pour la première période -</u> Nov. 1983-Déc. 1986) (C 83/11; C 83/LIM/14; C 83/LIM/28)	376
23. <u>Elección de Miembros del Consejo</u> (primera votación para el primer período - Nov. 1983-Dic. 1986) (C 83/11; C 83/LIM/14; C 83/LIM/28)	
<u>INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION</u> (continued)	
<u>INTRODUCTION ET QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE</u> (suite)	383
<u>INTRODUCCION Y CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO</u> (continuación)	
<u>Third Report of the Credentials Committee</u> (C 83/LIM/25)	
<u>Troisième rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs</u> (C 83/LIM/25)	383
<u>Tercer Informe del Comité de Credenciales</u> (C 83/LIM/25)	
<u>ADOPTION OF REPORT</u> (continued)	
<u>ADOPTION DU RAPPORT</u> (suite)	383
<u>APROBACION DEL INFORME</u> (continuación)	
<u>DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 1</u> (C 83/REP/1)	
<u>PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - PREMIERE PARTIE</u> (C 83/REP/1)	383
<u>PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 1</u> (C 83/REP/1)	
- <u>Thirteenth McDougall Memorial Lecture</u> (para. 1)	
- <u>Treizième Conférence McDougall</u> (par. 1)	384
- <u>Décimotercera disertación en Memoria de McDougall</u> (párr. 1)	
- <u>Presentation of the B.R. Sen Awards for 1982 and 1983</u> (paras 2-3)	
- <u>Remise des prix B.R. Sen pour 1982 et 1983</u> (par. 2-3)	384
- <u>Entrega de los premios B.R. Sen de 1982 y 1983</u> (párrs. 2-3)	
- <u>Presentation of the A.H. Boerma Award for 1982-83</u> (para. 4)	
- <u>Remise du prix A.H. Boerma pour 1982-83</u> (par. 4)	384
- <u>Entrega del Premio A.H. Boerma de 1982-83</u> (párr. 4)	
1. <u>Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Conference</u> (paras 5-6)	
1. <u>Election du Président et des Vice-Présidents de la Conférence</u> (par. 5-6)	384
1. <u>Elección del Presidente y de los Vicepresidentes de la Conferencia</u> (párrs5-6)	
2. <u>Appointment of the General Committee and the Credentials Committee</u> (para. 7)	
2. <u>Constitution du Bureau et de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs</u> (par.7)	384
2. <u>Nombramiento del Comité General y del Comité de Credenciales</u> (párr. 7)	
3. <u>Adoption of the Agenda</u> (para. 8)	
3. <u>Adoption de l'ordre du jour</u> (par. 8)	384
3. <u>Aprobación del Programa</u> (párr. 8)	
22. <u>Applications for Membership of the Organization</u> (paras 9-11)	
22. <u>Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre</u> (par. 9-11)	384
22. <u>Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización</u> (párrs. 9-11)	

	<u>Page/Página</u>
<u>DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 3 (C 83/REP/3)</u>	
<u>PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - TROISIEME PARTIE (C 83/REP/3)</u>	384
<u>EL PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 3 (C 83/REP/3)</u>	
- <u>Tribute to the Memory of Arrhenius F. Machado de Freitas</u> (para. 1)	
- <u>Hommage à la mémoire de Arrhenius F. Machado de Freitas</u> (par. 1)	384
- <u>Homenaje a la memoria de Arrhenius F. Machado de Freitas</u> (párr. 1)	
4. <u>Arrangements for the Session and Allocation of Agenda Items</u> (paras. 2-15)	
4. <u>Organisation de la session et répartition des questions inscrites à l'ordre du jour</u> (par. 2-15)	384
4. <u>Organización del período de sesiones y asignación de los temas del programa</u> (párrs. 2-15)	
- <u>Establishment of Commissions and Appointment of their Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen</u> (paras. 3-5)	
- <u>Constitution des commissions et désignation de leurs présidents et vice-présidents</u> (par. 3-5)	384
- <u>Establecimiento de las Comisiones y nombramiento de sus Presidentes y Vicepresidentes</u> (párrs. 3-5)	
- <u>Resolutions Committee of the Conference</u> (paras. 6-8)	
- <u>Comité des résolutions de la Conférence</u> (par. 6-8)	384
- <u>Comité de Resoluciones de la Conferencia</u> (párrs. 6-8)	
- <u>Right of Reply</u> (para. 9)	
- <u>Droit de réponse</u> (par. 9)	384
- <u>Derecho de replica</u> (párr. 9)	
- <u>Verbatim Records</u> (para. 10)	
- <u>Comptes rendus sténographiques</u> (par. 10)	384
- <u>Actas Taquigráficas</u> (párr. 10)	
- <u>Verification of Credentials</u> (para. 11-13)	
- <u>Vérification des pouvoirs</u> (par. 11-13)	384
- <u>Verificación de credenciales</u> (párrs. 11-13)	
- <u>Voting Rights</u> (para. 14)	
- <u>Droit de vote</u> (par. 14)	384
- <u>Derecho de voto</u> (párr. 14)	
- <u>Informal Meeting of Observers from International Non-Governmental Organizations</u> (para. 15)	
- <u>Réunion officieuse d'observateurs d'organisations internationales non gouvernementales</u> (par. 15)	384
- <u>Reunión oficiosa de organizaciones internacionales no gubernamentales</u> (párr. 15)	
5. <u>Admission of Observers</u> (para. 16-20)	
5. <u>Admission d'observateurs</u> (par. 16-20)	384
5. <u>Admisión de observadores</u> (párrs. 16-20)	
- <u>Applicants for Membership</u> (para. 16)	
- <u>Pays ayant demandé à devenir membres de l'Organisation</u> (par. 16)	384
- <u>Países que han solicitado el ingreso en la Organización</u> (párr. 16)	
- <u>Liberation Movements</u> (para. 17)	
- <u>Mouvements de libération</u> (par. 17)	384
- <u>Movimientos de liberación</u> (párr. 17)	
- <u>Sovereign Order of Malta</u> (para. 18)	
- <u>Ordre souverain de Malte</u> (par. 18)	384
- <u>Soberana Orden de Malta</u> (párr. 18)	

	<u>Page/Página</u>
- <u>Intergovernmental and International Non-Governmental Organizations</u> (paras. 19-20)	
- <u>Organisations intergouvernementales et organisations internationales non gouvernementales</u> (par. 19-20)	384
- <u>Organizaciones intergubernamentales y organizaciones internacionales no gubernamentales</u> (párrs. 19-20)	
<u>PART IV - APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS</u> (continued)	
<u>QUATRIEME PARTIE - NOMINATION ET ELECTION</u> (suite)	385
<u>PARTE IV - NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES</u> (continuación)	
23. <u>Election of Council Members</u> (continued) (second ballot for first period: Nov. 1983-Dec. 1986 - Latin America Region only) (C 83/11; C 83/LIM/14; C 83/LIM/28)	
23. <u>Election des membres du Conseil</u> (suite) (deuxième scrutin pour la-première période: Nov. 1983-Déc. 1986 - seulement Region Amérique latine) (C 83/11; C 83/LIM/14; C.83/LIM/28)	385
23. <u>Elección de Miembros del Consejo</u> (continuación) (segunda votación para el primer período: Nov. 1983-Dic. 1986 - sólo Región América Latina) (C 83/11; C 83/LIM/14; C 83/LIM/28)	
<p>EIGHTEENTH PLENARY MEETING DIX-HUITIEME SEANCE PLENIERE 18ª SESION PLENARIA (21 November 1983)</p>	
IV. <u>APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS</u> (continued)	
IV. <u>NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS</u> (suite)	388
IV. <u>NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES</u> (continuación)	
23. <u>Election of Council Members(continued) (third ballot for the first period - Nov. 1983-Dec. 1986 - Latin America Region only)</u> (C 83/11; C 83/LIM/14; C 83/LIM/28)	
23. <u>Election des Membres du Conseil (suite) (premier scrutin pour la deuxième période - Nov. 1983-Déc. 1986 - seulement Region Amerique Latin)</u> (C 83/11; C 83/LIM/14; C 83/LIM/28)	388
23. <u>Elección de Miembros del Consejo (continuación) (tercera votación para el primer período - Nov. 1983-Dic. 1986 - sólo Región América Latina)</u> (C 83/11; C 83/LIM/14; C 83/LIM/28)	
23. <u>Election of Council Members (continued)</u> (first ballot for the second period - Jan. 1985-Nov. 1987) (C 83/11; C 83/LIM/14; C 83/LIM/28)	
23. <u>Election des Membres du Conseil (suite)</u> (premier scrutin pour la deuxième période - Jan. 1985-Nov. 1987) (C 83/11; C 83/LIM/14; C 83/LIM/28)	392
23. <u>Elección de Miembros del Consejo (continuación)</u> (primera votación para el segundo período - Ene. 1985-Nov. 1987) (C 83/11; C 83/LIM/14; C 83/LIM/28)	

NINETEENTH PLENARY MEETING
DIX-NEUVIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
19ª SESION PLENARIA
(22 November 1983)

	<u>Page/Página</u>
IV. <u>APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS</u> (continued)	
IV. <u>NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS</u> (suite)	402
IV. <u>NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES</u> (continuación)	
24 <u>Appointments</u>	
24 <u>Nominations</u>	402
24 <u>Nombramientos</u>	
24.1 <u>Appointment of the Independent Chairman of the Council</u> (C 83/15)	
24.1 <u>Nomination du Président indépendant du Conseil</u> (C 83/15)	402
24.1 <u>Nombramiento de Presidente Independiente del Consejo</u> (C 83/15)	
24.2 <u>Appointment of Member Governments' Representatives to the Staff Pension Committee</u> (C 83/16)	
24.2 <u>Nominations des représentants des Etats Membres au Comité de la Caisse des pensions</u> (C 83/16)	406
24.2 <u>Nombramiento de los representantes de los Estados Miembros en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal</u> (C 83/16)	
V. <u>OTHER MATTERS</u>	
V. <u>QUESTIONS DIVERSES</u>	407
V. <u>OTROS ASUNTOS</u>	
26. <u>Any Other Business</u>	
26. <u>Autres questions</u>	407
26. <u>Otros asuntos</u>	
<u>20TH ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME</u>	
<u>20ème ANNIVERSAIRE DU PROGRAMME ALIMENTAIRE MONDIAL</u>	407
<u>20º ANIVERSARIO DEL PROGRAMA MUNDIAL DE ALIMENTOS</u>	
<u>IN MEMORIAM</u>	415
<u>ADOPTION OF REPORT</u> (continued)	
<u>ADOPTION DU RAPPORT</u> (suite)	415
<u>APROBACION DEL INFORME</u> (continuación)	
- <u>DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 4</u> (from Commission I) (C 83/REP/4)	
- <u>PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA CONFERENCE - QUATRIEME PARTIE</u> (émanant de la Commission I) (C 83/REP/4)	415
- <u>PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 4</u> (de la Comisión I) (C 83/REP/4)	
6. <u>World Food and Agriculture Situation</u> (paras. 1-63)	
6. <u>Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture</u> (par. 1-63)	416
6. <u>Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo</u> (párrs. 1-63)	

	<u>Page/Página</u>
6.1 <u>State of Food and Agriculture</u> (paras. 1-34)	
6.1 <u>Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture</u> (par. 1-34)	
6.1 <u>Estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación</u> (párrs. 1-34)	416
6.2 <u>Progress in Implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen World Food Security - Re-Appraisal of Concepts and Approaches</u> (Res. .../83) (paras. 35-63)	
6.2 <u>Etat d'avancement du Plan d'action visant à renforcer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale - Réexamen des concepts et des approches</u> (Résolution .../83) (par. 35-63)	417
6.2 <u>Progresos realizados en la ejecución del Plan de Acción para reforzar la seguridad alimentaria mundial - Reconsideración de conceptos y planteamientos</u> (Res. .../83) (párrs. 35-63)	
- <u>DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 5</u> (from Commission I) (C 83/REP/5)	
- <u>PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA CONFERENCE - PARTIE 5</u> (émanant de la Commission I) (C 83/REP/5)	417
- <u>PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 5</u> (de la Comisión I) (C 83/REP/5)	
7. <u>International Agricultural Adjustment</u> (paras. 1-21)	
7. <u>Ajustement agricole international</u> (par. 1-21)	419
7. <u>Reajuste Agrícola internacional</u> (párrs. 1-21)	
7.1 <u>Fourth Monitoring Report</u> (paras. 1-15)	
7.1 <u>Quatrième rapport de situation</u> (par. 1-15)	419
7.1 <u>Cuarto Informe sobre la situación</u> (párrs. 1-15)	
7.2 <u>Revision and Updating of Guidelines</u> (Res.../83) (paras. 16-21)	
7.2 <u>Révision et mise à jour des lignes d'orientation</u> (Rés .../83) (par. 16-21)	419
7.2 <u>Revisión y actualización de las Orientaciones</u> (Res.../83) (párrs. 16-21)	
8. <u>Land, Food and Population</u> (paras. 22-30)	
8. <u>Terre, alimentation et population</u> (par. 22-30)	419
8. <u>Los alimentos y la población</u> (párrs. 22-30)	
9. <u>Progress Report on WCARRD Programme of Action</u> (Res /83) (paras. 31-44)	
9. <u>Programme d'action de la CMRADR - Rapport d'activité</u> (Rés.../83) (par. 31-44)	419
9. <u>Informe sobre los progresos realizados en la aplicación del Programa de Acción de la CMRADR</u> (Res /83) (párrs. 31-44)	
10. <u>Progress Report on World Food Day Activities</u> (Res.../83) (paras. 45-49)	
10. <u>Journée mondiale de l'alimentation - Rapport d'activité</u> (Rés.../83) (par. 45-49)	420
10. <u>Informe sobre las actividades del Día Mundial de la Alimentación</u> (Res.../83) (párrs. 45-49)	
<p>TWENTIETH PLENARY MEETING VINGTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE 20ª SESION PLENARIA (22 November 1983)</p>	
- <u>Sixth Report of the General Committee</u>	
- <u>Sixième rapport du Bureau</u>	422
- <u>Sexto informe del Comité General</u>	
<u>ADOPTION OF REPORT</u> (continued)	
<u>ADOPTION DU RAPPORT</u> (suite)	422
<u>APROBACION DEL INFORME</u> (continuación)	
- <u>DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 6</u> (from Commission III)(C 83/REP/6)	
- <u>PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA CONFERENCE - SIXIEME PARTIE</u> (émanant de la Commission III) (C 83/REP/6)	422
- <u>PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 6</u> (de la Comisión III) (C 83/REP/6)	

17.	<u>Statutory Report on Status of Conventions and Agreements, and Amendments thereto (paras. 1-2)</u>	
17.	<u>Rapport statutaire sur l'état des conventions et accords et sur les amendements y relatifs (par. 1-2)</u>	423
17.	<u>Informe reglamentario sobre el estado de las convenciones y acuerdos, y de las enmiendas a los mismos (párrs. 1-2)</u>	
18.	<u>Other Constitutional and Legal Matters, including: (paras. 3-7)</u>	
18.	<u>Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, notamment: (par. 3-7)</u>	423
18.	<u>Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos, en particular: (párrs. 3-7)</u>	
	18.1 <u>Change in title of the Region from "Latin America" to "Latin America and the Caribbean", and similar changes in the title of the Regional Conference And the Regional Office (paras. 3-4)</u>	429
	18.1 <u>Changement de dénomination de la région "Amérique latine" en "Amérique latine et Caraïbes" et changement correspondant pour la Conférence régionale et le Bureau régional (par. 3-4)</u>	423
	18.1 <u>Cambio de denominación de la Región "América Latina" en "América Latina y el Caribe", y cambios análogos en la denominación de la Conferencia Regional y la Oficina Regional (párrs. 3-4)</u>	
	18.2 <u>Amendments to Rule XXXIX.3 of the General Rules of the Organization (paras. 5-7) (Res..../83)</u>	
	18.2 <u>Amendement du paragraphe 3 de l'Article XXXIX du Règlement général de l'Organisation (par. 5-7) (Rés..../83)</u>	424
	18.2 <u>Enmienda del párrafo 3 del artículo XXXIX del Reglamento General de la Organización (párrs. 5-7) (Res..../83)</u>	
19.	<u>Audited Accounts (paras. 8-10) (Res..../83)</u>	
19.	<u>Comptes vérifiés (par. 8-10) (Rés.../83)</u>	424
19.	<u>Cuentas comprobadas (párrs. 8-10) (Res..../83)</u>	
20.	<u>Scale of Contributions 1984-85 (paras. 11-14) (Res..../83)</u>	
20.	<u>Barème des contributions 1984-85 (par. 11-14) (Rés..../83)</u>	424
20.	<u>Escala de cuotas, 1984-85 (párrs. 11-14) (Rea.../83)</u>	
21.	<u>Other Administrative and Financial Matters (paras. 15-23)</u>	
21.	<u>Autres questions administratives et financières (par. 15-23)</u>	424
21.	<u>Otras cuestiones administrativas y financieras, entre ellas (párrs. 15-23)</u>	
	21.1 <u>Headquarters Accommodation (paras. 15-19)</u>	
	21.1 <u>Locaux du Siège (par. 15-19)</u>	424
	21.1 <u>Locales de oficina en la Sede (párrs. 15-19)</u>	
	21.2 <u>Immunities of the Organization (paras. 20-23)</u>	
	21.2 <u>Immunités de l'Organisation (par. 20-23)</u>	424
	21.2 <u>Inmunidades de la Organización (párrs. 20-23)</u>	

TWENTY-FIRST PLENARY MEETING
VINGT ET UNIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
21ª SESION PLENARIA
(23 November 1983)

	<u>Page/Página</u>
<u>ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)</u>	
<u>ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)</u>	426
<u>APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)</u>	
<u>DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 7 (FROM COMMISSION II) (C 83/REP/7)</u>	
<u>PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - SEPTIEME PARTIE (de la COMMISSION II) (C 83/REP/7)</u>	427
<u>PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 7 (COMISION II) (C 837REP/7)</u>	
12. <u>Review of the Regular Programme 1982-83 (paras. 1-5)</u>	
12. <u>Examen du Programme ordinaire 1982-83 (par. 1-5)</u>	427
12. <u>Examen del Programa Ordinario, 1982-83 (párrs. 1-5)</u>	
13. <u>Review of Field Programmes 1982-83 (paras. 6-15)</u>	
13. <u>Examen des programmes de terrain 1982-83 (par. 6-15)</u>	427
13. <u>Examen de los programas de campo, 1982-83 (párrs. 6-15)</u>	
14. <u>United Nations/FAO World Food Programme (Res. .../83) (paras. 16-28)</u>	
14. <u>Programme alimentaire mondial ONU/FAO (Rés.../83) (par. 16-28)</u>	427
14. <u>Programa Mundial de Alimentos Naciones Unidas/FAO (Res. .../83) (párrs. 16-28)</u>	
16. <u>Relations and Consultations with International Organizations (paras. 29-63)</u>	
16. <u>Relations et consultations avec les organisations internationales (par. 29-63)</u>	427
16. <u>Relaciones y consultas con organizaciones internacionales (párrs. 29-63)</u>	
16.1 <u>Recent developments in the United Nations System of Interest to FAO (paras. 29-45)</u>	
16.1 <u>Faits nouveaux survenus dans le système des Nations Unies et intéressant la FAO (par. 29-45)</u>	427
16.1 <u>Novedades recientes del sistema de las Naciones Unidas de interés para la FAO (párrs. 29-45)</u>	
- <u>Review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy (IDS) for the Third United Nations Development Decade (paras. 46-59)</u>	
- <u>Examen et évaluation de la Stratégie internationale du développement (SID) pour la troisième décennie des Nations Unies pour le développement (par. 46-59)</u>	427
- <u>Examen y evaluación de la Estrategia Internacional del Desarrollo (EID) para el Tercer Decenio de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (párrs. 46-59)</u>	
16.2 <u>Relations with Intergovernmental and International Non-Governmental Organizations (paras. 60-63)</u>	
16.2 <u>Relations avec les organisations intergouvernementales et les organisations internationales non gouvernementales (par. 60-63)</u>	428
16.2 <u>Relaciones con organizaciones intergubernamentales y organizaciones internacionales no gubernamentales (párrs. 60-63)</u>	
<u>DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 8 (from COMMISSION II) (C 83/REP/8)</u>	
<u>PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - HUITIEME PARTIE (de la COMMISSION II) (C 83/REP/8)</u>	428
<u>PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 8 (COMISION II)(C 83/REP/8)</u>	
15. <u>Plant Genetic Resources (Follow-up of Conference Resolution 6/81) (Paras. 1-11 and Res.../83 and Annex: paras. 12-13 and Res.../83)</u>	
15. <u>Ressources phylogénétiques (suivi de la Résolution 6/81 de la Conférence) (Par. 1-11 et Res.../83 et Annexe: par. 12-13 et Rés.../83)</u>	429
15. <u>Recursos Fitogenéticos (Medidas complementarias de la Resolución 6/81 de la Conferencia) (Párrs. 1-11 y Res.../83 y Anexo: párrs. 12-13 y Res.../83)</u>	
<u>DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 9 (C 83/REP/9)</u>	
<u>PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - NEUVIEME PARTIE (C 83/REP/9)</u>	439
<u>PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 9 (C 83/REP/9)</u>	
- <u>Statements by Heads of Delegations in the General Discussion (para. 1)</u>	
- <u>Déclarations des Chefs de délégation au cours du débat général (par. 1)</u>	439
- <u>Declaraciones de los jefes de delegación en el debate general (párr. 1)</u>	

	<u>Page/Página</u>
23. <u>Election of Council Members</u> (paras. 2-3)	
23. <u>Election des membres du Conseil</u> (par. 2-3)	439
23. <u>Elección de Miembros del Consejo</u> (párrs. 2-3)	
24. <u>Appointments</u>	
24. <u>Nominations</u>	439
24. <u>Nombramientos</u>	
24.1 <u>Appointment of the Independent Chairman of the Council</u> (Res.../83) (para. 4)	
24.1 <u>Nomination du Président indépendant du Conseil</u> (Rés.../83) (par. 4)	440
24.1 <u>Nombramiento del Presidente Independiente del Consejo</u> (Res.../83) (párr. 4)	
24.2 <u>Appointment of Member Governments' Representatives to Staff Pension Committee</u> (para. 5)	
24.2 <u>Nomination des représentants des Etats Membres au Comité de la Caisse commune des pensions</u> (par. 5)	440
24.2 <u>Nombramiento de los representantes de los Estados Miembros en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal</u> (párr. 5)	
26. <u>In Memoriam</u> (para. 6)	
26. <u>In Memoriam</u> (par. 6)	440
26. <u>In Memoriam</u> (párr. 6)	
- <u>Twentieth Anniversary of the UN/FAO World Food Programme</u> (para. 7)	
- <u>Vingtième anniversaire du Programme alimentaire mondial ONU/FAO</u> (par. 7)	440
- <u>20° aniversario del Programa Mundial de Alimentos Naciones Unidas/FAO</u> (párr. 7)	
<u>DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION III - PART 3 (C 83/III/REP/3) 1/</u>	
<u>PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION III - TROISIEME PARTIE</u>	440
<u>(C/83/III/REP/3)</u>	
<u>PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION III - PARTE 3 (C. 81/III/REP/3)</u>	
21. <u>Other Administrative and Financial Matters (part of)</u> (paras. 1-19)	
21. <u>Autres questions administratives et financières (partiel)</u> (par. 1-19)	440
21. <u>Otras cuestiones administrativas y financieras (parte de)</u> (párrs. 1-19)	
21.3 <u>Status of Contributions</u> (paras. 1-3)	
21.3 <u>Etat des contributions</u> (par. 1-3)	440
21.3 <u>Estado de las cuotas</u> (párrs. 1-3)	
- <u>Payments of Assessed Contributions for the 1984-85 Biennium</u> (Res..../83) (paras. 4-17)	
- <u>Paiement des contributions de l'exercice 1984-85</u> (Rés.../83) (par. 4-17)	441
- <u>Pago de las cuotas para el bienio 1984-85</u> (Res..../83) (párrs. 4-17)	
21.4 <u>Amendment to the Financial Regulations (External Audit Certificates)</u> (Res. .../83) (paras. 18-19)	
21.4 <u>Amendement du Règlement financier (Attestations de vérification des comptes)</u> (Résolution .../83) (par. 18-19)	441
21.4 <u>Enmienda al Reglamento Financiero (Certificados de comprobación externa de cuentas)</u> (Resolución.../83) (párrs. 18-19)	
V. <u>OTHER MATTERS</u>	
V. <u>QUESTIONS DIVERSES</u>	444
V. <u>OTROS ASUNTOS</u>	
25. <u>Date and Place of the Twenty-third Conference Session</u>	
25. <u>Date et lieu de la vingt-troisième session de la Conférence</u>	444
25. <u>Fecha y lugar del 23° período de sesiones de la Conferencia</u>	

1/ The title of the document as tabled for adoption in Plenary, but please read as: "Draft Report of Plenary – Part 10 (from Commission III)".

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 83/PV/1

Twenty-second Session
PLENARY

Vingt-deuxième session
PLENIERE

22° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

FIRST PLENARY MEETING
PREMIERE SÉANCE PLENIERE
PRIMERA SESION PLENARIA

(5 November 1983)

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.15 hours
J.R. Block, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 15
sous la présidence de J.R. Block, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la Primera Sesión Plenaria a las 10.15 horas
bajo la presidencia de J.R. Block, Presidente de la Conferencia

OPENING OF THE TWENTY-SECOND CONFERENCE SESSION
OUVERTURE DE LA VINGT-DEUXIEME SESSION DE LA CONFERENCE
INAUGURACION DEL 22° PERIODO DE SESIONES DE LA CONFERENCIA

Opening Statement by the Director-General
Discours d'ouverture du Directeur général
Discurso de apertura del Director General

LE DIRECTOR GENERAL: Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, j'ai, une fois de plus aujourd'hui, l'honneur de souhaiter la bienvenue aux éminents délégués de nos pays membres, parmi lesquels j'ai le plaisir de compter de nombreuses connaissances.

Je salue tout particulièrement les représentants des nouveaux pays qui ont demandé de se joindre à nous.

Ainsi réunis, vous êtes la FAO: l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture.

Votre présence témoigne de votre adhésion aux objectifs fondamentaux de notre constitution.

Votre mission est de représenter plus de 2 milliards d'hommes et de femmes, agriculteurs, forestiers et pêcheurs.

Cette tribune est en quelque sorte la leur.

La Conférence de la FAO n'est pas seulement le sommet des Ministres de l'agriculture mais aussi le seul forum international où sont symboliquement représentés les agriculteurs du monde entier.

A travers les documents et les programmes que nous devons examiner, à travers nos débats techniques, il n'est pas facile de faire l'effort d'imaginer et de calculer les effets des politiques envisagées au niveau international sur ceux qui ont pour tâche de nourrir notre planète.

Dans ce monde l'écrasante majorité des paysans vivent dans un état de dénuement et de misère intolérables.

Même les statistiques toujours plus abondantes et plus précises, même les enquêtes sur le terrain menées avec des moyens de plus en plus sophistiqués semblent impuissantes à mobiliser l'action nécessaire pour y mettre fin.

Pourquoi la volonté politique d'améliorer le sort des populations rurales des pays en développement semble-t-elle faire cruellement défaut?

Mon propos n'est pas d'être pessimiste mais d'inciter à la réflexion: Et si notre difficulté à progresser résolument vers l'éradication de la faim, vers l'instauration d'un système de sécurité alimentaire mondial venait de notre incapacité à mobiliser les agriculteurs?

Bien entendu les agriculteurs sont loin d'être les seuls partenaires dans la chaîne infiniment complexe qui détermine la production, la consommation, la distribution et enfin les échanges des produits alimentaires dans le monde.

C'est néanmoins avec eux et à travers eux que seront - ou non - exécutées l'essentiel des orientations politiques prises ici ou ailleurs.

Il est devenu courant d'invoquer la mobilisation des paysans des pays en développement indispensable à la réussite des projets les concernant.

Il y a sans nul doute fort à faire dans cette direction.

Mais n'avons-nous pas trop tendance à oublier qu'il faudrait aussi sensibiliser les producteurs des pays développés à la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition dans le reste du monde?

Comment convaincre le paysan du nord que la conquête de ses droits et la défense de ses acquis ne sont pas sans effet sur le destin alimentaire de notre planète et parfois même sur le sort du petit paysan du sud ou du paysan sans terre?

Tant que le dialogue Nord-Sud demeurera l'apanage des hommes politiques et des spécialistes il risque fort de s'enliser dans l'échec.

Le nouvel ordre économique international, le nouvel ordre alimentaire resteront lettre morte aussi longtemps que le débat ne franchira pas les murs étanches des salles de conférence et des ministères.

Tel est le défi que nous devons relever.

Telle est aussi la finalité ultime de nos travaux.

La Conférence ne devrait pas se terminer au jour de sa clôture, mais inciter chacun des participants à rentrer dans son pays avec la mission de contribuer à lever les barrières qui interdisent de progresser vers une plus grande solidarité internationale.

Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs,

C'est avec ce fervent espoir que j'ai l'honneur de déclarer ouverte la 22ème session de la Conférence de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION

INTRODUCTION ET QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE

INTRODUCCION Y CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO

1. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen

1. Election du Président et des Vice-Présidents

1. Elección del Presidente y de los Vicepresidentes

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: The first item on the Agenda is the election of the Chairman of the Conference.

In conformity with Rule VIII of the General Rules, the Council has nominated His Excellency John Rusling Block, Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America, to be Chairman of the Conference.

Is this nomination approved by the Conference?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

I have the honour to declare that His Excellency Secretary John Block has been elected by acclamation to preside over this Twenty-Second Session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

I extend to Mr Block my most sincere and cordial congratulations on behalf of my colleagues and myself.

Mr Block was designated Secretary of Agriculture of the United States at the end of 1980.

It is a very high and important office in the greatest grain-producing country of the world.

Mr Block is an outstanding citizen of the State of Illinois, which is part of the heartland of America, being first among all the states of the Union in producing exports of agricultural commodities.

And Mr Block is himself a very successful farmer.

It is small wonder, therefore, that he has rendered distinguished service to Illinois' agriculture before assuming his present high federal office.

In 1969, he received the Outstanding Young Farmer Award of the United States.

In 1977 he was Director of Agriculture in Illinois.

In 1980 he received the Meritorious Service Award of the Illinois Cooperative Extension Service.

In 1978 and 1979 he led market survey and agricultural export teams to a number of Asian countries.

In 1980 he led a three-week people-to-people fact-finding mission to the USSR, Poland, Hungary, Austria and Switzerland.

And most recently he has negotiated a huge new grains deal with the USSR.

His qualifications for the task for which you have elected him are thus outstanding.

I must, however, warn you that in addition to his technical and political background, he is not only a physical fitness enthusiast and a runner in marathons in quasi-professional time, but also a graduate of West Point.

It might therefore be unwise to challenge either his vigour or his discipline in his conduct of the debates.

Of great importance to FAO, however, is the fact that it is the first time in the history of the Organization since its move to Rome that we have the honour of the Conference being chaired by a citizen of the United States, our largest contributor.

I regard this as a very significant milestone in the history of the Organization.

It is a testimony to the great support which the United States has given to the Organization since its creation in that country in 1945 and of the good relations which exist today, and which I am sure will continue to strengthen in the future, especially as at the same time we have the honour and the pleasure to welcome the appointment of the first US Ambassador to FAO, Ambassador Millicent Fenwick

Unfortunately, owing to the many commitments that Secretary Block has on behalf of his country, he will not be able to be with us all the time.

Nevertheless, while he is presiding I am sure that your debates will be conducted with great wisdom, skill and good humour,

I should like to assure you, Mr Chairman, that you can count on the complete collaboration of the Secretariat throughout the Conference, and I should like once more to congratulate you on the unanimous confidence which has been expressed today in your election by acclamation.

With these brief words, I have pleasure in inviting you to take the Chair of the Conference and handing over the gavel to you.

(Applause)

(Applaudissements)

(Aplausos)

Mr J.R. Block took the chair

M. J.R. Block assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia el Sr. J.R. Block

Address by the Chairman of the Conference

Discours du Président de la Conférence

Discurso del Presidente de la Conferencia

CHAIRMAN; Director-General Saouma, my fellow delegates, and friends,

It is with great pleasure that I accept the Chairmanship of this Twenty-second Conference of FAO. Your selection of me as Chairman is an honour both to my country and to me personally. I look forward to working with all of you during the course of this Conference.

Four decades ago representatives of 44 countries gathered in the United States at a small town in the hills of Virginia. They met to consider how to achieve "freedom from want in relation to food and agriculture". They were living in a world far different from the one we live in today. It was a world at war. Millions were suffering and starving.

The men and women who met at Hot Springs, Virginia came together in the hope that such horror would one day be eliminated. They pledged their nations to create "a permanent organization in the field of food and agriculture" that would be a focal point for international efforts to end hunger.

Much has changed since FAO was first conceived. A hundred new nations have been born and world population has nearly doubled. But the fundamental goals of this organization have not changed. FAO has more than tripled in size to 152 members since its formal founding in 1945, but it is still Working to achieve "freedom from want".

Reaching our goal of an end to hunger and malnutrition will not be easy. Read the report of the Hot Springs Conference today, and you will be struck by how many of the problems of 1943 still persist in the world of 1983. Our world has changed in some remarkable ways, but in others it has not.

After 40 years, it seems proper for us to review our efforts to bring an end to hunger and malnutrition. What have we accomplished? Where have we succeeded? Where have we failed?

FAO calculates that the average consumption of calories per person has in fact increased since 1960. That is a remarkable feat given the rapid climb we have seen in world population.

In most developing countries, the average amount of food produced per person has risen steadily since the 1950's, in spite of the fact that population has almost doubled. We have seen some good progress in Latin America, though the situation in the Andes is causing us great concern. There has also been substantial progress in East Asia.

Unfortunately, the food problems in Africa are tragic, particularly now, in this second year of severe drought. Per capita food production has been declining for some time, largely due to population growth.

Drought has now created a serious food emergency in Africa. Farmers in 23 countries with 225 million people face adverse conditions for production. About 9 million people face serious nutritional threats and starvation is occurring in some regions. The crisis in sub-Saharan Africa presents a clear challenge to us all.

So there can be no doubt that we still have a long way to go in our battle to end hunger. Nearly a half billion people are severely undernourished - this is a terrible measure of suffering.

How can we do better? Our answer to that question Will determine whether or not this Conference and this Organization are successful.

We must be forthright in our discussions and consider both the economic and political barriers to overcoming hunger.

We must be practical and focus on what has a chance to work.

And we must be optimistic and creative to get the food production and distribution we need.

Time and again experience has demonstrated that good programs involve a government that cares about its people and is prepared to work with other countries on a basis which respects the individual farmer. There will be no solid or permanent progress unless our programs are based solidly on the talents and determination of the individual farmer.

Many of us here have worked the land ourselves and know the challenges of producing food and fiber. I suggest we keep those challenges in mind in all we do here in this conference

We can be guided in our work by the following ideas set forth at the Hot Springs Conference:

1. The first cause of hunger and malnutrition is poverty.
2. The primary responsibility lies with each nation for seeing that its own people have the food needed for life and health.
3. Freedom from want is difficult to achieve without concerted action among like-minded nations.

These thoughts can still give us direction as we seek to end the hunger and malnutrition that afflict So many. If our work in this conference reflects them, we will move closer to our goal of "freedom from want of food" for all.

Before starting the proceedings of the Conference, it gives me great pleasure to inform you that I have been handed a message from the Prime Minister of Italy, Dr Bettino Craxi. His message was transmitted to me by your Director-General, and I find it a most heartening sign of the good relations existing between FAO and the host government.

It gives me great pleasure to ask the Assistant Secretary-General of the Conference to read it.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL: This is the text of the message:

"Mr Chairman, I should like to extend my warm and heartfelt wishes for a successful Session to you, to the participants in the FAO Conference and your Director-General, Dr Saouma. This session will again seek ways of eradicating poverty, malnutrition and underdevelopment, an aim which free societies have been pursuing for some time but which has remained elusive, despite the appreciable progress made. For this, we must broaden the scope and range of activities. For this, everything we do must be more efficient and better coordinated with full awareness of the grave human, social, political and economic consequences of the agonising drama of hunger.

The Italian Government will continue to give its active support in the form of technical and financial resources to the solution of the world food problem. The flow of aid which Italy is increasingly providing to reduce the gap in wealth between North and South and especially to meet the food and agricultural needs of the emerging countries will be further strengthened.

We recognize the importance of the role of FAO in the performance of this task, and the valuable contribution the Organization has been able to make to alleviate the problem of hunger.

Italy is proud to be host to this Organization as well as to the other agencies working in Rome in the food and agriculture sector. The Italian Government, which has already made efforts to provide these bodies with conditions enabling them to carry out their important tasks efficiently, will continue in its endeavours to facilitate their work even more." That is the end of the message.

CHAIRMAN: Paragraph 1 of Rule VIII of the General Rules of the Organization provides that the Nominations Committee shall propose to the Conference candidates for the three posts of Vice-Chairman of the Conference, the seven Member Nations of the General Committee of the Conference required under paragraph 1 of Rule X of the same General Rules and the nine members of the Conference Credentials Committee as laid down in paragraph 3 of Rule III of the General Rules. The Nominations Committee which is to make these proposals was elected by the FAO Council at its Eighty-fourth session held from 1 to 3 November, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 5 (b) of Rule XXIV of the General Rules of the Organization.

This Committee met on Friday 4 November, and drew up its recommendations for the posts just mentioned.

I shall now ask the Chairman of the Nominations Committee, Mr Bula Hoyos of Colombia, to place before the Conference the nominations agreed to by this Committee, starting with the three Vice-Chairmen of the Conference.

G. BULA HOYOS (Presidente, Comité de Candidaturas): Sr. Presidente, Sr. Director General, Sres. Ministros, Delegados y Observadores: el 84º período de sesiones del Consejo que concluyo el jueves pasado, eligió como miembros del Comité de Candidaturas a los siguientes once países: Ghana -Madagascar; Indonesia - Japón; Arabia Saudita; Estados Unidos de América; Países Bajos - Polonia; Nueva Zelandia; Argentina y Colombia-.

Mis compañeros de Comité me hicieron el honor de elegirme Presidente.

A nombre del Comité, me permito presentar por su conducto, señor Presidente, a la Conferencia, las siguientes propuestas:

Para vicepresidentes de la Conferencia:

Su Excelencia Sr. He Kang, Ministro de Agricultura de China.

Su Excelencia Sr. Demetrios Christodoulou, Ministro de Agricultura de Chipre.

Su Excelencia Sr. Javier Gazzo Fernández-Dávila, Embajador y Representante Permanente ante aFAO de Perú.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr Bula Hoyos. You have just heard the proposals of the Nominations Committee in respect to the three Vice-Chairmen of the Conference. Any there any objections? If there are none I will consider these proposals adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

2. Appointment of General Committee and Credentials Committee
2. Constitution du Bureau de la Commission de verification des pouvoirs
2. Nombramiento del Comité General y del Comité de Credenciales

CHAIRMAN: We will proceed now to item 2 of the provisional agenda, the Appointment of General Committee and Credentials Committee. I will ask the Chairman of the Nominations Committee to proceed with his report and let us have the Committee's proposals for the membership of the General Committee.

G. BULA HOYOS (Presidente, Comité de Candidaturas): Para miembros del Comité General proponemos los siguientes siete países: Senegal, India, República Federal de Alemania, Brasil, Estados Unidos de América, Pakistán y Nueva Zelanda.

CHAIRMAN: You have just heard the nominations of the seven Member Nations to be elected to the General Committee. Are there any objections? If there are none I consider the seven Member Nations to be duly elected to serve on the General Committee of the Conference.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

I now call again on the Chairman of the Nominations Committee for proposals concerning the Credentials Committee.

G. BULA HOYOS (Presidente, Comité de Candidaturas): Para miembros del Comité de Credenciales proponemos los siguientes nueve países: Tanzania, Benin, Tailandia, República Dominicana, Túnez, Estados Unidos de América, Austria, Hungría y Tonga.

CHAIRMAN: You have just heard the Nominations Committee's proposals as regards the nine Member Nations which compose the Credentials Committee. Are there any objections? If there are none I will consider these nine Member Nations duly appointed to constitute the Credentials Committee of this Conference.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

CHAIRMAN: The General Committee should meet as soon as possible to consider matters pertaining to the arrangements for the Conference, in particular the General Committee who have to make proposals to the Conference on the adoption of the Agenda, the allocation of agenda items to the various Commissions, the admission of Observers and the election of new Member Nations. The General Committee should report to the Plenary of the Conference on all these matters at 15.00 hours this afternoon.

I propose therefore to adjourn this first Plenary Meeting of the Conference forthwith and request the General Committee, that is the three Vice-Chairmen of the Conference and the seven Member Nations just elected to it, to meet with me in the King Faisal Room on the second floor of Building D immediately after the closure of this meeting.

I want to express appreciation to the Chairman of the Nominations Committee for his effort and to all of the members who served on the Nominations Committee. The Credentials Committee will also hold its first meeting now. It will convene in the Sudan Room on the third floor of Building B. This completes our agenda this morning.

The meeting rose at 10.45 hours

La séance est levée à 10 h 45

Se levanta la Sesión a las 10.45 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C 83/PV/2

C

Twenty-second Session
PLENARY

Vingt-duxième session
PLENIERE

22° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

SECOND PLENARY MEETING
DEUXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
SEGUNDASESIONPLENARIA

(5 November 1983)

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.15 hours

J.R. Block, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 15

sous la présidence de J.R. Block, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la segunda sesión Plenaria a las 15.15 horas, bajo la presidencia de

J.R. Block, Presidente de la Conferencia

INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)

INTRODUCTION ET QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)

INTRODUCCION Y CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: In accordance with the tentative timetable for the Conference, the items before us this afternoon are items 3, 4 and 5 respectively, Adoption of the Agenda, Arrangements for the Session and Allocation of Agenda Items, and Admission of Observers. In conformity with the instructions it received this morning from the Conference, the General Committee has prepared its first report containing proposals on these three items as well as on other necessary arrangements. I want to thank the Committee for their efforts this morning.

I now propose that this first report of the General Committee be read out section by section for the Conference's consideration. The report will be available to all by Monday morning as document number C 83/LIM/7. Will the Secretary-General please read out the first section of the report.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

3. Adoption de l'ordre du jour

3. Aprobación del programa

4. Arrangements for the Session and Allocation of Agenda Items

4. Organisation de la session et répartition des questions inscrites à l'ordre du jour

4. Organización del período de sesiones y asignación de los temas del programa

5. Admission of Observers

5. Admission d'observateurs

5. Admisión de observadores

First Report of the General Committee

Premier rapport du Bureau

Primer informe del Comité General

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Ordre du jour de la session.

Le Bureau a examiné l'ordre du jour provisoire de la Conférence qui figure dans le document C 83/1.

Compte tenu des propositions formulées par la 84^{ème} session du Conseil, et du fait qu'aucun prélèvement n'a été fait sur le fonds de roulement, le Bureau recommande de remplacer le point subsidiaire 21.4: "Reconstitution du Fonds de roulement", par un nouveau point subsidiaire 21.4 intitulé: "Amendement du règlement financier (attestations de vérification extérieure des comptes), et d'ajouter à l'ordre du jour un nouveau point subsidiaire 18.2 intitulé: "Amendement de l'article XXXIX.3 du Règlement général de l'Organisation.

Le Bureau recommande également que l'ordre du jour provisoire ainsi amendé soit adopté par la Conférence.

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

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Constitution des commissions et calendrier provisoire de la session.

A sa 83^{ème} session, le Conseil a formulé, au sujet de l'organisation du calendrier de la vingt-deuxième session de la Conférence, des propositions qui ont été communiquées à tous les Etats Membres au début du mois d'août dans le document C 83/12. Le Bureau a noté, à ce propos, qu'il faut ajouter deux noms, à savoir Saint-Christophe-et-Nevis et Vanuatu à la liste des pays ayant demandé à être admis en qualité de membres de la FAO qui figure sur le calendrier sous le point 22.

Le Bureau recommande en outre que la réunion officieuse des observateurs d'organisations non gouvernementales se tienne le matin et l'après-midi du mardi 8 novembre.

L'attention de la Conférence est appelée sur le fait que pour pouvoir donner aux ministres qui ne seront à Rome que durant les premiers jours de la Conférence le temps de parole qu'ils ont demandé, il sera peut-être nécessaire de prolonger ces jours-là le débat général jusqu'à 13 heures le matin et 18.30 l'après-midi, étant entendu que les séances du matin et de l'après-midi devront commencer rigoureusement à l'heure. Il faut espérer que tous les orateurs inscrits, en particulier pour le mardi 8, le mercredi 9 et le jeudi 10 novembre, seront ainsi à même de prendre la parole. Si cela se révélait impossible, on pourrait prévoir une séance supplémentaire le soir.

En ce qui concerne le calendrier de la Commission I, trois séances au lieu de quatre seront probablement suffisantes pour le point 6.2, et deux séances au lieu de quatre pour le point 7.

Le Bureau recommande donc de maintenir le calendrier proposé pour la première semaine, mais de modifier comme suit celui de la deuxième semaine:

Lundi 14 novembre: matin - point 7.1: Quatrième rapport de situation - Ajustement agricole international, Après-midi - point 7.2: Révision et mise à jour des lignes d'orientation - Ajustement agricole international. Mardi 15 novembre: matin - point 8: Alimentation et population; Après-midi -point 8: Alimentation et population. Mercredi 16 novembre: matin - point 9: Programme d'action de la CMRADR - Rapport d'activité; Après-midi - Point 9: Programme d'action de la CMRADR - Rapport d'activité. Jeudi 17 novembre - matin - point 10: Journée mondiale de l'alimentation - Rapport d'activité.

Sous réserve de ces modifications, le Bureau recommande à la Conférence d'approuver le calendrier provisoire proposé par le Conseil, étant entendu que ce calendrier pourra être modifié en fonction de l'avancement des travaux de la Conférence et de ses commissions.

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

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Nomination du Président et des Vice-Présidents des trois commissions

En application des articles VII-1 et XXIV-5 b) du Règlement général de l'Organisation et comme il est indiqué dans le document C 83/LIM/9, le Conseil à sa quatre-vingt-quatrième session a proposé les candidatures suivantes à la présidence des commissions: Commission I: José Ramon Lopez Portillo (Mexique); Commission II: Chaka Ntsane (Lesotho); Commission III: Theodor Glaser (Suisse).

Le Bureau recommande en outre à la Conférence de répartir comme suit les vice-présidences des trois commissions: Commission I, Australie et Egypte, Commission II, Tchécoslovaquie, Indonésie, Commission III, El Salvador, Nigéria.

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

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Admission d'observateurs de pays ayant demandé à devenir membres de l'Organisation.

Selon la coutume, le Directeur général a provisoirement invité les pays ayant demandé à être admis à la qualité de membre à se faire représenter par des observateurs jusqu'à ce qu'il ait été statué sur leur demande. La Conférence voudra certainement confirmer ces invitations.

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

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Admission de nouveaux Membres - Conformément aux dispositions de l'Article XIX du Règlement général de l'Organisation, Les Etats ci-dessous ont fait parvenir avant a date limite du 5 octobre 1983 une demande d'admission à la qualité de membre:

Antigua et Barbuda

Belize

Saint-Christophe-et-Nevis

Vanuatu

Aux termes de l'Article II de l'Acte constitutif, la Conférence peut, à la majorité des deux tiers des suffrages exprimés, admettre de nouveaux membres à l'Organisation (par "suffrages exprimés", on entend les votes pour et contre, à l'exclusion des abstentions et des bulletins nuls, conformément au Règlement général de l'Organisation - Article XII-4(a)). L'admission d'un nouveau membre prend effet à compter du jour où la Conférence approuve la demande. Il appartient maintenant à la Conférence d'envisager la proposition du Conseil tendant à procéder au scrutin pour l'admission des Etats susmentionnés à la séance du matin du lundi 7 novembre.

Les résultats du scrutin seront proclamés au début de la séance de l'après-midi et la cérémonie d'installation des nouveaux membres aura lieu aussitôt après. Comme d'habitude, le président souhaitera la bienvenue aux nouveaux membres qui pourront chacun formuler brièvement leurs remerciements. Pour gagner du temps, le Bureau recommande qu'un seul pays parle au nom de chaque Région.

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

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL : Contributions des nouveaux Etats Membres - Conformément à l'Article 5.8 du Règlement financier, la Conférence fixe le montant de la contribution des Etats Membres nouvellement admis; celle-ci est due à partir du début du trimestre au cours duquel la demande d'admission a été acceptée.

Il ressort des rapports des quatre-vingt-deuxième et quatre-vingt-quatrième sessions du Conseil que, conformément aux principes et aux usages établis, la contribution minimum due pour le dernier trimestre de 1983 s'élèverait à 4 400 dollars pour Antigua et Barbuda, Belize, Saint-Christophe et Nevis et Vanuatu. L'avance à verser par chacun au Fonds de roulement serait de 1 325 dollars.

Le Bureau recommande à la Conférence d'approuver ces chiffres.

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

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL : Nomination du Président indépendant du Conseil - A la date fixée par le Conseil, c'est-à-dire le 2 septembre 1983, deux propositions de candidature ont été présentées pour le poste de Président indépendant du Conseil, celle de M. Sayed Amir Abdalla Khalil (Soudan) et celle de M. M.S. Swaminathan (Inde). Ces candidatures ont été communiquées à tous les Etats Membres par lettres circulaires 'G/CF-4/3 datées respectivement du 30 mai et du 6 juin 1983.

Conformément au paragraphe 1 de l'Article XXIII du Règlement général de l'Organisation, le Bureau propose que le scrutin secret en vue de cette élection ait lieu dans la matinée du mardi 22 novembre.

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

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL : Election des membres du Conseil - L'Article XXII-10(a) du RGO dispose que la Conférence, sur recommandation du Bureau, fixe au plus tard trois jours après l'ouverture de sa session la date de l'élection et la date limite de présentation des propositions de candidature.

Le Bureau recommande donc : a) que le scrutin débute le matin du lundi 21 novembre; et b) que les candidatures aux sièges du Conseil à pourvoir à la présente session soient communiquées au Secrétaire général de la Conférence (Bureau B-202) au plus tard le mardi 15 novembre à 18 heures conformément à l'Article XXII-10(d) du RGO.

A ce propos, la Conférence notera en particulier les dispositions suivantes des paragraphes 3, 4, 5 et 7 de l'Article XXII du Règlement général. Je cite : "3. En choisissant les membres du Conseil, la Conférence s'efforce de tenir compte de l'intérêt qui s'attache a) à assurer au sein de cet organisme une représentation géographique équilibrée des Nations intéressées à la production, à la distribution et à la consommation des produits alimentaires et agricoles; b) à assurer la participation aux travaux du Conseil des Etats Membres qui contribuent dans une large mesure à la réalisation des objectifs de l'Organisation; c) à donner au plus grand nombre possible d'Etats Membres l'occasion, par roulement des sièges, de faire partie du Conseil.

4. Les membres du Conseil sont rééligibles.

5. Aucun Etat Membre n'est éligible au Conseil si l'arriéré de ses contributions à l'Organisation est égal ou supérieur aux contributions dues par lui pour les deux années civiles précédentes."

"7. Un membre du Conseil est considéré comme démissionnaire si l'arriéré de ses contributions à l'Organisation est égal ou supérieur aux contributions dues par lui pour les deux années civiles précédentes, ou s'il ne s'est pas fait représenter à deux sessions consécutives du Conseil."

Tous les renseignements concernant les sièges à pourvoir figurent dans le document C 83/11. Des formules de présentation de candidatures seront distribuées ultérieurement.

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

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL : Droit de vote - Le Bureau note qu'en raison du montant de leurs arriérés, la République centrafricaine, le Tchad, les Comores, la République démocratique du Cambodge, la Guinée-Bissau, le Libéria, la Mauritanie, le Paraguay et le Togo ne peuvent participer aux scrutins de la Conférence ainsi que le stipule l'Article III.4 de l'Acte constitutif qui est ainsi libellé : "Chaque Etat Membre ne dispose que d'une voix. Un Etat Membre en retard dans le paiement de sa contribution à l'Organisation ne peut participer aux scrutins de la Conférence si le montant de ses arriérés est égal ou supérieur à la contribution due par lui pour les deux années civiles précédentes. La Conférence peut néanmoins autoriser ce membre voter si elle constate que le défaut de paiement est dû à des circonstances indépendantes de sa volonté."

Ledit article stipule donc que la Conférence peut autoriser un membre à voter si elle constate que le défaut de paiement est dû à des circonstances indépendantes de la volonté dudit Etat Membre.

Le Bureau invite le Directeur général à prendre contact avec les représentants de ces Etats aussitôt que possible, afin d'examiner avec eux leur situation et à faire rapport au Bureau, de manière que celui-ci puisse adresser des recommandations à la Conférence.

En attendant, le Bureau recommande toutefois à la Conférence que les Etats susmentionnés soient autorisés à voter le lundi 7 novembre sur le point 22 de l'ordre du jour (Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre) étant entendu que les contacts avec eux se poursuivront en vue du règlement de leurs arriérés et que le Bureau réexaminera toute la question sans tarder à la lumière des résultats obtenus.

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

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL : Droit de réponse - A ses huit sessions précédentes, la Conférence avait décidé que, si un délégué désirait répondre à des critiques visant la politique de son Gouvernement, il devrait le faire de préférence dans l'après-midi du jour où ces critiques ont été exprimées, après que toutes les personnes désireuses de participer au débat auraient eu la possibilité de prendre la parole.

Le Bureau recommande qu'il en soit de même à la présente session.

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

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL : Comptes rendus sténographiques - Conformément aux dispositions de l'Article XVIII.2 du Règlement général de l'Organisation, il est établi un compte rendu sténo-graphique de toutes les séances plénières et séances des commissions de la Conférence et le droit pour les délégués de vérifier l'exactitude du compte rendu de leur intervention leur est expressément reconnu.

La correction du compte rendu peut se faire soit par rectification d'erreurs de transcription et autres soit par amendements portant sur un mot ou une expression effectivement utilisée. En pratique, ces rectifications ou amendements ne sont acceptés que s'ils sont demandés par la délégation qui a fait l'intervention et cela dans les 48 heures qui suivent la distribution du compte rendu provisoire.

En 1961, la Conférence a officiellement adopté une procédure en vertu de laquelle les délégués qui le désirent peuvent demander que leurs déclarations soient reproduites dans le compte rendu sans qu'ils les aient prononcées devant la Conférence. Cette procédure est encore suivie et il est recommandé qu'elle soit maintenue pour gagner du temps.

Bien que le Bureau n'ait pas d'objection de principe à ce que des déclarations que le manque de temps a empêché de prononcer soient insérées dans le compte rendu, il se rend compte des difficultés qui pourraient surgir si on ne donne pas aux délégués la possibilité de répondre à des critiques qui seraient formulées contre la politique de leur gouvernement dans les déclarations ainsi insérées.

En conséquence, le Bureau recommande là encore d'autoriser l'insertion de telles déclarations sous réserve : a) que la Conférence ou la commission intéressée soit informée par son président qu'une déclaration qui n'a pas été effectivement prononcée ou qu'un complément substantiel à une déclaration faite en séance est inséré dans le compte rendu; b) que le texte à insérer soit rédigé en anglais, français et espagnol, c'est-à-dire dans une des langues utilisées dans le compte rendu sténographique; c) que le compte rendu provisoire contenant la déclaration ajoutée soit distribué trois jours au moins avant la clôture de la session; et enfin d) que les délégations participant à la session aient la possibilité d'exercer leur droit de réponse en faisant avant la clôture de la session une intervention portant sur la déclaration ajoutée.

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

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Déclarations des chefs de délégation (débat général) - Ayant pris note de la situation décrite plus haut, le Bureau recommande que la liste des orateurs soit publiée tous les jours dans le Journal de la Conférence dans l'ordre dans lequel le Président leur donnera la parole.

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

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Demande de l'Ordre souverain de Malte de participer aux sessions de la Conférence et du Conseil.

Le 26 octobre 1983, l'Ordre souverain de Malte a demandé au Directeur général de pouvoir suivre les travaux de l'Organisation en qualité d'observateur. En particulier, l'Ordre de Malte a demandé à être admis à participer en qualité d'observateur à la vingt-deuxième session de la Conférence et à ses sessions ultérieures. L'Ordre souhaiterait également être autorisé à assister aux sessions du Conseil. La décision appartient à la Conférence car l'article XXV.8 du RGO autorise le Conseil à prévoir la participation d'autres organisations "sous réserve de toute décision de la Conférence..". L'Ordre de Malte appelle l'attention sur ses activités médicales et sanitaires en faveur des pauvres, des malades, des réfugiés et des victimes de catastrophes et sur le fait que, plus récemment, il a commencé à s'occuper des questions de développement et du problème de la faim dans le monde. Il rappelle également qu'il a été admis en qualité d'observateur à des réunions d'autres organisations des Nations Unies, notamment de l'Unesco, de l'OMS et du HCR. La Conférence souhaitera peut-être inviter l'Ordre de Malte à envoyer un observateur à la présente session et à ses sessions futures, ainsi qu'aux sessions du Conseil.

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

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Participation des mouvements de la libération.

Conformément à la suggestion formulée par le Conseil à sa quatre-vingt-quatrième session, des observateurs de l'Organisation de libération de la Palestine et des mouvements de libération africains reconnus par l'OUA ont été invités à prendre part à la Conférence. La Conférence tiendra certainement à confirmer ces invitations.

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

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Admission d'observateurs d'organisations intergouvernementales et d'organisations internationales non gouvernementales.

La liste des organisations intergouvernementales et des organisations internationales non gouvernementales que le Directeur général a invitées à se faire représenter par des observateurs à la présente session de la Conférence figure dans les documents C 83/13 et C 83/13-Sup.1. Les invitations adressées à des organisations intergouvernementales avec lesquelles la FAO n'a pas conclu d'accords officiels et à des organisations internationales non gouvernementales ne jouissant pas du statut consultatif auprès de la FAO sont faites à titre provisoire, sous réserve de l'approbation de la Conférence.

Avant étudié cette liste, le Bureau recommande à la Conférence de confirmer ces invitations provisoires.

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

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Réunion officieuse des observateurs d'organisations non gouvernementales.

Le Conseil a recommandé que, comme lors des sessions précédentes de la Conférence, des observateurs des organisations non gouvernementales soient invités à tenir une réunion officieuse, afin que leurs avis et suggestions concernant les activités et programmes de l'Organisation puissent être communiqués à la Conférence. Il est suggéré que cette réunion ait lieu le matin et l'après-midi du mardi 8 novembre. Le Bureau recommande que la Conférence accepte cette proposition.

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

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Déclarations aux séance plénières de la Conférence d'organisations internationales non gouvernementales jouissant du statut consultatif.

Conformément au paragraphe 3 de l'article XVII du Règlement général de l'Organisation, les observateurs d'organisations internationales non gouvernementales jouissant du statut consultatif peuvent, avec l'autorisation du Bureau, prendre la parole aux séance plénières de la Conférence. L'article X.2 (g) stipule qu'il appartient notamment au Bureau de "faire rapport à la Conférence sur toute demande présentée par une organisation internationale non gouvernementale participante de prendre la parole à une séance plénière de la session."

Les organisations suivantes ont fait parvenir une demande à cet effet: Fédération internationale des producteurs agricoles; Conférence internationale des syndicats libres.

Bien que l'un des objectifs de la réunion officieuse des observateurs d'organisations non gouvernementales, qui doit se tenir le 8 novembre, soit de permettre aux observateurs de communiquer leurs vues et suggestions à la Conférence dans un rapport écrit qui est distribué à toutes les délégations, le Bureau recommande que la Conférence autorise, comme cela a été d'usage dans le passé, ces organisations à prendre la parole en plénière, étant entendu qu'il leur sera accordé un temps de parole maximum de dix minutes et qu'elles n'auront en aucun cas la priorité sur les délégués des Etats Membres.

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

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Conclusions.

Le Bureau recommande enfin que la Conférence confirme toutes les dispositions détaillées relatives à l'organisation de la session et que, sauf pour la période mentionnée plus haut au paragraphe 6, l'horaire de travail pour les séances plénières et celles des commissions soit normalement de 9 h 30 à 12 h 30 et de 14 h 30 à 17 h 30.

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

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

CHAIRMAN: I would report that the section on the Resolutions Committee was not adopted. It will be ready for adoption next week.

I would also compliment the General Committee. Either everyone here is sleeping through the session or else they did such a good job that everyone is satisfied. So I thank that Committee.

That concludes the adoption of the First Report of the General Committee which, as I said, will be available on Monday morning as document C 83/LIM/7.

As we have no other business this afternoon, this session is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 15.45 hours

La séance est levée à 15 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 15.45 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 83/PV/3

Twenty-second Session

PLENARY

Vingt-deuxième session

PLENIERE

22° período de sesiones

PLENARIA

THIRD PLENARY MEETING
TROISIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
TERCERA SESION PLENARIA

(7 November 1983)

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours

J.R. Block, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La troisième seance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45

sous la présidence de J.R. Block, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la tercera Sesión Plenaria a las 09.45 horas, bajo

la Presidencia de J.R. Block, Presidente de la Conferencia

INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)

INTRODUCTION ET QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)

INTRODUCCION Y CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)

First Report of the Credentials Committee

Premier rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs

Primer informe del Comité de Credenciales

CHAIRMAN: I would like to call upon the Chairman of the Credentials Committee, Mr Peter Vándor (of Hungary), to give the first report of the Credentials Committee.

P. VANDOR (Chairman, Credentials Committee): Mr Chairman, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen: I have the honour to inform you that the Credentials Committee held its first meeting on 5 November 1983 at 11.00 hours to examine the credentials of the delegations of Member Nations to the Twenty-second session of the FAO Conference. In accordance with Rule III-2 of the General Rules of the Organization and the criteria established by the previous committees, the Credentials Committee examined the credentials of 108 delegations and found them to be valid. The Member Nations to which these delegations belong are shown in the list attached to document C 83/LIM/8. To date, forty-six Member Nations have not presented credentials. Two Member Nations have advised the Secretariat that they will not attend the Conference. They are Papua New Guinea and Samoa. Any other credentials which will be received as well as the credentials of the representatives of Specialized Agencies of the United Nations and Observers from other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations will be examined by the Committee at subsequent meetings.

The list of Member Nations whose delegations have presented credentials found to be in order are as follows:

Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Gambia, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Korea, Republic of, Kuwait, Laos, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Upper Volta, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen Arab Republic, Yemen, People's Democratic Republic of, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe and from the applicant countries, Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Saint Christopher and Nevis and Vanuatu.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for that report. I understand that this report will be distributed the number of this document being C '83/LIM/8.

Are there any comments on this report? If there are none, I declare the first Report of the Credentials Committee adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

PART IV - APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS
QUATRIEME PARTIE - NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS
PARTE IV - NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES

Applications for Membership of the Organization:

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Belize
- Saint Christopher and Nevis
- Vanuatu

Demandes d'admission à la qualité de Membre de l'Organisation:

- Antigua et Barbuda
- Belize
- Saint-Christophe-et-Nevis
- Vanuatu

Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización:

- Antigua y Barbuda
- Belice
- San Cristóbal y Nieves
- Vanuatu

CHAIRMAN: The Conference will now vote on the admission as members of the Organization of the following four countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Vanuatu. This vote is governed by Article II, paragraph 2, of the FAO Constitution, which reads: "The Conference may by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, provided that a majority of the Member Nations of the Organization is present, decide to admit as an additional member of the Organization any nation which has submitted an application for membership and a declaration made in a formal instrument that it will accept the obligations of the Constitution as in force at the time of the admission".

I shall now call on the Secretariat to give details of the voting procedures.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Aux fins du scrutin, les délégués recevront quatre bulletins de vote, un pour chacune des demandes d'admission en la qualité de membre. Ces bulletins portent trois cases marquées "oui", "non" et "abstention". Pour voter, les délégués feront une croix dans la case correspondant à leur choix.

Aux termes de l'article XII.4 (c) du Règlement général de l'Organisation, les bulletins blancs seront comptés comme abstentions.

Aux termes de l'alinéa 4 (d) du même article XII, les bulletins de vote ne devront porter aucune indication et aucun signe autres que ceux par lesquels s'exprime le suffrage.

Voilà les règles qui doivent conduire les votes de tout à l'heure.

CHAIRMAN: In accordance with Article 11.2 of the FAO Constitution and under the provisions of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, the quorum required for this election is a majority of the Member Nations of the Organization. This means that at least 77 Member Nations must be represented and present in the hall at this time.

I have requested the officers in charge of the election to carry out a count, and I am told that at this moment there are over 99 delegations of Member Nations present in the hall. We may therefore proceed at once with the vote.

May I remind you that in accordance with paragraph 14 of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, once voting has commenced, no delegate or representative may interrupt the voting, except to raise a point of order in connexion with that vote.

In accordance with paragraph 9 (c) of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, the Chairman of the Conference appoints two tellers from among the delegates or representatives, or their alternates. I would therefore request the delegates of Germany and Lesotho to serve as tellers for this election.

Will these two delegates please proceed to the voting area. You have already been advised of this responsibility.

Vote

Vote

Votación

CHAIRMAN: The voting has now been completed. The tellers, with the assistance of the officers in charge of the election, will now count the ballot papers and the results of the election will be announced at the start of this afternoon's Plenary Session. The new Member Nations admitted to the Organization will then formally take their place in the hall.

THIRTEENTH McDOUGALL MEMORIAL LECTURE
TREIZIEME CONFERENCE McDOUGALL
13° DISERTACION EN MEMORIA DE McDOUGALL

CHAIRMAN: We will now have the Thirteenth McDougall Memorial Lecture, which will be delivered by Dr Bruno Kreisky, former Federal Chancellor of Austria.

The Director-General will make the introduction, and as I turn the floor over to the Director-General I just want to express my appreciation for your assistance, Director-General, in the efficient preparation that we have seen here this morning. It is helping to make my job much easier.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen:

It is a great honour for the Organization that the former Federal Chancellor of Austria, Mr Bruno Kreisky, has consented to deliver the Thirteenth McDougall Memorial Lecture.

When I had the privilege of introducing Prime Minister Indira Gandhi two years ago, I referred extensively to India's achievement in the development of food and agriculture.

Today it is not my intention to discuss the state of food and agriculture, including forestry, in Austria.

It is, however, in the context of Austria's contribution to the advancement of the Third World economies and of the perennial search for world peace, that we pay tribute today to Bruno Kreisky.

His name and the name of his country are associated by all of us with the causes of peace, international cooperation and striving towards the achievement of a more equitable and prosperous world society.

Once Austria was the centre of a great imperial power, deeply involved in internal ethnic and social tensions and in conflicts between the great powers.

Today, Austria is a small but prosperous country enjoying not only a happy and peaceful relationship with its neighbours, but also the respect and attention of the whole international community.

Mr Chairman, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen:

There can be doubt that to a large degree Bruno Kreisky has played a major role in this positive transformation.

After following studies of law and political economy and becoming a Doctor of Law, he began his political career 50 years ago.

After suffering imprisonment, threat of execution and exile, he resumed his political career in Austria in 1951.

After holding various important offices of state, he became Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1959, in which capacity he represented Austria in many important political and economic negotiations.

At that time already, his special interest was focused on helping the Third World.

Among other achievements, his personal initiatives resulted in the foundation of the Vienna Institute for Developing Questions of which he is the Chairman.

In 1956, he was elected to the Austrian Chamber of Deputies.

In 1967, he became Federal Chairman of the Social Democratic Party and remained so until he recently proclaimed his wish to lay down this office.

In 1970, he became Chancellor of Austria, and it is in this capacity that we know him best.

He headed three successive administrations with great distinction and renown.

During this period, he not only placed his mark on the history of Austria, but also on world relations.

He carried out wide reforms in his country and worked ceaselessly for peace and development on the international level, maintaining dialogue and creating confidence between the extremes of opinions and interests.

He also was responsible for expression in the most concrete form possible of Austria's belief in multilateral cooperation through the United Nations system.

I refer to the establishment, on one of the prime sites of Vienna, of a vast United Nations centre in the form of bricks and mortar and the most generous privileges under Austrian law for the UN, UNIDO and IAEA.

This took many years of effort but was an encouragement for all who believe in the UN system, and a far-sighted act of statesmanship.

When he laid down his office earlier this year, it was generally felt that an era had come to an end.

Nevertheless, his interest and involvement in the cause of the Third World has not ceased.

Indeed, he has continued to participate in the debate at the highest levels on how to transform the present negative situation into positive moves towards the creation of a new international economic order.

I do not wish to anticipate his address, but I am glad to note that he has in past statements unreservedly committed himself to the view that "hunger is an international problem and in the long run, peace can only be preserved as far as we are able to overcome hunger and poverty on the international level".

Now, therefore, I have great pleasure, in the name of the Organization, in inviting former Chancellor Bruno Kreisky to deliver the McDougall Memorial Lecture.

B. KREISKY (former Federal Chancellor of Austria): Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen: When the Director-General of the FAO, Dr Edouard Saouma, invited me, many months ago, to deliver the McDougall Memorial Lecture, I was still in office as Head of the Austrian Government and I pointed out at the time that I was by no means sure I would still be Federal Chancellor by the time of this event. Director-General Saouma replied that the invitation to address you was not necessarily tied to my office, and he renewed this invitation after my resignation. Quite frankly, I am very glad to have this opportunity, because throughout my career I could never help espousing certain trains of thought afresh, even if there was no chance of realising them at the time.

During my long political career I have learned one thing above all, which is that in politics as elsewhere ideas have to be formed and propagated long before the time is ripe for their implementation. Then one day comes the moment when they can be put into practice in one form or another. Much of what was thought and dreamed about the welfare state, for example, in the thirties came true only after the Second World War.

I was still a very young man - you will permit my reminiscing - when I had the good fortune" to be able to take part in the 1931 Congress of the Socialist International as a messenger boy, so to speak. It was my job to carry forgotten umbrellas after delegates and see to it that the pencils on their desks were sharpened. Naturally, I did it in order to be able to listen to the speeches delivered by the great men of democratic socialism.

It was in the midst of the severe world economic crisis that the spiritual leader of Austrian social democracy - and I have to add, of the Socialist International, Otto' Bauer - developed the stupendous idea of fighting the crisis in Central Europe by initiating a great system of international loans, to be made available by the richer countries - primarily the United States and France - for the benefit of those Central European countries which had been hardest hit, and by this means not only to overcome the world economic crisis but also - and this was remarkable at the time - to save democracy and peace. Otto Bauer foretold that the destruction of democracy in Germany would mean the end of democracy in Central Europe and would inevitably bring about the Second World War.

At that time a large-scale international credit scheme would not only have assisted the European industrialized states to overcome the crisis but would also have led to a modernization of the economic structure and production facilities in Eastern Europe and accelerated the process of original accumulation - to use an expression by Karl Marx - a development which in most Eastern European countries started at great sacrifice only after World War Two. This idea by the Austrian Otto Bauer had - and therefore I mention it - its magnificent resurrection and expansion in the so-called Marshall Plan - modified, of course, employing techniques unforeseeable in detail in 1931.

There is something else I should like to mention in this context: the fact that an idea will not be translated into reality immediately has the advantage that in the course of time it will attract both support and criticism. Both happened with the ideas I espoused in many speeches before the United Nations and eventually before the Third General Conference of UNIDO on 31st January in New Delhi. These thoughts have been criticised and described as economically unsound, but there have also been eminent men and women who have supported them - or perhaps more importantly, have thought them through afresh and independently.

The extent to which these ideas are gaining ground is evidenced by the fact that the famous economist, Professor Leontief, who was awarded the Nobel Prize for Economics in 1973 and is today Director of the Institute for Economic Analysis at New York University, argues along the lines resembling the ones I have followed for a considerable period of time. He writes:

"To the great surprise of the authors of the report, many less-developed countries took off fast... How did this happen?... Banks untied their purses and lent to the less-developed countries all the money they could use for productive investment.

"... Under a government programme like the Marshall Plan... There is, however, another way... The Western democracies should help the banks and their clients continue the good work... Inauguration of a long-delayed, worldwide Marshall Plan. It could combine a guarantee of old bank loans and new ones - on condition that interest rates be appropriately reduced-withsubstantial direct assistance to particularly poor areas."

Let me go even further. The "Neue Zürcher Zeitung", a newspaper close to the Swiss industrial and banking world, wrote on 28th September of this year that even the Trilateral Commission had in any case shown a certain open-mindedness and understand the connections between the First and the Third Worlds. Let me just say here that I can well imagine all these ideas being brought to a synthesis, if we could only resolve to find out where the pertinent decision-making processes should take place.

In this connection I should also like to state that I am well aware that the communist states have no desire to take part in these activities, a fact brought home at the Cancún summit. The question facing us is how to put all these ideas into practice. The only way I see is that some like-minded countries should work out and implement a model based on the example of one specific big project.

Permit me to recapitulate the ideas I have propounded now for more than two decades. I believe, and have always believed, that development aid as it has been practised for many years does not permit an organic and steady development of the economic resources in the countries concerned. Long before the oil shock, for example, I held the view that the developing countries would have to arrive at a continental railway system like the one we have in Europe, and that such gigantic projects could be realised only by way of multilateral planning.

As we know from the past - I mean from the European past - such a development would have provided jobs for hundreds of thousands of people. Those to whom it would have meant jobs would have viewed the problem of hunger with different eyes from those of the millions of jobless. Similar ideas would have had to be implemented to supply the developing countries with water and energy as well as with modern telecommunication systems. To put it in a nutshell: the countries of the Third World are incapable on their own of creating the infrastructures they need in order to play their part in the international division of labour in accordance with their potential.

Only when they are in possession of more or less satisfactory infrastructures will they be able to do so, and these must of course include systems of modern vocational training geared to the prevailing conditions. It will be their only chance to make the best possible use of the credit facilities available to them. In a meeting such as this I don't need to cite specific examples to explain the significance of such measures.

In implementing such far-reaching international infrastructural measures it would naturally be impossible to apply the standards currently prevailing in the field of international credit. When anyone mentions the problems of financing - and we in the industrial states are not strong enough to envisage such a development - I have only to point out that according to the Peace Research Institute in Stockholm between 700 and 750 billion dollars were spent on armaments during 1982. Only one seventh of that amount would be sufficient to implement such a plan on the most grandiose scale.

Let me mention another example - and I have to tell you that I am an old Social Democrat, an old Socialist - the direct costs of one person out of work in Austria - and we are a country which has one of the lowest unemployment in Europe - one person costs approximately AS7 000 per month which is equal to US\$ 400. Austria is positioned somewhere in the middle of the income pyramid of the Western countries, also with respect to special supplements. We may consequently depart from the fact that the 35 million jobless cause direct monthly expenditures of 14 billion dollars. This means about 170 billion dollars a year. It goes without saying that in addition to this sum substantial social costs accrue from the loss of the production factor 'labour', adding up at least to once more the same amount, so that the total loss is to be estimated at about double the above-mentioned amount.

There is another observation I should like to add in this context. The criticism which has been expressed against all these ideas is not new. It strongly reminds me of the critical voices which were raised when Keynes propounded his ideas for combatting the world crisis. They came both from the Right, the political Right and the political Left, but I shall refrain from enlarging on them and merely single out a few points.

The very notion of calling this idea a new Marshall Plan suffices to raise the opposition of the Left. They say that the Marshall Plan was not prompted by humanitarian considerations, which is true enough, and the very reason to be frank why it was so effective in terms of practical politics. I chose the term at the time I did in order to awaken certain memories.

Another objection is that such a policy will cost money, and would have to be pursued à fonds perdus. This again is true enough, but what can it possibly signify when balanced against the huge expenditure on armaments? Considering the fact that there are, as I have mentioned already, 35 million unemployed in the modern industrialized states, I wonder whether we can still afford a long-term economic policy which finally and inevitably would lead not only to deserted factories but also to deserted offices and bureaus.

This gigantic unemployment imposes huge financial burdens on the modern industrial countries, and I have mentioned the figures.

What critics overlook is the salient need to fight the phenomena of this present crisis in the industrialized states in many different ways. Their argument against these ideas totally neglects the dynamic impact, what it would mean to have to build up an infrastructure in the developing countries, because to build up an infrastructure would also be a contribution to significant economic growth.

When objecting to ideas my critics are saying that they will conserve, preserve, obsolete structures in our economy in the industrial state for a certain amount of time. They fail to consider that it is undoubtedly much easier to plan structural reforms in our countries when we can preserve the structures for some time. It is much better to make that in this way than in the situation of capacity rundown. One of my best economic aides has formulated it so: "Even a short-term policy of this character will cause dynamic spillover effects".

My left-wing critics take a very negative view of the role played by foreign capital in the overall economic and social development of Third World countries. But it is for the very reason that I am just as sceptical as they are that I have taken up the idea for such a global plan. We know from practical experience that infrastructural development has very favourable general effects, and that it is the prerequisite for conditions favouring economic growth.

So let me briefly remark on the current world economic situation, and specifically voice a politico-psychological observation:

I think - this is my personal view - I observe a certain tendency to declare that there is really no crisis at all, and that one should not dramatize matters. I feel that this is due to the inability to get rid of unemployment also in a period of a new prosperity. It usually starts with a discussion of economists on how to define a crisis.

I can only repeat what experience has taught me, namely that a crisis like the present one - and I have already lived through an extremely severe one - cannot be overcome only by economic means and measures, but also - and this seems to be very important - some political measures. It was - and I remember this, I was a witness at this time - it was the gigantic rearmament which Hitler set in motion, and which was gradually emulated in the democratic countries, that led out of the crisis. I am sorry to say it was the war which definitely ended the crisis. Theorists may explain it differently, but this is my explanation and my experience. We know the political end of the crisis, a crisis which turned out to be a nightmare.

The crisis of today need not end in a nightmare, for every crisis can be brought to an end. What are the alternatives to armaments? Today it is evident that armaments will not put an end to the crisis. At the stage of economic development which we have reached now, armaments production often runs parallel to economic production, leaving the general business cycle merely untouched.

We live in a society characterized by the ability to produce an immense amount of goods, and if this capacity is not used, if we are unable to say how it could be used, we have to direct our thoughts beyond new technologies and smart products to questions of global redistribution. This will be one of the ways to reintegrate the 35 million unemployed in the Western industrialized countries and get them back into working life. The problem will be even more complicated. In its recently published "Employment Outlook", the OECD stated that demographic developments alone would make it necessary to create 18 to 20 million new jobs in the Western industrial countries between 1984 and 1989. The creation of these new jobs would not achieve anything beyond maintaining the current high level of unemployment. Let me draw a more graphic picture: even if 20 000 new jobs were to be created daily in the industrial countries, millions of people would still remain jobless. That illustrates the magnitude of the task we face today in the industrial countries.

In recent years the Western industrial countries have pumped vast amounts of capital into the developing countries through the usual channels of credit supply via the capital markets. According to generally accepted estimates the developing countries' debts now run to the amount of US\$ 700 billion. The interest payments alone are estimated far in excess of US\$ 70 billion. The banking system is now resorting to rescheduling the debts, which means that the existing debts are augmented by additional interest, with interest rates being raised because of the added risk. This is clearly no solution to the problem. Let us be quite frank about it: the industrial countries will have to write off a good deal of that money. If the sum involved is not more than one-third of the total debt, then it will amount to US\$ 233 billion at present values

But it will do us no good to let those countries get deeper into debt and economic misery. The former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger was among those who pointed out that those countries will be able to pay their debts only if more capital flows into them than out of them. He went on to emphasise that all industrial countries would have to contribute their share in order to prevent conditions fostering anti-Western sentiments among broad sections of the populations.

I have already mentioned the proposals of the Nobel Prize winner Vassily Leontief underlined in a recent article entitled "For a Marshall Plan II" that concerted action by the Western democracies would be the only answer to the crisis of indebtedness. The point at issue is the implementation of a large-scale plan involving a high degree of political cooperation. Through such a project the democratic industrial countries could deploy their political strength and develop a type of cooperation which many countries in the Third World would be reluctant to give up.

At this point I should like to remind you of a factor which has made a not insignificant impact on the economy of the industrialised countries over the past — I repeat: over the past — few years, namely East-West trade. At the height of the Cold War nobody believed there would again come a day when economic cooperation between the Communist states and the Western industrialised countries would become important for world trade as a whole.

The period from 1950 to 1980, however, saw an increase in exports from the OECD area to the COMECON countries from US\$ 770 million to US\$ 42.4 billion. During the same period imports from the Eastern bloc to the Western states rose from US\$ 1.1 billion to nearly US\$ 43 billion. In real terms, of course, this increase is much lower than these figures would seem to indicate. Nevertheless, they show that the 1960s and early 1970s were characterised by impressive expansion of mutual trade between West and East in Europe, and it was a new area of economic cooperation.

During the first part of the 1970s, imports by the COMECON group rose by more than 30 percent annually, and exports 22.5 percent. For well-known reasons which I need not discuss here, this exchange of goods has recently begun to stagnate. I merely want to draw your attention to the considerable potential for economic development through an intensified exchange of goods which exists once the right political climate has been established.

It could be argued that the expansion of trade constituted the basis for a policy of détente between East and West, and that the atmosphere of détente in turn contributed significantly to closer economic relations between East and West. Without drawing any direct parallel I believe that the industrialised countries must recognize the opportunities which are available to them through development of the economic potential of the Third World countries, what trading possibilities can open to them, what chances of using capacities which are currently underutilized at this time of crisis.

What fundamental steps must be taken in order to create the preconditions for these objectives? Measures will be needed in the following areas: transport, energy, agriculture, irrigation, telecommunications — it is easier to disseminate information by television than to teach people to read so that they will be able to acquire the same information from books — and finally illiteracy, sister to hunger and need. I cannot fail, especially in this forum, to stress the paramount importance of agricultural development as a foundation for all other progress and equity for the rural poor. Not all countries can be self-sufficient in food, but growing dependence on food imports, especially on exotic grains, can only be economically afforded or politically risked by a very few. For this reason I am glad to take the opportunity to congratulate the FAO for its efforts especially in the last few years, under the strong and dynamic leadership of Dr Saouma who has done so much, particularly to produce a better understanding of the nature of world food security and to focus development efforts on the needs of the rural poor.

One of the arguments used in this context is that the conditions under which the first Marshall Plan had been implemented in the industrialized countries were much more favourable because a relatively small injection of capital was enough to set the economy in motion again. Obviously, fewer resources had to be transferred in order to rebuild the destroyed capacity of the traditional industrialised countries but we should bear in mind that at that time the infrastructure and the industry of those countries had to be rebuilt, and that the United States was the only — this is very important — the only possible donor.

My proposals are aimed exclusively at developing the infrastructures and the agricultural sectors of the Third World countries. In agriculture in particular, a relatively low capital input will be necessary, in contrast to the capital-intensive area of the infrastructure. Of course it will take a long time, longer than in the case of the European Reconstruction Programme, for these countries to achieve self-sustaining growth; but that cannot be an argument against immediate action on our part.

Some also argue that the solutions to our short-term cyclical problems cannot be reconciled with the needs of the developing countries. In part this argument is certainly justified, but only in part. The existing over-capacities in the iron and steel industries are so great that even if, for example, we were strongly to encourage the construction of railway networks in the developing countries, it would not suffice to utilize them to the full. On the other hand, nobody will seriously deny that such a construction programme would help alleviate our problems and at the same time create positive effects in the Third World. And, since we must in any event restructure our economies, and the new high-technology industries will come nowhere near providing a sufficient number of jobs for people in industrialised countries, why should we not strive for adjustments oriented towards the needs of these new Third World markets?

It is further argued that counterpart funds — as we heard in the Marshall Aid Programme — are not suitable instruments for implementing infrastructure projects. I have many times pointed out that we must be prepared for an extended development period and that we consequently need longer-term loans. But it cannot be denied that these projects will have positive effects, both directly and indirectly. In my opinion these would be more significant projects than could be realised hitherto under normal commercial financing arrangements.

The role played by foreign capital in these countries, and the concept of economic development on which my ideas are based, have also been heavily criticised in certain quarters. It may be true that our industrial development model cannot simply be transferred to the Third World without modifications. But an expansion of the infrastructures and the building up of agriculture are an absolute must, even for economies which follow a different pattern of growth. And even in cases where industrialization projects have been launched in recent years, those which failed did not do so because it was not possible to ensure industrial production, but simply because they were not adequately integrated into the economies of the countries concerned, or because the necessary infrastructure did not exist.

It is not my objective to export to the Third World a certain model of society and economy, but to prepare the ground for satisfying the basic needs of the people living in these countries.

The problems of indebtedness by developing countries are often viewed in a purely financial perspective, with attention being drawn to the resulting threats to the international financial system and our banks in particular. Meanwhile, the inability of these countries to pay back their debts has given rise to very serious consequences. Lionel Olmer, the US Deputy Secretary of Commerce, recently stated that US exports to the eight Latin American states with the highest debts declined from 14.4 billion dollars reported for the first six months of 1982 to 9.1 billion dollars in the first half of 1983. He concluded that nearly a quarter of a million American workers have meanwhile lost their jobs as a result of the repayment difficulties of those countries and of the terms and conditions imposed on them by the International Monetary Fund.

This is so despite the vast domestic markets which make the United States practically independent of foreign demand. How much greater is the repercussion on the Western European countries, which are forced to earn up to 50 percent of their gross domestic product from exports.

In the face of the present crisis, and the insanity of the arms race which has seized us, I can think of no better alternative. People are talking about the problem that we create more friction in the world but what would we have done had the Americans said that they were not prepared to reconstruct steel works or automobile factories in Europe, because Europeans would one day emerge as their keenest competitors - which has in fact happened. They did not say that and this was one of the reasons why the Marshall Plan was such a success.

What sort of a free economy do we have if we are afraid of such developments? In this spirit, I should like to make one final remark: we cannot overlook the human factors. It is not only the export of goods and resources which matters; we must combine this with a transfer of knowledge. I am saying this with some hesitation. We must be willing and able to integrate hundreds of thousands of Europeans and Americans (just think of our surplus of teachers, for example) into this economic process in a sensible manner. The "ugly European" need not become a reality, provided that Europeans are able to heighten their awareness of the tremendous tasks, the need for solidarity and the challenge facing them.

Once Europe sent forth its soldiers. Today we must send forth development aid volunteers and teachers. These are the great tasks awaiting us. Even an old man must be credited with having vision. In the dark days of our recent past we had the strength of such vision, and this kept us going, such visions as far as our national life was concerned, let me remember, one of these visions was during a long period in Europe, the restoration of democracy; another one was the creation of the welfare state; the third one was the idea of a European economic integration and all this kept us going since the darkest years. It is my vision today that the idea of international solidarity must be given a new dimension.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: A brilliant lecture, Dr Kreisky. I would like on behalf of the Conference and on my own behalf to express my deep thanks to His Excellency Dr Bruno Kreisky for the most eloquent address that he has just delivered, very fine.

I understand that the purpose of this traditional address is to recall the spirit which animated the founding fathers of this Organization and certainly Dr Kreisky has surely achieved that here today. In addition he has inspired us, not only by the contents of his message, but by the living message with his life's work and commitment to the cause of international cooperation. His address brings us to a historical perspective which few, if any, in this room can match; a critical assessment and a new perception of old problems and new solutions.

Dr Kreisky indicates opportunities for action by all countries, developing and developed and as a statesman of great stature he does not merely lay down a prescription but motivates our political will. I wish to pay tribute to Dr Kreisky and assure him his message will serve to shed light and provide direction for our deliberations.

G. MACKEY (Australia) : Mr Chairman, it is a great honour for the Australian delegation to speak in support of the remarks you have just made in acknowledging His Excellency Dr Kreisky for the broad ranging speech, a most thought-provoking address, he has delivered to us.

Your Excellency, you have spoken to us of a number of very imaginative proposals to stimulate growth in developing countries in the critical years ahead. They match in breadth of vision the concepts advanced by my compatriot Frank McDougall forty years ago as he worked for the establishment of the FAO. His sense of vision and his sense of urgency rose out of his own experiences. He was an energetic individual with a great concern to see that the hungry of this world were properly fed. All Australians will support me in confirming our intention to keep up the tradition given to us by that very humane and caring man.

You, Dr Kreisky are another man of great vision, energy and of great experience. You have been actively working to improve the position of the less fortunate of this world for more than five decades and you have today given us the great privilege of sharing with us some of the ideas you have developed during that long and most distinguished career. You undoubtedly are correct in identifying the building up of infrastructures as being absolutely essential in the process of economic development. You have also given us a timely reminder that investments in transport, energy, communications and education will be vital to the achievement of the lasting food security for the developing, and indeed for all the nations of this earth.

Sir, I thank you for your most thought-provoking address. In its delivery and its content you have paid signal honour to the memory of Frank McDougall.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: This concludes our business for this morning.

The meeting rose at 12.00 hours

L'assemblée est levée à 12 heures

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.00 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

C

C 83/PV/4

Twenty-second Session

PLENARY

Vingt-deuxième session

PLÉNIÈRE

22° período de sesiones

PLENARIA

FOURTH PLENARY MEETING
QUATRIÈME SEANCE PLÉNIÈRE
CUARTA SESION PLENARIA

(7 November 1983)

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours,

J.R. Block, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 00

sous la présidence de J.R. Block, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 15.00 horas bajo la presidencia

de J.R. Block, Presidente de la Conferencia

PART IV - APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)
 QUATRIEME PARTIE - NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS (Suite)
 PARTE IV - NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)

22. Applications for Membership of the Organization: (continued)
 - Antigua and Barbuda
 - Belize
 - Saint Christopher and Nevis
 - Vanuatu
22. Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation: (suite)
 - Antigua et Barbuda
 - Belize
 - Saint-Christophe-et-Nevis
 - Vanuatu
22. Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización: (continuación)
 - Antigua y Barbuda
 - Belice
 - San Cristóbal y Nieves
 - Vanuatu

Chairman: The Secretary-General will now read the results of the election of new members.

REPORT OF BALLOT	No.	ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS
RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN		ADMISSION DE NOUVEAUX MEMBRES
RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	1	ADMISION DE NUEVOS MIEMBROS

A N T I G U A and B A R B U D A

1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	130	4. Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	127
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0	5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	2
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1	6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	129
7. Majority required Majorité requise Mayoría requerida		86	

A N T I G U A and B A R B U D A

Having obtained the required majority, is admitted to Membership
 Ayant obtenu la majorité requise, est admis Membre de l'Organisation
 Habiendo obtenido la mayoría requerida, es admitido Miembro de la Organización

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Scrutadores

Signature
Firma
 Tebohe Kitleli
 (Lesotho)

Signature
Firma
 R. Mauch
 (Germany, Fed. Rep. of)

7 November 1983

 Date
Fecha

B. Linley

 Elections Officer
 Fonctionnaire électoral
 El oficial de elecciones

REPORT OF BALLOT	No.	ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS
RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN		ADMISSION DE NOUVEAUX MEMBRES
RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	1	ADMISION DE NUEVOS MIEMBROS

B E L I Z E

1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	130
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1

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

7. Majority required Majorité requise Mayoría requerida	86
---	----

B E L I Z E

Having obtained the required majority, is admitted to Membership

Ayant obtenu la majorité requise, est admis Membre de l'Organisation

Habiendo obtenido la mayoría requerida, es admitido Miembro de la Organización

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escurtadores

Signature
Firma

Tebohe Kitleli
(Lesotho)

Signature
Firma

R. Mauch
(Germany, Fed. Rep. of)

7 November 1983
.....

Date
Fecha

.....
B. Linley

Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

REPORT OF BALLOT	No.	ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS
RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN		ADMISSION DE NOUVEAUX MEMBRES
RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	1	ADMISION DE NUEVOS MIEMBROS

S A I N T C H R I S T O P H E R a n d N E V I S

1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	130
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	2

4. Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	127
5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	1
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	128

7. Majority required Majorité requise Mayoría requerida	86
---	----

S A I N T C H R I S T O P H E R a n d N E V I S

Having obtained the required majority, is admitted to Membership

Ayant obtenu la majorité requise, est admis Membre de l'Organisation

Habiendo obtenido la mayoría requerida, es admitido Miembro de la Organización

REPORT OF BALLOT	No. 1	ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS
RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN		ADMISSION DE NOUVEAUX MEMBRES
RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION		ADMISION DE NUEVOS MIEMBROS

V A N U A T U

1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribues Papeletas distribuidas	130
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1

4. Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	129
5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	0
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimes Votos emitidos	129

7. Majority required Majorite requise Mayoria requerida	86
---	----

V A N U A T U

Having obtained the rquired majority, is admitted to Membership

Ayant obtenu la majorité requise, est admis Membre de l'Organisation

Habiendo obtenido la mayoría requerida, es admitido Miembro de la Organización

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escurtadores

Signature
Firma
Tebohe Kitleli
(Lesotho)

Signature
Firma
R. Mauch
(Germany, Fed. Rep. of)

.....
Date
Fecha

.....
B. Linley
Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire electoral
El oficial de elecciones

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: May I ask the new Member Nations to come forward, please, It is an honour and a privilege to extend a very warm welcome to the newly admitted Member Nations of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Upon arrival of the new nations, the Director-General will be addressing them.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, it is with great pleasure that I welcome into our Organization the four new Member Nations of Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Saint Christopher and Nevis, and Vanuatu. The total number of Member States has reached now 156.

The first three come from the region of Latin America and the Caribbean, while the fourth adds to our growing membership in the Southwest Pacific.

I am very happy to see that we are getting ever closer to the universality that an Organization such as ours is always aiming for.

All four countries depend on agriculture for their economic well-being.

In addition, three of the four are island states, with the problems associated with that particular geography, and clearly fisheries have an important role to play in the economies of such countries.

Belize for its part has substantial fisheries and forestry resources.

FAO has had links with these countries prior to this Conference but these will grow closer now that they have acceded to full membership.

In Antigua and Barbuda, we have completed one Technical Cooperation Programme project on the formulation of agricultural policy.

We have also provided advisers on education and training, and on agrarian reform and rural development.

In Belize, we have been involved in forestry and agricultural resources development, and have given assistance in preparations for an agricultural census.

Saint Christopher and Nevis, which is a neighbour of Antigua and Barbuda, has benefited from FAO assistance in a project related to agricultural planning and policies.

And finally, Vanuatu has been assisted by us in fisheries development.

From these beginnings, we shall continue to expand our work in the future with these new members in order to develop their agriculture and to help them in improving the standard of living of their people.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Director-General, for providing that welcome, and now I call on the representative of Antigua and Barbuda for a statement

R.K.M. YEARWOOD (Antigua and Barbuda): Mr Chairman, Director-General, delegates, distinguished guests, I wish first, on behalf of my Government and on my behalf, to express sincere appreciation on the admission of Antigua and Barbuda to the Food and Agriculture Organization.

I also wish to record my country's deep appreciation to the countries which have sponsored our admission to this Organization, and to those which have expressed such warm good wishes.

My country, Antigua and Barbuda, is a small state. Despite our small size, we are convinced that we can make a contribution to the dialogue of the new International Economic Order. Our most

earnest desire is a world secure in peace and stability, a world where man fulfils his obligation to the survival of his fellow man on the principle that the brotherhood of man transcends the sovereignty of Nations.

Mr Chairman, it is my hope that the Nations and people of the world now realize that they must seize the opportunities to work together in order to increase World Food Production and bring to an end hunger. The Constitution of this Organization affirms the faith of all our Nations in realizing these fundamental objectives. We place the great faith, in the value and importance of this Organization. We, each of us, have a responsibility to uphold the objectives for which this Organization was established, by renewing our commitment and dedication to this Organization. Therefore, Mr Chairman I pledge my Government's commitment to wholly accept its obligations and to participate fully in the activities of this Organization. I call upon all other Nations regardless of their status to re-commit themselves to the spirit of this Organization's Constitution in the interest of all Mankind.

I thank you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: I now give the floor to Belize.

R.I. CASTILLO (Belize): Mr Chairman, Director-General, delegates, distinguished guests. It is an honour and privilege for me to be here to represent the Government of Belize on the occasion of the Twenty-second session of the Food and Agriculture Organization Conference, and especially today when my country has been admitted as a full member. I would like to thank all of those who voted for Belize to become a member.

We take this opportunity to pledge our full support and participation in the activities and programmes of this Organization. Belize accepts the obligations of the FAO Constitution.

Mr Chairman, Belize has already in the past been a beneficiary in certain programmes sponsored by FAO which you mentioned. These include causes sponsored by the Organization, surveys and census-taking activities in the field of agriculture and full cooperation in respect of a reporting system on animal health.

Belize is a country with a comparatively small population of 160 thousand people living in an area of just under 21 000 square kilometers. We have just under 2 million acres of land available for development. With so much shortage of food in the world, Belize can play an important part in becoming one of the main sources of grain, oil, beef and milk for the area in which we live. We hope that our formal admission to the FAO will result in a greater involvement of the Organization in the training of staff in specific disciplines such as grain drying and storage, and laboratory technology to mention but two. We would like to receive assistance in the development of procedures with regard to the prevention of the introduction of diseases foreign to our crop and animal industry, and also to be provided with consultants on a short-term basis who help us to analyse our more pressing agriculture problems and suggest recommendations on how best we can deal with them.

Mr Chairman, once again may I thank you and the members of this august Organization for having accepted Belize as a new Member Nation. We look forward to active participation in all programmes in our area in the cause of food and agriculture development. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Congratulations to Belize, and I am prepared to call upon Saint Christopher and Nevis but I understand they are not here at this point, is that true? Are they here?

We are going to go forward and we will call upon them later if they arrive. I will now call upon Vanuatu.

S.J. REGENVANU (Vanuatu): Mr Director-General, Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates of the Conference, On behalf of the Government and the people of Vanuatu, I would like to thank you for voting in my country as a member of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations today.

I would like to take this opportunity to renew my Government's pledge to participate as fully as possible in the activities of the Organization as well as accepting the obligations of the FAO Constitution.

It is our great hope that in joining FAO our national efforts to develop our agriculture, livestock forestry and fisheries sectors will be supplemented by the wealth of experience which is to be found in this Organization. However, we also hope that this will be a two-way process so that the FAO will itself be strengthened through experiences gained from working in Vanuatu and with our people.

We look forward to many fruitful years of cooperation with, and assistance from, the FAO as we strive to develop Vanuatu's rural areas where the majority of our population work and live, and thus to achieve our overall goal of economic self-reliance.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Congratulations to Vanuatu. There are some countries that would like to extend appreciation and congratulations to those that have been admitted, and one country that has asked for the floor is Mexico on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean group of countries. I give the floor to Mexico.

L.J. CASTAÑOS MARTINES (México): Place y honra al Grupo de Latinoamérica y del Caribe la incorporación a esta Organización de tres países hermanos de América Latina: Antigua y Barbuda, Belice, San Cristóbal y Nieves. Nos place su arribo a la Organización, ya que sabemos los esfuerzos que estos países realizan para mejorar su situación alimentaria y su situación económica. Estamos convencidos de que su incorporación será fructífera y valiosa.

CHAIRMAN: I would like to call on New Zealand to make a statement on behalf of the Southwest Pacific.

J. BELGRAVE (New Zealand): Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, it is indeed a very great honour for the New Zealand delegation that it has fallen to New Zealand as Council Representative for the Southwest Pacific region to welcome on behalf of our region the four new members of our Organization.

This is a further important step well on the way to confirming FAO as the truly worldwide organization. We are all combined to fight against hunger; indeed Sir, the Director-General stressed this truly worldwide nature of our Organization just now when he introduced the new members.

For our region, Mr Chairman, it is of particular significance that one of the new members is a Southwest Pacific country, Vanuatu is a valued partner of the existing members of the region in the South Pacific Forum, and I might add a valued partner with the Forum Fisheries Agency. Last month, for example, Vanuatu participated in the FAO Committee on Fisheries as an observer. At next year's Fisheries Conference, of course, it will now be possible for Vanuatu to be a full participant.

Vanuatu though a small island country is fortunate in having a relatively high proportion of its area as good arable land, and I am sure that in the task of bringing more of this land to fruitful production there will be scope for further cooperation with FAO.

Mr Chairman, like my country, Vanuatu is a South Pacific Commonwealth member. In saying that I turn more specifically to our region's welcome to our other new members, Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, and Saint Christopher and Nevis, all of whom are members of the Commonwealth too. Two of them, Sir, are, like Vanuatu, small island countries, and I have no doubt that all three will have much to contribute to the Caribbean area. It is for all of us here today, Mr Chairman, and I am sure also for the Director-General and his staff a matter of great satisfaction to welcome these four new members to our working partnership. Thank you sir.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

W.O. OMAMO (Kenya): I, too, would like to join my colleagues in extending congratulations to the four sister Nations in joining the FAO. I do so on behalf of the African region. I notice that none of these Nations comes from near the African region but I would like to assure each and every one of them that during times of need they will find the African region handy.

I would also like to assure the four sister Nations of the African region's cooperation in fighting hunger whenever it shows its head.

H.J. ARBUTHNOTT (United Kingdom): As all the new members are members of the Commonwealth, on behalf of the European region it gives me the greatest pleasure to extend a warm welcome to them as members also of this Organization. We know they will indeed all make a worthy contribution to the FAO and all it stands for.

ACHMAD AFFANDI (Indonesia) : On behalf of the Asian group we too wish to extend a warm welcome to the new members of this Community.

A.A. MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Nous souhaitons la bienvenue aux quatre membres qui viennent d'être admis aujourd'hui même à la FAO en qualité de membres à part entière. Je reprends à mon compte ce qu'a dit la délégation du Kenya, à savoir que nous aussi, pays du Proche Orient, nous sommes tous prêts à épauler ces nouveaux membres.

CHAIRMAN: We shall now hear the Director-General's Statement. It has been my privilege to work closely with the Director-General over a period of time and especially the last three or four days in preparation, and as this Conference has proceeded I am pleased to be working with a man of leadership and vision, working in a world of great need.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S STATEMENT TO THE CONFERENCE
DECLARATION DU DIRECTEUR GENERAL A LA CONFERENCE
DECLARACION DEL DIRECTOR GENERAL A LA CONFERENCIA

DIRECTOR-GENERAL (original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates and observers, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it is an honour for me to appear once again before this distinguished assembly. All recent summits, without exception, have designated the fight against hunger as one of the major priorities of the day. Now, Ministers of Agriculture from all over the world are gathered here today to discuss the problem and give the necessary impetus to FAO, the United Nations Agency responsible for food and agriculture.

We in FAO have a tradition of working in a spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding, trying to avoid disputes and arrive at the necessary consensus, however complex the topic for discussion. I am sure that this occasion will be no exception.

In my statement I intend to begin by surveying the general context which must always be borne in mind and in particular, the prevailing economic crisis, a disturbing food situation, and declining international solidarity. I will then go on to review the efforts FAO in making to overcome the difficulties facing it today, most notably in presenting an austerity budget in which the emphasis is placed on economic and technical programmes, with high priority being given to the promotion of a fully-fledged food security policy, rural development, and the conservation and development of natural and human resources.

Only a few days ago, the international community celebrated the third World Food Day. The theme chosen was 'food security', a subject which could not be more acutely topical than it is at this present time.

For since the last Conference, progress in the fight against hunger and malnutrition has been meagre, and particularly in the low-income, food-deficit countries. Even though the 1982 harvest was good at the global level, we must not forget that in spite of this good harvest the ranks of the starving have continued to swell in various parts of the world.

It is true that the unsettled weather bears a good share of responsibility for the situation: drought, floods, typhoons and the like. But we should not underestimate the influence of other factors: human failings, inequitable forms of social organization, mistaken priorities, the unsteady balance of international relations and, in short, the consequences of the political, economic, social and moral crisis which the world is currently going through.

The increase in the number of local conflicts and areas of tension has fostered a climate of uncertainty and of suspicion which does little to encourage international solidarity or further development. All too often, confrontations take the place of dialogue.

Nations are being bled dry by the arms race, and particularly the weakest ones. Is it not absolutely nonsensical, is it not suicidal, to throw out of the window some 800 000 million dollars on military expenditure every year which amounts to twenty times the total for official development aid. And what a senseless waste this is, at a time when development resources are as tightly rationed as they are at present.

In the meantime, a recession unparalleled since the Great Depression in the thirties has made ravages in the world economy. It has severely tried international solidarity and turned a sense of natural interdependence into an attitude of 'every man for himself'.

Today, there are signs which do seem to point to a recovery in the industrialized countries and the crisis may well become less pronounced. But the extent, the speed, and the duration of the recovery, and especially its effects on poor countries, remain uncertain.

The international monetary system, put under severe strain by the 700 billion dollars of Third World debt, is at the present time threatened with collapse.

Despite deflationist policies, real rates of interest have failed to come down as much as expected and inflation remains high. Austerity measures intended to reduce public sector deficits have produced some unwelcome side-effects: unemployment has reached exceptional levels (over 10 percent of the workforce in some industrialized countries), whilst bankruptcies and factory closures are becoming more common; welfare programmes and established rights have come under fire, and development aid itself has been pruned, and cut back in various ways.

International trade has suffered too. The year 1982 may well have seen the sharpest drop in the value of world trade in agricultural commodities for twenty years. And despite the risk of escalation, protectionism is on the rise. Thus the State intervenes more and more to shield uncompetitive industries, preventing the necessary adjustments being made and this stifles the processing industries in the Third World. Competition between partners for markets grows ever fiercer, with subsidies or special trading and credit facilities being used as weapons.

It is true that the crisis has hit the developed countries hard - in 1982 their economies experienced zero growth. In many instances, net farm incomes actually fell, as we all know.

But of all those who have suffered, poor countries have suffered most. The majority of them have seen their real per caput income fall in 1981 and 1982, the first time this has happened for decades.

A number of factors have contributed to their balance of payments difficulties: the fall in commodity prices (down in 1982 to the lowest level for 50 years), the worsening in the terms of trade, and shrinking world trade. Dependent as they are on a few primary products, their export revenues have been slowly and steadily eaten away, whilst world inflation has increased both domestic production costs and the price of imported capital goods.

Since the beginning of the year, world commodity prices have shown some signs of picking up again, but this seems to be due more to short-term factors operating on the supply side than to any sustained growth in demand. In any case, the recovery such as it is is far too modest to have anything more than a marginal effect on the economies of countries with primary exports.

Indeed, according to World Bank forecasts, a marked fall is likely in real prices for coffee, cocoa, tea, and, to a lesser extent, palm and groundnut oil, compared with the average over the last twenty years.

The Bank also estimates during the current decade the prices which developing countries obtain for their commodities will remain on an average at 15 to 20 percent lower than in the sixties.

According to certain UNCTAD projections for 1990, it does seem as if unfortunately these low prices are going to be compensated for by a corresponding increase in the volume of developing countries exports but the UNCTAD projections indicate that overall imports of the developing countries' products by developed countries with a market economy may not increase at all during the period 1980 to 1990. It seems, therefore, that for the foreseeable future any rise in Third World exports is highly problematical.

Now given the general context, what can one say about the world food situation, except that it has again become extremely disturbing?

Some people point to the good harvest in 1981 and 1982 as a reassuring sign. It may be so. Stocks are plentiful and there is no immediate threat of a global food crisis.

All this is true, but the prospects for 1983 are much less encouraging. Our latest information indicates that world cereal production will only amount to 1 605 million tonnes, or 6 percent less than in 1982. The main reason for this drop would appear to be a 13 percent drop in the world production of coarse grains.

As a result, world cereal stocks, which last year were equivalent to 21 percent of annual consumption, could well fall back to 17 percent. Although the danger point has not yet been reached, this fall cannot be treated lightly since past experience shows that it is very much easier to jump from surplus to shortage than the other way round.

For the second year running, per caput production slumped in less developed countries, and emergency situations have been proliferated. In more than 30 low-income countries, food production rose at a slower rate than population; in some instances, it even fell in actual terms of volume of production.

Developing countries already import more than 100 million tonnes of grains a year. This growing dependence on the outside for their basic foodstuffs represents a grave danger for the future: it is a heavy burden on the balance of payments, compromises investment programmes, and puts these countries increasingly at the mercy of outside interests.

The situation is especially serious in Africa where average per caput food production has fallen over the last fifteen years. According to our most recent information, at least 22 countries are in urgent need of supplementary food aid, in addition to requiring help to reestablish their agriculture on a firm footing, safeguard their livestock and provide protection against the risk of further disasters.

At the end of October, and for the second time since 1980, I had to convene a special meeting to mobilize increased assistance for these countries. I would like to urge donor countries to speed up delivery of food and other aid already promised and to consider additional commitments to meet the shortages which have been forecast for the 1983-84 season.

I must admit that I am not totally satisfied with the results of the meeting. The participants did indeed share our analysis of the situation, but what is needed now is for the necessary decisions to be taken. I intend to take advantage of the presence here of so many Ministers from donor countries to discuss with them the possibility of taking rapid action.

A depressing fact, especially at a time when so many people are threatened by famine, is that food aid is actually decreasing, despite plentiful stocks. Estimates for 1983/84 put it at 8.7 million tonnes of grain, compared to 12.5 million tonnes in 1972. In the intervening period, the world's population has risen by 900 million people, three quarters of them in the developing countries.

The mood of the times cannot be ignored. That is why, at a moment when you are about to embark on discussions about the Organization's programme of work and budget for the next two years, I have deemed it appropriate, in this first part of my address, to outline the general context in which we have to operate.

The proposals for the 1984/85 biennium which I have the honour of putting before you, have been designed to take into account the financial and economic difficulties prevailing at the present time.

It is, therefore, an austerity budget which I put before you, a budget which deliberately lays stress on technical and economic programmes, whilst maximum cutbacks have been made in administrative expenditure.

The budget for the biennium shows a net increase of just 0.5 percent, a figure which is more symbolic than real. However, expenditure on technical and economic programmes will rise by not less than 3.6 percent enabling the Organization to respond more effectively to urgent situations in Member States and especially in the poorest ones among them.

On the other hand, the cost of administration and common services will be cut back by 6.6 percent. 40 posts will be shed. Established posts will now account for only 58 percent of the total budget, as against 77 percent ten years ago. Internal audit and inspection will be reinforced.

The aim of my proposals is to concentrate FAO's action in high priority areas, and reinforce our operational capacity.

Plainly, UNDP's shortage of resources has had a marked effect on our own field programme. Between 1982 and 1983, FAO/UNDP operational activities fell by 20 percent in real terms. In consequence, more than 300 experts have been lost, projects have been either cut short or not extended, even in promising areas, whilst certain development programmes have been put at risk.

In these circumstances, the Technical Cooperation Programme, which mainly intervenes in emergency projects, in training and in investment preparation, has played a valuable role in ensuring the continuity of certain projects threatened by the reduction in UNDP financing.

The draft programme of work and budget which has been put before you, has been the subject of deep reflection, and I sincerely believe it to be a well-balanced one. I am pleased to be able to say that it has received the very full support of the Finance and Programme Committees and, subsequently, of the Council too.

I very much hope that the Conference will feel able to adopt it unanimously, by consensus. By doing so, it will provide the Organization with a solid base for pursuing its task, with a clearly established strategy, and list of priorities for our action.

It is impossible for me to describe here all the programmes run by the FAO. In any case you will yourselves be examining them in detail in the weeks to come. However, there is one aspect which colours all the Organization's activities, and which underlies all my proposals (-) and that is the quest for world food security .

Food security is a major priority, a question of elementary prudence. It is a sort of insurance against adversity, but not of the kind provided by cheap policies. Indeed, only far-reaching action taken over a prolonged period and embracing all aspects of the problem - national, regional and global - will bring us closer towards real food security.

But important though a food strategy is, it cannot suffice on its own. A global approach to agricultural and rural development is what is needed, closely integrated with the process of economic and social transformation in the countries concerned and taking into account all relevant factors at regional and world level, including trade and aid.

Up until recently, there was a tendency to attach too much importance to measures aimed at ensuring the availability of food supplies in the event of widespread bad harvests. That is the reason why, at the last session of the Committee on World Food Security, I suggested a new approach, new principles and new methods.

I am glad to say that the Committee, and subsequently the Council, approved my proposal for an enlarged concept of food security. Since then, the World Food Council and ECOSOC have given it their backing. I feel confident that the Conference too will adopt this concept.

According to the new concept, the ultimate objective of world food security is to ensure that all people at all times have both physical and economic access to the basic foods they need, taking into account all those factors affecting countries' or individuals' ability to produce or buy enough for their requirements.

Three specific aims need to be pursued: ensure adequate production; maximise stability in the flow of supplies; secure access to these supplies for those who need them at the right time and in the right place.

Very often the root cause of hunger lies not so much in a shortage of food, but in poor countries not having enough foreign exchange to pay for imports, and in individuals having neither enough money to buy food nor the means to produce it themselves.

In short, the solution is to be found both in international trade relations and in domestic policies.

Trade questions have a direct effect on food security. It is difficult to see how poor countries can pay for the cost of food imports if they are unable to increase their export revenues. Consequently, it is indispensable if these countries are to be helped that commodity prices should be set at remunerative levels and that there should be a progressive liberalization of trade in those relevant commodities.

Unfortunately, there has been scarcely any progress in this area which is so important. The deadline for setting up the Common Fund for commodities expired on 30 September without the necessary number of ratifications having been obtained up to that date.

Insofar as domestic policies are concerned, on the other hand, priority ought to be given to rural development. Governments should make efforts to implement the Programme of Action decided on by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development held in Rome in 1979. You will be examining the first report on the implementation of this programme in the course of your Conference here.

From it an idea can be gained of the truly horrific extent of rural poverty and deprivation. In 1980 there were 1 340 million people living in the rural areas of 68 developing countries. Nearly 700 million of these, that is to say 52 percent, were living in conditions of abject poverty. Nor is there anything to indicate that the situation has improved since those figures were obtained.

These figures illustrate, soberly but most tellingly, a human tragedy on a planetary scale. What kind of a future awaits coming generations in these disinherited parts of the world? This is something in which we all have our share of responsibility and we should not be surprised if so much misery gives rise eventually to social and economic disturbances.

FAO must give the Programme of Action a high priority. The additional resources I ask for will for the most part be allocated to a number of activities, such as agricultural education, extension and training, agrarian reform and land settlement, rural institutions, the encouragement of people's participation and promoting the role of women.

Mr Chairman, in the present circumstances, no potential source of food should be disregarded. Until now I have confined my remarks to agriculture and livestock production. However, as you are well aware, FAO also tries to help governments conserve, develop, enhance, and rationally exploit all those other resources that are at their disposal, such as fisheries, forests, and genetic resources. Above all, FAO spares no effort to train people in any discipline which contributes to agricultural and rural development. Allow me briefly to run through these various points.

Fish have great nutritional value and provide nearly a quarter of world animal protein supplies. The full potential of fishery resources, however, is far from being exploited at the present time. Fortunately the new ocean regime which emerged from the third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea has opened up some highly promising horizons for developing coastal countries since virtually all marine fish stocks now fall within their national jurisdictions. However, now these countries must be reaping full benefit which derives from this radical change in order to be able in this manner to increase both domestic fish consumption and exports.

To help them revise and update their methods of exploiting and managing their fisheries resources the FAO will be organizing next year, in 1984, a World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development. This will be the first major international meeting convened to look into the consequences which the new Law of the Sea has for fishing.

Turning now to forestry, there is a need for more detailed forest resources inventories and for appropriate conservation and development programmes, particularly in tropical and sub-tropical zones where many potentially useful species are at the present time simply being ignored.

The decline and degradation in forestry resources, the growing fuelwood deficit, the serious consequences of shifting agriculture, and other problems, all these require imaginative forestry policies in support of local community development. The success of such policies depends on the full and willing participation of rural populations, not only in the management of forests and forestry products but also in the resulting benefits. Indeed, the protection of the environment and the ecological heritage can only be ensured with the participation of all and if everyone feels that they themselves are getting something out of it.

That is why the Ninth World Forestry Congress, which will be held in Mexico in 1985 under the auspices of FAO, has chosen as its theme 'forest for development'.

Plant genetic resources are another invaluable part of the heritage of mankind and they are threatened by erosion and in some cases they are in danger of extinction.

A report on plant genetic resources is before this Conference. The draft International Agreement which I propose has, as suggested by the Committee on Agriculture, already benefited from the advice of an inter-governmental working party specially convened for this purpose. I hope the Conference will give it a favourable reception. The draft takes into account the views of all interested parties, and aims at promoting the survey, conservation, free availability and full exploitation of these genetic resources. Governments and institutes active in the field will also be invited to join in an international bank of plant genetic resources located within the jurisdictional framework of FAO.

Just one word more before I finish - a word of gratitude to all the world's peasants and countryfolk. Our daily bread is the fruit of their labour. Town dwellers all too easily overlook this fact and take what they eat for granted.

Yet these rural people are the real resource of nations and the wealth of nations. That is why FAO attaches so much importance to education and to other activities in this field, such as extension and training, giving priority to small producers, women and young people in rural areas wherever this is necessary.

This is one of the Organization's essential functions and it is an important component in the majority of our programmes. We are determined to continue along this path, because the surest investment in the long term, is that which helps develop man's natural abilities.

Mr Chairman, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen: It is time for me to stop and leave the floor to you.

You are the States General of agriculture. It is now your task, in your collective wisdom, to assess the world food and agricultural situation, evaluate the Organization's work, and point it in the right direction.

I am thoroughly confident that your support will not be lacking. You may rest assured that the whole Secretariat and myself will give you our active and dedicated assistance throughout your important deliberations.

In a few weeks the United Nations and men of goodwill everywhere will celebrate the Thirty-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Man. But we must say that there is little cause for rejoicing.

One of the most basic of the rights of man, the right to eat, is beyond the reach of too many of our fellow human beings.

A Conference such as ours gives an exceptional opportunity to assess the magnitude of the scandalous state of affairs and to proclaim it to the world.

Science and technology provide the means in which to respond to this challenge. Hunger can in fact become a thing of the past. It is even the necessary condition for peace.

In the greater interests of humanity, let us put aside our quarrels and build together a fairer society. Let us build together a society which cares for all, through all and with all.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr Director-General for that very forceful presentation.

PRESENTATION OF B.R. SEN AWARD FOR 1982 AND 1983

REMISE DU PRIX B.R. SEN POUR 1982 ET 1983

ENTREGA DEL PREMIO B.R. SEN PARA 1982 Y 1983

The B.R. Sen awards were established by the Conference 16 years ago to commemorate Mr Sen's inspiring leadership as Director-General of the Organization and the cause that he served so well. The B.R. Sen Award is an annual one, consisting of a medal, a scroll, a \$5 000 cash prize and a round trip to Rome for the winner and spouse, awarded to a FAO or World Food Programme expert who has had at least two years continuous service in the field and whose work has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the country to which assigned.

I will now call upon the Director-General to present the awards.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Mr Chairman, the awards which we are about to present honour not only their recipients, but also the man whose name they bear in tribute to his efforts to attain the aims of our Organization.

Since 1968, the B.R. Sen Award, which is an annual one, has been bestowed on the Field Officer who has made the most noteworthy contribution to the country or countries to which he or she was assigned.

The recipient of the B.R. Sen Award for 1982 is Mr Lim Poh Loh of Malaysia in recognition of his outstanding services resulting in the successful development of rubber production in Thailand.

Mr Lim has been long associated with the Rubber Development Project in that country, engaging in several activities within the framework of rubber training and extension programmes.

Not only his technical skills and his ability to establish exceptionally good human relationships with national and international staff, but also his capable manner in dealing with governments and with major financing institutions, mark Mr Lim out for recognition.

The Government of Thailand, in acknowledging his meritorious service, has endorsed his selection.

The award for 1983 is given to Mr Manuel Calvelo Rios of Spain for his exceptional achievements in mass audio-visual training in rural areas in Peru, as well as other countries in Latin America.

Mr Calvelo Rios applied highly advanced video technology to the training of farmers at grass-roots level in developing countries.

It is altogether fitting that recognition be given him during the year which has been dedicated to world communications.

His demonstrated enthusiasm, initiative and long-standing commitment to training in rural areas, single him out as an exemplary international civil servant.

The Government of Peru, in recognizing Mr Calvelo Rios' merits, has endorsed his selection for the B.R. Sen Award for 1983.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

L. POH LOH (FAO Staff): Mr Chairman, Director-General, your Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

This is indeed an unexpected pleasures and honour for me to be here today at this distinguished gathering and to be bestowed the B.R. Sem award for 1982.

The success of the rubber development programme in Thailand is a combined effort put in by the Royal Thai Government, International Agencies, foreign experts - many local counterparts and the thousands of rubber smallholders who responded so well to the Rubber Replanting Scheme for over two decades. It is certainly not the effort by any one individual. I happen to be the fortunate one to be recognised. This award therefore is also a recognition for all who have contributed to the improvement of the natural rubber industry in Thailand.

Rubber is indeed an interesting crop. Just over a hundred years ago, the keen foresight of one person and the efforts of Sir Henry Wickham led to the introduction of the rubber tree to the East. Wickham collected some seeds from Brazil and brought them across to England. After successful germination they were sent to the Far East for test planting. This introduction has since brought on tremendous socio-economic changes in this part of the world. When synthetic rubber was first developed, some people predicted the death of the natural rubber industry. It certainly did not die but has bounced back instead from strength to strength. By complementing synthetic rubber, it will continue to contribute increasingly towards better living conditions for mankind. Looking further ahead, the rubber tree will also be an important source of tropical timber. The Thais have already regarded it as "white teak" producing beautiful household furniture.

The rubber tree has been an important contributor to the welfare of the rural smallholders. In many ways, it is a very suitable crop for them. It is relatively easy to grow and thrives well under a wide range of environmental conditions. In China and elsewhere, rubber tree growing is being extended even to latitudes which experience periodic cold and dry conditions. Of the 7 million hectares of rubber planted in the world, about three-quarters of these are under small holdings. Assuming that the average size of a smallholding is 1 1/2 hectare, we have the rubber tree crop touching the lives of 3.5 million smallholder families, not to mention those who are involved with it indirectly. Small as these holdings may be, the combined effort of thousands of smallholders walking daily from tree to tree to tap and collect latex has made the world a more comfortable place to live in. If they ever stop walking, we will all be living in a slow-moving and certainly less comfortable world.

As I drive along the country roads in Thailand, I see a changing scenario over the years. Jungle and low-yielding old rubber are being gradually replaced with new and better high-yielding clones. A Thai farmer who has successfully replanted his holding looks on it as a bank from which he can draw upon for his livelihood for the next 25 years. With the above transformation, living standards of the rubber smallholders have also improved very noticeably. One sees that the present rubber smallholder generally enjoys better living standards than others. It is very satisfying for me professionally to feel that I have been associated with this change.

I would like to thank the Royal Thai Government, the FAO, colleagues - both foreign and local -and the participating smallholders for the encouragement and support given to me. The training and experience I have gained in Malaysia, the country to which I belong, and the opportunities to be involved in Liberia, Burma and China are also gratefully acknowledged. I would also like to extend my appreciation and thanks to the Director-General and the Selection Committee for honouring me with this award. Lastly, to my dear wife, a special thanks, who I know spent many lonely days and nights with understanding and tolerance while I was away on field duties or overseas assignments. Thank you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr Lim Poh Loh.

Mr Manuel Calvelo Rios, would you care to say a word or two?

M.P. CALVELO RIOS (del Personal de la FAO): Sr. Presidente; Sr. Director General de la FAO; Sres. Ministros; Sres. representantes de los países; Señoras y Señores.

Quiero agradecer profundamente el otorgamiento de este Premio; pero el premio debe hacerse extensivo a aquellos que lo han hecho posible. En primer lugar, a mis contrapartes, a los que han trabajado conmigo en el Centro de Servicios de Pedagogía Audiovisual para la Capacitación (CESPAC) del Perú; a aquellos que han aceptado las propuestas de la investigación planteada y han sido capaces de desarrollarla.

En segundo lugar, quiero agradecer este premio en nombre de los campesinos peruanos, los interlocutores de este proceso y metodología de capacitación, de los cuales hemos aprendido tanto como les hemos enseñado.

En tercer lugar, a la Subdirección de Comunicación para el Desarrollo, de la División de Información de la FAO, que me ha apoyado plenamente en la implementación y realización de esta nueva metodología de capacitación campesina a nivel de base.

En este Año Mundial de la Comunicación, este Premio a un proyecto que emplea medios masivos de comunicación audiovisual -vídeo para la capacitación rural, es un estímulo para continuar el trabajo, ya que la comunicación es un elemento básico para el desarrollo rural.

Se requieren medios de comunicación para la información, base de la toma de decisiones; se requieren medios de comunicación para la participación, para que el desarrollo rural sea un proceso autónomo interno y no un elemento impuesto desde fuera; se requieren medios de comunicación para la educación, educación para mejorar la producción, la productividad y las condiciones de vida de nuestra población rural; se requieren medios de comunicación para que los investigadores conozcan y sepan las necesidades y demandas de los grupos campesinos.

Este Premio se adjudica a un proyecto de educación que utiliza medios de comunicación audiovisual-vídeo. El proyecto comenzó por un rediseño de los instrumentos, adecuando equipos producidos en países industrializados usados para la diversión y la recreación en zonas urbanas, y los rediseñó para utilizarlos en países en desarrollo para la educación en zonas rurales. Este es quizá uno de los logros más significativos del proyecto.

Es fácil explicar el porqué del uso de estos medios: la masividad, el analfabetismo y el multilingüismo del interlocutor campesino, obligan a usar medios masivos audiovisuales. De esta forma, hemos puesto en marcha un sistema en el cual la capacitación va al campesino sin que el campesino tenga que abandonar sus tareas productivas; un sistema que establece un puente directo entre los centros de investigación tecnológica para el área rural y los usuarios de los resultados de dicha investigación.

Si analizamos la tecnología del vídeo y extrapolamos hacia el futuro lo que hemos visto en los últimos veinte años, la constante mejora de la calidad y las constantes reducciones de precios y de pesos, no es una aventura pensar que en un próximo futuro, desde luego antes del año 2000, algo así como esta carpeta será un monitor de televisión; y algo así como esta grabadora de audio será una grabadora de vídeo, y que estos dos equipos no costarán más de 400 dólares. Esto es el futuro, y lo que la FAO ha iniciado en el Perú, con su apoyo al CESPAC es la base para la utilización de estos instrumentos para el desarrollo rural.

En este campo, la FAO, bajo su dirección Sr. Director General, ha iniciado el camino y esperamos que en el futuro mantenga el liderazgo mediante mayor apoyo a la investigación y desarrollo de la metodología originada en el CESPAC, no sólo sobre la tecnología sino, fundamentalmente, mediante la formación de nuevas contrapartes que deben manejar estos recursos en sus países para alcanzar las metas del desarrollo rural.

Por todo ello, porque entiendo que se está premiando un instrumento útil para los campesinos más pobres y necesitados, agradezco y recibo el premio Sen.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. We now have some countries that would like to express congratulations. The first country I will call upon is Malaysia.

DATO KAMARUDDIN ARIFF (Malaysia): Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to take this opportunity to say how honoured we are to be associated in the B.R. Sen Award for the year 1982 through the work of the Malaysia national Mr Lim Poh Loh. Prior to his experience in the FAO, Mr Lim Poh Loh made a significant contribution to the development of the Malaysian rubber industry over the period of 1952 to 1970. His experience in Malaysia includes positions of responsibility in the management of privately owned plantations and in rubber research

work on estates as well as small-holder advisory services, and in the development and management of natural rubber processing units. For contributions made to the rubber industry in extension and management work, Mr Lim Poh Loh received His Majesty's Award in 1967. His wide ranging experience had equipped Mr Lim Poh Loh for services to the International Community, and we are pleased to see that his outstanding performance and dedication has been recognized today by the FAO. We are naturally pleased to know that, equipped with such experience, he has contributed significantly towards the natural rubber industry in the rubber growing countries of the world, particularly Thailand.

We share with Mr Lim Poh Loh his moments of jubilation, and extend our heartiest congratulations to him for the work well done. I thank you Mr Chairman.

Prakob KANJANASOON (Thailand): Thank you, Mr Chairman. My Government wishes to extend its heartiest congratulations to Mr Lim Poh Loh for the B.R. Sen Award which he so richly deserves, as we are by far the major beneficiary of the impact of Mr Lim Poh Loh's services since 1971 with FAO. My Government wishes to take this opportunity to extend our sincere gratitude to him for the many fruitful years of cooperation in the developing of the Thai rubber industry, whereas normally technical assistance projects and the international personnel assigned to them are only of medium-term duration.

The twelve years over which we have cooperated with Mr Lim Poh Loh has seen an ever changing requirement as our industry has developed, and Mr Lim Poh Loh has met this new challenge with confidence. Because of the success of the rubber replanting programme, the natural rubber production in Thailand has been rising at an average of about 6 to 8 percent annually. The volume of export in 1982 was 11.3 percent higher than the previous year, and has a foreign exchange earning of about US\$404 million. Thailand aims to increase the production to over 1 million tons annually by 1990.

We in the Government of Thailand are confident of our increasing capacity to manage the development of the natural rubber industry, and yet we look forward to continued cooperation with Mr Lim Poh Loh, even if not on a continuous basis then to assist in meeting new challenges as they arise in an expanding programme.

Mr Lim Poh Loh's considerable hard work, his devotion and exceptional rapport which he has established at all levels with the people of Thailand will make him always welcome. Thank you very much.

J.F. PEÑA (España): Gracias Sr. Presidente, Sr. Director General, Señoras y señores delegados.

En primer lugar quiero felicitar a los galardonados con los premios Sen y Boerma y agradecer a la FAO el estímulo que genera al otorgar dichos premios.

Es para mí un honor que el premio Sen 1983, le haya sido concedido al español Manuel Calvelo Ríos, por los justos méritos de una excelente labor realizada. Pero no quisiera atribuir este honor únicamente a España, donde nació y creció en un ambiente campesino sino a otros países hermanos en lengua y tradiciones, donde ha vivido y desarrollado su trabajo: Argentina, Chile y Perú. Es pues un español que sirve de puente de unión entre España e Hispanoamérica.

El Sr. Calvelo es también una persona que sabe explicar con una metodología adecuada, las técnicas más avanzadas de los países desarrollados a los medios rurales menos adelantados, sirviendo también en este caso, de puente de unión.

Todo ello trabajando con un gran respeto a la cultura campesina, recogida en fuentes del pensamiento español, otro español universal, Miguel de Unamuno decía, refiriéndose a los hombres del campo: "esos analfabetos tan cultos", y el Sr. Calvelo tiene esto muy en cuenta cuando nos afirma que: "aprende de los campesinos peruanos tanto como les enseña".

Considero, Sr. Presidente, este premio muy merecido y quiero manifestar el gran interés de España por esta metodología. Debo anunciar que estamos estudiando la forma de asociarnos a la FAO y al CESPAC para ayudar a una mayor difusión del proyecto.

J. GAZZO FERNANDEZ DAVILA (Perú): Señor Presidente, Señor Director General, Señores Embajadores, Señores Ministros, Señoras y Señores,

Con gran satisfacción y con profunda emoción he asistido a la entrega de estos premios B.R. Sen otorgados al Sr. Lim Poh Loh, de Malasia, y al Sr. Manuel Calvelo Ríos, ciudadano español que ha trabajado en el proyecto que hoy se llama CESPAC, en el Perú, y con el cual me cupo la gran satisfacción de haber trabajado cuando estuve a cargo del Instituto Nacional de Investigación Agraria Lima -Perú-. Debo decir que Manuel Calvelo Ríos, es una mezcla extraordinaria de un hombre de

gran capacidad creativa y un incansable y permanente innovador de técnicas. Cuando conversaba con Manuel, y así lo llamo porque somos muy amigos, me preocupaba inicialmente el que un aparato tan sofisticado, casi del año 2 000, como era el televisor pudiera llevar un mensaje a agricultores que se encontraban casi 2 000 años antes de Jesucristo, en relación al uso de sus tecnologías. Entonces era un período muy largo y aparentemente abrupto y quizá infranqueable el que se tenía que hacer.

Sin embargo, su creatividad, su profundo carácter de liderazgo y el contagio que produjo en sus colaboradores hizo que este proyecto fuera realidad.

Cuando pensábamos en el transporte de televisores él consiguió un container para que las llamas, los burros y los caballos pudieran llegar a 3 000 y a 4 000 metros sobre el nivel del mar a los pequeños villorrios campesinos. Esta tecnología tiene dos ventajas: la primera es aquella que puede enseñar a los analfabetos, a los únicos que no puede enseñar es a los ciegos, desgraciadamente, puede enseñar a los analfabetos; y tiene otra ventaja de síntesis y es que en una hora enseña todo un proceso agrícola que si se tuviera que enseñar de la forma corriente se demoraría muchísimo porque habría que ver la forma de siembra, el uso de fertilizantes, el control fitosanitario y las cosechas. Sabiamente, es la union maravillosa de una tecnología moderna que ha ido a recoger el mensaje eterno de los agricultores andinos, que han sido ancestralmente agricultores progresistas.

Quiero con esto, señor Presidente, contarles una anécdota que siempre va a dar una nota graciosa a esta reunion familiar: Cuando en el año 1981 se había cerrado el presupuesto general de la República, el proyecto de Calvelo no tenía un sol de financiación; estaba, como se dice, quebrado, y Manuel Calvelo no me dejará por mentiroso cuando diga que llegamos al Ministro de Agricultura primero y al Ministro de Economía después a enseñarles esta novedad, esta caja de pandora y recuerdo que les dimos dos filmaciones, dos vídeos, uno como aprender a construir una casa con los materiales locales y el segundo cómo hacer parir una vaca cuando no hay veterinario. Recuerdo que se emocionaron tanto que obtuvieron un dispositivo legal para asignarle 500 000 dolares a este proyecto que estaba despresupuestado por parte del Gobierno de Perú. De manera que creo que estos casos son símbolo y émulo que debe seguirse porque todos acá luchamos por una gran causa y no se puede luchar por una gran causa sin sentir la grandeza de la misma.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much; it is clear to me that Manuel Calvelo Ríos has instilled great enthusiasm and we do have a great cause here. Thank you for your remarks.

PRESENTATION OF A.H. BOERMA AWARD FOR 1982 AND 1983

REMISE DU PRIX A.H. BOERMA POUR 1982 ET 1983

ENTREGA DEL PREMIO A.H. BOERMA PARA 1982 Y 1983

We now come to the presentation of the A.H. Boerma Award. This Award is biennial, consisting of scroll, a \$ 10 000 cash prize and a round trip to Rome for the winner and spouse, to be given to a writer or journalist whose writing production on radio or television is likely to have increased international awareness of the world food problem and measures leading to its solution. I now call on the Director-General to present the Award.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: The A.H. Boerma Award was established in 1975 by the FAO Conference to commemorate Dr Boerma's leadership as Director-General of FAO and this is the third occasion of the A.H. Boerma Award. .

The A.H. Boerma Award is presented biennially to a journalist or journalists whose work on development questions has helped to focus public attention on important aspects of the world food problem, with the likely result of having increased public support for measures aimed at its solution.

The Award is not confined to the written word, but may also be extended to productions in all the information media, including particularly television and radio.

On this occasion, the winner of the A.H. Boerma Award is "Farming World", a widely disseminated radio programme of the BBC World Service.

Since 1958, "Farming World" has broadcast programmes on agriculture in the developing countries to an audience of over 20 million listeners.

In addition, many of the programme's items are translated and used separately by the BBC's 36 foreign language services.

Together these services reach a regular audience of 80 million people.

The programme's listeners have been sensitized to the problems of malnutrition and poverty facing the Third World's rural masses.

The audience has also been made aware of the search for solutions to these problems being carried out by national governments and local organizations, as well as by FAO and other international agencies.

Many of the "Farming World" broadcasts have high-lighted matters of immediate concern to FAO, and the work of the Organization's experts and technicians is frequently featured on the programme.

It is my great pleasure, therefore, to present the A.H. Boerma Award for 1982-1983 to the producer of "Farming World", Mr David Dixon, and to the programme's production team.

In doing so, I would like to express my appreciation for their contribution to the fight against world hunger, and their support for the cause for which this Organization strives.

May I ask Mr David Dixon to come up, please.

D. DIXON (United Kingdom): Mr Chairman, Director-General, honourable delegates, ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of all of us who are involved with 'The Farming World' I have much pleasure in accepting the A.H. Boerma Award. We all feel very encouraged that the work we are doing has been recognized in this way by FAO. The programme is fortunate in having such a dedicated team and I wish to thank them for all their support.

This award comes at a very appropriate moment, for in a few months time 'The Farming World' will have completed 25 years on the air. During that time we have tried to make listeners in every part of the world more aware of the huge problems facing food production and to keep them up-to-date with the latest in research and developments, much of which is hard to come by from alternative sources in the remote areas. As you are all well aware agriculture, especially in the developing countries, is facing its greatest challenge, and so the swift flow of new ideas is, perhaps, more important than ever before. Radio's role here is vital and we like to think that FAO recognized this in making the award for the first time to a radio programme.

Not only does this award acknowledge the part radio can play in extension, but it also highlights the value of public service broadcasting. We have the advantage of not being tied in any way to commercial interests; it is free of any government propaganda and, because it is a public service, more people are probably prepared to contribute. All the information we broadcast in 'The Farming World' is judged solely on its importance and practicality to agricultural development; the criteria being that it must be of use to someone somewhere.

'The Farming World' will, I hope, continue to play its part in agricultural broadcasting, but to do this we need to have a flow of ideas and experiences from those of you who work, either at the Research Stations or in the field. We cannot always get to you, so your support is really necessary

to make the programme effective, and here I would like to thank the staff of FAO and others who have supported us in the past.

With this award I hope we will be able to travel more to see, learn and report on the positive things that are happening.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

H.J. ARBUTHNOTT (United Kingdom): On behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom I should like to express to the Director-General our deep appreciation of the FAO's decision to select for the third A.H. Boerma Award, the BBC's programme "The Farming World". I should like to congratulate Mr David Dixon, the producer of the programme, and his whole production team for this recognition of the contribution made by the programme to public awareness of the world food problem and measures leading to its solution.

Given the BBC's independence, referred to by Mr Dixon, the Government can claim no credit for the success of Mr Dixon and his team but we are proud that the programmes made by a British producer with a British team has been seen to be worthy of the award. The BBC World Service is listened to by many millions of people in the developed and developing countries and its regular features like

"The Farming World" attracts large audiences with diverse interests and experiences. The Programme gives information on a wide range of agricultural issues of international concern and it has direct relevance to the problems of small farmers who are, of course, the main beneficiaries of the action programmes of the Organization.

"The Farming World" disseminates ideas not only for those seeking to assist the improvement of agricultural production by the application of appropriate technology but also from the farmers them-selves. Some of the recent interviews with local people in countries as wide apart as Jamaica and India illustrated that farmers indeed have the necessary skills and initiatives when the right conditions for profitable agricultural production exist. What is more the programme spread is not only geographically worldwide but covers the whole range of agricultural and agriculturally-related activities, including fishery and forestry.

I wish "The Farming World" every success in its endeavours in the years ahead and I once again thank the Director-General of the FAO for selecting the programme for this year's Boerma Award.

The meeting rose at 16.45 hours

La séance est levée à 16 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 16.45 horas

conference

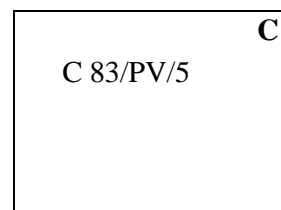
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Twenty-second Session

PLENARY

Vingt-deuxième session

PLENIERE

22° período de sesiones

PLENARIA

FIFTH PLENARY MEETING
CINQUIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
QUINTA. SESION PLENARIA
(8 November 1983)

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.45 hours,
J.R. Block, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La cinquième seance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45
sous la présidence de J.R. Block, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 09.45 horas, bajo la
presidencia de J.R. Block, Presidente de la Conferencia

CHAIRMAN: I call the Fifth Plenary Meeting to order.

STATEMENT BY THE INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL
DECLARATION DU PRESIDENT INDEPENDANT DU CONSEIL
DECLARACION DEL PRESIDENTE INDEPENDIENTE DEL CONSEJO

Dr M.S. SWAMINATHAN (Independent Chairman of the FAO Council): Mr Chairman, distinguished members of the Conference, Excellencies, Mr Director-General, ladies and gentlemen, may I first of all convey to this Conference our very sincere greetings. As I told you, I have a few acknowledgements to make, but you, Sir, have been good enough to agree that they shall go in the Report in order to save the time of this meeting.

Since the Twenty-first Session of the Conference the Council has had three regular sessions involving in all twenty-three days of intensive discussion. My sincere gratitude goes to the members of the Council and Observers on the one hand, and to the Director-General and his staff on the other for making the Council meetings purposeful and pleasant. Under its Charter the Council is required to keep under review the state of food and agriculture in the world in between the sessions of the Conference; as a result, the quantitative and qualitative dimensions of the world food problem, so lucidly and authoritatively described by the Director-General yesterday, have been under continuous review in the different sessions of the Council. The Council has given enthusiastic support to the enlarged concept of food security, proposed by the Director-General, which stipulates that the ultimate objective of food security is to ensure that all people at all times have access, both physical and economical, to the basic food they need.

At its Eighty-fourth session, held between 1 and 3 November 1983, the Council as a whole expressed its full support to the FAO Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-1985. The format, contents and the strategy of effective redeployment of resources have all been highly commended by the Council. I share the hope expressed yesterday by the Director-General that the Conference will give its unanimous approval to the Programme of Budget and Work for 1984-1985.

I would like now to take five issues which were discussed during the Council meetings, and to put forward some of my own personal comments. The first relates to our immediate goal of the alleviation of hunger.

The World Food Programme is probably the largest source of multilateral assistance within the United Nations system apart from the World Bank group, and as everyone knows, is completing this year, 20 years of valuable service.

Food aid, as used by the World Food Programme, has demonstrated the capacity to reach the poorest and the needy. This feature of the World Food Programme can be further enhanced by concentrating it even more strongly on the poorest regions in each country and by enhancing the participation of the people of the area concerned in designing and implementing suitable projects. The World Food Programme, together with the "Food for Development", "Food for Work" and similar programmes sponsored by the United States, European Economic Community and many developed and developing nations, provide immediately feasible methods of enabling everyone to earn their daily bread with human dignity. I have personally seen the power and usefulness of the "Food for Work" programmes to benefit the poor, particularly women and children, in my country as well as in Bangladesh.

In this connection I would like to quote what was once said by Mahatma Gandhi when he heard the recitation of a poem by the Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore: "The hungry millions ask for one poem - invigorating food. They cannot be given it. They must earn it. And they can earn it only by the sweat of their brow. Imagine therefore what a calamity it must be to have several million becoming degraded every day for want of employment, devoid of self-respect. Indeed at the root of this doctrine of social equity must be the trusteeship of the wealthy for the superfluous wealth possessed by them."

Gandhi considered that the only meaningful pathway of development is one where the good of all is served by promoting the good of the poorest, the lowliest and the lost. However, if the World Food Programme and similar national Programmes are to achieve their stated objective of making food an instrument of achieving self-reliance in agriculture, we will need a vast army of professionals who, imbued with humanism, will help in both project formulation and effective delivery based on a clear understanding of the needs and aspirations of the local population. I will return shortly to the question of how we can generate this vast army of helpers.

Secondly, I would refer to the establishment of a division of research and technology development in FAO, as proposed by the Director-General. The Council has welcomed his initiative. I referred earlier to the 20th anniversary of the World Food Programme. 1983 also marks the thirtieth anniversary of the double helix structure of the chemical substance of heredity, Deoxyribose Nucleic Acid (DNA) by Watson and Crick the American and British biochemist and geneticist. This discovery resulted in rapid progress in the standardization of techniques to isolate genetic material, to identify portions of the genetic molecule responsible for specific characteristics, and then to splice this portion onto a genetic molecule from another strain.

Consequently research in cell biology, molecular genetics, recombinant DNA, tissue culture, and related fields are laying the groundwork for important technological developments. Developing countries should take interest in the potential application of biotechnology and genetic engineering in agriculture, health and energy. The euphoria surrounding the biotechnology revolution should, however, not blind us to the fact that much of the increased production needed during the next ten years will come mainly from the adaptation and transfer of already available technologies.

I wish to quote what President Nyerere of Tanzania said recently: "I am tired of hearing about the production potential of my country as well as others in Africa. What we would like to see is the speedy conversion of the potential into actual production."

Members of this Conference are fully aware that science and technology are important components of the wall dividing poverty and prosperity. In this context the decision to establish a Division of Research and Technology Development in FAO is a timely initiative.

In the past, technological progress led to a process of industrialization characterised by high capital requirements, centralization, automation, urbanization and often pollution. However, we now have unique opportunities for harnessing recent advances in agricultural and rural technologies including biotechnology, microelectronics and microprocessors, computers, satellite communication and imagery and solar renewable energy technology to upgrade traditional skills and occupations. If we do this we will be able to combine the advantages of the technologies involved in what is called "production by masses" and "mass production" technologies. This is the only way by which we can fight the famine of jobs which threatens to be the most important problem in coming years, as was mentioned by the distinguished McDougall lecturer yesterday.

To farmers "seeing is believing" and visual demonstrations have hence high credibility. A few hundred demonstrations laid out in small farmers' fields in India with dwarf varieties of wheat during 1965-66 had such a striking impact that the area under semi-dwarf high yielding varieties of Wheat rose from four hectares in 1964 to four million hectares in 1970. Wheat production in India went up from 12 million tonnes in 1965 to 42.5 million tonnes in 1983. A small government programme thus became a mass movement.

Nothing succeeds like success and we need experience of agricultural success in every country to build up the self-confidence of Agricultural Departments and extension workers. Historians of US agriculture say that the release of hybrid maize in the US in the thirties led not only to a rapid increase in maize production but triggered a process of improved farm management in all crops. This is because farmers who learnt the value of good management in hybrid maize transferred this experience to other crops. We therefore need to identify candidate crops and technologies in each country for serving as catalysts of change. In my personal opinion rice and wheat have been the two major sources of success stories in many countries of Asia and I believe maize and rice are two candidate crops for initiating an era of more rapid agricultural progress in several parts of Africa.

I should like now to say a few words about the WCARRD, the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development programme of action, with particular reference to the role of women in rural development. We normally tend to assume that the household is a homogeneous unit in which resources and income are shared equally by all members of the family. Available evidence suggests, however, that intra-household distribution of resources and income vary by age and sex, and that often men and women enjoy different economic status within a household. Their expenditure preferences also often differ. Additional income for them will hence help to increase the total family income and thereby improve the quality of life of the family in general and nutrition of children in particular.

In this context, I would like to quote from a statement by Annette Wagniere, Chair-person of the Congress organized last year at Helsinki by the International Alliance of Women:

"The introduction of new technologies which affects more particularly the jobs held mainly by women, requires a difficult process of adjustment, involving both job creation and job destruction. Attempts to protect jobs which are becoming obsolete only hinder the flexible adjustment that is required. We must adopt not a defensive but an offensive position in that we encourage business and governments to develop the means of controlling this change so that jobs are not wiped out more quickly than new ones are created and that instead of reducing job content, these new technologies give the job-holder more varied tasks to perform in the time saved by the machine".

In my written text, Mr Chairman, I have several examples which I shall skip in the interests of saving time. Many of them are known to you, how consciously and unconsciously, I would say in many cases, the introduction of new technologies has affected, particularly in many developing countries, the job opportunities for rural women; the need for the development and spread of technologies which can generate more on-farm and off-farm employment and lead to a reduction of drudgery for family farm women who are overworked due to both their dual productive and reproductive roles deserve to be more widely recognized.

I shall now go to the fourth of my points, Mr Chairman, referring to the conservation of basic agricultural resources. At that last session of this Conference, the Conference adopted a World Soil Charter designed to promote soil conservation and scientific land use. It also adopted a resolution on plant genetic resources sponsored by the delegation of Mexico. In pursuance of the resolution on plant genetic resources, the Director-General has submitted a report which the Council has forwarded for the consideration of this Conference.

Extinction of genetic variability caused by the destruction of forest and other natural habitats is a threat which can be successfully met only by generating widespread awareness of this problem and public cooperation.

This is why we are happy that this particularly important point has come before the Conference.

On this occasion, permit me, Mr Chairman, to recall what Chief Seattle of the Washington State of the United States said in 1854, and I quote: "The earth does not belong to man; man belongs to the earth. We know that all things are connected like the blood which unites one family. The perfumed flowers are our sisters; the deer, the horse, the great eagle, these are our brothers. Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of the earth. Man did not weave the web of life. He is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself."

Some experts believe that before humankind follows the advice of Chief Seattle, even in 1854 probably 25 to 50 percent of the 5 to 10 million species that now share with us the earth as their home would have become extinct. It is hence appropriate that this Conference discusses questions relating to biological diversity in economic plants, genetic vulnerability arising from monoculture and narrowing of gene base in widely grown cultivars, gene erosion resulting from the loss of germplasm of both economic and wild species and, above all, methods of ensuring the unrestricted availability of germplasm to all nations. Thanks to the work of the International Board of Plant Genetic Resources, FAO, Unesco, UNEP and above all national agencies, we now have facilities around the world for germplasm collection and conservation. Mr Chairman, the first human form, referred to as Hominid, is believed to have evolved in East Africa some 25 million or more years ago. Human beings may have existed as a species that is, homo sapiens as a species, for about 2 million years. Yet, it was only 10 000 years ago that our ancestors started growing food, rather than merely gathering it or hunting it. Thus, if the existence of human beings as an independent species is equated to a 24 hour day, we have been farmers for only about 7 minutes. Even during these 7 minutes, we have practised market-oriented agriculture only for a few seconds. Within these few seconds, we have been confronted with numerous problems including changing consumer preferences. We do not know what all new pests and soil and atmospheric constraints particularly arising from increased CO₂ in the atmosphere, we will have to face in the future. We do not know - and I want to underline this - what all physiological and morphological traits will be needed for plants to perform well in a post-nuclear war era, if unfortunately such a calamity befalls our planet. Future generations of scientists and farmers will not have the tools with which they can solve such problems if we do not make genetic resources conservation, evaluation and utilization a common cause and accord it the highest priority.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I want to refer to the programme known as The New Dimensions of FAO. Historically, agriculture had its origin in the Third World, but unfortunately many of the Third World countries are importing food. We have seen numerous examples of how developing countries can increase speedily their production.

I recently saw in Zanzibar such an intensive system of rice production of which in my written text I have given a description. In my institute we harvest a crop of rice every Monday, and we plant a crop of rice every Friday. In other words, there are as many harvests as there are weeks. Over 20 tonnes of rice are harvested per hectare per year in this way, because we have sunlight and if there is water a very intensive system is possible. This is usually referred to as the green power of the tropics and subtropics. Because of the abundance of sunshine, plants can do photosynthesis throughout the year.

I saw in Zanzibar the work of an FAO field expert - and yesterday we honoured some such experts - taking advantage of underground water. Zanzibar has a rich aquifer and if there is energy to pump water, rice production can be doubled within a short time. Electricity or diesel are, however, not yet available in the quantity needed for taking advantage of the ground water. Biogas plants and biogas operated pumps may be of help in getting the green power converted into grains but this technology will have to be introduced and tested.

Examples of this kind can be multiplied. The FAO in its document C 83/26, has estimated that the developing countries' research systems will need at least 6 000 to 7 000 new entrants if they are to do their job.

The gross financial requirement for providing one expatriate expert is currently estimated by many multilateral and bilateral technical assistance agencies at about US\$ 100 000 per year per person. In many developing countries this amount may suffice to pay the salaries of 40 to 50 national experts. The gap in the "Pay, perks and privileges" package is growing between international experts and national scientists of many developing countries and this is hurting poor nations in two major ways. First, such high cost of expert services makes the quantitative dimensions of knowledge and skill transfer very small in relation to crying needs. Secondly, it promotes in national experts the urge to become also an expatriate expert.

It is my conviction that this pattern of technical assistance is not sustainable. It will also not lead to the conversion of production potential into production in Africa and elsewhere with the needed speed. We heard a beautiful suggestion yesterday from Dr Bruno Kreisky.

We urgently need a global cadre of agricultural development workers consisting of young men and women professionals, husband-wife teams, and elderly couples who are physically and mentally active, and development aid volunteers and teachers of the kind described yesterday by Dr Bruno Kreisky, if we are to fulfil our desire to assist the poor nations and arrest the decline in the per capita food output of several developing countries in Africa. We have of course a number of examples like the Peace Corps of the US and Canada, the UN Volunteers programme, and numerous such initiatives of government and non-governmental agencies around the world to give us guidance. Among young and old professionals around the world there will certainly be many to whom the intellectual challenge of problem-solving or a sense of purpose in life arising from social commitment are exceedingly important.

It is in this context we hope that the "New Dimensions" concept of FAO will blossom into its ultimate objective of doing this work in a low-cost way.

This concept is not new and we have numerous examples around the world of such work being done by non-governmental and some governmental organizations. These, however, remain as unique examples -occasional blossoms in the midst of a sea of despair. How can we convert unique examples into a universal movement? Herein lies the challenge to those in charge of promoting foreign technical aid and TCDC and ECDC programmes.

Let me conclude, Mr Chairman, with your quotation to the Conference held in Hot Springs, Virginia, to which you referred in your opening remarks, "This Conference, meeting in the midst of the greatest war ever waged, and in full confidence of victory, has considered the world problem of food and agriculture and declared its belief that the goal of freedom from want of food suitable and adequate for the health and strength of all peoples, can be achieved". Forty years later, we are discussing at this Conference the ravages of drought, the plight of 500 million members of our species to whom "God, give us this day our daily bread" is the only meaningful prayer, the onslaught of rinderpest and other animal diseases, the devastation caused to crops by the unholy triple alliance of pests, pathogens and weeds, the lack of capital for agricultural development, trade barriers, pricing and marketing problems, environmental degradation and the need for coming to the rescue of countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

In the face of such realities, are we going to be content with mutual backslapping heartiness at such meetings and eternally talk poor and live rich? It is for the leaders of world agriculture who have gathered here to decide.

May I once again thank you, Mr Chairman, and all members of the Conference for giving me the privilege of working with members of the FAO Council and with the dynamic Director-General and his dedicated staff during the last two years? Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much Dr Swaminathan, we shall now begin the discussions proper.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

DEBAT GENERAL

DEBATE GENERAL

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATION

- DECLARATIONS PES CHEFS DE DELEGATION

- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES

F.M. PANDOLFI (Italy): Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Ladies and gentlemen, it is both a pleasure and an honour for me to take part in this meeting; a pleasure to be present at the discussion of such important themes by persons of great experience and ability, an honour in my capacity as Minister of Agriculture of the country which hosts the FAO.

Italy is passing through a difficult economic period. It nonetheless remains one of the leading industrialized countries in the West. But we Italians cannot forget that we have experienced in the past many of the problems that developing countries are encountering today. We are well aware of their seriousness. We Ministers of Agriculture in particular, know how complex are the questions regarding the enhancement of agricultural production not only in his own country but also on a world scale in order to reach a less imbalanced pattern of distribution of food resources.

Right from the time of the ancient Romans it has been a saying in Italy that all roads lead to Rome. While this is often no longer the case today, it undoubtedly remains true as far as the FAO is concerned. All the ideas, projects and programmes designed to tackle the huge problems with which the FAO is entrusted converge on Rome and this is for us a great privilege.

I am sure that I am speaking for my fellow-citizens and for the Italian Government when I assure you that both the Italian Civil Service and our government bodies are ready to cooperate with the FAO. Personally, I undertake to give all possible support to the work of the Director-General and the other organs of the FAO.

Mr Chairman, the world economic situation is difficult today. To overcome this moment will require a common effort on a probably unprecedented scale. In particular, the developing countries probably see their special problems as being more serious today and their economic take-off further in the distance.

In August 1982 Mexico's decision to suspend its foreign debts payments acted as a detonator of a financial crisis among LDCs that for a moment appeared to threaten the collapse of the whole international financial system. This happened in the framework of stagnation of world trade, fall in the raw material prices, high real interest rates, and a tendency towards greater protectionism.

The situation today shows some comforting signs of light, interspersed with disturbing shadows.

A sizeable adjustment in the non-oil LDCs' balances of payments is under way, and their current account deficit is not expected to exceed \$67 billion in 1983 (as compared with 84 billion in 1982 and 107 billion in 1981). The deficit of the oil producing LDCs, by contrast, is expected to rise further (to \$24 billion, as against 13 billion last year). The recovery that has started in the industrial countries should be reflected in an upturn in world trade and in a weakening of protectionist pressures.

However, the level of the non-oil LDCs' debt remains extremely high and equally high, though declining, is the ratio of debt servicing to exports of goods and services (19.3 percent on average for the non-oil LDGs, with a peak of 39 percent for the Latin-American countries).

In this worldwide context we have to face the problems of agricultural development.

Taken altogether, the results achieved by the developing countries in the sixties and seventies cannot be considered satisfactory. Agricultural production grew only slightly faster than the population with an annual increase in per capita output of 0.3 percent which was far from being uniform (in Africa between 1970 and 1980 there was actually an annual decrease of 1.4 percent). Hence, the large rise recorded in the LDCs' imports of food and agricultural products. These amounted to around \$61 billion in 1982 (according to GATT), an increase of 7 percent compared with 1981, and that notwithstanding the down-turn in prices.

The scope for substantial progress in agriculture exists and is considerable. Think of the introduction of more advanced technologies and the adoption of effective economic policy measures. It is worth recalling, in this connection, the deleterious effect of policies that distort the relative prices of agriculture and protected industrial sectors, or of the penalization of agricultural production by overvalued exchange rates or excessive taxes used by many countries to

promote industrialization. Where such policies have been avoided the peasants, even the poorest, have shown themselves to be relatively efficient and rational entrepreneurs and reached notable levels of productivity. What, in this context, is the role of food aid? It is undoubtedly indispensable in tackling emergencies but it cannot, and must not, constitute an alternative (or alibi) for effective structural interventions. If you give a fish to a man, you will feed him for a day; if you teach him to fish you will feed him for a lifetime.

The question of agricultural development in the LDCs is closely linked to the problem of the disequilibria at world level in production and distribution. Here we come to one of the major contradictions of our economic system. Let me say this is really a moral and political tragedy in our times.

The solution cannot be entrusted entirely to the free play of market forces which on their own do not appear able to guarantee farmers an adequate income. The only viable road is that of international cooperation and agreements between countries. In this connection, I want to point to the example of multi-year supply contracts, a commercial practice that is rapidly spreading and which makes it possible to guarantee producers' revenues and importing countries' supply at stable prices.

We feel this need for cooperation very strongly, and in the last few years Italy has made a great effort in the field of development aid. In 1979 we spent 0.8 percent on the development cooperation, in 1982 the figure had already tripled to 0.24 percent. We are still a long way behind the average of the DAC countries, which in 1982 spent 0.39 percent of their GDP on aid to developing countries. Our goal - announced at the General Assembly of the United Nations in September 1980 - is to increase our development aid to 0.7 percent to GDP by the end of this decade. We are confident of achieving this result.

Our planned expenditure in 1984 amounts to \$1.6 billion and in 1985 to 1.9 billion. It is true that the great part of the funds serve to provide bilateral aid: next year about 70 percent of the funds allocated to developing cooperation by the Italian Government will be used to provide bilateral aid.

The Italian Government nonetheless continues to attach great importance to multilateral cooperation: evidence of this is our interest in new forms of cooperation (so-called multi-, bilateral interventions typical of our programmes with FAO). They make it possible to maintain the direct relationship between donor and beneficiary countries and at the same time to make the best use of the resources, experience and management ability of the international organizations. The multilateral approach to aid serves to maximize the resources made available to LDCs. It draws on the contributions of a large number of donor countries, including the small ones. This allows greater flexibility and efficiency in the use of contributions. Personally I am convinced that multilateral aid will play a major role, especially when agreement is reached in the negotiations to replenish the resources of the IDA and for the renewal of the Lome Convention. In this context, Mr Chairman, let me draw your attention to the necessity to fully participate in the replenishment of IFAD.

I would like to conclude by expressing my appreciation of the realistic programme and budget that the FAO management has drawn up. The need not to increase the financial burden on Member States has ended up by stimulating a further improvement in the already high level of services provided by the Organization. In particular, while supporting the Programme of Work and Budget presented by the Director-General of FAO, I fully agree with the decision to allocate an increasing share of resources to the technical and economic programmes with the greatest priority. May I close, Mr Director-General, by saying that I value the results achieved so far very highly and by extending my best wishes for your and the FAO's work in the future.

M.F. JANJUA (Pakistan): On behalf of my Government and my delegation, I extend to you, Mr Chairman, our congratulations on your election as Chairman of the Conference. Knowing, as I do personally, your outstanding ability and rich experience, we are confident that you will guide the deliberations of this Conference in an able and purposeful manner. I would like to convey our appreciation to the Director-General, Dr Edouard Saouma for so eloquently and objectively highlighting the issues and challenges facing us. The Director-General, has continued to play an outstanding role in furthering the objectives of the Organization for the eradication of hunger and malnutrition from this world.

Allow me also to extend our warm welcome to the four new members; Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Saint Christopher and Nevis and Vanuatu; of this Organization. This Conference has been enriched by their presence.

The FAO Conference affords a valuable opportunity to review and take stock of achievements and failures in humanity's common struggle against poverty, hunger and malnutrition. It also affords us a moment to pause and ponder collectively on our future line of action in the light of the policies and programmes pursued so far for increasing food and agricultural production and ensuring access to adequate food by the poor and vulnerable people in the world.

Grain harvests, on the global scale, have been very good during 1981 and 1982, but the increase was unevenly distributed. The developing countries with three-quarters of the world population, accounted for only 20 percent of the total increase of grain production in 1982. During 1983, food production in developing countries has increased overall but is barely equal to the population growth. In Latin America, the food production has declined. The situation in 22 countries of Africa, particularly in five Sahelian countries, continues to be a matter of grave concern. Drought, disease and pest have led to shortages and emergency situation. The deteriorating food situation there threatens the very survival of some African nations. Overall in the world, the absolute number of people suffering from poverty and hunger has increased. Nearly 900 million people are reported to be affected by malnutrition. Sadly, the current pattern indicates that by the year 2000 approximately 25 percent of the world population would be suffering from hunger and malnutrition. This unfortunate situation emanates from the fact that the poor countries' financial and economic ability to pay for their food requirements has deteriorated. The developing countries carry a disproportionate burden of the impact of world recession since 1976; their position continues to deteriorate even in the recovery phase. The growth of real output in the non-oil developing countries slowed down further in 1982 to about 1.5 percent for the group as a whole indicating negative growth in per capita GNP. Even for 1983 positive growth in per capita income is not visible. For three consecutive years there will be zero or negative growth in per capita income in these countries. The flow of resources to developing countries is gradually on the decline. In real terms, Official Development Assistance (ODA) flows to developing countries are estimated to have remained unchanged in 1983 at about the same level as in 1980. The trading opportunities to developing countries in areas of comparative advantage have diminished in recent years. Moreover, renascent protectionism reduces their outlets. High interest rates combined with shrinking markets is making the debt problem almost intractable for the developing countries, which has reached the astronomic figure of 700 billion US dollars. In 1982 the servicing of this debt alone represented about 130 billion US dollars, being, 25 percent of the goods and services exported by the non-petroleum producing countries.

The need to create a new, balanced and more just international economic order has never been greater than today. For millions it would mean the difference between life and death. As the world community groans under the constant shadows of disease, want and poverty, every day that passes witnesses tragedy for hundreds of thousands of human beings. The untold sufferings of teeming millions cannot be terminated with just well-intentioned and noble words. It is only by sincere efforts and urgent action that their sufferings can be alleviated. No doubt, the effective functioning of the international economic order depends on the participation of both the developing and developed countries. Reality of mutual interest between the North and South should be reinforced and our common task should be to make this link a spur to growth instead of an entanglement of mutual decline. The common challenge to promote development needs to be approached with pragmatic, constructive and cooperative spirit by both the developed and the developing countries.

Mr Chairman, we recognize that the primary responsibility for the solution of the food problem lies with developing countries themselves. However, those countries lack adequate financial resources for the optimum development of their potential. Without appropriate technical and adequate external financial assistance it would be too optimistic to hope that they can achieve 4 percent annual growth rate in agricultural production as envisaged in the 1974 World Food Conference. Flow of external assistance directly in support of agriculture reached nowhere near the internationally agreed estimates of annual requirements of US dollars 8.3 billion at 1975 prices. This situation is aggravated by the decline in its concessionary component.

In Pakistan, we have been making determined efforts to increase our food and agricultural production. By the grace of God, we have achieved positive results. Our policies consisted of economic incentives, research and technological innovations and institutional restructuring. The thrust of our policies has been for the benefit of the small farmers in an environment of integrated rural development and improved conditions of life in the rural area. In this context, special mention may be made of our agricultural credit system which has been made responsive to the needs of the small farmer as well as a vehicle for the transfer of technology. Our emphasis is on balanced development of all sub-sectors of agriculture, i.e. crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry in all agro-ecological zones of the country.

We achieved a growth rate of a 4.4 per cent per annum in the agriculture sector during the last five years. In 1982-83, our growth was 4.8 per cent. We have achieved self-sufficiency in wheat and sugar. Wheat production has gone up by 49 per cent in the last five years from 8.3 million tonnes to 12.4 million-tonnes. In sugarcane we achieved a record production of 36.6 million tonnes. After more than three decades, we have done away with rationing in the country, and sugar is now available to the consumer in the open market. By the grace of God, we have emerged as the third largest exporter of cotton and rice in the world. While our cotton production has increased to a record level of 4.84 million bales from a level of 3.4 million bales in 1977-78, our rice production increased from 2.9 million tonnes to 3.4 million tonnes. Increases have also been registered in maize production. We have built up a food security reserve of 1.6 million tonnes of wheat and plan to raise this to two million tonnes. We have raised the storage capacity from 2.4 million tonnes to 4.2 million tonnes in the last five years.

Our Sixth Five-Year Plan has been launched with the confident hope that the gains already made, will be consolidated and the growth impulses in the agriculture sector be institutionalized. Growth with equity continues to be the hallmark of the Plan and the focus continues to be the small farmer. The objectives and strategy of the Plan, *inter alia*, will consist of:

- Achieve growth rate of 6% per annum;
- Move beyond self-sufficiency to export of agricultural commodities;
- Diversify cropping system with more emphasis on high value crops and change in agricultural production environment from subsistence to commercial farming;
- Exploit fully fuelwood and timber production potential of forest land;
- Spread use of modern technology particularly on small farms and move towards optimum combination of various inputs;
- Improve on-farm management by organizing farmers to use irrigation water effectively;
- Provide increased institutional support and infrastructural facilities through provision of farm-to-market roads and storage facilities, strengthening and improving extension services and expanding research programmes specially for high value and import substitution crops;
- Optimise economic return from rain-fed areas through package of modern technology;
- Establish agro industries in the rural areas for providing employment to unemployed and underemployed persons and improving marketing of perishable agricultural product.

At the same time, realizing the present accelerated growth of population, the Government has adopted a population policy which provides interaction of reduction of population growth rate along with other socio-economic development processes.

Mr Chairman, Pakistan is committed to achieve the goals set forth by the Programme of Action of the World Conference on Agrarian Reforms and Rural Development. Our strategy for rural development envisages involvement of the local people, including women, in the process of growth. The system of elected local government institutions installed in 1979 on the basis of adult franchise has demonstrated a remarkable sense of participation and dedication. A new set of elected representatives have been inducted into office as a result of elections held last month. Our policy pertaining to agrarian reforms is based on the creation of egalitarian relationship between the owners of land and its cultivators, a free contract and a just and equitable enforcement of the contract. The process of involving women in rural development has become an essential part of government policy. With the expansion of educational and employment opportunities for women in the country, there is visible improvement in their literacy and employment rate. A full-fledged Women's Division has been created at the Federal level to promote women's participation in economic, social, cultural and political life of the country.

Mr Chairman, may I now turn to some specific issues before this Conference. The proposed Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium is well prepared. We endorse the priorities in the budget and the criteria by which these have been established. The elimination of avoidable expenditure, improvement in efficiency, shift in emphasis to technical and economic programmes, curtailment of administrative and overhead costs are commendable measures. However, we must utilize the full potential of this Organization, whose main task is to serve as a catalyst in the form of technical assistance, research and development, training, project formulation, emergency aid, etc., to the developing countries and provide it with resources commensurate with the magnitude of the task assigned to it. The additionality of 0.5% of resources in the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium is very modest indeed. We hope in future years, there would be a substantial increase in real terms.

As regards the World Food Security, we welcome the revised concept aimed at adequate production, maximum stability in the flow of supplies and access of the needy to these supplies. As I mentioned earlier, our approach to this subject at the national level is in accordance with this broad concept. We, by the Grace of God, have increased our food production, we have built food security reserves and through the mechanism of the Islamic laws of Zakat and Ushr, we will further improve the accessibility of the poor and needy to food supplies. We are also actively pursuing the establishment of a food security system at the regional, sub-regional levels and through the organization of Islamic Conference countries. However, we feel that more concrete steps need to be taken at the global level to ensure food security for the low income food deficit countries, particularly in Africa.

Mr Chairman, we fully support the stress laid by FAO on ECDC and TCDC. Within our limited resources, Pakistan is implementing a programme of technical assistance for more than a decade.

Our experience has been that limitation of resources does not permit TCDC to expand and achieve the desired results. In order to increase utilization of developing countries capabilities and experiences, we suggest that the TCDC should include triangular cooperation so as to provide financial means for this cooperation to be effective. FAO and donors may provide financial resources in order to enlarge technical cooperation among developing countries particularly where foreign exchange costs are involved.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, may I reiterate once again on behalf of the Government of Pakistan that we will continue our efforts to increase the food and agriculture production in our country and make our contribution to the resolution of the problem of hunger and poverty in the world. The magnitude and urgency of the problem is indeed great. It calls for the collective effort of the whole international community. We would like to commend FAO for its work in this direction and are confident that it will continue to play a leading role in this direction. Let us all pool our energies to resolve the most fundamental problem facing mankind - the problem of poverty, hunger and malnutrition. Without the resolution of this fundamental problem, we shall never be able to lead mankind on to the path of hope and happiness, dignity and honour.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Minister. Let me say that from time to time during the Conference the Chairman will ask one of the Vice-Chairmen to serve as Chairman. We have three Vice-Chairmen elected by acclamation on Saturday: from the People's Republic of China, Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, He Kang; from Cyprus, Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Demetrios Christodoulou; and from Peru, the Ambassador of Peru to FAO, Javier Gazzo. At this time I would ask the Ambassador of Peru to FAO, Javier Gazzo, to assume the Chair.

Javier Gazzo Fernfández-Dávila, Vice-Chairman, took the chair

Javier Gazzo Fernfández-Dávila, Vice-Président, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia Javier Gazzo Fernández-Dávila, Vicepresidente

EI PRESIDENTE: Señores delegados, muy buenos días. A continuación va a tomar la palabra en representación de los Estados Unidos de América, Su Excelencia, el Secretario de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos, Honorable John R. Block, nuestro actual Presidente de la Conferencia.

J.R.BLOCK (United States of America): Mr Director-General, my fellow delegates, and friends.

At the conclusion of the Hot Springs Conference in 1943, the delegates set a challenge for us all. They stated: "This conference ... declares its belief that the goal of freedom from want of food, suitable and adequate for the strength of all peoples, can be achieved."

That was four decades ago. We have made great progress since then and today we can speak of a world food system. World food production has risen steadily at a rate of 2.6 percent since the 1950's. The best rate of growth-averaging 3 percent a year - has occurred in the developing countries.

Those are encouraging statistics, but they do not tell the whole story. They do not show that while per capita food production has risen overall, population growth has held the rate of increase to less than 1 percent annually in developing countries. They donot show that in Africa, food production is actually declining.

Nor do these statistics indicate that nearly 500 million of the world's people are underfed and hungry today, and the sad fact that the hungry are most often children, women, and the very old.

We have not reached our goal of overcoming hunger and malnutrition. All of us here must renew our commitment to reach that goal by the end of this century.

In my remarks today I will focus first on what the United States is doing to end world food problems. Then I will turn to what I believe other nations and international groups can do in this vital area.

Progress toward our goal of "freedom from want of food" starts, of course, with agriculture. In my country, agriculture is one of our greatest resources. We share the benefits of our agriculture in three ways :

First, by continuing to be generous in our food aid to those in need.

Second, by sharing our agricultural expertize to help developing nations build their economies, and

Third, by promoting freer agricultural trade and striving to be a reliable supplier to all.

The United States has shown its concern for hungry people in the developing nations by increasing its food aid.

Last year we raised our pledge to the World Food Programme by 14 percent to \$250 million, a new record. At the same time we initiated a new programme to donate government-owned stocks. Donations under this programme have already exceeded 83,000 tons.

For nearly three decades we have carried out the biggest food aid programme in history - "Food for Peace." We owe a great deal to private voluntary organizations for helping us make this programme a success. Aid to developing countries under "Food for Peace" has already surpassed \$40 billion -more than the food aid from all other sources combined.

In this context, let me return to the serious food emergency in Africa to which I referred in my opening remarks to this Conference. The United States is ready to help. I am pleased to announce today, that my government will provide an additional 25 million dollars, bringing the total for this year to 50 million dollars in direct emergency food aid donations to help meet the African crisis. This is in addition to the regular on-going bilateral food aid of over 200 million dollars and nearly 300 million dollars in economic assistance for rural and agricultural development, which supports long term activities designed to address the fundamental causes of food shortages in African countries. This brings the total to 550 million dollars of food and agricultural aid to Africa this year. I call on other nations to join us in this effort to meet this critical need. We look forward to joining other nations on Thursday at the Director-General's invitation to discuss this subject.

Food aid is necessary and the international community has 'a solemn obligation to respond in times of crisis. But food aid will not solve the world's food problems. If we are to see an end to hunger, developing nations must grow more food and store and distribute it better. We need to overcome poverty in these nations and help them build their economies.

It is our policy to be totally unselfish in sharing US agricultural expertise with the people of the developing world. We have shared our knowledge through technical assistance, joint research, and training.

Today, the United States has technical assistance projects in over 80 countries. We have carried out nearly 2 000 research projects with other nations to curb crop losses and build food output. We have trained over 70 000 agriculturists from other nations at a rate of over 2 000 a year.

Technology has been the primary reason for the tremendous growth in world food output in the last 30 years. The United States and other developed countries must continue to share advances in this area.

Not enough people think of trade in terms of its role in countering hunger. But trade does far more than aid to see to it that millions in food deficit countries are fed.

International trade improves the overall food situation by encouraging each nation to produce those farm products it can grow most economically. The market is the best guarantee of the most effective use of the world's agricultural resources and, therefore, of its food security. But the market must be free to operate and the United States has consistently promoted that principle in world agricultural trade.

Over the years many nations have turned to the United States for their food imports. We remain the world's largest food exporter and continue to hold the largest food reserves so we can be a reliable supplier to all.

At the same time, we have been a good customer for other nations and this has contributed to their economic development. The United States is the best market for developing nations and last year we bought almost \$9.5 billion worth of their agricultural products.

The United States is dedicated to being a reliable supplier to all. But to continue in that role we must maintain the productivity of our farmers. This is why we opted for the payment-in-kind programme introduced last year.

Excessive supplies, poor prices, and falling incomes were seriously threatening the economic health of our farmers. Farmers cut back by almost one-fourth and severe drought added unexpectedly to the decline in production.

In spite of this decline in output, you can be certain that we will meet foreign demand for our agricultural products and all of our food aid commitments. We are preparing to bring most of the 20 million hectares taken out of production back into production next year. This will ensure that we will remain a reliable supplier to meet world needs.

A strong US commitment to technical assistance and food aid is essential, but it will not end hunger and malnutrition. The answer to the world's food problems does not lie in the United States alone. We could not single-handedly feed the world. The answer lies in helping the developing nations strengthen their economies and their agriculture.

This brings us to the issue of what food deficit countries can do to help themselves and what all nations can do collectively. I firmly believe that sound agricultural policies - national and international - are the key to solving world food problems.

I realize that each individual nation is unique. Climates and soils differ. Each nation is unique in its economies, its social structures, and its historical perspective. But we all share the common objective of wanting to assure our citizens of a safe, wholesome and abundant food supply. This, above all else, can determine the strength of any nation - the fate of any government.

If I were to issue any challenge today, that challenge would be for all of our nations to think about what is best for agriculture when we make our policy decision. I have a sign in my Office beside the door. It was given to me by a friend. It says: "Is it best for agriculture?" This is just to always remind me to think about that when I make my decisions. I can assure you of this: If we do what is best for agriculture we will also be doing what is best for our nations as a whole.

First and foremost, farmers must have the incentive to produce. Government policies that emphasize industrial over agricultural development will damage a nation's ability to produce food. The same can be said of policies which benefit the consumer at the expense of the farmer.

We have found in the United States that a healthy and productive agriculture will ultimately benefit all sectors of our economy. We have also found that a healthy agriculture is most possible when farmers receive a fair price and the opportunity to profit.

Second, farmers must have credit so they can make the capital investments to expand their output. All governments must encourage investment to build adequate storage and transportation facilities so food products can be marketed effectively.

Third, all nations in a position to do so should maintain food reserves and the United States is ready to offer technical advice on how to set up sound reserve systems. No one nation should have to bear the major responsibility for ensuring that world reserves are adequate.

Fourth, in planning agricultural development nations must remember the law of comparative advantage. We should not encourage farmers to grow crops they cannot grow economically, or we will waste valuable capital, land, and labor.

Finally, all nations - and especially the developing ones - would ultimately profit from freer agricultural trade. Trade plays a vital role in development and freer agricultural trade could stimulate economic growth throughout the developing world.

If the level of protectionism in agricultural trade were cut in half, economists estimate that developing nations could build their exchange earnings by \$8.5 billion a year. Even now, developing nations earn 17 times more through trade than they receive through aid. So trade is far more vital to their economies than aid could ever be. This simple fact must be taken into account as we work to foster agriculture in the developing world and to overcome hunger.

In conclusion, taking the economic and political steps to promote farming in developing countries and to liberalize agricultural trade will not be easy. Some countries are better equipped to take those steps than others. But all nations must begin and begin now, if we are finally to eliminate hunger.

All of us can look to the Food and Agriculture Organization as a resource of talent and leadership as we work to solve food problems. It can and should help to formulate national policies and programmes which the developing nations can use to strengthen their food systems.

FAO has done a great deal already to help the people of the developing world. We commend Director-General Saouma for focusing on major priorities and for the reasonable and balanced Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85. I urge you all to join us in supporting this Programme and Budget.

Finally, the United States recognizes the importance of continued political and financial support for this Organization. President Reagan reaffirms this support. We intend to live up to that pledge.

The problems of food and agriculture challenge us today, just as they challenged the men and women who first planned FAO four decades ago. They envisioned a world in which all people would one day be free from hunger. Let us work to make their vision a reality.

P. EL-KHOURY: (Liban) (langue originale arabe) Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Mesdames et Messieurs, c'est pour moi un privilège de vous présenter les vives félicitations de la délégation du Liban à l'occasion de votre élection à la présidence de la présente session de cette conférence.

Je suis parfaitement convaincu que vos qualités personnelles, votre sagesse et vos vastes connaissances conjuguées à la confiance placée en vous par les pays membres et à la collaboration des Vice-Présidents, garantiront à cette conférence une gestion efficace et fructueuse de ses travaux.

Je suis heureux que le Liban ait pu participer à cette conférence en raison de l'importance que nous attachons aux résultats de ses délibérations et de ses résolutions. Si je me trouve aujourd'hui parmi vous et en ces circonstances particulièrement difficiles que traverse ma patrie meurtrie, cette présence n'est autre qu'une confirmation, une affirmation et une preuve de la grande confiance que nous accordons à cette organisation.

A cette occasion je voudrais souhaiter la bienvenue aux nouveaux membres qui ont adhéré à cette organisation; j'espère que les délégations d'Antigua et Barbuda, Belize, Saint-Christophe-et-Nevis et Vanuatu y participeront avec succès, que leur participation auguste sera bénéfique à l'Organisation.

Du haut de cette tribune, je voudrais rendre hommage aux nobles activités de l'Organisation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, organisation qui est à juste titre la conscience vivante de l'humanité et qui tente de faire des miracles pour atténuer la misère des peuples démunis et pour assurer une justice sociale exemplaire.

Toutefois, il est fort regrettable de voir en contrepartie que nous continuons de vivre dans des sociétés où les valeurs humaines sont bafouées, où chaque année des montants gigantesques sont affectés au développement et à la modernisation des moyens de mort et de destruction alors que les peuples déshérités y compris le peuple de mon pays demeurent une proie facile pour les caprices de ces tyrans. C'est à croire que les peuples faibles sont voués à épuiser leurs possibilités et à gaspiller leur énergie pour reconstruire ce qui a été détruit par les forces du mal et de la haine, au lieu de pouvoir orienter leurs efforts vers le développement et l'augmentation de la production dans l'intérêt de l'humanité.

Ce témoignage que je dépose en la circonstance mérite qu'on s'y arrête longuement, car je viens d'une patrie, d'un pays dont l'emblème est un arbre qui a défié victorieusement les temps et les épreuves. Toutefois cet arbre est sur le point de dépérir en raison de la rancune de l'homme et des moyens de destruction qu'il a développés. Je viens d'un pays où l'on sème les bombes au lieu des semences, d'un pays où l'on récolte la mort au lieu des fruits.

Bien entendu, je n'ai pas en ma possession de chiffres à vous soumettre, mais je peux vous affirmer que les sommes qui y ont été investies pour détruire le Liban sont des sommes suffisantes pour exécuter les projets de la décennie du développement susceptible d'enrayer la misère dans l'ensemble du tiers monde.

Je viens d'un pays qui a prouvé au monde entier et qui continue de lui prouver qu'il n'y a pas de force qui puisse vaincre la volonté de l'homme de vivre. La mort et la destruction auxquelles font face mon pays ne l'ont pas empêché de s'intéresser aux peuples opprimés. La meilleure preuve en est que l'ingénieur libanais, M. Edouard Saouma dont notre patrie est fière, assume avec grand succès les tâches de Directeur général de cette auguste institution. De même, et en dépit de toutes les difficultés le Liban a restauré et a développé les institutions agricoles et alimentaires. Un nouveau règlement a été élaboré au Ministère de l'agriculture qui s'est vu doté de mandats élargis lui permettant d'exécuter les fonctions gigantesques qui lui sont confiées.

De même le secteur du Crédit agricole a été réorganisé et ce, par la création d'une banque spécialisée à cet effet disposant de tous les moyens administratifs et matériels pour accorder des crédits aux agriculteurs. A cela s'ajoutent les nombreuses études de développement relatives aux diverses activités du secteur agricole et qui sont élaborées en collaboration avec les experts de l'Organisation. Nos espoirs demeurent grands pour que la présente session de notre conférence soit fructueuse et les résolutions qui seront adoptées seront à la hauteur des espoirs des peuples démunis. Je suis parfaitement convaincu que les responsables de cette organisation sauront traduire dans les faits des résolutions de manière à ce qu'elles soient fructueuses. Dans cette perspective, je voudrais affirmer le soutien de mon pays au programme d'action et de budget proposé par le Directeur général et qui a été adopté par le Comité financier, le Comité du programme et par le Conseil.

De même, nous espérons que la Conférence adoptera le budget à l'unanimité. Nous affirmons notre soutien à la nouvelle approche de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale proposée par le Directeur général qui vise à assurer une capacité économique à tous les peuples et à tout moment. Nous appuyons également le programme d'action relatif à la réforme agraire et au développement rural et nous affirmons la nécessité d'assurer son suivi avec sérieux, le tiers y attachant une grande importance afin d'élever le niveau de vie de la population rurale. Un rapport sur les ressources phyto-énergétiques est soumis à la Conférence. C'est là un projet qui tient compte des intérêts des pays en général et vise à encourager l'exploration de ces ressources, leur conservation, la liberté d'accès à ces ressources et leur exploitation. Par conséquent, nous attachons un intérêt très grand à ce projet et nous espérons aussi que votre conférence l'adoptera à son tour. En ce qui concerne le budget nous apprécions la sagesse avec laquelle le Directeur général l'a établi et nous espérons que dans les prochaines années les crédits nécessaires seront affectés pour l'exécution des projets de développement au lieu de limiter le nombre des projets en fonction des fonds disponibles. Tout cela bien entendu ne nécessite aucune augmentation de dons et d'aide de la part des pays riches. La logique de la solidarité internationale exige qu'une coopération s'établisse entre le Nord et

le Sud. C'est une collaboration qui ne peut se réaliser que sous le signe des intérêts communs à court ou à long terme car elle ne présuppose pas qu'un des pays se sacrifie pour d'autres mais bien au contraire, une attitude plus ouverte en vue d'exploiter à fond les capacités des peuples et d'en aiguïser la bonne volonté.

Au cours d'une période d'accalmie dans mon pays nous avons demandé à l'Organisation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture et à d'autres institutions spécialisées d'exécuter de nombreux projets de déploiement agricole. A ce moment-là la plupart de ces projets ont été adoptés et les crédits nécessaires leur ont été affectés. Toutefois, la détérioration de la situation au Liban a empêché l'exécution de ces projets et a empêché le transfert de ces crédits. Nous espérons que ces crédits seront maintenus et qu'ils nous seront transférés après le retour au calme dans notre pays; retour au calme que nous implorons de tous nos vœux. Nous demandons aussi à l'Organisation et à d'autres institutions spécialisées de prendre en considération la nécessité de multiplier leur assistance au Liban quand la stabilité y régnera à nouveau et quand il aura à ce moment-là un besoin urgent pour toute assistance qui pourrait aider à sa reconstruction, et à son développement.

Pour conclure, je voudrais exprimer ma profonde gratitude à l'OAA pour l'effort qu'elle déploie au service du monde entier. Le Liban est particulièrement redevable à cette Organisation tant pour l'aide qu'elle lui a fournie dans les moments les plus sombres que pour l'assistance technique qu'elle n'a cessé de lui fournir.

Je voudrais, à cette occasion, rendre hommage aux efforts soutenus déployés par le Bureau de l'Organisation qui se trouve au Liban et qui a continué à oeuvrer dans des conditions inhabituelles connues de tout le monde. De même, je ne voudrais pas laisser passer cette occasion sans exprimer les remerciements de mon pays au programme alimentaire mondial qui lui a fourni et continue de lui fournir une aide substantielle. Puisse Dieu couronner cette session de succès pour que ses résultats soient bénéfiques à l'humanité entière.

HE KANG (China) (original language Chinese): Mr President, first of all, in the name of the Chinese delegation, I wish to congratulate Mr Block most warmly on his election to the Chairmanship of the current session of the FAO Conference. His Excellency's outstanding competence in organizational matters and profound understanding of the food and agriculture problems in the world are known to us all. I am convinced that under his able guidance and the Bureau, our Conference will surely fulfill its mandate and be crowned with success.

We are deeply impressed by the well-meditated programmes and suggestions presented for the Conference by the Director-General, Dr Edouard Saouma in his most inspiring statement. We are particularly impressed by the serious concern shown by him over the food situation in Africa and in the developing countries and in other regions. We are at the same time happy to note that this Conference has approved the applications of the four countries, Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Vanuatu and Saint Christopher and Nevis for membership of FAO, thus bringing the total number of member nations to 156. To the four new members, the Chinese delegation would like to offer its heartfelt welcome and congratulations.

Since the last session of the FAO Conference, the international political situation has been ceaselessly turbulent and the world economic situation has remained very grim. Despite the signs of recovery in some developed countries, the majority of developing countries are still subjected to the havoc wrought by the 3 year-long world-wide economic crisis. This has caused adverse effects on the development of world agriculture: agricultural growth has lost momentum in many countries, and stagnated or even retrogressed in others; in a number of serious food-deficit countries, which cannot afford importing essential foodstuff, hundreds of millions of people are living in starvation and malnutrition; threatened by increasingly growing protectionism, the international trade for agricultural products is deteriorating, so that the export value of agricultural products of the developing countries has decreased for the first time after 36 years' continuous increase, thereby further diminishing the developing countries' foreign exchange earnings, weakening their ability to expand agricultural production, and adding to their difficulties in developing agriculture in general; the sustained recession in rural economy has driven large numbers of farmers, who have little or no land, into the cities thus aggravating the food supply situation in cities and causing many other social and economic problems which defy a quick solution. All this shows that the negative impact of the world-wide economic recession on the developing countries and on their agricultural development, far from being eliminated, still persists.

This grave situation in world agricultural development has also borne out the conclusion of the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77, that world economy is faced with structural problems that are closely related to the unjust and inequitable old international economic order. If nothing is done to restructure this old order, the crises witnessed hitherto are bound to recur.

As is well known, agriculture is the foundation of the national economy in most countries. Moreover, it is also the major occupation of nearly half of the world's people. Therefore, it is of great significance to carry out restructuring in the field of food and agriculture, thereby contributing to the establishment of the New International Economic Order - a cause that is in conformity with the historical trend of our times. The Chinese Government has always maintained that the long-term objective of establishing the New International Economic Order should be linked with the solution of the immediate urgent problems. In the field of food and agriculture, we maintain that there is the need, in conformity with the realities and guided by the long-term goal of the N.I.E.O., to speed up the increase in grain production in the developing countries, and coupled with the implementation of various necessary integrated measures, to ensure world food security. There is also the need, on the basis of the principles of "respect for sovereignty and equality and mutual benefit" and through adequate international consultation and coordination, to promote international agricultural adjustment so as to improve the terms of trade for agricultural products of the developing countries. Furthermore, there is the need in the light of the spirit of the Declaration of Principles of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development and its Programme of Action, to actively effect such agrarian reforms as are suited to the prevailing conditions of different countries so as to promote the overall social and economic development in the rural areas, and to improve step by step the quality of life of the vast rural population on the basis of increasing production. All this will contribute to the establishment of the New International Economic Order in the food and agriculture sector. And this is not only in keeping with the common aspirations of the developing countries, but is also conducive to the economic recovery of the developed countries and to the growth of the world economy as a whole.

We have always maintained that economies of all countries are closely linked and that the economy of the developing countries constitutes an important part of the world economy. If the economic difficulties of the developing countries are not resolved or are even aggravated, the entire world economy is bound to suffer. And that, in the end, will do no good but even harm to the developed countries. Conversely, by transferring funds and technology to the developing countries on the basis of "equality and mutual benefit", and assisting these countries to develop their food and agricultural production and to revitalize their economies, the developed countries will be able to find the supply of raw materials secured, new markets opened up and scope for investment widened - to the benefit of their own economic growth. That is why we appreciate the far-sighted view held by some leaders in developed countries that by helping the Third World countries to develop their economy the developed countries are in effect helping themselves to come out of economic recession and to embark on the road of steady recovery and sustained economic growth.

Mr President, the cause of the establishment of the New International Economic Order is valued for the actions thereof, not for its being treated as an empty slogan. It is my hope that our current Session will, through friendly consultations on the basis of equality, take some practical and effective actions which will lead to the establishment of the New International Economic Order in the food and agricultural sector. In this connection, please allow me to state some of our views on three topics, namely, agricultural policies, science and technology, and international cooperation - in submitting my views, I shall draw on the experience of many countries in developing their agriculture and also draw on the experience of my own country in this regard.

We are of the opinion that in order to promote agricultural development, it is necessary, first of all, to adopt such an agricultural policy that is practical and comprehensive and is capable of bringing into full play the initiative of the broad masses of the peasants. My predecessor, Mr Lin Hujia said here at the last session that the question of agriculture is essentially a question of the peasantry. For the peasants are both the beneficiaries and actual executors of the agricultural policies. Therefore, a good policy for agricultural development should necessarily take into account the urgent needs and vital interests of the peasants, and at the same time take into consideration the interests of the entire people and the state as well. These policies are from the masses and to the masses.

Since the socio-economic conditions and levels of agricultural development vary from country to country, in formulating a suitable agricultural policy one must proceed from the conditions prevailing in the given country. Generally speaking, economically, there is the need to adopt policies on pricing, taxation, credits and loans and on necessary subsidies that are capable of encouraging and supporting the peasants' production effort, and there is also the need to improve and expand marketable produce and sales service so that the peasants are sure to get a steady increase in their income, through increased production and marketing. In the political sphere, there is the need to respect the important role of the peasants in rural economy and, through appropriate measures, to educate and guide them in consciously acting according to policies. In the legal sphere, there is the need to protect earnestly the legitimate interests of the peasants. In the institutional sphere, there is the need to adopt active reform measures in the light of the conditions prevailing in our respective countries, which is extremely important for further development. All this can contribute to bringing into full play the initiative of the peasants, thereby promoting sustained development of agriculture.

The development of agricultural science and technology must suit the needs of promoting production, and of protecting the ecological environment of various areas. So it is necessary to stress the principle of suiting measures to local conditions. It is a matter of urgency for most of us, developing countries, to popularize the currently applicable agricultural science and technology in the light of the conditions prevailing in our respective countries, to sum up and spread effective technical know-how for increasing production and improving management, and to combine modern science and technology with traditional expertise. That is to say, we must take the popularization of agricultural science and technology as one of the basics in our rural work, to set up and perfect a system of spreading agricultural techniques and to strengthen technical training, so as to ensure that every peasant engaged in agricultural production can step by step master and apply the relevant scientific and technical knowledge, including the proper use of good strains of seeds, chemical fertilizers, insecticides, etc. On the basis of popularization, the standards of agricultural science and technology can be improved and raised step by step, thus increasing and developing new productive forces in agriculture. Indeed, in the development of agriculture, this is a strategic measure which cannot be neglected. In a word, for agricultural science and technology, the raising of standards should be based on popularization, while popularization should be guided by the raising of standards.

Reliance on correct policies as well as reliance on science and technology these are two vital questions concerning the development of agriculture. We hope that all those engaged in agriculture of various countries will enhance their cooperation and their exchange of information and experience. We hope, moreover, that FAO and other relevant international organizations will fully play their supportive and coordinating role in this regard.

We agree to the view of many developing countries that currently in the field of food and agriculture, the first and foremost question that calls for strengthened international cooperation is still the question of securing world food security. This year, according to forecast, there will be a drop in the production of world cereals, and the cereal prices in world markets are rising. In some areas serious food shortages have occurred and the food situation in Africa is particularly disquieting and calls for sympathy. It is our hope that the developed countries will, proceeding from the overall interests of revitalizing the world economy, increase their assistance to the low-income food-deficit countries so as to help them tide over difficulties. We also hope that the international community will rise to the occasion, promote the launching of North-South negotiations and conduct serious consultations on food and agriculture, so as to take measures to help the developing countries to increase grain production as a priority item, and reach agreement on grain trade, so as to stabilize prices and ensure market supply.

Another area calling for strengthened international cooperation concerns the earnest implementation of the guidelines of International Agricultural Adjustment, and the efforts to improve the terms trade for the agricultural products of the developing countries. Currently the key problem is that the protectionist policy practised by developed countries has hindered the normal development of international trade of agricultural products. Such a policy has not only done harm to others, but is also detrimental to the long-term interests of the developed countries themselves. The wise approach is to reduce and finally eliminate tariff and non-tariff barriers on agricultural products from the developing countries, to open up markets for their products and to see to it that business transactions on agricultural products and agricultural necessities are conducted on fair and reasonable trade terms.

We are glad to note that the FAO has done a lot of work conducive to promoting international cooperation in the two aspects just mentioned. In recent years in particular, adopting an action-oriented policy and through implementing its field programmes and technical cooperation programmes, FAO has rendered valuable service to many developing countries. All this deserves the support of all FAO Member Nations. Here I would like to reiterate my Government's strong support to the work of FAO and our sincere hope for stronger cooperation with it.

Over the past two years, the Chinese Government has continued to carry out the policy of "readjusting, restructuring, consolidating and improving the economy". In developing agriculture, efforts have been made to implement and perfect the production responsibility system linked to output, thereby giving further impetus to the production enthusiasm of the broad masses of the peasants. In addition, weather conditions were favourable in many areas in 1982. Thanks to all these, China had a bumper harvest in agriculture in 1982, the total grain output reached 353.43 million tons, registering an increase of 8.7 per cent over that of the preceding year. That was a peak record in our history. In the same year, cotton and oil-bearing crops also went up by a big margin, hence we are basically self-sufficient in these crops. The production of animal husbandry, fishery and other cash crops also registered increases in varying degrees. The afforestation areas were expanded notably and the livelihood of the peasants was further improved. It is estimated that this year, our agricultural output, including that of food grains, cotton and sugar, will surpass the level of last year, despite unfavourable conditions such as floods and water-logging in large parts of the country. In the years ahead, China will gradually adjust or reduce the import volume of food grains according to the situation of her food production.

However, as everyone knows, China is a developing country with a population of slightly over one billion people; her per capita GNP is still very low, and her agricultural productivity is not high. Much work remains to be done in order to attain the projected target for the year 2 000. The Chinese Government and people will therefore continue to act on the spirit of "hard work and self-reliance", overcoming all the difficulties on our way of advance to strive with full confidence.

In the course of developing our agriculture, we shall also, in the field of international agricultural intercourse and exchanges, adhere to the policy of opening to the outside world. We shall not only strengthen our friendly cooperation with developed countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, but also attach great importance to promoting "South-South cooperation". We believe that there are bright prospects for the developing countries to develop their economic and technical cooperation in the food sector. Acting on the principles of "equality and mutual benefit, stress on practical results, diversity in form and attainment of common progress", we shall strengthen our cooperation with other developing countries and help and support each other.

China's rural economy has embarked on a road of advance. While adhering to the guideline of "primarily relying on our own efforts supplemented by foreign assistance", we are ready to learn from the strong points of all countries and welcome assistance from the international community. At the same time, we shall continue to provide assistance, within our ability, to other developing countries in their effort to develop agriculture and we shall, through active friendly cooperation, make our share of contribution.

The convening of the Twenty-second session of the FAO Conference provides the international community a very good opportunity and occasion for friendly cooperation in food and agriculture. Before concluding I should like to thank you all for having elected me as one of the Vice-Chairmen of our current session. And I shall work with you all, to the best of my ability, for the success of our Conference. The Chinese Delegation and myself sincerely wish our Conference every success.

A. PETKOV (Bulgaria) (original language Bulgarian): First of all, I would like to congratulate Mr Block on his election to this highly respectable post and to wish him and his deputies fruitful work in the leadership and successful holding of the present Session of the General Conference of FAO.

I would also like to congratulate the newly elected members of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, the delegations of Antigua and Barbuda, and Belize, Saint Christopher and Nevis, and Vanuatu.

As is well known, profound social changes have taken place during the twentieth century. New opportunities have opened up for hundreds of millions of people to take an active part in social life and culture, and in the achievements of a world civilization.

At the same time, the close connection between the internal processes of countries and worldwide policy has become evident as never before.

One of the problems with which we are all concerned is food security and the nutrition of the people on our planet. The solution to this problem is fundamental for the future of our world and for the very existence of a considerable part of the world's population.

Mr Chairman, my country is convinced that an end to the arms race and the allocation of even a small part of the current arms' expenditure to the development of food production is the final solution to the problem of hunger, the victims of which, unfortunately at this very moment, number millions of our fellow human beings.

Unfortunately, the destructive influence of the arms race on international economics has never been stronger and more obvious.

It is hardly necessary to prove that the quantitative and qualitative expansion of the arms race dooms whole generations to nonsensical waste of material, financial, technological and human resources and increases the possibility of an armed conflict, which in the present state of armaments, would lead mankind to inevitable destruction.

The People's Republic of Bulgaria, together with the rest of the fraternal socialist countries, are deeply concerned with the existing complex and anxious international situation and will do everything necessary to prevent the danger of a new world war. This policy is found in many documents accepted in the highest forums of our countries. Amongst them, and particularly important, are the political Declarations of the countries - participants in the Warsaw Treaty, accepted at the Conference of the Political Consultative Committee in Prague and the Declaration of the Moscow Meeting of the Communist Parties, and the governments of the socialist countries of 28 June of this year.

In these documents, special attention is given to international economic relations, underlining the urgent necessity of eliminating the economic backwardness of developing countries and of assuring conditions for the harmonious growth of international relations in the field of economics, science and technology.

Mr Chairman, as is also pointed out in the report of the Director-General of FAO, Mr Edouard Saouma, and in other materials submitted by the Secretariat, the ongoing deep economic crisis in the world capitalist economy reflects itself destructively on the economics and process of development in developing countries, particularly in the least developed.

In this connection, a serious obstacle to solving the problems of provision of food in developing countries is the existing system of unequal economic relations in the world.

The continuing growth of protectionist tendencies, the creation of artificial barriers in international trade of agricultural produce, the progressive disruption of the world monetary system, as well as the incessant increase of debts of developing countries, are a serious threat to the stability of world economics, harm seriously international economic relations as a whole and reflect negatively on the economic development of developing countries.

The People's Republic of Bulgaria, together with the rest of the socialist countries, expresses its support to the sovereign demands of the developing countries for the reconstruction of international economic relations on a just and democratic basis and for the beginning of 'global negotiations' in accordance with the accepted resolutions and other programme documents of the UN on this question. It is our deep conviction that any other discussion of this enormous complex of questions outside the framework of the UN would hardly bring its effective solution.

The delegation of the People's Republic of Bulgaria is convinced of the link between development and disarmament. There is no alternative to progressive development other than by giving priority to economic progress - and this means cutting down on non-productive military expenditure.

Mr Chairman, I would like to emphasize that my country shares and supports the efforts of FAO and the Director-General of the Organization, Mr Edouard Saouma, to solve the problems of food and agriculture in the Organization's member countries, especially the developing countries, and to further develop fruitful international cooperation in the field of agriculture. We attach great importance to our cooperation with FAO and we shall continue to contribute to the successful implementation of the aims and tasks of the Organization. This country regards as positive the activities and efforts of the Director-General and the Secretariat for working in an efficient and purposeful manner on the problems of developing countries.

In our opinion, the ways of effectively solving the food problem can be found in changing social structures, speeding all-round economic development of developing countries, modernizing agriculture, and improving farmers' knowledge of agriculture as well as their life standard.

The People's Republic of Bulgaria shall continue to assist developing countries in the development of their agriculture, strictly adhering to the principle of non-interference in their internal affairs and respecting their national sovereignty.

Mr. Chairman, in the years of people's power, thanks to the just policy of our Party and Government, the People's Republic of Bulgaria achieved considerable success in the development of agriculture and food industry which gives the possibility of meeting the ever-growing demands of our population for food and food products. 1983 was not a good year for our agricultural production due to natural disasters. But, thanks to the socialist structure of our agriculture, the good organization and mobilization of local resources, the availability of strong material and technical bases, our country was able to overcome the disasters and provide normal speed of development of agriculture, sufficient and good quality foodstuff for the country's population and for export.

Mr Chairman, while fully supporting the efforts of FAO in the development of agriculture, forests and fisheries, I would like to briefly mention the problems concerning the Programme of Work and Budget of the Organization for the next two-year period - 1984-85. We appreciate the suggestions of the Director-General and especially the suggestions for the elimination of bureaucracy in work. In this connection we would like to state our willingness for effective and reasonable use of resources in order to avoid an undesirable and large increase in the budget of the Organization. Let all resources be directed towards developing agriculture, increasing food production and solving the problem of malnutrition in the world.

Allow me at the end to declare from this high forum that the Government and people of my country will continue to work consistently for the protection of peace in the world, for the further development of international cooperation and for peaceful progress of world agriculture to the wellbeing of all peoples.

A. AMAURY STABILE (Brazil): It is with great satisfaction that my country takes part in one more Conference of FAO as matters of greatest importance will be dealt with here, particularly those regarding the search for solutions to increase the world food production and, as especially important, how to make this food available, and rendering for consumption by the needy people the world over.

Not only by participating in events sponsored by FAO, but also on the basis of this Organization's own performance in Brazil, we can bear witness to its lasting concern over the dramatic effects of the starvation and undernourishment which unfortunately persist in today's world.

As from the 1973-74 food crisis, both in Brazil and in other countries, there have been increasing efforts towards raising the world food output. Yet, despite these efforts, results were lower than those set up by the World Food Conference, which we believe must lend all of us to make a realistic appraisal of those efforts.

We are convinced, thus, as governments pursue internal policies to promote increase in food production and its proper distribution to be consumed at lower handling costs, the negative effects of the world's famine and malnutrition will be alleviated. In this connection, FAO plays a major role by acting through projects and specific actions which, if combined together with national endeavours, could considerably shorten the time needed to solve problems that characterize the quest of increased food supply.

Significant examples of FAO's presence are the projects that have been sponsored with resources from its "Technical Cooperation Programme - TCP", in addition to its efforts in international financial organizations and in industrialized countries towards the supporting of agricultural projects at the Third-World level.

Nonetheless, the fact remains that there are problems of a structural nature of a worldwide range which call for courageous action so that less-favoured regions can render viable their processes of economic and social development.

We, in Brazil, believe it is possible to attain a better quality of life for the needy people starting with the establishment of a new frame of economic and cooperative relations among nations.

Thus, we also believe it is through the rise in food production, and its productivity and by improving the mechanism of distribution of these food products, particularly to those which are short of resources to pay for their purchases, that developing countries will reach higher stages of prosperity and well-being.

In Brazil, we are firmly convinced that with an increased food production, inflation slows down, surpluses for export are created, alleviating the balance of payments problems, and more job opportunities are made possible in any society.

On the strength of this conviction, the Brazilian Government has established as of 1979 a policy for economic development which confers priority on agriculture, together with a process to adjust the Brazilian economy to the world's changing economic structure.

Priority for the development of food output in my country is based, in broad outlines, on the supply of more adequate financing for farmers; on the gradual elimination of price controls, with the market being allowed to work more freely; on a more realistic minimum price policy for the basic products; on more suitable financing of harvest commercialization; on the step-by-step liberalization of controls on the export of agricultural-livestock products; on the upgrading of a programme for the guarantee and protection of producers from crop hazards over climate-related problems, through a full-range insurance for credit and private resources invested; on the directing of the system of technical assistance for priority attention to small farmers; on growing support for research, intended to improve production techniques and the variety of seeds and seedlings; on the phasing-out of subsidy levels granted to rural credit and on the setting up of investment programmes, meant specifically for a simultaneous increase in production and productivity.

The implementation of this policy is taking place, adjusted to Brazilian determination to control inflation and to manage its present large foreign indebtedness. Despite these adjustments and the priority given to the Brazilian agriculture since 1979, which led the food production level to an increase up to 30%, Brazil would have, for the fourth consecutive year, yielded a crop of over 50 million ton of food grains in 1983, the largest crops ever obtained, were it not for a severe drought that has been striking the north-eastern Region of the country for several years, and if unexpected stormy rains and floods that have hit hard the south of the country had not been so harmful to the present years output.

Except for wheat, Brazil has stopped importing food since 1981, and if we had had better weather conditions, the losses we have had this year would have created conditions to avoid the upsurge in inflation we are experiencing since last July.

Brazilians have exceptional conditions to dramatically increase their food production. Our arable land not yet in production is of approximately 300 million hectares, with reasonable fertility, under a good weather distribution regime. Over this large surface of land, three new agriculture frontiers have been very well identified and the successful results obtained in pioneer and limited-scale production areas with these frontiers indicate that our expectations have a sound basis. These frontiers are 15 million hectares of lowland humid areas, scattered all over the Brazilian territory, and over 150 million hectares of savannahs, located in the central portion of the country and the agricultural exploitation of an area up to 80 million hectares in the Northern part of Brazil, not far from the ocean, more than 500 miles along the railroad facilities under construction to allow the export of mineral resources from the Carajas mining region.

We have timidly started programmes in these three frontiers, but we feel handicapped by lack of adequate investment financing sources, as the Brazilian Government is involved in a tight-money policy to control inflation.

Under this frame, we wish to express our deep appreciation and our full support to the brilliant ideas here expressed by Dr Kreisky at the opening of the Conference, followed by Dr Saouma's wise and important comments in his delivery speech yesterday.

We are fully convinced that any investment done in the food producing sector will be the main investment a country can do to recover its own economic development. In addition to the human and social benefits provided by food production to the poorer people of a country, its effects, as a job generation source on the industry and the services sector, are of fundamental importance. A recently developed research now available in Brazil indicates that for each one billion cruzeiros (around 1,2 million dollars) of food production obtained, over 17 000 jobs per year are necessary, which compares to the 2 300 jobs per year needed by the textile and clothing industry, second to agriculture as a job generating sector. Recognizing the importance of this fact, and according to our common concern on this matter, fortunately, an international agency, the World Bank, has turned its policy towards a larger sharing of the agricultural programs in its financing portfolio to Brazil.

As a developing country, like tens of other nations, Brazil lacks its own resources in the amount needed for the furtherance of its economic potential and needs partners to carry out the impulse towards the utilization of its great possibilities in such areas as agriculture, for the benefit of a better quality of life for its people and of a more adequate supply of food for a poor world.

Consistent with the statements of my country in the Conferences of 1979 and 1981, Mr Chairman, we reiterate today that it is imperative that both the developed and the developing nations, with capital available should take concrete actions and attitudes to the effect that it will be made possible to set up programs aimed at widening food production in the areas that offer conditions for that, and that such programs will be granted priority over any others.

In the Conferences of 1979 and 1981, Brazil proposed - and now renews this proposal - the establishment of specific funds in International Organizations to more expressively finance food production projects. The use of resources out of these funds would occur through long-term credits, with amortization through the supply of food. That would prove an efficacious way of contributing towards the development of many countries and the solution for the starvation problem of millions of people, by the distribution of these food items from the international programs of assistance for needy communities under FAO's leadership.

The debate about this proposal and the taking of steps needed to get several international financial organizations and industrialized countries committed into this effort constitute a very important mission which FAO has every condition to fulfil successfully.

Mr President, more than ever, in the present days, there is a general feeling that mankind is facing a challenge to survive. At the bottom of this challenge there is the need to find a solution to avoid that a human being might die by starvation. It is hard to understand how, in a time of immense technical achievements, as we have today, men have not yet found a way to solve this dilemma of humane famine.

FAO is the adequate forum to investigate and turn effective the way we are looking for. If each one of us attending this meeting can take its own individual responsibility of finding the beginning of that way, I am confident on the final finding of the adequate solution.

MONS. A. FERRARI-TONIOLO (Observateur du Saint-Siège) : La Mission permanente du Saint-Siège suit attentivement et sans relâche durant toute l'année les activités de la FAO. Elle participe à toutes ses importantes réunions intergouvernementales, appelées à définir les lignes de politique interne et internationale, selon la volonté des Etats membres.

Elle désire apporter sa propre contribution à l'évaluation d'ensemble, que nous devons affronter en vue du biennal 84-85. En ce sens, elle voudrait suggérer des perspectives plus larges, répondant plus strictement à des critères de justice. D'autre part, elle est toujours préoccupée d'obtenir le soutien de toute la communauté internationale, pour les plus faibles et les plus nécessiteux.

En effet, la délégation du Saint-Siège est toujours, à sa façon bien particulière, le défenseur du point de vue moral, dans une vision universelle supérieure aux intérêts légitimes, mais souvent limités et même excessifs, dont sont porteurs les représentants de chaque Etat Membre. Une fois encore, on veut témoigner d'une volonté authentique de se mettre au service de l'humanité entière, inspirant cette présence, qui reste cependant dans les limites de la finalité et des normes de la FAO.

Avant tout, cette délégation désire exprimer ses louanges pour les lignes directrices programmatiques et la documentation mises à disposition comme toujours, avec autant de précision et d'efficacité, sous l'impulsion incisive du Directeur Général M. Saouma, par les différents départements et divisions de la FAO. Ce sont les fruits de leur travail ordinaire et celui, toujours plus considérable, des aspects opérationnels.

On souhaiterait chez les Etats membres et leur opinion publique respective, une compréhension plus large pour le travail quotidien et ordinaire, accompli au Siège central et dans les bureaux régionaux au service des gouvernements, en particulier dans la formulation de leurs programmes et projets. On voudrait également leur soutien adéquat au budget relatif proportionnel non seulement à leurs ressources économiques, mais aussi à leurs richesses en expérience et en connaissances scientifiques.

Il est légitime de demander le contrôle de l'utilisation effective, sans dispersion, des disponibilités obtenues en vue du budget ordinaire et des fonds destinés à des opérations spécifiques.

Cependant, un engagement plus important des gouvernements est nécessaire afin d'obtenir une inversion de la tendance qui malheureusement va s'accroissant, à réduire leur appui aux activités des organisations intergouvernementales. Par contre, ils doivent donner la preuve d'une volonté de collaboration plus désintéressée aux programmes en vue de la croissance organique des pays. Cette volonté doit s'exprimer surtout par une valorisation des aspects opérationnels directement proposés et réalisés par la FAO ou mis en place conjointement avec d'autres énergies multilatérales ou bilatérales. Ils devraient augmenter leur apport aux différentes activités spécialisées avec une préférence plus prononcée pour l'utilisation de la voie multilatérale.

Qu'il nous soit permis d'espérer que de façon plus évidente, ainsi qu'il en va de la diplomatie multilatérale, les délégations recherchent patiemment des solutions possibles d'actions communes par des propositions positives en vue de réalisations concrètes, plutôt que de se cantonner à exposer leurs propres réalisations ou à faire des revendications génériques.

Dans cette intervention, la délégation du Saint-Siège entend se concentrer sur quelques points concernant le rapport entre l'orientation du travail futur de la FAO, en particulier d'après les indications du document C 83/19 et les tendances émergées dans le système des Nations Unies lors de ses principales conférences. Dans cette troisième décennie des années 80, elle se place surtout dans la perspective du nouvel ordre économique international, des lignes de la Stratégie internationale du développement, et de leurs critères de justice et de solidarité entre les peuples.

Il est tout à fait souhaitable de fixer et réaliser des objectifs de coopération entre les Etats membres, qui soient plus largement tournés à l'avantage des pays ayant besoin d'intégration de l'extérieur pour leur autodéveloppement vers leur autosuffisance alimentaire.

L'augmentation de la productivité agricole et l'élévation des revenus ruraux restent naturellement des objectifs d'importance primaire. La réaffirmation de la primauté de l'agriculture dans l'ensemble du développement de chaque pays est toujours plus claire. En outre, cette délégation voudrait mettre en évidence que les objectifs d'un développement intégré ne regardent pas seulement le secteur spécifique de l'agriculture, mais aussi celui de la pêche et des forêts ainsi que leur qualification. On pourra obtenir de cette façon une utilisation plus rationnelle des ressources et une application plus large des possibilités offertes par la technologie et la science contemporaine. On doit accorder une valeur spéciale aux applications scientifiques des apports de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur la science et la technique au service du développement ainsi qu'à la conférence de l'ONUDI, et à ses suggestions pour l'industrialisation des pays en développement, étroitement liée aux problèmes du développement agricole et alimentaire.

Cette délégation suit avec une attention toute particulière la révision des applications du Plan d'action défini par la conférence mondiale, sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural.

Il est temps de réaffirmer la référence non seulement à la réforme des structures agraires, mais aussi à la nécessité d'orienter le renouvellement même radical, des institutions, contrats et lignes d'action, en vue de l'élévation économique et sociale de tout le milieu rural.

Cette délégation apprécie, entre autres, la faveur grandissante d'un retour aux mains de petits exploitants des entreprises agricoles. Cette constatation apparaît à la lecture de la documentation issue des conférences régionales de l'Asie, l'Afrique et l'Amérique latine.

On doit regretter l'échec de la relance des programmes intégrés des produits de base. On doit reconnaître qu'apparaît aujourd'hui la nécessité évidente d'un engagement renouvelé pour le dépassement des tentations protectionnistes, dictées par des visions étroites faisant prévaloir les intérêts particuliers sur les besoins des pays plus arriérés.

Le problème de l'aide aux pays et territoires nécessiteux garde une importance absolue tant pour les situations d'urgence que pour les programmes et projets relatifs au développement continu qui doit retourner au centre de l'attention. Ceci vaut en particulier pour la région africaine, vu les prévisions d'une crise encore plus aiguë au cours du prochain biennal.

Avant tout, il est urgent de pouvoir constater que l'on entame les négociations globales prévues afin d'obtenir une coopération économique internationale plus efficace pour le développement.

Il est très louable que dans cette Assemblée l'on se réfère pour en définir les applications en matière d'alimentation et d'agriculture, aux résolutions de la récente VI^{ème} Session de l'UNCTAD, ainsi que de la VII^{ème} Conférence des Chefs d'Etats et des gouvernements des pays non alignés.

Cette phase du commerce international requiert un contrôle plus grand des échanges, afin d'éviter une chute des prix et des revenus agricoles entraînant ensuite un déficit accentué dans la balance des paiements des pays en développement.

Dans la période actuelle où malgré les progrès grandissent les distances, on doit souligner l'urgence de la réalisation du principe fondamental du nouvel ordre économique international : on doit mettre en place des conditions de fait, des instruments et des normes juridiques permettant une condition de capacité contractuelle plus égale au cours des négociations entre pays à niveau de développement et de puissance économique et financière très différents.

Une volonté politique concrète est plus que souhaitable, pour arriver à la reprise et à la conclusion des négociations interrompues, afin de renouveler les conventions sur les céréales et l'aide alimentaire relative.

La dépendance grandissante des pays en développement, surtout quant aux importations de produits alimentaires est très justement préoccupante. Un ensemble de mesures efficaces s'impose, particulièrement afin de mettre en place des moyens de compensation dans les cas de grave déficit de la balance des paiements. La stabilisation des approvisionnements doit être garantie également en utilisant les nouvelles possibilités offertes par les récentes initiatives du Fonds monétaire international, ainsi qu'en rendant opératif le Fonds spécial de l'UNCTAD.

Dans le domaine alimentaire, au sein de l'activité productive et d'échange, le secteur de la pêche prend de plus en plus d'importance. Il constitue un des trois objectifs statutaires des structures et des initiatives de la FAO qui doit être également qualifié dans le programme de travail de la FAO.

L'expérience positive de la phase préparatoire de la conférence mondiale de la pêche est récente. Il faut espérer que sa session conclusive au niveau politique le plus élevé en 1984 sera constructive. En ce sens, on se réjouit de l'augmentation de l'importance du département et du comité intergouvernemental correspondant, relatif à la pêche. On souhaite que les programmes de travail de ce secteur soient étroitement liés aux normes de droit international fixées par le récent traité ouvert à la signature à la fin de la conférence mondiale du droit de la mer, aujourd'hui amplement ratifié.

Il en va de même pour les produits ichtyques. On doit formuler de nouvelles lignes d'action communes pour un meilleur usage des ressources disponibles. On doit oeuvrer pour une entente et une coopération efficace entre les Etats, au-dessus des contrastes qu'ont fait surgir les nouvelles délimitations, en particulier celles des zones économiques exclusives.

On relève avec plaisir l'attention grandissante accordée aux artisans pêcheurs qui apparaît dans l'adoption de programmes et de mesures correspondantes plus directement adhérentes aux possibilités des pays en développement tant pour les eaux marines que les eaux continentales.

Le troisième secteur de la sylviculture prend lui aussi une place majeure, quant à sa qualification justifiée au sein des objectifs de l'activité de la FAO. On doit remarquer une efficacité renouvelée des réunions du comité intergouvernemental des forêts et l'importance des congrès mondiaux des forêts qui donnent une bonne impulsion à cet important secteur spécifique dans l'économie mondiale et l'équilibre écologique.

Il faut noter l'importance accordée à l'utilisation des produits des forêts afin de créer également dans ce domaine, une industrialisation locale au moins embryonnaire. Elle pourra ainsi apporter son concours au soutien des prix à l'exportation des produits agricoles du secteur.

On doit remarquer le rapport entre développement agricole et alimentaire et sources d'énergie. Dans ce domaine aussi, on doit donner une juste suite à la Conférence des Nations Unies sur les sources d'énergies nouvelles et renouvelables, auxquelles sans aucun doute le secteur de la sylviculture peut contribuer de façon notable.

Enfin qu'il nous soit permis d'augurer une cordialité continuellement renouvelée dans les rapports et une collaboration dans les faits surtout entre organisations et organismes, qui traitent du secteur agricole et alimentaire, comportant aussi la reconnaissance réciproque et la délimitation des compétences respectives. Dans son programme ordinaire, on doit sans aucun doute reconnaître le caractère d'indispensable service des activités que la FAO entend mettre en action avec une efficacité encore plus grande, surtout par le recueil des données sur la situation et l'aide dans la formulation des programmes et des projets pour les gouvernements selon les règles établies dans les textes de base bien connus.

A côté, on trouve l'activité spécifique des aspects opérationnels de la politique d'aide alimentaire réalisée dans les projets approuvés par le Comité (CFA/PAM), composé des Membres des Nations Unies et de la FAO, qui préside le Programme alimentaire mondial.

La forme spécifique de financement des projets de développement agricole et alimentaire que représente la nouvelle organisation intergouvernementale de l'IFAD, doit trouver un encouragement pour reconstituer de façon adéquate les ressources que le Fonds a besoin de recevoir selon les critères de contribution de la part des trois catégories d'Etats membres fixés dans l'Acte constitutif.

Il est évident qu'après l'institution du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation, établi dans les résolutions de la Conférence mondiale des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation en 1974, l'on exige la reconnaissance de sa fonction spécifique de coordination et un concours actif au moment de la formulation des lignes d'orientation pour l'action agricole et alimentaire interne et internationale, concordées au niveau ministériel pendant la session annuelle.

Cette cordiale volonté réciproque de reconnaissance et de collaboration dans les faits devient une garantie également pour la mise en place concrète des programmes de la FAO que les Etats membres s'apprentent à approuver et dont ils doivent garantir les contributions correspondantes pour la période 1983-84.

Qu'il me soit permis de renouveler encore une fois l'invitation à la rencontre prévue désormais de longue tradition, à l'Audience que Jean Paul II offre aux représentants et observateurs de cette XXIIème Session de la Conférence de la FAO.

D. CHRISTODOULOU (Cyprus): First let me thank this Conference for the honour it has done my country by electing us to serve as one of the Vice-Chairmen. This trust placed in us enhances our determination to do our utmost to serve the Conference well.

May I add, that our pleasure in accepting this responsibility is heightened by the thought that we shall be serving under the distinguished guidance of Secretary Block.

Mr Chairman, I fear that I shall indulge a little further in personal comment. I have some reason for it. Twelve Conferences ago I appeared here to thank the Conference on behalf of my country for electing Cyprus to membership of FAO. Since then I served in FAO for two decades in the professional - not the higher - grades, as they are called. Now I am back again holding political office in my country, poised to speak on behalf of my delegation. Can I, therefore, be allowed to draw on this rather distinctive experience to emphasize two areas of possible concern to this Conference?

The first area which I wish to mention refers to the class of FAO staff that I left some two years ago. The Conference and the higher organs of FAO are far more in touch with the highest grades who are more visible and audible. That is natural and practical and no objection can be raised. In fact it is very welcome. But can I ask the Conference to spare a thought for the mass of professional and even lower grades who are less visible and not at all audible here, but who contribute tremendously to the work of FAO and of this Conference ideals, ideas, skills, service and hard work and form an invaluable asset to all of us? And can I venture to suggest that anything we can do, with the willing consent and initiative, of course, of the Director-General, to give encouragement to the staff of FAO to serve us even better is very sound and productive investment?

The other area which I have specially selected to mention concerns one of the key elements, if not actually the key element, of the substantive work of FAO - rural development. I make the claim that the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD) which took place in 1979 and the Follow-up of which is an important area of FAO's work today, originated from my own humble early efforts to get agreement to hold the second World Land Tenure Conference on the 10th anniversary of the first one which took place in 1966. The World Conference on Agrarian Reform that I suggested for 1976 became the WCARRD of 1979. I had the privilege to lay down some of the original foundation ideas. The WCARRD of 1979 was hailed and was in fact a great success. The follow-up is of vital importance and we keenly support it and wish that even more can be done in that respect.

My purpose in making the comment which I am going to make below is not intended to detract from, but to reinforce those efforts which I wish to see bearing ample and effective fruit. As a serious student of the essence and dynamics of rural development, who also had time to go even more deeply into the issues in seats of learning, I am still firmly convinced that a real, genuine break-through will ultimately elude us if we do not resolve one very great puzzle, a serious flaw which is the following: the development achieved to date and rural development above all, suffers seriously from this - the development known to us to date tends to concentrate on a narrow range of people - that is on those with an original real advantage, especially productive assets - be they wealth, know-how or social and political power. The vast mass of deprived people have every chance of being left behind, ironically especially when development does succeed in going apace. My intention is not to indulge in theoretical discussion. It is to urge that for the sake of genuine success by WCARRD, above all in the name of the billions of deprived people, FAO should take the lead to study this process of inbuilt marginalisation of the disadvantaged people which fatally flaws rural development, and all kinds of development, on which we place so many hopes and of which we speak so much. Comforting assurances that the phenomenon is a temporary one, common to the early stages of the development process, have never been vindicated by real experience or in real life. Resources can be found to concentrate on a break-through which will lift this fatal flaw from FAO's efforts which affect all the efforts of the UN system including especially the World Bank. The source of resources has already been identified. I need only cite in this the passage in the Director-General's Introduction to Programme of Work and Budget 1984-1985. "The issue of resources spent on arms (is) the fate of mankind, especially the hungriest and poorest who suffer for lack of resources for development".

My delegation and my country are very sensitive to the issue of war and peace and the use of force to impose solutions. This leads me to certain special but relevant problems that concern us specially, but are not without interest for some countries in comparable circumstances. As is already well known, we suffered in 1974 a devastating military invasion and we have since then endured military occupation of nearly two-fifths of the Republic's territory which contains the major part of our productive resources. In spite of that blow and of the displacement of one-third of the population who were deprived of all their assets, thanks largely to the determination and the skill of our people, the economy, far from collapsing, has staged what has been hailed by outside observers as a minor miracle. In this the support also of the international community has been of vital importance. FAO was prominent in this and the Director-General of FAO took a keen personal interest. We have expressed our profound appreciation before, but I wish to underline once again our heartfelt gratitude for aid and support received. For our farmers especially, FAO, the Director-General and the WFP are household words, thought of as friends in need.

The dislocation and the efforts at rebuilding the economy have introduced basic structural changes, including the reorientation of our agriculture. Major investments in infrastructure, especially in irrigation, have enabled agriculture to move away from subsistence crops like cereals, for which in our drought-afflicted climate, we have no special advantage, to high value crops based on expensive irrigation which ensures secure and high yields. We have moved especially towards early or out-of-season fruits and vegetables.

This new production structure has made us overwhelmingly dependent on the export market which, on account of the nature of the produce involved and given the institutional barriers to the market available for it, makes us extremely vulnerable to the difficulties and vagaries of the market. But we have to export something to survive and to develop. And in this area, we can have special advantages given fair market conditions and chances. We have been associated with the EEC for a decade and we are in the process of negotiating an important next stage vital to us. I do not want to comment further on this at this stage, except to underline how many hopes we place on these negotiations for the due reward of our producers and the health of our economy, especially agriculture.

But I have a request to make to FAO, a request that if acted upon, can help other countries, especially countries producing what I may call Mediterranean agricultural produce to plan their investments in agriculture and the commitment of their resources with a chance of success. The request is this: first, that FAO should make a detailed study of the prospects of production of Mediterranean agriculture not only round the Mediterranean Basin, but also in such places as Chile, California and South Africa, based on projections of production from existing plantations and expected ones, from developments in irrigation and other productive opportunities to show the expected volumes which require remunerative marketing in the medium term of 5 years and the longer term of 10 years or more; second, that FAO should assess the capacity of absorption of such production in 5 years and 10 years or more; and third that FAO should instruct our staffs in programming production in response to expected demand and how to assess such demand. My delegation is firm in assuring the Conference that this request is of vital importance to our agricultural effectiveness.

A second area of special interest to us and to many countries at our stage of development refers to part-time farming. The displacement of our farmers by the invasion and the pressure on our land resources that resulted from it, have accentuated the phenomenon of part-time farming. FAO can go more systematically than hitherto into the problems of this predominant form of farming and its implications for efficient production and high productivity. This is particularly important especial-

ly in this decade of "Women in Development" since women, now predominate as actual farmers, even though unrecognised and unaided. The need to reassess our approaches to this class of agricultural producers, especially in agricultural extension and education is both glaring and urgent.

My delegation does not wish to give the impression that our demands on FAO are inspired by a spirit of "take" but not "give". We try to play our modest part as members of our Organization. We have been ardently observing World Food Day every year since the idea has been launched. In connection with World Food Day observances, we have propagated FAO's goals and we have taken practical steps to implement FAO's priorities.

Furthermore we have responded as much as our resources permit to requests by FAO for our specialist staff to help in field missions and in meetings because we believe that we must share our experience and know-how with sister countries, if it helps FAO in its technical assistance efforts.

Last but not least, at the request of the Director-General and of our good neighbours in the Near East Region, my country had the privilege and pleasure to host the 16th FAO Regional Conference for the Near East in Nicosia in October 1982. It was especially gratifying to us to welcome so many Ministers of Agriculture, other Ministers and Heads of Delegation from our friendly neighbours and to cooperate in such a successful Conference.

The Director-General, Dr Saouma himself, led and stimulated the Conference. Cyprus had the pleasure of an official visit to Cyprus last July by Dr Saouma, at the personal invitation of His Excellency the President of the Republic Mr Spyros Kyprianou. In this way both the Government and the people of Cyprus, especially the farmers and agricultural scientists, whom he visited and had discussions with, had the opportunity to express to him directly and in their own way their profound gratitude for the great help given us, especially in our hour of greatest need. They pledged to him also full support in his work, worldwide, for the good of the billions of rural people who place their hope in his efforts as the Head of the great Organization.

This full support, Mr Chairman, my delegation has given to the Director-General at the Council meeting which took place last week. We are also ready to give it at this Conference. We trust that all the Delegations at this Conference will give the Director-General unanimous support, especially to his Programme of Work and Budget, to enable FAO to do the great work we expect of it, "especially for the sake of the hungriest and poorest millions of people who suffer for lack of resources for development".

M. ROCARD (France): Je me réjouis de me trouver pour la première fois dans cette enceinte de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, et de travailler avec vous sur les priorités que vous avez su si bien définir, Monsieur le Directeur général: priorité vivrière, priorité à l'économie paysanne, priorité aux plus pauvres.

Lors de la réunion du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation en juin dernier, à New York, nous avons examiné ensemble les conséquences de la crise internationale sur la crise alimentaire de certains pays en développement.

Nous le savons tous, nous sommes au coeur d'une contradiction: les solutions choisies sur le plan macro-économique, monétaire, financier, pour la gestion de cette crise aggravent souvent le phénomène; en d'autres termes, nos politiques dites de régulation, si elles sont facteurs d'ajustement conjoncturel, sont aussi porteuses de désajustement structurel.

Je voudrais aujourd'hui, dans cette enceinte, exprimer, d'une certaine manière, le contrepoint de cette analyse et rappeler que la crise alimentaire qui sévit dans de nombreux pays en développement est en réalité au coeur de la crise mondiale, qu'elle contribue à aggraver dans bien des cas.

Dans une première partie de mon exposé, j'essaierai de dégager les axes principaux en fonction desquels doit, à mon sens, s'organiser la cohérence de l'ensemble des actions entreprises pour répondre au défi alimentaire. Ma deuxième partie sera consacrée à la voie que la France a suivie et suivra à cet égard, et en particulier vis-à-vis de la FAO, et je terminerai par une interrogation sur la politique agricole commune et sur les coopérations régionales.

Donc d'abord,

Première partie: le défi alimentaire

La crise de l'économie paysanne est un des facteurs importants de la crise économique mondiale: la crise immense que subit l'économie paysanne des pays en développement est sans doute l'aspect le plus dramatique et le moins admissible de la situation présente du monde. Mais elle est également une source de déséquilibres économiques sociaux et politiques pour les pays en développement en même temps qu'un facteur important de la crise économique mondiale.

En effet, la stagnation, la régression, l'effondrement de pans entiers de cette économie paysanne frappe les capacités de production essentielles de beaucoup de pays en développement.

Cette "implosion", cette explosion interne provient d'un double mouvement: l'insuffisance croissante de production vivrière dans ces pays provoque un recours croissant aux importations et à l'aide alimentaire et, par voie de conséquence, l'aggravation de la dette extérieure. La dépendance alimentaire s'instaure et s'agrandit, ce qui, en retour, constitue un facteur de découragement supplémentaire pour la production paysanne.

Dans le même temps, les productions d'exportation connaissent de très vives fluctuations qui affectent soit les qualités, soit, de manière encore plus dramatique, les prix. Ces fluctuations privent les pays producteurs des devises nécessaires pour importer les moyens d'équipement modernes et pour assurer le service de leur dette extérieure.

C'est dans ce véritable étau que se trouve enfermée l'économie de bon nombre de pays en développement.

Ainsi se constitue, sur les flancs de l'économie mondiale, une sphère grandissante de pauvreté et d'insatisfaction de la demande sociale : Nous disons que cette sphère d'insolvabilité de la demande risque de constituer le facteur limitant principal à la poursuite de l'expansion économique mondiale, ou encore qu'elle constitue dans de nombreuses régions du monde un facteur de crise très important.

C'est donc en recentrant l'économie sur la satisfaction des besoins intérieurs les plus essentiels que les pays concernés retrouveront les moyens de participer plus largement et de manière plus équilibrés à l'économie mondiale.

Face à ces questions, une certaine diversité d'approche est inévitable et une certaine diversité d'expériences est nécessaire, mais nous tenons à dire que le caractère dramatique de la situation nous interdit les polémiques stériles et nous fait une "ardente obligation" de conduire le débat en vue de la coordination la plus efficace de tous les moyens bilatéraux et multilatéraux dont nous disposons.

Il m'arrive de m'étonner un peu qu'on puisse opposer les stratégies alimentaires telles qu'elles sont conçues au Conseil mondial de l'alimentation ou appliquées par la Communauté européenne et la sécurité alimentaire telle qu'elle est définie dans cette enceinte. Les objectifs sont les mêmes, la volonté d'y parvenir aussi. Je ne vois pas pour ma part que deux approches différentes au niveau de la méthode et qui, loin de se combattre, devraient s'enrichir mutuellement. Je retiens notre objectif commun: la priorité paysanne et vivrière.

Par delà les mots, je rappellerai seulement quelques points forts des programmes de revitalisation paysanne qui ont d'ailleurs fait l'objet d'un consensus lors de précédentes réunions.

Premièrement, des structures qui consolident les sociétés paysannes. Mon collègue et ami chinois évoquait ce propos il y a quelques instants à cette même tribune.

Deuxièmement, des prix rémunérateurs pour favoriser la production.

Troisièmement, une stabilisation de l'épargne; la reconquête des marchés urbains; et cinquièmement des technologies adaptées au développement des systèmes de productions paysans.

Ces cinq thèmes ne prennent de sens que s'ils s'inscrivent dans un schéma plus large, naturellement: organiser les échanges (de cela on a beaucoup parlé ce matin), organiser les espaces, c'est-à-dire créer des zones régionales d'échange et d'autosuffisance, mais j'y reviendrai dans quelques minutes.

Sous la poussée des mécanismes de spécialisation internationale, des clivages nouveaux apparaissent: certains sous-ensembles régionaux du sud émergent, d'autres, beaucoup plus nombreux, s'étendent. Cette aggravation des phénomènes de développement inégal doit nous conduire à relancer la réflexion en faveur des accords de régulation mondiale des marchés des principaux produits vivriers, ou des produits tropicaux d'exportation. Ces nouveaux clivages, cette segmentation, nous posent là encore et par une autre approche la question des espaces de survie économique.

Voilà, M. le Président, quelques éléments d'analyse un peu abstraits mais je n'ai pas le temps de le? illustrer d'exemples. Tout le monde les a dans la tête.

Ces exemples se traduisent par des famines. Voilà quelques exemples du défi majeur que pose l'alimentation des populations croissantes que va compter le monde de demain: six milliards d'habitants en l'an 2000, dix milliards d'habitants en l'an 2075 pour se stabiliser ensuite à ce niveau si l'on en croit nos démographes internationaux.

Je voudrais maintenant, dans une deuxième partie, préciser ce que mon pays, la France, tente de faire dans le domaine du développement des agricultures et plus particulièrement dans le cadre de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, donc la réponse de la France au défi alimentaire.

D'abord, notre aide publique au développement: l'aide publique au développement des pays de l'Organisation de coopération et de développement, l'OCDE, s'est encore accrue en 1982. Pourtant dans l'environnement économique international que nous connaissons, il faut noter qu'il serait risqué de parier sur une croissance importante de cette aide dans une perspective à moyen terme. Nous savons que la relance de l'économie mondiale, si elle vient à se produire, risque de laisser en jachère, ou plutôt à l'abandon, les vastes poches de pauvreté ou d'implosion économique et sociale qui se sont constituées dans le sud: il nous faut donc viser au coeur de la crise, c'est-à-dire orienter l'aide vers ces zones rurales, consacrer l'essentiel de nos efforts au développement vivrier.

En ce qui concerne la France, je le rappelle, elle tiendra son engagement de consacrer 0,7 pour cent de son produit national brut en 1988 à l'aide publique au développement dont 0,5 pour cent dès 1985 pour les seuls pays les moins avancés. Dans cet ensemble, un redéploiement très important s'opère: une part de plus en plus importante sera consacrée à l'agriculture et à l'alimentation; cette part, calculée en dollars, a augmenté d'environ 25 pour cent de 1980 à 1982. Cet effort sera poursuivi au cours de notre neuvième plan de développement.

Comment acheminer cette aide publique au développement et d'abord l'utilisation du canal multilatéral ? La France, chacun le sait, est très attachée à l'aide bilatérale, elle tient cependant à s'associer aux autres pays donateurs dans le concert de l'aide multilatérale. En 1982, la part de l'aide publique française consacrée à l'action multilatérale a fortement augmenté, très exactement de 37 pour cent en francs français. Aujourd'hui, plus d'un quart du total de l'aide publique de la France au développement est acheminé par le canal multilatéral, Communauté européenne comprise.

L'Organisation mondiale pour l'agriculture et l'alimentation, la FAO: ces financements multilatéraux nous nous efforçons de les attribuer prioritairement aux activités des organisations à vocation agricole et alimentaire privilégiant les pays les moins avancés. Certes, les fonds extra-budgétaires que nous avons constitués pour soutenir certains thèmes d'activité prioritaires de l'OAA restent encore modestes. Pourtant cette contribution volontaire à des programmes opérationnels de cette Organisation est un effort récent de la France.

Il sera, M. le Directeur général, poursuivi au cours des deux années à venir.

Le Programme alimentaire mondial: pour la première fois, en 1983, la France aura fourni une contribution en nature au Programme alimentaire mondial pour la réalisation de projets de développement. L'expression en valeur de cette aide en nature représente un quasi doublement de notre contribution financière en 1983. Cet apport vient, bien entendu, en supplément de la contribution que la France fournit chaque année à la Réserve internationale d'urgence à laquelle nous restons attachés.

Le FIDA: nous nous sommes fermement engagés dans un soutien accru du Fonds international de développement agricole: inquiète des menaces qui pèsent sur la reconstitution de ce Fonds, la France ne ménage pas ses efforts pour faire aboutir la négociation en cours. Elle a décidé, à cet égard, dans le respect des engagements souscrits et dans le cadre de la première reconstitution, d'augmenter de 75 pour cent sa contribution qui passera dès lors de 28 à 49 millions de dollars.

Vous avez, M. le Directeur général, insisté dans votre intervention d'hier sur la gravité de la situation alimentaire en Afrique. La France partage cette analyse. Elle fera donc face à ses responsabilités. Sans entrer dans le détail des interventions qui feront l'objet de réunions dans les jours prochains, je puis vous assurer que nous prendrons les mesures nécessaires pour accélérer l'exécution de notre aide en direction des pays les plus affectés. D'autre part, au sein de la Communauté, la France insistera pour que soient mises en oeuvre rapidement les mesures à court terme.

L'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture a une place privilégiée au niveau multilatéral, et cela nous permet de couvrir trois points de convergence: le Programme de travail et budget présenté par le Secrétariat pour les deux années à venir est exemplaire eu égard aux réalités économiques que j'évoquais tout à l'heure et je félicite le Directeur général, d'une part, pour la volonté de rigueur dont il a fait preuve dans l'élaboration de son budget, d'autre part, pour avoir, dans ce cadre strict, présenté une réorientation des dépenses au bénéfice des programmes techniques et économiques.

Je tiens à exprimer ici encore une fois mon accord avec les orientations du "Programme de travail et budget" et souligne combien trois d'entre elles me paraissent tout particulièrement décisives: la recherche, la lutte contre la déforestation et enfin la coopération régionale.

C'est sur ce dernier point que je voudrais maintenant réfléchir quelques instants avec vous et, si vous me le permettez, poser quelques questions:

Donc, troisième et dernière partie, la coopération régionale: le thème de la dimension régionale du développement agricole m'apparaît indissociable de la notion de sécurité alimentaire. A une époque où le budget national de nombreux Etats en situation de dépendance alimentaire est inférieur à celui des plus grandes sociétés multinationales, le concept de sécurité alimentaire ou celui de stratégie alimentaire dans un strict cadre national se heurte à d'évidentes limites.

Cela m'amène à aborder un sujet dont je sais qu'il fait l'objet de controverses dans cette enceinte et qui est celui de notre politique agricole commune. Vous savez que les Etats Membres de la CEE sont actuellement engagés dans une réflexion de fond sur l'avenir de cette politique. Ce débat, dans le même temps où il amène à revenir sur les mérites et sur les limites de la politique agricole commune, devrait, dans une enceinte telle que la nôtre, alimenter des réflexions qui ne soient pas uniquement cantonnées aux strictes considérations commerciales. Je retiens pour ma part les thèmes suivants:

Cette politique régionale a permis à la CEE de progresser sensiblement sur la voie de l'autosuffisance alimentaire. C'était un de ses objectifs, tout en permettant d'assurer le développement des échanges agro-alimentaires avec le reste du monde. Sans ce cadre régional, un seul des Etats Membres de la CEE aurait-il pu concilier avec autant d'efficacité deux contraintes en apparence si contradictoires ?

Cela remporte la conviction de mon pays en matière agricole, si le collectivisme mène à la ruine, le strict libéralisme commercial n'a pas non plus de sens. Il n'aboutit en fait qu'à renforcer le pouvoir des dominants et à aggraver la dépendance de ceux qui se heurtent à des handicaps naturels, structurels ou socio-culturels. En matière agricole, la libéralisation des échanges ne peut se réussir dans des conditions équitables que si elle est organisée par une politique visant à corriger le déséquilibre productif, à harmoniser les conditions de concurrence, à accompagner les nécessaires évolutions structurelles. C'est l'expérience de la PAC qui nous conduit ainsi à envisager l'organisation des marchés mondiaux dans un cadre volontariste qui, loin de nier les disparités des déséquilibres, les prend au contraire nommément en compte.

La PAC a, dans le même temps, servi de ciment à une CEE capable de développer des solidarités internationales originales et indépendantes, et l'a posée en fournisseur potentiel de produits alimentaires de base. Cette émergence d'une Communauté exportatrice n'a pas que des aspects négatifs pour nos partenaires du sud dans la mesure où elle offre une alternative à certains pays qui n'ont pas, dans un premier temps, d'autres ressources que la diversification de leurs dépendances pour assurer leur sécurité alimentaire et elle donne droit de cité à une CEE porteuse de solidarités internationales nouvelles. J'invite certains de ceux qui critiquent le caractère protectionniste de la PAC à s'interroger sur ce que serait la scène agro-alimentaire mondiale, à ce que serait l'éventail de la coopération internationale sans une Communauté européenne active. Je ne suis pas sûr que les plus démunis et les plus dépendants gagneraient au change.

Permettez-moi en outre quelques chiffres pour illustrer mon propos: la CEE est le premier importateur de produits agricoles du monde et le premier client des pays en développement dans ce secteur. En comparaison avec la CEE les autres pays développés importent sensiblement moins de produits agricoles des pays en développement. Tandis qu'en 1979, la CEE a acheté 27 milliards de dollars de produits agricoles en provenance du tiers monde, les importations américaines se situaient à moins de la moitié de ce chiffre et celles du Japon au cinquième de ce chiffre. Pour la CEE ces importations représentent 0,9 pour cent de son produit brut; pour les USA ce chiffre n'est que de 0,5 pour cent; pour le Japon, de 0,5 pour cent aussi. Mesurées par tête d'habitant ces importations agricoles en provenance des pays en développement s'élèvent à 104 dollars pour la CEE, 53 pour les Etats-Unis et 49 dollars pour le Japon.

L'analyse du régime tarifaire applicable aux exportations agricoles des pays en développement montre qu'à raison de 60 pour cent de leur valeur totale ces produits entrent dans la Communauté à droit zéro; un tiers à droit positif relativement bas. Sept pour cent seulement subissent notre régime normal de prélèvements pour les importations que nous faisons de pays développés.

Est-ce là, M. le Directeur général, M. le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs, une attitude de fermeture ou d'ouverture ?

Je conclurai en répétant qu'à mes yeux le thème de la dimension régionale du développement agricole m'apparaît indissociable de la notion de sécurité alimentaire. C'est dans ce cadre que la France et l'Europe pourraient peut-être développer de la manière la plus responsable le champ de leur solidarité internationale. Cette solidarité doit répondre à une double exigence: il nous faut favoriser l'émergence d'espaces régionaux viables; cela se traduit par une harmonisation des politiques nationales de prix qui permettent une libération de l'échange de produits vivriers entre pays d'une même zone économique; par une organisation de ces espaces qui permette de protéger de manière sélective ces marchés communs régionaux potentiels afin de leur permettre de se construire et de se fortifier à l'abri des coups de boutoirs que provoque en permanence la crise internationale.

Il nous faut établir avec ces ensembles régionaux des relations contractuelles nouvelles qui permettent d'approfondir le champ de notre coopération sur des bases équilibrées. C'est tout le sens

du renouvellement des Accords de Lomé entre la Communauté européenne et les pays associés d'Afrique, des Caraïbes ou du Pacifique. C'est aussi le sens des accords contractuels que nous souhaitons établir avec d'autres régions du monde dans un esprit de pragmatisme et d'ouverture à l'écoute des demandes de nos partenaires.

Il semble à la France, Mesdames et Messieurs, M. le Président, que si nous oeuvrons dans ce sens nous aurons apporté une utile contribution à la lutte contre la malnutrition.

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

C 83/PV/6

Twenty-second Session

PLENARY

Vingt-deuxième session

PLENIERE

22° período de sesiones

PLENARIA

SIXTH PLENARY MEETING
SIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
SEXTA SESION PLENARIA

(8 November 1983)

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.50 hours

J.R. Block, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 50

sous la présidence de J.R. Block, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la sexta sesión Plenaria a las 14.50 horas, bajo la

presidencia de J.R. Block, Presidente de la Conferencia

INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continuation)

INTRODUCTION ET QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)

INTRODUCCIÓN Y CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)

- Second Report of the General Committee (C 83/LIM/17)

- Deuxième rapport du Bureau (C 83/LIM/17)

- Segundo Informe del Comité General (C 83/LIM/17)

CHAIRMAN: I should like to call the session to order. First, I should like to call upon the Secretary-General briefly to go over a General Committee report which we need in order to conduct the work of the Resolutions Committee.

SECRETARE GENERAL : A sa 83ème session, le Conseil a recommandé la création d'un Comité de résolution de la Conférence composé de sept membres, en raison d'un membre par région de la FAO.

Son mandat est énoncé à l'annexe II du document C 83/12. De même que les critères devant présider à la formulation des résolutions.

Le Bureau recommande que la Conférence fasse sienne la proposition du Conseil et que les Etats membres suivants, identifiés par région à laquelle ils appartiennent, siègent à ce Comité.

Pour l'Afrique : le Cameroun. Pour l'Asie : le Bangladesh. Pour l'Europe : le Royaume-Uni. Pour l'Amérique latine : Cuba. Pour le Proche-Orient : l'Iraq. Pour l'Amérique du Nord : le Canada. Pour le Pacifique du Sud-Ouest : l'Australie.

Les délégations des pays concernés sont priées de communiquer aussitôt que possible au président de tions. Le Breau recommande en outre que comme par le passé atsein du comité des résolu-tions Par le passé, et compte tenu de son expérience le Comité des résolutions soit présidé par le président en exercice au Comité du Programme.

CHAIRMAN: You have heard the report of the General Committee. Are there any objections? If there are no objections, it stands approved.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

- DECLARATIONS PES CHEFS DE DELEGATIONS (suite)

- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

G.J.M. BRAKS (Netherlands): Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I feel honoured to address this plenary session of the FAO Conference under your excellent guidance, Mr Chairman.

May I first join previous speakers in welcoming and congratulating the new members of our famous Organization.

Mr Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity to participate in the dialogue on possible solutions for the problems we are facing today, and to reduce part of the tensions around us.

In the overall economic and social context, there are in my opinion two main areas of tension: one, the priority of agriculture and rural development versus industrial and urban development; and two, short-term versus long-term policies.

With regard to the first issue I wish to express my deep concern about the decreasing share of rural and agricultural development in relation to the total development effort.

I want to stress that in an appropriate strategy the development of agriculture, forestry and fisheries should go hand in hand with the development of the industrial sector.

It is the firm conviction of the Dutch Government, however, that, in particular in low-income-food-deficit countries, the development of the agricultural and rural sectors should have priority. It can be a successful accelerator for overall economic development.

With regard to the problem of short-term versus long-term policies, we see that in periods of low or even negative economic growth, governments often employ the instrument of drastic short-term cuts in expenditure. This is a political reality today, but it cannot be denied that the weakest countries are most severely affected by these measures.

It is therefore necessary to develop long-term strategies for the benefit of developing countries in particular the low-income food-deficit countries.

The priority of agricultural and rural development and the necessity to implement longer-term strategies are a major challenge for all of us, governments as well as international organizations. This clearly applies too to FAO, Mr Chairman.

Due to the interdependence of the many issues involved, both at national and international level, there is a growing need to join forces, preferably in a multinational approach. It requires political commitment for all of us.

While recognizing that global and regional policies are highly significant, it seems that a pragmatic and direct approach should focus on the country level.

At this level FAO could perform a linking function between industrialised and developing countries. It could facilitate the adjustment of the supply and demand of development assistance in the agricultural field.

Increased decentralisation of FAO's activities to the country level seems a logical consequence.

The FAO Representative should play an important role in this respect. His office must be handed the tools to assist recipient countries in formulating and implementing an integrated agricultural policy. He could be instrumental in coordinating bilateral and multilateral assistance, within the framework of an overall development policy.

Mr Chairman, on the agenda of this Conference two items require special attention: Food Security, and Plan Genetic Resources. I would like to touch briefly on both of them. As regards Food Security although our efforts in the long term must be directed to international arrangements, an operational and pragmatic approach to World Food Security should be preferred.

In many countries this requires a shift in priority towards structural development of the food and agricultural sector. In developed countries it is our experience that the dialogue and cooperation between groups of farmers and their governments contribute much to policy adjustments.

Ladies and gentlemen, the basic principle is that all people at all times must have physical and economic access to the basic food they need. Essential for this purpose is a sufficient purchasing power in rural areas, based on a reliable source of income.

Income, in turn, is directly dependent on employment. Therefore an employment policy must be part of the overall development strategy. The Netherlands Government welcomes the fact that international agencies more and more recognize this need for income-generating employment policies. In my country, for instance, we learned that rural public works are most appropriate to serve both employment and rural development.

The purchasing power created in this way will also increase access to credit facilities, which are needed to strengthen the rural economy.

At the same time, the three main policy instruments for agricultural progress - education, extension and research - can be rendered more effective which will result in an increase of farmers' incomes and of local food production.

In this respect I would like to stress the importance of integrating more systematically forestry and nature conservation into the total framework of rural development. Only along these lines can the natural resources for future generations be secured. I endorse the increasing attention given to the role of women in the rural economy.

FAO and other international agencies like the World Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Food Programme have to play their own appropriate roles in stimulating rural development.

Food aid will remain an important supporting instrument in our cooperation with developing countries. Therefore, food aid should fit in with the food supply policies of the recipient countries. Some weeks ago, on the occasion of the Twentieth anniversary of the World Food Programme, the Seminar on Food Aid was held in The Hague.

It demonstrated that aid, and especially food aid, should be increasingly employed as an instrument for development, and that it should directly benefit the poorest people in the developing countries. This view is clearly reflected in the current development cooperation policy of the Dutch Government. However, Mr Chairman, emergency food aid remains necessary for the foreseeable future. This is once more emphasized by the actual food situation in Africa as described in the reports of the FAO/WFP Task Force. In view of this alarming prospect, the Dutch Government has decided this week to make available additional food aid for a total of over twenty million US dollars - this is in addition - including shipment, to nine African countries as well as to two countries in Latin America, and additional funds will be provided, where necessary, for distribution and local transport. Wherever possible, the World Food Programme will be asked to assist in the delivery of the food, as such.

The second main item I want to touch upon concerns plant genetic resources. The basic principle that plant genetic resources are a common heritage of mankind, has been underlined internationally. It is recognized that plant genetic resources are indispensable for the genetic improvement of cultivated plants, and that they are in danger of erosion and loss. The Director-General was requested by the Conference in 1981 to examine and to prepare the elements of a draft international convention on the conservation and use of plant genetic resources. There was also a request to prepare a study on the establishment of an international bank for these resources of agricultural interest. Both ideas have now been included in a proposal for an international undertaking on plant genetic resources.

Broadly speaking I support the Director-General's pragmatic approach although, of course, a number of issues remains to be discussed. In my opinion there should be no duplication and overlap with well-functioning institutions such as the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources. No doubt, effective organizations should be able to continue their activities. FAO should facilitate the cooperation between national and international research institutes and the participating countries. Apart from the conservation of plant genetic resources adequate availability of seeds resulting from plant breeding is indispensable for food supply and food security in the future.

Mr Chairman, I should like to conclude my statement by stressing the continued support of the Netherlands to the global development effort. In our country, as in other donor countries, we all regret the difficult economic situation which necessitates adjustments in expenditure. We believe that through increased emphasis on the effectiveness of our development cooperation, the same results can be obtained. At this time, even more than in the past, mutual understanding, a continuing dialogue and cooperation between all countries is necessary. The Netherlands Government and people are ready to contribute their share.

A.S. SABALLY (Gambia): Almost ten years ago the World Food Conference, convened in this city, solemnly proclaimed that every man, woman and child has the inalienable right to be free from hunger and malnutrition in order to develop fully and maintain their physical and mental faculties; that the eradication of hunger is a common objective of all the countries of the international community; and that it is a fundamental responsibility of governments to work together for higher food production and more equitable and efficient distribution of food between countries and within countries.

This session of the General Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization provides the international community with another occasion to review progress made since the World Food Conference to increase food production and to eliminate hunger and malnutrition. It is an opportunity for us to exchange ideas on where we have gone wrong and what action is needed to achieve the objectives set by the World Food Conference.

The available data on the world food situation indicate that global food supplies exceed human requirements; that there is enough food for everyone. Yet 500 million people today are afflicted by hunger and have less to eat than the minimum required for normal life. Approximately 16 percent of this number of destitute people, to whom the phrase "the inalienable right to be free from hunger and malnutrition" must sound very hollow and meaningless - live in my country, my part of Africa.

The food situation in Africa, especially in the Sahel region in which the Gambia is situated, is characterized by an ever-increasing margin by which population growth has outstripped food production, and by the frequent and wide fluctuations in food production. Not only are food production and supplies inadequate, they are also insecure. The downward trend in production per capita, which has already reached crisis level, needs to be stopped if we are to avert famine and starvation on a wider scale and political unrest and instability. The conclusion of the World Food Conference that urgent and sustained remedial action is vital is as valid today as it was in 1974. However, meaningful and effective action must be rooted in a thorough understanding of the causes of the food crisis. The absence of a sound technological base for crop production and inappropriate economic and agricultural development policies have been compounded by environmental factors affecting growth in the food sector, especially in the Sahelian region.

Major development efforts to increase food grain production have been and are being undertaken by our countries. We have introduced and are implementing major policy reforms; in addition, we are investing increasing amounts of domestic and foreign resources in the food sector to increase productivity and overall production in the framework of food strategies and food security schemes incorporated in our national development plans. We recognize that such factors as inappropriate cultural practices, the inadequate spread of appropriate technology, deficient marketing and storage arrangements for farm inputs and produce, poor plant protection and handling of harvested crops, and inappropriate price policies which have adversely affected food production and distribution, have remedies within reach. These are being addressed through agricultural research and extension efforts, through the re-organization and strengthening of the agricultural support services and through price policy reforms. However, the available resources, both domestic and foreign, are grossly inadequate to enable us to boost production and make a significant impact in the short term.

We have to recognize as well that the allocation of increased resources and the successful implementation of current measures will help us deal with the problem of inadequacy of domestic food production and supplies only if rainfall, a factor vital for crop production but over which unfortunately we have no control, works in our favour.

Agriculture in Africa is characterized by a very heavy dependency on rainfall; only 2 percent of the cultivated area is under irrigation. It is no coincidence that countries such as ours in the Sahel situated in the arid and semi-arid zones of the region, which have limited and erratic rainfall, are the high-risk areas and suffer from more frequent and wider fluctuations in food production than the humid equatorial zones. In the Gambia as in other Sahelian countries, variable rainfall is the major factor in the variability of crop production. The severe and prolonged drought that afflicted the Sahel in the 1960s and 1970s, and has received so much publicity, is still with us this year again, serious drought has struck most of the Sahelian countries. In the Gambia during the current farming season we received about half the normal amount of rainfall, poorly distributed in time and space. We estimate a shortfall in production of approximately 40 percent. There will be widespread food shortages in our region. While we appreciate the efforts of the donor community which very often has come to our assistance in providing emergency food aid, we believe that help in removing the fundamental cause of food shortages in the Sahel would be a more enduring manifestation of solidarity with the Sahelians. So long as we continue to depend on rainfall for crop production in the drought-prone Sahel, our countries and peoples will continue to be exposed to the hazards of food insecurity.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Ministers, what we need in the Gambia as in other countries of the Sahel is assistance to develop our water resources so that we can have control over the most important factor affecting agricultural production. Only irrigated agriculture can, in the context of the Sahel, provide a secure basis for definite levels of food production and food security.

To develop our irrigation potential we need such infrastructure as dams and barrages across our rivers so that we can utilize our considerable surface water resources in a rational way. The provision of such infrastructures as the Salinity Control Barrage on the River Gambia requires substantial investments that cannot be met from domestic resources only. The assistance of the international community is urgently needed to implement this very important project.

Mr Chairman, while assistance to the agricultural sector of our economies has increased over the past two decades, it remains meagre and inadequate in relation to the needs. We see in this situation a clear manifestation of the lack of political will and commitments to tackle the most pressing problem of world hunger and malnutrition. Summit after summit of world political leaders have pledged to give top priority to the solution of this problem. There is unfortunately no serious concerted effort to meet the deadlines fixed for the eradication of hunger. I also believe that what we need is another Marshall Plan to fight against this terrible disease.

The problems of hunger are tackled by several agencies and at several levels within the United Nations system. Closer collaboration between these agencies and the coordination of their efforts and activities: to determine what is required to solve the problem to take appropriate remedial action within their areas of competence; and to monitor progress in the implementation of action programmes will no doubt enhance the prospects of achieving our objectives.

Mr Chairman, one such agency is IFAD, created in 1974 by the World Food Conference to boost food production. This agency is now unfortunately in a financial crisis and I want to make a clear appeal to major donors to help very urgently.

Those countries that shy away from assisting drought-prone countries to develop their irrigation potential and facilities, on the grounds that irrigation is expensive are the same countries that see the sky as the limit in investments in armaments. In a world that has long ago developed the capacity to wipe out mankind several times over, we are still spending billions of dollars on arms and nuclear weapons to eradicate mankind. While no limits are set on how much money may be spent to build up the capacity to destroy lives and to erase mankind from this earth, we appear most reluctant to provide the resources and to create the conditions in which 500 million people can produce their own staple foods and can thus claim and exercise their inalienable right to be free from hunger and malnutrition.

While the future looks bleak, we prefer to be hopeful that the situation will improve, that the world community will see the wisdom and value of working together as a family to eradicate hunger. By allocating US\$ 500 million to assist in the fight against hunger in the Sahel, the Government of Italy has set a bright example worthy of emulation by much bigger and more prosperous countries. I feel confident, Mr Chairman, that under your guidance this Conference will address the real issues that have retarded agricultural development and enable us to appreciate better our shared responsibility to prevent hunger.

Allow me to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, and the Vice-Chairmen, on your election. I also want to congratulate the new members on joining this family of nations. I must also congratulate our dynamic Director-General of FAO and his very efficient staff for the good work they have done since the last Conference.

Mr Chairman, I believe we should declare from this assembly that the world will not be for the eradication of mankind, the world will be against hunger, malnutrition, starvation, disease, illiteracy; long live international cooperation in solidarity. Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for your attention.

C. SIMITIS (Greece): Mr Chairman, The overall setting into which the 22nd Conference of FAO takes place does not allow for optimistic reflections. The world economic crisis is still continuing. Under the most optimistic projections the beginning of the recovery is expected to show up in the leading countries within the next 18 months.

The policies of high interest rates, of increasing unemployment and of further reducing the income of the low-income groups in the developed countries might lead to a slow down of the recession in the short run. But these policies will further aggravate the problems of the economies of the rest of the world. This means that until the next FAO Conference, in 1985, the economies of the developing countries at least will still be in crisis.

Under such an economic perspective it would be rather unlikely that the agricultural sector will overcome its difficulties. It will not overcome the slowing down of effective food demand which, combined with the instability of the international market for agricultural products, causes a downward pressure for international prices; nor the steep rise of input prices due not only to the continuing inflationary pressures but also to the oligopolistic character of the market; nor the

cost and price squeeze which negatively affects farm incomes and exerts high pressure on the small size farm holdings. The increasing capital cost due to the high real interest rates will still be a problem, and this will be associated with the poor market prospects and stagnant or even decreasing farm income which leads to a slowing down of the rate of investment and of the rate of adoption of new technology.

All these result in a decreasing rate of structural adjustment, though the structural adjustment is a necessity in order to improve the country's level of development.

The problem set by the international crisis is more acute for the developing countries since the agricultural sector there has a dominant position in the economy. The limitations for scheduling a self sustained development derive from the lack of exchange resources. Existing resources are mainly used for food imports and for interest payments of existing debts. It derives also from the low per capita income and its unequal distribution resulting in saving shortages. It derives from the need for adopting advanced technological production processing despite the existing abundant labour force which causes structural unemployment.

The problem is more aggravated if one takes into account the role of Multinational Corporations in these countries and the surplus transfer created with overpricing and underpricing practices as well as the trade and lending mechanisms.

After two decades of development the gap between developed and developing countries has widened. The question we face today is how we may overcome the present crisis and which is going to be the new development strategy.

Although the situation, as I have already stressed, is grave, the answer given to this question is only partial and mainly focused on the idea of trade liberalisation. Here I would like to point out that though we do not agree with the idea of protectionism, the use of trade as a means for development is conditional on the independence and equal bargaining power between trading partners. Unfortunately, developing countries have not always had the bargaining power they need. It is also conditional on the existing unequal international distribution of wealth and income. This unequal distribution leads to unequal gains from free trade.

As far as the specific issue of agricultural protection is concerned I would like to remind you that the agricultural sector differs substantially from the other sectors of the economy. Therefore, it calls for a different treatment, a treatment which is not based on the condemnation of every type of state intervention. In order to ensure a better income distribution at a national and international level, it may be necessary to control trade flows.

The overall pattern of food and nutritional problems has remained unchanged over the last two decades, despite the vigorous and sincere efforts of FAO and other UN Agencies. Thus food has retained its status as one of the great and crucial issues of our times.

The problem of food security, with the exception of emergency cases is a structural one. We strongly believe that the target should not be the Institutionalisation of free food aid to the hungry of this world. Such an approach, would only result to the perpetuation of underdevelopment and hunger. The target should be to use all available resources as tools in assisting the developing countries to lay the foundation for a long term Food Security Strategy of their own. Food Aid, therefore, should be considered as one of the possible tools.

Mr Chairman, it is our belief that International Cooperation regarding World Food Security should be based on Multilateral basis for at least two reasons; first to exclude political pressures; second to utilise the experience of International Organizations.

In addition our delegation strongly supports the idea of creating country-owned reserves

There is an urgent need, Mr Chairman, for a better understanding between developed and developing countries as the development of the latter are the key to a strategy for sustained recovery. This means that even from this forum we must try to have a positive contribution to the North-South dialogue, which today seems to be at a rather low point.

But, Mr Chairman, let me express some doubts about the effectiveness of the strategies and approaches that have been proposed or have been already applied. Such approaches, either referring to specific regions or having a broader character usually focus solely on securing preferential trade treatment for the agricultural products of developing countries.

Though we are not against such a treatment, we think that this has to be supported by broader measures and aid policies for helping the development process of developing countries. The implementation of such a strategy calls for actions at international and national levels.

At international level, actions that could promise better access for the exports of developing countries, effective stabilization of the international market for major national products and raw materials at prices remunerative to producers and fair to consumers. The expansion of intra-developing countries' trade and cooperation.

At national level what is necessary is actions referring to the broadening of the spectrum of agricultural products produced, the full exploitation of the forward and backward links between the agricultural sector and the rest of the economy. We think such a policy will act positively to the employment opportunities, regional development and balance of payments. In any case the selected options of implementations of development strategies must be the result of a generalised national dialogue which will also ensure the participation of the society as a whole.

Before concluding my speech, Mr Chairman, I would like to refer to a very specific and serious issue, namely that of the Sub-Saharan problem. I think that this Organization could undertake concerted action in order to overcome the immediate problems of those countries and to avoid a general deterioration of the whole Mediterranean and African regions' ecological stability.

Last but not least, Mr Chairman, I feel it my duty to express my serious concern for the grave international political climate. The accumulating economic problems have created a cold war atmosphere that do not allow us to tergiverate. The cold war climate that has started prevailing in the East-West relations, the failure to which the Geneva talks seem to be led, the development of new nuclear missile systems on the European Continent and the overall escalation of the armaments race constitute a very serious danger.

War, whether hot or cold, is an option that humanity cannot afford. Especially from this forum we have to cry out that both types of war are calculated murder. Bombs kill people whether they explode or not. Those that explode kill in hot blood, the funds used for those that do not explode starve people to death. That is why we have not only to try to improve the international economic situation but also, and I think that this is a first priority, to secure peace and put an end to the armaments race.

E. PISANI (Communauté économique européenne): J'ai pris deux fois la parole à cette tribune comme Ministre de l'agriculture de mon pays et c'est la seconde fois que je la prends comme Commissaire au développement de la Communauté économique européenne. Il y a 22 ans, je montais ici en effet pour dire au nom de la France quelques-unes des préoccupations qui étaient les nôtres et pour contribuer avec d'autres à l'analyse de problèmes dont je peux dire, hélas, qu'ils ne se sont pas trouvés résolus depuis 20 ans mais plutôt aggravés. Faut-il dire que cette aggravation est le résultat d'une fatalité, faut-il dire qu'elle est le résultat d'une indifférence ou d'une ignorance ? Faut-il au contraire avouer qu'elle est le résultat d'un certain nombre d'erreurs que nous avons commises et sur lesquelles il faudrait peut-être revenir avec plus d'attention et de sérieux que nous ne l'avons fait jusqu'à présent ?

Je voudrais me poser une première question. Pourquoi un certain nombre de pays dont les conditions naturelles étaient sans doute plus favorables sont-ils parvenus à l'autosuffisance et à l'excédent alors que d'autres pays dont les circonstances naturelles sont peut-être plus difficiles ne sont-ils pas parvenus aux mêmes résultats ? Est-ce que la force de l'homme dans sa lutte contre la faim est plus grande au Nord qu'au Sud ? Est-ce qu'au contraire ce sont à la fois les circonstances historiques ou géographiques qui n'ont pas permis que s'élaborent les véritables politiques ? J'ai tendance à croire que la situation du Sud par rapport au Nord en matière alimentaire est le résultat de la combinaison de ces deux facteurs, si j'avais à chercher au Nord comme au Sud, à l'Est comme à l'Ouest le facteur qui est apparu comme déterminant dans le développement d'un système productif tendant à l'autosuffisance, je le trouverais à n'en pas douter dans la sécurité accordée aux agriculteurs pris individuellement. Lorsque nous parlons de sécurité alimentaire mondiale, je crois qu'il faut que nous nous disions que nous n'y atteindrons que lorsque le producteur des pays pauvres aura reçu un système de garanties qui lui assure une sécurité comparable à celle qu'ont reçue les agriculteurs des pays du Nord. Comment l'Europe, déficitaire il y a vingt ans, est-elle devenue excédentaire sinon en donnant la sécurité à ses agriculteurs, comment les Etats-Unis dont les performances sont si remarquables sont-ils arrivés aux résultats qu'ils ont atteints sinon par une politique qui, de la recherche aux contrats commerciaux et aux accords de type divers a garanti la sécurité aux producteurs ? Comment des pays comme la Suisse et le Japon sont-ils parvenus, en dépit des conditions naturelles, à ne pas être totalement dépendants, sinon par la sécurité qu'ils ont donnée à leurs agriculteurs ? Comment des pays comme la Thaïlande, comme certains pays sucriers liés à l'Europe par l'Accord "sucre" sont-ils parvenus à développer leur production de manioc d'une part, ou de sucre d'autre part, sinon par la sécurité des contrats qui leur étaient accordés ?

Je ne crois pas, nous n'avons plus le droit de croire que le paysan est, comme le producteur, complice du Seigneur et dont la tâche est de mettre à la disposition des hommes les biens alimentaires en suffisance. L'agriculteur produit pour lui-même et il ne produit le reste que s'il trouve des marchés rémunérateurs. Je voudrais en ce point essayer de dire avec force que croire que l'on parle de la

même chose lorsqu'on parle de sécurité alimentaire mondiale et lorsque je parle de sécurité individuelle des producteurs, l'on se trompe. Je crois que l'on se trompe en considérant la sécurité alimentaire mondiale comme un concept global, comme s'il était permis d'imaginer que quelques pays mieux placés que les autres seraient capables, d'eux-mêmes, d'alimenter le monde entier comme si quelques pays privilégiés produisant pour tout le monde le transport des denrées à travers les océans permettraient une sécurité alimentaire dans les pays qui seraient ainsi plus dépendants qu'ils ne le sont.

La sécurité alimentaire mondiale est une somme de sécurités alimentaires nationales ou régionales qui sont elles-mêmes une somme de sécurités alimentaires individuelles et c'est vers cela qu'il faut tendre. Je n'accepte pas, nous n'acceptons pas le concept qui consisterait à dire que si quelque part sur le marché mondial il existe des denrées en quantités suffisantes et à un prix bas, des pays pourraient se dispenser de produire car enfin les pays pauvres du Sud, s'ils devaient, sous prétexte d'acheter meilleur marché leur nourriture, l'acheter sur le marché mondial, alors qu'ils ne produisent rien d'autre que des produits agricoles, quel destin serait réservé à ces pays ? Tel est le problème que je pose et dès lors qu'il est posé, il est clair que l'autosuffisance alimentaire apparaît à chacun comme la condition de la sécurité alimentaire générale, le marché mondial jouant toujours marginalement surtout pour les denrées essentielles pour équilibrer les excédents ou les déficits qui peuvent apparaître ici et là. Mais je voudrais dire aussi, et je le dois, à cette assemblée, comme commissaire au développement de la Communauté économique européenne, je voudrais dire aussi que les politiques de sécurité accordées aux agriculteurs comportent un certain nombre de risques, et qu'une fois mises en place, alors même qu'elles ont atteint le résultat qu'elles devraient atteindre, c'est-à-dire l'autosuffisance, la contagion existe, le risque existe de voir les gouvernements incapables de changer pour tenir compte de la situation nouvelle qui résulte de leur propre succès.

La CEE s'est trouvée dans cette situation d'avoir mis en place une politique tendant à l'auto-suffisance, d'avoir réalisé les excédents et de n'en avoir pas su à temps, peut-être, modifier cette politique pour tenir compte de cette situation nouvelle. Je voudrais pourtant dire que le procès qui pourrait lui être fait ne serait pas fondé.

Je voudrais pour le démontrer prendre trois produits parce qu'ils sont significatifs et dire comment la politique agricole commune évolue et comment il est nécessaire que les partenaires de l'Europe comprennent que cette politique va dans le sens utile.

En matière de sucre, c'est vrai que la politique agricole commune a permis le développement énorme de la production; c'est vrai aussi que ce développement a été favorisé par l'évolution des techniques génétiques, chimiques, mécaniques, c'est vrai qu'à un moment donné, absente du marché mondial, la communauté est devenue un acteur essentiel pesant très lourd sur l'équilibre des cours, mais c'est vrai que depuis quelques années, en changeant le système de garanties, en mettant à la charge des producteurs une part beaucoup plus grande des charges d'exportation en mettant à leur charge en particulier, les charges de stockage la CEE a fait évoluer sa production non pas conjoncturellement, mais structurellement et désormais la politique agricole commune telle qu'elle est définie, aboutit au résultat que la production européenne de sucre est inférieure de plus de 10 pour cent, de moins de 15 pour cent à ce qu'elle était dans les années précédentes. Que dire du problème du lait ? Sinon qu'il est plus complexe sans doute que le problème du sucre. Parce que le lait est la production des entreprises familiales et des régions difficiles. Parce que la production de lait a tendance à s'accroître beaucoup plus vite que la consommation pour des raisons de techniques, d'une part, et de moeurs d'autre part. C'est vrai que la production agricole laitière européenne a de beaucoup dépassé les besoins de la communauté. Mais c'est aussi vrai que la CEE a progressivement mis en place une taxe de coresponsabilité qui a été difficilement admise. Et bientôt, comme cette taxe de coresponsabilité s'avérait insuffisante elle a décidé de mettre en route des supertaxes de responsabilité et des taxes tendant à frapper les entreprises qui ne sont pas des entreprises proprement paysannes, des entreprises proprement agricoles, mais des entreprises industrielles produisant des denrées agricoles. Ne croyez pas que le débat politique qui est engagé soit facile et comprenez, même si je comprends vos propres inquiétudes, que le paquet que la Commission a élaboré pour le proposer au Conseil et qui imagine de subtils mélanges d'interventions aux frontières et d'interventions à l'intérieur du marché européen, constituent un paquet dont la Communauté sortira difficilement, que nos partenaires comprennent le sens global de notre politique et non pas seulement les inconvénients qui peuvent ressortir sur un point ou un autre d'une décision qui fait partie d'un ensemble cohérent. A-t-on réfléchi, et je voudrais maintenant parler de protéines, au fait que la CEE importe de l'ordre de 50 pour cent des protéines qu'elle consomme et que sa dépendance devient dangereuse. Faudra-t-il que nous nous livrions à des combats contre nos partenaires pour leur faire comprendre que nous avons le droit, et sans doute le devoir de faire évoluer en tenant compte des règles générales d'une concurrence nécessaire, faire évoluer nos productions de telle sorte que nous nous dégagions de cette dépendance du marché mondial?

Je voudrais que l'on considère que la CEE s'est engagée dans une voie difficile de réforme de sa politique agricole, de cette politique agricole qui a fondé la Communauté et que nul ne saurait lui demander de réaliser sans délai ce que le temps seul peut lui permettre de réaliser ? Ayant parlé de l'Europe, je voudrais en venir au sujet essentiel de mes préoccupations, comme Commissaire du

développement, et je voudrais parler de cette sécurité en essayant de l'aborder sous divers aspects en disant que le premier aspect de la sécurité alimentaire dans la plupart des pays en développement réside dans l'effort qu'il nous faut faire pour éviter les conditions naturelles dans lesquelles sont les agriculteurs dans les pays au Sud du Sahara mais aussi en Amérique latine, et aussi en Asie du Sud-Est et les conditions dans lesquelles les paysans produisent.

Je suis quant à moi très dramatiquement inquiet de l'évolution du désert, de cette maladie qui gagne, du déséquilibre progressif de tous les climats aux alentours des déserts, du risque où nous sommes de ne pas voir se rétablir les sigles normaux de pluviométrie, de la famine qui va s'étendre et des transferts de population qui vont avoir lieu vers les villes, vers les rivages, si la Communauté internationale n'est pas capable, comme les Nations Unies l'y ont invitée à mettre sur pied sur le très long terme, sur 50, sur 100 ans les programmes coûteux de lutte contre le désert, je ne garantis pas que plus de la moitié du continent africain ne soit totalement abandonnée par les populations qui s'agglutineront dans les villes; et alors comment seront-elles nourries?

Le deuxième élément du programme de sécurité alimentaire me paraît être la sauvegarde des productions ou des richesses existantes; 20 pour cent des récoltes sont détruites après récolte; la plupart du cheptel vivant domestique et sauvage de l'Afrique est atteint de maladies qui le rendent facilement impropre à la consommation. Pourquoi rêver à je ne sais quelle conquête nouvelle si d'abord nous ne sommes pas capables, par une campagne pkus vigoureuse, plus forte, plus déterminée de rendre utilisables les richesses déjà disponibles?

Le second élément de la sécurité alimentaire est incontestablement dans la sauvegarde de ces richesses.

Le troisième élément, et j'y viens, c'est la sécurité aux agriculteurs pris individuellement. Si dans le cadre des politiques, si dans le cadre de stratégies alimentaires, les gouvernements des pays qui n'ont pas atteint l'autosuffisance et dont la dépendance est fort grande, ne parviennent pas à donner à leurs agriculteurs les garanties suffisantes pour que ceux-ci aient envie de produire et de porter sur le marché leurs excédents de production paysanne, jamais le tiers monde n'atteindra l'autosuffisance alimentaire.

Si nous croyons que seules les lois du marché sont capables d'apporter aux agriculteurs des pays du tiers monde les éléments qui leur accorderont cette sécurité et donc cette raison de produire, nous nous trompons. Seul un mélange des mécanismes du marché et des sécurités que la puissance publique peut apporter permettront aux agriculteurs du tiers monde de produire davantage et de contribuer à l'autosuffisance de leurs pays.

C'est à cette triple réflexion, lutte entre les déséquilibres naturels, lutte pour la sauvegarde des richesses existantes, lutte pour la mise en place de politiques de garantie de sorte que les agriculteurs aient envie de produire, que la CEE invite ses partenaires dans le cadre des stratégies alimentaires.

Reste l'aide alimentaire; elle est nécessaire, nous devons l'augmenter, mais nous ne devons pas croire qu'elle puisse résoudre aucun problème durable d'une humanité qui ne meurt pas.

E.F. WHELAN (President of the World Food Council): Mr Chairman and colleagues, when I was a young Canadian farmer growing up on a wheat and corn and vegetable farm in the southern part of the Province of Ontario, I never dreamed that I would some day find myself in Rome, Italy, speaking to senior representatives from almost every corner of the world, and speaking on behalf of the world's highest political forum on food issues - The World Food Council.

It is a great honour for me and a great responsibility and a great opportunity to advance our common cause - the eradication of hunger.

That phrase, "the eradication of hunger", is mentioned so often in our talks that I am afraid it sometimes loses its punch.

I worry that the word "hunger" loses its terrible meaning. It should scare the living daylights out of every conscious person in the whole world.

The fact that half a billion people are suffering from hunger and malnutrition is something that should shock and mobilize the other four billion people who have enough to eat.

Today we have satellites that can see how the crops are growing all over the world. How can we fail to see men, women and children suffering from hunger, or dying helplessly of starvation?

I wonder how come we can become so alarmed about other tragedies in our world and I use the terrible tragedy of shooting down the commercial airliner, the South Korean commercial airliner, a terrible tragedy and we all should become aroused, but why do we not become so aroused about thousands, possibly millions, dying? We know there are a thousand dying every week from starvation. I believe the figures given by the Director-General of the FAO said one child dies every thirty seconds. Figure how many that is in a day, how many that is in a week; but why? Why do we not become aroused about that, because they are human beings also, and you know we know how to stop that tragedy if we really want to. We know that what matters is action - action on many fronts to overcome this tragedy of the world food story.

We know which way the wind must blow if we are to sweep hunger from the face of the world. Speeches alone will solve nothing.

I am reminded of a comment made by King Faisal of Saudi Arabia to a Canadian photographer named Yousuf Karsh, back in 1945. Karsh asked the future King why he was the only one who had not made a speech at the San Francisco Conference, in which the United Nations was established. King Faisal replied, "Public speaking is like the wind of the desert: it blows constantly, without doing any good."

I want to speak for a moment about IFAD, the International Fund for Agricultural Development. IFAD is a child of the World Food Conference of 1974 and of the World Food Council. In many ways it is like a child of the world: it is only 8 years old. It embodied our hopes and dreams, our aspirations for the future. In it we placed our trust that somehow indeed the future would be better.

In its early years, it was full of enthusiasm and energy, it was creative and flexible, but IFAD is like a child of the world in other respects. It is starving and dying before our eyes. IFAD was the instrument of the United Nations. It really spoke to the poor small farmers, fishermen and people who earned their survival on a daily basis on the direct resources of this planet. There are other agricultural agencies and financial institutions but none had the unique mandate of assisting the world's poorest. We all know the issue of replenishment is a complicated one, but it appears that has become an excuse. We have the knowledge, the expertise, we even have the money. Take a fraction of 1 percent of our arm expenditures and we can double IFAD'S resources base. All that is lacking is the political will with courage, the courage to build on our belief. The poor of the world had placed their hope in IFAD, and if IFAD goes under it will not just be failure of another UN institution, but, I fear, the death of hope. In its place we have despondency and despair. I do not want to blame any one nation. Several from both categories 1 and 2 have failed to honour their pledges for the first replenishment. Some perhaps have better reasons than others, but one cannot believe that the strongest and the richest power in the world will allow this child, this hope to die. All other countries of category 1 are willing to complete the first replenishment and begin the second, all other countries that is, it seems, except yours, Mr Chairman. What more can we say, Mr Chairman? My Government and the governments represented here and the World Food Council, of which I have the responsibility of being President, and the highest agricultural ministries of the world have appealed to your government. We have asked not that you carry the burden alone but to share that burden with us. Certainly, all the arguments and the fine principles which your representatives speak about are important. We do not deny this, but at this moment they do not match the principle of hope which is at stake in this institution, IFAD. The death of hundreds of thousands of the world's poorest would be the likely result of the failure of IFAD.

I would like to thank, as President of the World Food Council, the delegate of France for the announcement this morning of its increased contribution to IFAD; I understand an increase from \$28 to \$48 million.

We must be prepared to audit the effectiveness of our actions as well. Those things were addressed at length at the World Food Council meeting in New York City in late June. I would like to review some of the key points raised at that meeting and then outline some of the plans and actions that the Council will be taking in the near future.

Perhaps I should start by noting that the ministers or their representatives from 36 countries reaffirmed their support for the World Food Council and the mandate that it was accorded by the United Nations General Assembly in 1974. That mandate is to work cooperatively with the United Nations system of agencies to monitor and coordinate policies, programmes and resources devoted to improving the world food economy.

The opening statement of Perez de Cuellar emphasized that the work of the Council was of utmost urgency and importance in view of the current global food situation. He mentioned the success that the Council has had in promoting the use of national food strategies as part of a comprehensive world food security system. In that view, it is encouraging to know that more than 40 developing nations--30 in Africa alone--are either in the process of developing or implementing national food strategies. In itself, a strategy is an intangible thing. But it does provide a road map for development. And it facilitates the process of making agricultural development an integral part--or even the leading part--of national economic development.

A food strategy sets out how production, marketing and distribution can be improved. The previous speaker just before me mentioned about marketing and how important it was to make sure that those farmers knew what they were going to receive before they planted it, and they would plant and grow what you needed. At least that was the main thing of what I got from what he said. And it helps to identify the vital links between domestic production, trade opportunities, and economic stability.

By encouraging self-reliance, I would say a food strategy also makes a contribution towards political stability. And that is a step towards world peace.

Recall what Aurelio Peccei, founder of the Club of Rome, said at the organization's recent conference in Budapest: "Food security--as proposed by FAO-- is itself becoming a part of the elementary wisdom of our age, while at the same time, a link is being established with the imperative of peace in the world."

Signor Peccei argued that man now has the tools and the ability to achieve global food security, and that we have left behind the days when the struggle for food was a natural cause for war.

I find that an exciting idea, and it underlines the lunacy of the current situation in which about \$600 billion is spent per year on armaments, compared to \$12 billion for food aid and agricultural development assistance.

But we must return to the question of how we can make food policy the engine for economic recovery, political stability, peace, and social justice, which we know it can be.

As I said earlier, the World Food Council, as shown at our New York meeting, sees the need for action on many fronts.

These fronts include: poverty and the maldistribution of wealth; depressed prices in commodity markets; sluggish demand; restricted access to markets, protectionist policies; inadequate research; inadequate infrastructure, technology, training and credit for farmers in developing countries; rising birth rates in the poorest countries; and insufficient attention to the role of women in the food system.

Everything that is done towards correcting those problems is a step in the right direction.

I think it is most short-sighted for the wealthier countries to find various excuses to reduce their spending on aid and development programs. In fact, a strong commitment to helping the developing countries will also lead to improved trade opportunities.

In my own country, Canada, I have seen our agricultural exports rise to record highs in recent years, at the same time as our agricultural development assistance has risen dramatically—from 14 percent of our Official Development Assistance in 1979, towards a target of 45 percent by 1985.

I can remember people criticizing the Government in Canada for being the second largest donor to the International Rice Research Commission. Wheat farmers said to me: "You are going to help produce so much rice that they will not want to buy our wheat." Last year will be our largest sales of wheat ever in the world. We will export over 29 million tons of grain. It will be also the largest year of export for pure bred dairy cattle from our country. It will be the largest year ever of export for semen and embryo transplants to people in other parts of the world. So you can see that aid does not hurt, aid helps. The old philosophy of "give onefold to receive tenfold" holds pretty true.

But I must not forget that I am speaking to you now as Head of the World Food Council and not as Minister of Agriculture for Canada.

A good portion of the Council's New York meeting dealt with a review of food trends, priorities, and strategies in Africa, Latin America and Asia, with Africa, of course, receiving our deepest concern.

Out of a total population of about 460 million people, there are perhaps 150 million Africans who now face immediate threat of starvation, unless there is an increase in production and in aid.

As Mr Saouma reported at the United Nations on October 27th, the food supply situation in 22 African countries, is nothing short of alarming.

Beyond their immediate problems, resulting mostly from years of drought, Africa faces a long-term problem of feeding a population which will nearly double by the turn of the century.

The World Food Council's report on the African situation stressed the need to make agriculture the top priority by all concerned. Special emphasis should be put on improving the traditional food crops of the small farmers.

As in many Latin American countries, much emphasis has been put on the big, export-oriented farms, but insufficient attention has been given to smallholders.

In Asia, we were encouraged to note that food production in the past decade rose by more than 3.2 percent per year--considerably higher than the global increase of 2.6 percent. And that is a tribute to their growing mastery of agricultural sciences and food policy.

Nonetheless, there is a continuing silent emergency for more than 300 million Asians who are chronically undernourished.

And between now and the year 2000, the Asian population is expected to increase by 900 million people, to reach 3.4 billion.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the food needs of an additional 200 million people will have to be met by the end of the century - and that is not very long away.

Those figures should make it perfectly obvious that a massive increase in agricultural production in the developing countries is absolutely essential. It must be done, it can be done. We have some solid success stories like India, with its great increase in wheat production. What we need to do is to ensure that the success stories become the rule rather than the exception.

Generating the political will to mobilize the necessary resources, both in the developing and the developed nations, is one of the main purposes of the World Food Council.

Since I was elected President of the Council in June, I have travelled extensively, through the Americas, Europe, and Africa, in pursuit of that goal.

I visited Ethiopia last August with my colleague, the Honourable Saijou Sabally, vice-president of the Council for Africa, and Minister of Agriculture of the Gambia, and with Maurice Williams, Executive Director of the Council. I also took some of my expert agricultural people with me to advise me on what they saw, what they observed, what they learned. We agreed that Ethiopia would be the ideal place to hold the Tenth Ministerial Session of the Council.

After consulting with the other members of the Bureau, I recently informed the WFC members that the next Ministerial session will take place in Addis Ababa, headquarters of the Organization of African States and the Economic Commission for Africa, on June 11 to 15th, 1984.

I want to thank the Governments of Italy and Greece for offering to host that session, but I think there are compelling reasons to hold the conference in Ethiopia. It will draw attention to the hunger problem in a region where it is most acutely felt, and perhaps it will also spark some new, creative ideas from the Council members.

In February, selected Council members, and authorities from several other related international organizations, will meet here in Italy, at Bellagio, to review the papers that will be presented at the Tenth Ministerial Session in Addis.

The major piece of work will be the review of progress made by the United Nations food-related agencies, and what needs to be done to achieve the goals set out here in Rome at the World Food Conference in 1974.

I was at that conference. I stayed to the very end, and I distinctly recall the speech by Dr Henry Kissinger.

He said: "The profound promise of our era is that for the first time we may have the technical capacity to free mankind from the scourge of hunger. Therefore, today we must proclaim a bold objective - that within a decade no child will go to bed hungry, that no family will fear for its next day's bread, and that no human being's future and capacity will be stunted by malnutrition."

Obviously, we have failed to meet that objective.

And we must ask ourselves why. Why have we failed?

We must take stock of our efforts, and then decide what more needs to be done. That's why I am very anxious to begin the process of reviewing the World Food Council's report on how various aid and development programs have performed.

I am pleased to report to you that both the United Nations Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly's Economic Committee have fully endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the World Food Council meeting in New York. Further in the accompanying debate on food issues there has been much support for the Council to undertake an assessment of the work of the food organizations of the UN system over the past decade.

I hope that we will get a frank and candid appraisal, which will serve as the foundation for improved efficiency and effectiveness - both of which are sorely needed given the tight budgets we are all working with.

Then, next summer, when we meet in Addis, close to the reality of hunger, the reality of starvation, I hope we will be able to generate the political momentum necessary to transform rhetoric into action at both the national and international level.

And as Council President, I will be on the lookout for any signs of restlessness or frustration.

If, at any time, it seems that we are merely repeating the same old phrases, just going through the motions, I will do what I can to re-ignite a spirit of reform, of action.

Because we don't need more of the same. If we keep doing things just the way we have been doing them, we will have only more and more hunger.

It is time for change. To begin this change, I am pleased to announce that Canada, my country, will continue to respond to the crisis situation in Ethiopia whose people are amongst the poorest on the African continent - indeed amongst the poorest in the whole world. In addition to the 1.35 million dollars of extra emergency assistance that we have provided that nation since June of this year, it is our further intention to respond to the United Nation's Disaster Relief Office's (U.N.D.R.O.) latest 2.8 million appeal for transport and other logistics in support of emergency food programmes. My country will provide 10 percent of the funds that they require. The rest of the world has to provide the other nine-tenths to the appeal of the UNDRRO for these purposes, and we invite the other nine-tenths of the world nations to be donors and to join us immediately in this effort toward great change in eliminating the intolerable hunger and starvation that so many of our fellow human beings are facing every day.

I know, and I am sure you know, every one of you, that by working together we can succeed if we want to.

G. HAIDEN (Austria): Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Austrian delegation, I should like to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, as well as the Vice-Chairmen, and, on behalf of my Government, I should also like to welcome the new members of FAO. This is not a mere phrase. All countries of the world should be members of this Organization.

This year, no doubt, we had a very good crop. However, there were great differences regionally in the crops, and the dramatic situation lies in the fact that the crops were poor in these parts of the world where there is most hunger - in Africa and other parts of the world - and therefore we welcome the initiative taken by the Director-General for long term improvement for food supplies for this rapidly increasing world population.

The increase of food production in particular in the developing countries must be an essential and a rapid measure for better world security, and it is an obligation on the industrialized countries to give help to those who need this assistance.

There is already a high degree of agreement that a new international economic order is necessary. It is one of the essential prerequisites for better and more equitable conditions in the world. Such an order, which is intended essentially to cover the basic requirements of mankind, will require new forms of international cooperation, first and foremost for the production, or the creation, of the infrastructure which is necessary for social and economic progress in developing countries.

I quite understand my colleague from Gambia. The great political unsolved problem of our period is that at present some \$ 750 000 million are spent every year in order to produce more tanks, guns and missiles, while in many parts of the world children are going hungry, people are going hungry, because there is not enough money for the development of agriculture in the developing countries.

What is necessary has been stressed by Dr Kreisky. The developing countries need more infrastructure: railways, roads, schools, hospitals, energy and water supplies, so agriculture and industry can be developed. These tasks, however, can only be carried out by worldwide joint effort.

For the developing countries, international trade in agricultural products is one of the decisive factors for economic development. Greater export earnings will help them to finance the imports which are necessary for the development of agriculture and infrastructures. These earnings could reduce their dependence on foreign aid and could help to contain foreign debts within reasonable limits. However, it is certainly a questionable procedure to give food aid and technical aid to developing countries on the one hand while on the other not cancelling out the result of this assistance by export subsidies in the developed countries which distort the competitive position of the developing countries.

The long-run solution of the problem of surplus by shifting those surpluses to others will not work. Recently in Vienna, at a press conference, the Director-General said that we are facing a cruel paradox - while many countries, all of them industrialized, have to grapple with a surplus problem to such an extent that a grain country encourages its farmers to reduce their grain production, there are many other countries - all of them developing countries - which do not have enough food to feed their populations; nor can they afford to buy the foods they need from the industrialized countries because those industrialized countries pay too little for the commodities which they buy from the developing countries. The Director-General also pointed out that dumping of agricultural commodities in surplus countries damages the export possibilities of poor countries by creating protectionist barriers.

Recently, during the last session of the Ministers of Agriculture of OECD, I pointed out that the constantly increasing subsidies for the export of agricultural surpluses cannot solve the problem of surplus in the industrialized countries. Instead of increasing the subsidies we should progressively reduce them, and efforts should be made by the industrialized countries to expand food aid, at least for a lengthy transitional period. We cannot overdramatize the situation in the developing countries.

In the report of the North/South Commission, the so-called Brandt Report, we find an overall picture of the situation. The developing countries face the difficult task of making better use of their natural resources in a sustained way, and not by exploitation. There is a vicious circle of capital goods and industrialized products which are needed by these countries for their development, but these are very costly for them and they can finance these imports only by the sale of raw materials and agricultural products, which they can sell only at very low prices. They should make better use of their water resources and their agricultural land, but this needs capital. They should improve communications, they should build up a health system, but they do not have the money.

Food aid is often a controversial subject. The Brandt Report underlines the need for food aid. It is true that investments and development in a particular country are more important than the supply of food, but this principle is no longer justified in shortage areas. It is well known that food aid is criticized because it might induce countries not to increase food production, but it is absolutely necessary to realize that the well fed have the moral obligation to help those who are hungry.

Austria gives support to the activities of the World Food Programme. We believe the International Food Aid Convention and the International Emergency Food Reserve are of the greatest importance. Austria gives full support to the efforts of FAO to help countries help themselves. The transfer of appropriate technology, provision of seed of high-yielding varieties, help in creating self-sufficiency in fertilizers are among the most important measures that should be taken. Austria approves the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1984 to 1985, and welcomes in particular the priorities which have been adopted. We give our support to the efforts of the Director-General to improve the efficiency of FAO; we have noted with satisfaction that administrative costs have been reduced very considerably in favour of economic and technical activities. In the future also, we will try to make a constructive contribution to activities in agriculture and forestry. In this connexion, I would like to point out that Austria has the intention of helping in training activities for agriculture and forestry, especially in the construction of various roads.

Economic and political independence go together. Therefore, we understand very well that FAO wishes to increase multilateral aid for the very simple reason that bilateral aid is not always free of the selfishness of donor countries. We also give bilateral aid - I admit it - but we cannot have an agricultural trade war. The risk is too great, because worldwide recession could induce others to enhance protectionism, which would lead to a vicious circle. More protectionism could lead to the stepping up of recessive development and the reduction of world trade would lead to greater unemployment in the industrialized countries. Therefore, the extension of world trade is necessary for the economies of the industrialized countries just as much as for the developing countries.

Another subject I would like to touch on is the production of food, which is decisively influenced by climatic conditions. The exploitation of forests is being stepped dramatically. This development changes climatic conditions; it has already been pointed out that this is the case. Rainfall conditions have changed completely. We need forests if agriculture is to continue to be efficient, The study AD 2000 has described this development where the rain forests are endangered in the underdeveloped regions. Destruction of forests is going on at an incredible rate because the energy requirements of an increasing population, energy requirements simply for heating and cooking which are only possible by making use of fuel wood. In the industrialized countries the forests are just as much endangered. Ecological concepts and the dangers which come from industry have not been given sufficient attention for a long time. There is great danger for the forests from pollution from industry and traffic, on a scale such as we have not seen before. The European forests are threatened by exploitation; therefore, mortality of the forests in the developing countries is accompanied by the death of the forests in the industrialized countries.

FAO would be the appropriate world organization to appeal for the protection and conservation of forests. I would like to suggest that FAO should proclaim a year of the forest. This forest year should bring about an opportunity to prepare worldwide measures to fight for forest protection. Industrial pollution respects no frontiers, nor do the climatic effects of overexploitation. This is a vital question, of concern to all countries. Let us act jointly and rapidly to protect and maintain our forests. FAO should make this question the central theme of the World Forestry Conference in Mexico in 1985, and 1985 should be world forest year.

On behalf of the Austrian Federal Government I wish to assure this Conference that we attach the greatest importance to the work of FAO. We shall always strive to make constructive contributions to the achievement of its aims. Whoever wishes for peace must also contribute to the fight against hunger in the world. And as my friend Willie has said, words will not do; they are like the wind in the desert. Austria will contribute to the measures which the Director-General has proclaimed for the African countries - I can assure him of this

Demetrios Christodoulou, Vice-Chairman of the Conference took the chair.

Demetrios Christodoulou, Vice-Président de la Conférence, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia Detrios Christodoulou, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia.

G. JAYASURIYA (Sri Lanka): At the Very outset may I congratulate you, Sir, on your election as Chairman of this august assembly. I am sure we shall be able to reach definite decisions and sound conclusions at this conference under your able chairmanship.

In your introductory speech, Mr Chairman, you referred to the principles and objectives underlying the creation of FAO when the founding fathers met at Yellow Springs, Virginia, four decades ago. Their objectives have continued to receive the attention of the world community ever since, because some are yet to be achieved and the longer it takes to achieve them, the more difficult they become.

In fact, the Director-General in his assessment of the world food and agriculture situation, and his perception of the continuing requirements of developing countries at a time of severe economic recession and social stress, has reminded us of the enormity of the problems which deserve our attention.

The shortage of external resources to provide development programmes, the marked shortfall in the flow of official development assistance and low levels of extra-budgetary resources to implement programmes at field levels for an organization such as FAO, are some of the disturbing factors, which he has highlighted.

Let me refer to the food and agriculture situation of our country, and the measures we have taken to resolve some of the problems facing us.

Sri Lanka, like many other countries in this region, is largely an agricultural country which is trying to organize its agricultural sector as the principal avenue for both economic development and employment.

The dominant position of the agricultural sector in this country is reflected in the nature of the several development strategies that have been adopted by successive governments since attainment of independence in 1948. Heavy investment has been made in the rural areas in land development, irrigation, education, health, roads, housing and the establishment of large agricultural settlements over the last 35 years.

This massive investment in the rural areas has enabled Sri Lanka to keep her rapidly expanding population within the rural areas and thus avoid a serious rural urban imbalance.

The main policy thrust of successive governments since independence has been to achieve self-sufficiency in its staple food requirements, and to enhance the productivity of the export crops such as tea, rubber and coconut which provide us with the valuable foreign exchange needed for the national development programmes.

Production of food crops within the domestic sector takes place on small farms spread throughout the country. There are about 1.6 million such small farms spread over 3.8 million acres (1.5 million hectares). These farms may consist of components of lowlands, uplands, home-gardens or a combination of each of these components. The export oriented plantation sector consisting mainly of tea, rubber and coconut covers about 1.8 million acres (0.7 million hectares) and is mainly confined to the more moist regions of the country.

The new policy emphasis should be viewed in the overall policy changes that were introduced in 1977 whereby the economy was liberalized while dismantling several restrictive controls. A more realistic and unified exchange rate was introduced. There was a cut-back on consumption subsidies with a view to releasing resources for investment. Incentives were provided for domestic production as well as for export. These policy changes have made a significant impact on the domestic agricultural sector.

The key features of the government strategy directed towards the domestic food sector were :

- a) Improving the efficiency in distribution of agricultural inputs so as to ensure their free availability through the development of a coordinated delivery system at the district, divisional and field level.
- b) Providing an efficient unified extension service and the setting-up of the necessary infrastructure for co-ordinated research, extension and training.
- c) Providing an efficient marketing system which removes state monopolies and combines the participation of both the private and public sector, thus ensuring a fair price to both producer and consumer.
- d) Pursuing a pricing system that would act as an incentive to the producer; and
- e) Establishing development-oriented institutions to service the rural farming sector with a view to achieving the main objectives of government strategy.

In order to maximise production the Government has placed emphasis in farmer-participation both in programming of agricultural development activities and in their implementation. To achieve this objective several institutional changes have been introduced. The Agrarian Services Act of 1979 is one of the outstanding changes introduced in the recent past. An important feature of this Act is the establishment of Agrarian Services Committees at Divisional Level comprising officials and farmer representatives. These committees are responsible for the preparation of the Annual Agricultural Implementation Programme and its implementation which ensures timely cultivation, better water management and adequate input servicing for increased production from a unit of land.

The foregoing policies and strategies have had a major impact on national rice production. A steady annual growth rate of between 4 and 6 percent has been recorded in respect of rice production over the last six years. Matching this performance against a population growth rate of 1.7 percent, we are confident that self-reliance in respect of our main staple crop will be achieved in the very near future.

By contrast the performance of the export oriented tree crop sector over the same period has been rather disappointing. The productivity of tea, rubber and coconut has remained virtually static throughout the last six years. This has in turn adversely affected our balance of payments. Meaningful steps are being taken with World Bank assistance to rehabilitate the tree crop sector which is our major foreign exchange earner.

We have special reasons to be thankful to FAO for the assistance provided in several fields of agricultural research and development. The FAO/UNDP Soya Bean Research and Development Project that commenced in 1976 has yielded results beyond our expectations. This was a new crop to this country, but today the country grows a little over 25,000 acres (10,000 hectares) of soya bean each year. In particular I must mention the assistance received under the Technical Co-operation Programme (TCP). The home garden project assisted by this Programme has had a big catalytic effect in promoting the value and importance of home gardening throughout the country.

FAO support for the Department of Agriculture's extension, research and training has helped to build up a viable support service for the small farmer. The links between: the research worker and the extension workers have become consolidated in a manner whereby farmers' problems are speedily diagnosed and serviced. The training facilities at the regional centres are having a positive effect on the quality of the field level extension worker.

We are confident that the production thrust that has been given by the country's 1.6 million small farms could be sustained in the years to come because the supporting services to this small farm sector have been properly consolidated during the last 6 years. In our Sri Lankan context we have found the small farm an efficient unit of production. Our policy will therefore be, to further stimulate this domestic small farm sector with necessary incentives and services and improve the marketing channels, storage, processing technology and credit facilities.

Mr Chairman, I would like to make a few comments on the performance of the country's export sector. As you are aware, our export sector has been confined to the traditional tree crops for which Sri Lanka has been well known. With the considerable increase in new irrigated land which will be made available in the years to come under our major Mahaweli Project, main production thrust will be on export oriented crops. We have already started a large investment programme in diversifying the uneconomic tea lands for the production of high value cash crops like pepper, cloves, nutmegs, cardamon etc. This has already brought in good results. It has not only increased our foreign exchange earnings but has also provided high income and employment to the small farmers.

Mr Chairman, we have now reached a stage in Sri Lanka where food production has to be viewed not merely in terms of production but also in terms of reducing heavy losses in what has been produced. Proper strategy has to be evolved for on-farm storage of our grains and other farm produce. Being a tropical country with high temperatures and humidity throughout the year we encounter special problems of storage with both our grains and other farm produce. The less expensive technologies that are available for effective on-farm storage have yet to be tested in our environment. We seek assistance from FAO to evolve a long term strategy and investment proposal in this important field of activity.

Mr Chairman, yet another area on which we are placing emphasis is improved processing of farm produce. Except in the case of rice and a few high value cash crops the processing technologies now used in Sri Lanka are of a rudimentary nature. The assistance that was provided by FAO/UNDP for the establishment of a Rice Processing Research Centre has proved to be a great benefit in improving the rice processing technology in Sri Lanka.

In all these activities we are also endeavouring to make available to all sections of the population a well balanced range of food commodities at reasonable prices. However, a disturbing feature that has recently come to our attention has been the unbalanced nutrition in the less favoured section of our rural population. This is also reflected in the Country Report of WCARRD (World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development) done by the FAO. With the escalating prices of animal derived protein, our population has had a fall back more on vegetable sources of protein, chiefly grain legumes and indigenous vegetables. Although the country produces a substantial quantity of grain legumes such as cow pea, green gram, black gram and soya bean, we have not been able to provide the poorer section of the population with an inexpensive and acceptable processed product in respect of these commodities. This is therefore yet another area for which Sri Lanka would be grateful for external assistance.

Incidentally, I must also mention that Sri Lanka took the initiative in setting up the International Winged Bean (Dambala) Institute. Winged Bean is well known as a high protein crop which should be an answer to the nutritional deficiencies among our people. It is with that in view that the President of Sri Lanka, His Excellency J.R. Jayewardene took a personal interest and initiative in setting up this International Institute in Kandy, Sri Lanka.

A great deal of investment has been made in promotion of fertilizer for all crops in Sri Lanka. A Fertilizer Secretariat has been set up to co-ordinate and carry out an effective promotional campaign to intensify fertilizer usage. Fertilizer subsidy amounting to Rs. 1 000 million (nearly 40 million US dollars) has been provided every year over the last several years. Recent assistance by the FAO to the Extension Division of the Department of Agriculture on a fertilizer testing and evaluation programme for the small farm sector has enabled us to improve and refine our fertilizer recommendations for the different soil and climatic conditions encountered in Sri Lanka. However, it is distressing to note the reduction in the production of fertiliser in the developed countries because I feel that this would have an adverse effect on our attempt to increase productivity in the developing countries.

We have also, for a long time, felt the need to have adequate legislation governing the import, manufacture, formulation, sale and use of pesticides. Sri Lanka, like many other developing countries, is now using an appreciable quantity of pesticides. Protective legislation in this field has been enacted by my Ministry very recently. We owe much to the FAO in the assistance we received to build an effective and functional Plant Protection Service in our country. Besides those protective measures that we have taken, I would also like to appeal to the developed countries who manufacture and market most of these products to the developing countries, to take necessary and adequate precautions especially in relation to the toxic effects that endanger the lives of the people in our countries.

From what has been said so far, Mr Chairman, it is clear that the Government of Sri Lanka is taking determined steps to frame policies and programmes which will bring about changes in the agrarian structure which we expect will result in higher productivity, increase in employment and greater economic prosperity for a larger mass of small farmers.

In this task of development we greatly appreciate the assistance that has been forthcoming from the FAO in several fields of activity.

Mr Chairman, in conclusion we wish to place on record our deep appreciation of the assistance that has been forthcoming from FAO. We particularly wish to underline the independence and competence of its Director-General, to present irrefutable facts and unassailable arguments in support of the common struggle facing humanity in the fight against hunger and malnutrition to make this World a happier and better place for the greater good of humanity.

May I also take this opportunity of congratulating the new members of the FAO.

CHAIRMAN: I now call on His Excellency Mr Pereira Silva, Minister of Rural Development, Cape Verde.

J. PEREIRA SILVA (Cap-Vert) : En prenant la parole pour la première fois au cours de cette vingt-deuxième session de la Conférence de notre Organisation, j'aimerais tout d'abord vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président et Messieurs les Vice-Présidents, de votre élection. Nous sommes sûrs qu'avec votre expérience et vos qualités de diplomates, vous conduirez nos travaux de la façon la plus féconde et vous saurez dégager des conclusions qui nous aideront à résoudre les graves problèmes que l'humanité affronte dans les domaines de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation.

Il m'est aussi agréable de saluer l'entrée de Antigua et Barbuda, Belize, Saint-Christophe-et-Nevis et Vanuatu au sein de notre organisation. Leur contribution j'en suis sûr renforcera la lutte que nous menons tous pour la concrétisation des objectifs de notre organisation.

Selon les données fournies par la FAO, la campagne 82/83 a été caractérisée par des pénuries alimentaires exceptionnelles dans 26 pays, parmi lesquels 16 se trouvent dans le continent africain. Vers le milieu de cette année, la moitié des pays où l'état des cultures était inquiétant, était des pays africains. Selon les dernières données disponibles, la situation alimentaire et agricole est critique dans 22 pays d'Afrique. Si l'on ne prend pas des mesures urgentes, la situation dans ces pays qui comptent 150 millions d'habitants peut rapidement se transformer de critique en catastrophique.

Ces chiffres justifient pleinement la priorité absolue accordée par la FAO à notre région, car la crise alimentaire semble en passe de devenir plus précisément une crise du continent africain.

Et cette situation ne pourra pas s'améliorer radicalement du jour au lendemain. En effet, pour accroître la production, il faudra plusieurs années d'efforts persistants. Car, malgré leur volonté politique, nos pays n'ont ni les moyens de moderniser leur agriculture ni de quoi payer les importations nécessaires pour nourrir une population toujours nombreuse.

C'est donc à juste titre que le Directeur général de notre organisation a pris diverses mesures, spécifiquement pour l'Afrique: un groupe d'action a été créé pour suivre la situation dans ces pays, et une réunion ad hoc s'est tenue au Siège de la FAO le 19 du mois dernier afin d'examiner l'aide internationale dont certains pays africains ont besoin d'urgence.

Nous osons donc demander à la conférence d'approuver les mesures prises par le Directeur général, et nous nous permettons de recommander que la région Afrique continue à être prioritaire dans toutes les activités de notre organisation.

Il est très difficile pour les pays africains de demander de l'aide. Nous nous réjouissons que le Directeur général de la FAO ait, de par son mandat, l'autorité et le devoir de se faire notre avocat. Grâce à son action et à sa persévérance, peut-être que la communauté internationale finira par prendre notre situation au sérieux. Nos pays sont résolus à faire tous les efforts nécessaires pour augmenter leur production alimentaire et donner la priorité au bien-être des populations rurales. Cependant, nos efforts demeureront vains si on refusait de nous aider à sortir de la crise.

A propos de la situation alimentaire critique de nombreux pays africains, permettez-moi d'attirer particulièrement votre attention sur les pays du Sahel qui se sont groupés dans le comité interétats de lutte contre la sécheresse dans le Sahel (CILSS). Cette année marque en effet le dixième anniversaire de la décision historique prise par un groupe de pays durement touchés par la sécheresse catastrophique de 1972/1973 de concentrer et coordonner leurs efforts en vue de lutter contre la désertification et d'atteindre l'autosuffisance alimentaire. La cinquième conférence du club du Sahel qui a clôturé ses travaux la semaine dernière à Bruxelles a donné l'occasion de procéder à des échanges de vues et d'examiner les résultats des efforts communs des Sahéliens et de la communauté internationale. D'un côté l'assistance internationale a substantiellement augmenté, on comprend mieux les problèmes de la région, et les gouvernements des pays membres ont adopté des politiques orientées vers l'autosuffisance alimentaire et la lutte contre la désertification. Toutefois il faut bien reconnaître qu'il n'y a pas de progrès notable dans le domaine de l'autosuffisance alimentaire, que les productions agricoles continuent à être extrêmement vulnérables aux aléas climatiques et que la production d'aliments croît à un rythme plus lent que la population, que l'équilibre écologique n'a pas été rétabli, que, globalement, la croissance économique reste lente, et, finalement, que la dette de plusieurs pays sahéliens a atteint des niveaux préoccupants.

Cette année, la situation est encore difficile pour un certain nombre de pays. En effet, les pluies ont été tardives et très mal réparties dans l'espace et dans le temps. Parmi les 22 pays africains menacés par la crise alimentaire, six sont membres du CILSS. Certains pays souffrent d'une sécheresse chronique depuis plus de dix ans. Pour le Cap-Vert, en particulier, il s'agit de la troisième année consécutive où l'on n'enregistre que deux ou trois jours de pluie pendant toute la saison des pluies.

Tout en remerciant la communauté internationale de l'appui donné à mon pays durant les huit années écoulées depuis son indépendance, nous tenons à renouveler devant cette tribune notre appel non seulement pour que ce soutien soit maintenu sur une base régulière, de façon à nous permettre de poursuivre notre effort de développement rural, mais aussi pour qu'une aide alimentaire d'urgence nous soit accordée dans les plus brefs délais. Nous pouvons dire, d'ores et déjà, que nos besoins d'aide alimentaire d'urgence seront plus importants que l'année dernière. Une mission multidonateurs organisée par la FAO se rendra sur place pour préciser la dimension réelle des pertes occasionnées par la sécheresse et nos besoins d'aide d'urgence. A part les programmes réguliers en cours, dans le cadre de notre plan de développement national, nous sommes obligés d'entreprendre des programmes extraordinaires pour lutter contre le chômage rural du à la sécheresse, et nous aurons besoin d'une aide d'urgence pour approvisionner les populations rurales en eau potable.

Monsieur le Président, quoique la situation de la production agricole soit encore conditionnée par les effets conjugués de la sécheresse et de la longue période de domination coloniale dont le Cap-Vert s'est libéré il y a seulement huit ans, nous avons réussi à améliorer considérablement le niveau de vie des paysans de mon pays, conformément aux critères internationaux. Nous accordons en effet une haute priorité au développement rural dans les investissements publics. A titre d'exemple, pour la période du premier plan de développement national (1982-1985), 20 - 25% des investissements publics totaux sont consacrés au développement rural, au cours des premières années après l'indépendance cette proportion atteignait 50%.

En fait la politique gouvernementale s'est déjà matérialisée par un certain nombre de programmes et d'action dans le domaine du développement rural. Permettez-moi de prendre un peu de votre temps pour énoncer très rapidement les principaux domaines d'action et les résultats obtenus.

Les caractéristiques écologiques des îles du Cap-Vert sont connues de tous; les précipitations, lorsqu'elles ont lieu, causent de grandes crues qui intensifient les phénomènes érosifs.

La conservation des sols et des eaux a donc été considérée dès l'indépendance comme une nécessité impérieuse et urgente. Qui, aujourd'hui, visite le Cap-Vert, se rendra compte sur place du gigantesque effort du peuple cap-verdien, matérialisé par l'implantation de milliers et de milliers de digues, le terrassement de centaines et de centaines de kilomètres de fortes pentes auparavant soumises sans protection à une érosion implacable. Dans le domaine du reboisement les résultats sont surprenants. C'est une véritable campagne nationale qui a mobilisé tout le pays depuis le gouvernement jusqu'aux simples citoyens. Nous avons réussi à planter plus de quatre millions d'arbres en cinq ans, ce qui est beaucoup eu égard à la courte durée de la campagne, à la faible pluviométrie et à la population peu nombreuse. Pour vous donner une idée du rythme et du sérieux de la campagne, je vous dirai que cette année, en cinq jours seulement, on a mis en terre 1 600 000 plants, et ce chiffre serait encore plus élevé si la faible pluviométrie enregistrée avait été mieux répartie sur tout le territoire national.

En raison des conditions climatiques les cultures pluviales sont très précaires dans mon pays; nous nous orientons donc vers la mise en valeur des maigres ressources hydriques en vue d'une exploitation rationnelle; nos objectifs prioritaires sont d'approvisionner les populations en eau et de développer les périmètres irrigués.

Qui dit développement rural au Cap-Vert dit réforme agraire. La loi de base de la réforme agraire est entrée en vigueur le premier janvier 1983, avec un succès remarquable dans les principales îles à tradition agricole. Le consensus national nous encourage à poursuivre la politique de récupération du capital foncier pour l'attribuer à ceux qui l'exploitent directement. A cet égard, j'aimerais exprimer notre soutien aux actions de la FAO dans le cadre du suivi des décisions de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et développement rural, notamment en ce qui concerne l'Afrique où il y a eu récemment deux réunions importantes dont les résultats seront essentiels pour la concrétisation du programme d'action de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et développement rural dans nos pays.

L'élevage n'est pas épargné par les effets de la sécheresse. L'expérience nous déconseille les grands troupeaux. Nous cherchons donc à réduire le cheptel et à l'adapter aux conditions du milieu. La sélection et l'amélioration des espèces adaptées au pays constituent une tâche importante qui relève du centre national de développement de l'élevage. La FAO et le Gouvernement italien viennent de financer un très important projet dans ce domaine.

En ce qui concerne la recherche agronomique, nous donnons la priorité à la recherche appliquée et à la formation des cadres. Nous sommes en train d'équiper nos services compétents des moyens nécessaires.

Le développement passe avant tout par les hommes. La formation de cadres techniques est une nécessité impérieuse qui nous a poussés à inaugurer, en janvier dernier, le premier cours intensif de ce genre dans le pays. De même le recyclage du personnel est aussi une tâche prioritaire.

Afin de doter le pays des institutions rurales nécessaires à la transformation agraire, nous avons créé en plus deux entreprises publiques dont le succès nous pousse à poursuivre dans cette voie.

Nous sommes conscients de l'importance du crédit agricole qui existe déjà chez nous, mais les moyens techniques, organisationnels et financiers laissent encore à désirer. Nous avons besoin d'une institution de crédit agricole pleinement efficace.

Le développement du coopérativisme est une tâche vitale pour laquelle nous avons créé un institut national des coopératives. Nous attachons beaucoup d'importance aux organisations paysannes. A l'heure actuelle, nous avons entrepris un travail de sensibilisation et vue de promouvoir les associations paysannes.

Monsieur le Président, nos débats devraient, je l'espère, aboutir à l'adoption d'un programme de travail, aussi bien que des moyens financiers pour le mettre en oeuvre.

C'est le point culminant de notre conférence. Cependant, s'il est vrai que tout le monde accepte la nécessité d'accroître les efforts dans le domaine de l'appui à l'expansion de la production agricole, surtout dans les pays les plus pauvres et les plus vulnérables aux crises alimentaires, et s'il est vrai que personne ne s'oppose à la priorité que la FAO accorde à l'Afrique, les difficultés semblent insurmontables lorsqu'il s'agit de passer aux actes.

Bien que nous comprenions le point de vue des principaux pays qui contribuent au budget de l'Organisation qui s'opposent à l'augmentation de leur contribution, nous sommes d'avis que, vu le rôle primordial de la FAO, il est nécessaire de lui donner les moyens indispensables pour son action. A cet égard, l'augmentation du budget de 0,5% proposé par le Directeur général est un minimum acceptable.

Nous devons féliciter le Directeur général pour les efforts déployés dans le sens d'une gestion rigoureuse des moyens mis à la disposition de l'Organisation, et l'encourager à persister dans cette voie en éliminant toutes les dépenses superflues, en introduisant des innovations possibles dans le sens d'une meilleure rentabilisation des moyens dont elle dispose.

En ce qui concerne les priorités et les programmes proposés nous constatons avec plaisir les similitudes existantes entre les orientations de mon pays et les propositions du Directeur général.

Mon pays soutient donc, totalement et inconditionnellement, les priorités, les programmes et le budget proposés par le Directeur général pour le prochain biennium et s'associe à tous ceux qui proposent leur approbation unanime. En me référant plus spécialement au PCT je dirai que son intérêt et son impact sont très appréciables. J'aimerais recommander que le PCT continue à être renforcé pour permettre aux pays comme le mien de bénéficier de l'aide précieuse qu'il nous apporte particulièrement dans les situations d'urgence.

Pour terminer, Monsieur le Président, je formule l'espoir que la FAO poursuive la voie tracée par son Directeur général. Pour cela elle a besoin de l'appui de tous ses pays membres sans exception.

W.O OMAMO (Kenya): First of all, Mr Chairman, I should like to congratulate you, the three Vice-Chairmen and the three Commission Chairmen, on being elected to these high offices, and assure you of the Kenya delegation's maximum support.

I should also like to congratulate the Director-General and the Secretariat on the excellent work they have done during the biennium that is just coming to an end.

Mr Chairman, we support the Programme of Work and Budget for the coming biennium, although it should be noted that this Organization needs far greater resources than those requested in these very, very modest proposals.

I would also like to join my colleagues in welcoming our colleagues who have joined the Organization. We extend to them a warm welcome.

Mr Chairman, I should like to concentrate, and for obvious reasons, on the African food problem. The worsening and shaky food situation in Africa has been recorded and therefore, there is no need to belabour the point. The only question that remains is why? Why is it that African countries that were largely self-sufficient barely two decades ago are in such a precarious position today?

This debate has been going on for some time. No one doubts the commitment of the African governments, commitments of the donors and other agencies to the eradication of hunger and malnutrition in Africa. But it is to be doubted that the orientation of this debate has been correct. Mr Chairman, has it been correct? The main weakness seems to be that there have been far too many people with far too many solutions in their pockets looking for problems. This has meant that issues have not been addressed properly and the exercise has had, as the main objective, the justification of particular remedies. In other words, we have not fully appreciated the causes, the tenacity, and the dimensions of the food problem in Africa.

But none of these solutions have resulted in long-lasting food security. The main problems in Africa's food security in my opinion are inadequate food production and the lack of purchasing power against the background of rapidly increasing populations.

What we need is concrete and direct action based on a sound strategy. And it is the elements of this strategy that must now occupy our minds.

If Africa is to get out of the mess in which it is today - as indeed it must - there must be increased and sustained food and agricultural production. There must be increased purchasing power, first of all, at the country level to enable the importation of shortfalls and, secondly, at the individual level to give all consumers access to supplies. But the problem of hunger must be tackled directly, because food security can no longer be regarded just as a by-product of general economic activity. The elements of any strategy must, therefore, first and foremost include the development of appropriate farming systems that work in harmony with the natural and human environment so as to produce adequate food, generate incomes, create employment opportunities and also attract the young and educated to farm work and rural life.

Such systems will have to find answers to the basic questions that inhibit small-farmer productivity besides extending the frontiers of cultivation by dryland farming techniques including irrigation. These questions must be answered, and answered fully. They must be answered totally, in order to motivate the small farmer to continue to invest his labour and his other limited resources and also to encourage others such as his educated children, encourage the government and encourage the donors to invest in these efforts because they have a good chance of producing concrete results.

The development of these systems will need multi-disciplinary problem-solving research based on local experience and local manpower development, first, to indigenize thought and the process of seeking for solutions; secondly, to increase local implementing capacity at the official, or government level; thirdly, and finally, to equip the farmers with the tools with which to understand their circumstances in order to exploit these circumstances to the full.

We, therefore, support the Director-General's initiatives in high-level manpower development in Africa and his intention to launch a long-term programme to train people, develop systems and build institutions in Africa, in order to strengthen the framework in which investment in agriculture and food production can be made and be sustained.

In this connection, we feel that the FAO regional office for Africa should be restructured - Mr Chairman, I underline restructured - in order to enable it to respond more effectively to the continent's pressing food problem. We ourselves in Kenya are directing our attention to the questions of appropriate technology, of effective extension coverage, of the question of broadening the productive base, of prompt payment for farm produce deliveries, the question of adequate storage and that of fair rewards to the producers.

The second element in the strategy must be equitable international trade, because aid, including food aid, foreign loans, and so on, can only supplement what a nation itself is already doing, and in order to finance its programmes, a nation must earn rewards commensurate with its endeavours. African nations must, therefore, have free access to all markets for their products in the form in which they decide to export them. This is the only way to extricate these countries from the clutches of investment banks, besides disengaging them from a host of other problems.

The African countries, themselves, are not, of course, entirely helpless. They have among and within themselves a tremendous potential for marketing the products of their own agriculture and industry. This is a necessary and vital preliminary step before venturing into the hostile and sometimes troubled waters of international trade beyond their regional borders.

African countries are also substantial consumers and importers of products from developed countries and thus have in their hands the lives, and the well-being and prosperity of millions of workers and producers in those developed countries.

African countries are also producers of materials that are of strategic importance to developed countries. Thus, African trade need not be focused only, or primarily, to the north but when it is so focused, it should be on the basis of commensurate exchange. It is, of course, primarily up to the African countries themselves to create those conditions that will foster and promote trade among themselves. It is for them to exploit to the full any possibilities of comparative advantage which, among other equals, does make economic sense.

They may even contemplate barter trade to exchange needed goods directly without the medium of expensive foreign exchange and the hidden commissions and charges in this form of transaction. But this form of cooperation needs a lot of commitment, both in Africa and outside: a commitment which must be beyond the watersheds, a commitment beyond the frontiers of narrow national interests.

The third main element in this strategy must be the management of runaway population growth rates. Population growth rates must be managed in Africa not because it is the most populous continent. In fact, it is the least densely populated of all and that is exactly the point. Population growth rates must be managed now, before the whole thing gets out of hand and ruthless measures become necessary.

The existence of vast expanses of unexploited, and, usually, unexplored land in Africa must not be allowed to mislead us. For the purposes of African development, land should not be measured in hectares alone but should also be valued in terms of productivity and hence, its capacity to sustain an acceptable standard of life.

A combination of technological improvements and colonisation helped diffuse earlier population build-ups and thus prevented population explosions among developing countries. Today there are no new frontiers on this planet; none in Africa, Mr Chairman. There are no hidden corners where we can tuck in a few more people. And the effects of technological improvements depend on the rate at which these improvements are adopted. This rate is incredibly low in Africa.

Therefore, while we can debate - and we must debate - on the appropriate methods to be used, we cannot escape the residual fact that these population growth rates must be managed. Our disagreement with and about certain proposed remedies must not be allowed to cloud the issue and divert our attention from the real question.

Africa must therefore take a sober look at this whole question and appreciate the fact that with improved health, with improved nutrition, with medical care and so on, more children and older people will survive.

Therefore, population objectives must be incorporated in rural development programmes in order to inculcate the need to manage population growth rates which should be the ones chasing the rates of food production and not the other way round.

The FAO, as the lead agency in agriculture and food production, should therefore intensify its efforts to provide practical ways of incorporating population objectives in rural development programmes without excessive involvement of those who seek to make a profit out of such efforts, and who, in fact, have made the whole subject of population management highly suspect in many parts of Africa.

Mr Chairman, the high rate of population growth in Kenya is no longer a secret, but you will be relieved to know that we are looking into ways of channelling the extra growth, and I am pleased to let you know that the Kenyan Government, through an education programme, is doing everything possible to persuade the population to engage the necessary gears to slow down the population growth.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, if a solution to the problem of hunger is to be found - and a solution must be found - we must stop paying lip service to world food security. We must make more sacrifices, both national and international, that will create a right atmosphere and the right climate in which our good farmers throughout the world can get on with the serious business of producing enough food to eliminate hunger throughout the world.

LI HAK CHOL (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, distinguished delegates, I have the honour to speak at this very important Conference where the problem of world food and agriculture, which the fate of mankind depends on, is discussed.

I should like to express my deep gratitude to the Director-General and the staff of this Organization for the kind invitation for the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to attend this Conference and the great efforts devoted to the preparations for this Conference.

My delegation is satisfied with the excellent preparations for, and successful work, of the current Conference.

At the same time, the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea warmly welcomes and congratulates Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Vanuatu and Saint Christopher and Nevis on their membership of our Organization.

We have listened very carefully to the Director-General. As he stated, the Organization has so far made a considerable contribution to the worldwide solution of the problem of agriculture and food. On this contribution I should also like to accord warm congratulations to the Director-General and the Secretariat of the Organization,

The problems of agriculture and food are of vital importance and play a major part in building a civilized and a better new society which is the unanimous aspiration of mankind.

Today, the problem of agriculture is the most urgent and important problem in the developing countries which were under the imperialist and colonial subjugation in the past.

Our respected leader, President Kim Il Sung, stated as follows: "The food problem, the agricultural problem, is a highly important and urgent problem that the non-aligned and developing countries should settle without fail in building a new society."

Unless the food problem is solved through agricultural development, the developing countries can neither consolidate their national independence nor attain the country's independent development.

In those countries peasants account for the majority of population, and agricultural production is the mainstay of the national economy.

Therefore, one can neither build an independent national economy nor hope for national prosperity if the solution of the food problem through agricultural development is found to be a failure. Some countries threaten the others by using food as a political weapon. Some countries which have food shortages are not in a position to say what they want lest they be refused food supplies.

If we are not in a position to say what we wish in the light of the fundamental interests and requirements of our people, there will be little difference to the loss of our political independence. For this very reason, we must first of all settle the food problem if we are to maintain independence in politics.

The solution of the food problem, the problem of agriculture, poses itself as a more urgent problem in the light of the ever-increasing global food crisis. The world grain production this year is expected to be 4 percent lower than last year, and a number of rural areas of developing countries are running out of provisions and faced with far more serious penury than expected. Today, a large number of people in the world are starving, and about 15 million children die of disease or malnutrition in the developing countries every year. This situation makes it necessary for the developing countries to give highest priority to the solution of the food problem and the problem of agriculture.

The key to this problem in the developing countries lies in the development of their own agriculture. The food problem is essentially the problem of agriculture. For the solution of the food problem, great efforts should be directed to agricultural development. If the developing countries work out their agricultural policies which are suitable for their specific conditions on the principle of self-reliance and make effective use of their domestic potential, they can successfully develop agriculture and attain self-sufficiency in food. This has been proved by experience. It is our view that the developing countries can increase the yield of grain many times through the improvement of farming methods and irrigation and the introduction of irrigation. Today, some developing countries are achieving remarkable improvements of farming methods by relying on a number of simple home-produced farm tools in a spirit of self-reliance as well as on the efficient use of oxen, which are plentiful in these countries. By doing so, they have increased the output of maize from 0.5 - 0.6 tons to 3.5 - 6 tons per hectare.

Development of South-South cooperation in agriculture on the principle of collected self reliance is one of the important ways for the successful solution of the food problem, the problem of agriculture.

The developing countries have already gained useful experience and devise the techniques in agricultural fields. Therefore, if they exchange experiences and cooperate, they can achieve excellent results in agricultural development.

The Symposium of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing countries on Increasing Food and Agricultural Production which was held in Pyongyang in 1981 and the Regional Study Tour and Consultation of Asia on Achievement of Stable and High Yields of Paddy Rice in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea which was held last year marked an important occasion in developing the cooperation among developing countries in the field of agriculture.

Considerable numbers of the developing countries have not yet achieved self-sufficiency in food due to the backward socio-economic conditions inherited from the colonial domination or because of unfavourable natural conditions. The world should direct due attention to it, and genuine technical and financial support should be given to enable the developing countries to solve the food problem on their own.

Proceeding in this spirit, the Organization has included in the agenda of the current Conference a number of important items such as the Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85, the problem of world food security and the proposal for the establishment of gene banks.

My delegation is of the view that these items are a reflection of the urgent need for the solution of the world food problem and are in full conformity with the desire and aspiration of the developing countries. My delegation maintains that these should be fully supported and the Programme of Work and Budget approved in its present format and level.

At the same time, my delegation resolutely condemns the abuse of the huge wealth and resources of mankind for the purpose of world tragedy. We maintain that the rampant arms race and production of nuclear weapons, the threat to world peace, should be halted, and that the enormous human, material and financial resources directed to it should naturally be shifted to the solution of the food problem of developing countries.

Another important issue in solving the food problem, the problem of agriculture, is to dismantle the existing international economic order and establish an equitable new international economic order. The inequitable old international economic order causes great obstacles to the agricultural development of the developing countries. In 1959 developing countries exported 6 tons of jute to buy one truck, whereas last year they had to sell 26 tons for the same purpose. This kind of exploitation and plunder should no longer be tolerated.

Developed countries should increase aid to the developing countries, and assistance to every project should be carried out with sincerity, not prolonging or delaying projects but ensuring economic efficiency in a short span of time. It fully complies with the mission of the Organization of ensuring world food security and promoting harmony and cooperation among the member states for the developed countries to give technical and material help to developing countries in their agricultural development.

Distinguished delegates, our country has been turned today into a country self-sufficient in food under the leadership of our great leader and the dear leader. We completed long ago the irrigation and electrification, and widely applied the Juche farming method newly created to suit our circumstances, thus enabling agriculture to develop on a solid foundation, even under the adverse natural climatic conditions caused by the cold front.

At present we have 1 700 reservoirs, 94 700 wells and 14 400 ponds for emergency use. As a result of the active promotion of rural technical revolution, the level of mechanization and chemicalization in agriculture increased markedly and the differences between agricultural labour much decreased.

Last year the number of tractors serving the agricultural sector reached 700 hectares in the plains, 6 in the intermediate or mountainous areas, and the number of trucks per 100 hectares of land reached 1.5.

Today in our country the agricultural mechanization and chemicalization are nearly complete. Our farmers who were subject to hard manual labour for transplanting and weeding in the past are working in a much easier and more efficient way with the help of machinery and chemistry.

As farming is carried out in a scientific and technical way as required by the Juche farming method under the rays of "the Theses on the Socialist Rural Question in Our Country" illumined by the great leader, our country, where only 1.7 million tons of grain were produced in 1945, produced 9.5 million tons last year.

We have also brought about a comprehensive development of animal husbandry, fruit growing, forestry and fishery, with stress put on grain production.

These successes achieved by our people in the field of agriculture are the results of the wise leadership of the great leader and the dear leader. The great leader put forward the grand 10 long term goals of socialist economic construction at the Sixth Congress of our Party in 1980, one of which is to produce 15 million tons of grain in the near future. In order to reach the target of

15 million tons of grain, our people are now engaged in a great nature restoration movement, reclaiming 300 000 hectares of tidal land, exploring 200 000 hectares of new land, and building the Nampo Lock-Gate and Taechon Power Station in the high revolutionary spirit of self-reliance.

Under the wise leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung and the dear leader Comrade Kim Jong & I, we shall hit the target of 15 million tons of grain without fail in a few years by boosting agricultural production, thus greatly contributing to the solution of food problems of the world.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has promoted technical interchanges with developing countries in the field of agriculture and assisted with our specialists and techniques in every possible way the agricultural development in accordance with the Pyongyang Declaration adopted at the Symposium of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries on Increasing Food and Agricultural Production held in our country in 1981. Our Government in the future, as in the past, will make every possible effort for the cause of consolidating world food security.

In the case of FAO requests, we will be prepared to provide training for agro-technicians for the developing countries, and to send our technicians to them. The training may include, in particular, workshops, seminars and study tours on irrigation and the effective use of draught animals.

The delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will actively participate in the Plenary sessions and Commissions of the Conference during the current Twenty-second session of the Conference, sparing no effort in our cooperation, in keeping with the ideals and goals of FAO. By so doing, we shall fulfil our obligation as a Member State of the Organization.

Finally, allow me to thank the Director-General, you, Mr Chairman and all the delegates for having paid attention to me. May I express my expectation that this Conference will achieve great success by the strenuous efforts of the delegates of the member countries present here in this room.

M.A. MAKKI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, the empty seats before me and the fatigue on the faces of all those who have stayed reminds me that I am one of the last speakers for today. We shall be listening to further speeches in the forthcoming days. Having heard the speeches, there seems to me to be a lot of repetition. I believe that if we all listen to all the speeches of all the countries and organizations participating today it will take up 15 full meetings that is, more than 7 days. That is nearly 30 percent of the time allotted for this session.

For this reason, Mr Chairman, I wish to make a simple suggestion - and I would like those present here to take it up seriously. My proposal is to do away with the rule which says that we should give these speeches at Plenary and in the Commissions. The Secretariat of the Conference can collect and compile them into a small booklet which will be distributed during the first week of the Conference in order to enable us to discuss some of the very good ideas which the speeches undeniably contain. In this manner, in the Commissions we will be able to discuss matters relating to these ideas and thoughts. When we discuss the final resolutions we can conclude discussion of what has gone before in the speeches.

However, if this meeting rejects my proposal, then I think every meeting should listen to one-third of the countries represented of every region. I hope that the meeting will study my proposal seriously. And now, in accordance with the rule followed so far, I shall present my own speech, with your permission. I start in the name of God the Compassionate and the Merciful.

I am pleased to congratulate the Chairman of the Conference and the Vice-Chairmen on their election. I wish them every success in their mission. I should also like to express my welcome to the four States which have joined this Organization recently, hoping they will be able to take part in a joint and constructive effort for a better future. Also I should like to express my appreciation for Dr Kreisky's lecture to which we have had the privilege of listening, for the ideas and lessons which he has gleaned during his long experience in the area of economic cooperation between industrialized and developing countries.

We meet today whilst the world is at a turning point as a result of the current world recession, which will have grave repercussions on those developing countries which depend on the marketing of raw materials, because of the wide gap between the prices of raw materials and of the processed goods - a discrepancy which limits sharply the capacity of the developing countries to implement their agricultural programmes and hence to secure financial resources needed in order to guarantee food for their people. Statistics show that the world does not lack the resources necessary to produce food, if these resources are used in the best possible manner.
Autonomous agricultural

development for each and every country is the formula for success in achieving food security. Agricultural development should go hand in hand with industrial development. Experience has proved it is impossible to reach a high level of industrial development unless this is supported by a developed agricultural sector. The Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America made this clear in his speech today.

For that reason, I should like to say that in Saudi Arabia we have embarked on a new endeavour. Despite the dearth of water and agricultural resources we have given high priority to agriculture. The results have not merely been encouraging; indeed, they are a great success by any bench mark. In less than 10 years agricultural production has risen by more than 5 percent per year. We are nearing self-sufficiency in all essential foodstuffs. More than 85 percent of our wheat consumption is produced locally, as well as 95 percent of our egg consumption, more than 35 percent of poultry, more than 20 percent of red meat, a large percentage of fish, and 50 percent of dairy products consumption. We are nearing self-sufficiency in vegetable production, whilst date production is in excess of consumption. I present this brief picture of our achievements in the agricultural sector in order to highlight some of our experiences which may be of benefit to other developing countries.

In this way we hope we can help to combat the factors of famine and deprivation so that developing countries will be able to retain their political will, their pride and their dignity. The successes we have achieved we owe to God and to the encouragement the Government has given to the private sector. We are sure we are on the right path, and hope to achieve the desired objectives. We are sure it will be of benefit to our Government and our people. We affirm that hunger and poverty will find no place in our world if our peoples, our governments and our organizations show solidarity by declaring war on hunger, poverty and backwardness.

The contribution of this Organization, despite its efficacy, will not solve the problem of hunger in developing countries unless those countries rely on themselves and unless they do everything possible to mobilize their resources, using modern technology and by the diversification of the means of production through commercial cooperation amongst themselves. Because of its awareness of the scope of the problem, and because of its firm commitment to the international community, Saudi Arabia in the past has provided a lot of assistance through the international organizations and the specialist agencies as well as the international funding institutions. It has contributed in the past, and will continue to do so in the future, to the World Food Programme and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, as well as to regional and local bodies. Our contribution has exceeded 7 percent of our Gross National Product in the year before last.

From this rostrum Saudi Arabia reiterates its trust and its cooperation with FAO because of the effective role of the Organization and the transfer of technology to developing countries, and because of the growing role of FAO in increasing food production in achieving food security, and the move towards industrialization within the agricultural sector in developing countries, thus combatting hunger and promoting the agricultural sector in those countries.

Finally, the delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia endorses the Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85 and commends the policy drawn up by the Director-General, which has led to a patent fall in recruitment by giving priority to selection and by enhancing the quality of experts and specialists. To my mind, this means that at present the various bodies which make up this Organization enjoy a high level of efficacy which we trust will be reflected in the services rendered to all the Member States.

Before concluding I am gratified to extend on behalf of the Saudi Arabian delegation and on my own behalf my sincere thanks to His Excellency Dr Edouard Saouma for his valuable intervention in which he specified the activities and goals of this Organization. I would like to thank him as well as his assistants for the preparation for this Conference. I wish them every success in the achievement of the noble goals and the noble mission of this Organization.

Peace be upon you and God's mercy.

CHAIRMAN: Before I ask the next speaker to speak, perhaps I should make a clarification from the Chair. The good idea from His Excellency the Deputy Minister for Agricultural Affairs of Saudi Arabia that statements by heads of delegations in the Plenary should be circulated ahead or at the early stages of the Conference together in a book for study seems to me to be an eminently good idea and I am sure that the Secretariat will explore it to see whether it can be implemented.

That is one comment. I want to make two clarifications which I hope are correct: the first one is that there is the facility for statements to be inserted in the record under certain conditions although not delivered here. If anybody is interested, he can discuss it with the Secretariat.

The second thing I want to say is that the statements by delegations at the Plenary come out in the verbatim record within a couple of days of delivery. I thought I would comment on this, but the idea of His Excellency should be explored because we too want to save time and utilize the excellent idea presented here much more intensively.

With those few but necessary comments, I think, I will call upon His Excellency Ignaz Kiechle, the Minister for Food, Agriculture and Forestry of the Federal Republic of Germany to address the Conference.

I. KIECHLE (Germany, Federal Republic of): Mr Chairman, distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, this is my first opportunity as Minister for Food, Agriculture and Forestry to speak before FAO and I am looking forward to good collaboration, and ensure FAO of our support. It remains one of our most important tasks within the framework of FAO Conferences to review the world food situation. For this purpose an in-depth analysis has been presented to us by the Director-General and his staff. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany can agree to a large extent to that analysis, and for that reason I want to make the following remarks only.

Firstly, we welcome the fact that special mention was made of the more favourable development of food production in developing countries, particularly in the last two years. That is due to greater self-reliance efforts in these countries and to more effective support from outside. Here a policy begins to become effective, as has been requested and supported by us for years.

Secondly, I feel the Conference should thank the millions of farmers throughout the world for having succeeded in producing additional food for the world population which has been increasing since 1974 by 600 million people. This is an enormous achievement. It should at the same time be an incentive towards further and increased efforts. The fact that the number of hungry and malnourished people continues to be about 450 million, as in 1974 at the time of the World Food Conference, is more than depressing. That is a fact we should not accept.

Thirdly, although there were also increases in food production here and there in Africa in the last few years, these lagged behind population growth in many places so that per capita production as a whole continued to decline. Thus in particular during the last few months, above all due to unfavourable weather conditions, in many African countries the food situation was very critical. We therefore welcome the initiatives taken in this connection by the Director-General. There should be appreciation of the governments of a number of African states for having submitted in the last few years increasingly their own food and agricultural policies to a critical assessment in the course of consultations and for having identified weak points. This is also reflected in the report before us on the world food and agriculture situation.

Fourthly, the first successful results in reviving economic growth, and in fighting inflation which were achieved in some countries, including the Federal Republic of Germany, are in our opinion unfortunately not adequately appreciated in the Conference documents. Behind this there are concealed great efforts and sacrifices. I think there are clear signs of a recovery which can be seen. We should therefore benefit from the positive trend and attitude arising therefrom. If this recovery is to be consolidated, every country must also contribute to improving the international situation by making greater efforts to tackle its own problems. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany endeavours to meet both objectives.

On World Food Day, the 16th October, in our country we have sought increased dialogue with the citizen. We wanted to make the citizen understand the world food problems better and to get his agreement to and support for even more effective action in the fight against hunger and poverty. We need this agreement in two respects: on the one hand, for the approval of our increasingly fruitful cooperation with the developing countries, either bilaterally, or multilaterally. This also calls for the greatest efforts from us, especially in times which are economically difficult and our citizens have to make great sacrifices for this. The official development assistance of the Federal Republic of Germany in 1982 compared with 1981 was raised by almost 7% to DM 7.7 billion. In spite of our own economic difficulties, it has thus almost doubled since 1977- that means over five years. Within the framework of our financial and technical cooperation with developing countries in 1982 about 27% of our pledges were accounted for by the promotion of agriculture and rural development.

On the other hand, the consent to and the readiness of our citizens for increased action in the fight against hunger and poverty are also important because our assistance is not restricted to public aid but also comprises broad private initiatives. As efforts were successful, the non-governmental organization in our country in 1982 compared with the previous year also enjoyed a volume of donations 13% higher, amounting to about DM 950 million. A large share of these donations comes from fellow citizens who have set aside their own wishes in view of other people's distress. They acted in solidarity towards their fellow brothers and sisters in the developing countries to help alleviate their misery.

In dealing with the central subject of food security of this year's World Food Day, it seems to me that the problem of a drastic reduction of food losses before, during and after the harvest which continue to be too high has received too little attention. Food supply in many countries could only in this way be increased substantially without great additional efforts at any rate on the production side and import requirements for cereals of developing countries could be diminished accordingly.

The main factor for greater food security is and remains the increase in food production and the reduction of food losses in developing countries, particularly in the countries where there is a food deficit.

Food security, in the opinion of my Government, should also be based in particular on an adequate national stockholding; regional and international understandings and arrangements for emergency situations; food aid for hunger-stricken areas and as aid for self-help. I say this expressly, we know that the goal of food security is only difficult to attain and a long-term task. It can be achieved only by joint and increased efforts of the whole community of nations. My country can, in principle, support the revised guidelines for international agricultural adjustment. The foundation of international agricultural adjustment, i.e. for the first approach to an international agricultural policy, was laid after lively debates at the Eighth FAO Regional Conference for Europe in Munich, in my country, in 1972. Agriculture in the Federal Republic of Germany has managed over the last three decades to go through an enormous process of adjustment without being able to solve all the problems. On the contrary, many new problems have been added. The increase in productivity achieved with our predominantly peasant family farms enables my country to meet all national and international tasks in the food sector.

On the important agenda item of plant genetic resources, I would only like to remark that my government welcomes measures to be taken for further improving the work of the existing network of gene banks. A comprehensive exchange of information is an element of special importance in this respect. But it must also be ensured that the initiatives and the work of breeders will not be affected. In the last analysis only they will guarantee further progress; therefore proposals for changes must be examined in good time and in a realistic way.

We welcome the fact that the Conference will also discuss the subject of land, food and population. These discussions will show the great inter-relationship of these three factors. One of the conclusions will probably be that population growth must be adapted more than it has been so far to the food supply possibilities in the individual countries. In many countries it should in principle be possible to produce adequate food for the increased population by the year 2000 and beyond. But one of the most important pre-conditions for this is that the natural resources like land, water and forest areas should be used more carefully.

We should by all means check not only the excessive exploitation to be noticeable, but protect nature to a greater extent than so far from the consequences of tempestuous industrialization and motorization. In spite of reasonable management methods new damages to the forest occur increasingly. The term of "forest dying" is already going round in my country. Air pollutions are probably the main cause. A precondition for effective counter-measures are a founded assessment and a current monitoring of the extent of damages as well as the analysis of all possible impacts on the forest. For the initiatives taken by us in this respect in FAO and in the Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations we hope for a broad support.

The proposed programme of work and budget 1984-85 of FAO will be discussed in detail in Commission II, We welcome the fact that in spite of a low real budget growth it was possible to expand the technical programmes to promote agricultural production and rural development. This sharpening of priorities is in my Government's view a step in the right direction. Further steps, for example an even greater selective review, also from outside, of the implementation of the Regular Programme of Work and of the Field Programme should follow. This is also a request from our Parliament which urges international organizations to be also economical and more efficient. Member Nations will undoubtedly welcome the fact that the Director-General has pointed out certain weaknesses and deficiencies which have occurred in the implementation of the Field Programme, as shown in the relevant Conference document. We would like to encourage the Director-General in his intention to work towards an even greater efficiency in the work of the Organization.

In conclusion, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the four new member countries of our Organization thus making FAO even more universal.

Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates. The international community is faced today with three great challenges :
Firstly, preservation of peace and enforcement of human rights.

Secondly, increasing food production and alleviation of the most acute material need in many developing countries.

Thirdly, maintenance of the ecological balance and protection of the environment,

It is the commitment and task of all of us to meet these challenges. The Federal Republic of Germany is prepared to cooperate actively also in future in the solution of these problems.

Mr J.R. Block, Chairman of the Conference, resumed the Chair.

J.C. KERIN (Australia): Mr Chairman at the outset let me say how much pleasure it gives me to see you in the Chair.

I was unable to be here yesterday so I now personally welcome the nations newly admitted to membership, and greet with special warmth Vanuatu which joins us in the South West Pacific Group.

As the Minister responsible for farming, fisheries and forestry in a recently elected Australian Government, this is my first opportunity to address the Supreme Governing Body of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

Australia has been a strong supporter of FAO since its inception on 16 October 1945. We will continue our support.

An Australian, Frank McDougall was deeply involved in the establishment and formative years of FAO. McDougall had a strong concern for those people in the world for whom food on a daily basis was by no means a foregone conclusion.

It is with a similar feeling of concern that Australia is represented here today.

We are here today because we find the paradoxes of the world food and agricultural situation outrageous; we are here because we do not accept that hundreds of millions of our fellow human beings can continue to suffer hunger and malnutrition. We find it shocking and unacceptable that 40 000 of the world's children die each day from nutrition-related causes; and we are here because we do not accept the inevitability of the world agricultural economy lurching from crippling surpluses to disastrous deficits.

Australia is firmly committed to assist in overcoming these problems. The Australian Government will continue to treat the provision of development assistance as a matter of priority whether directly to countries or in partnership with FAO and other key multilateral organizations. In this context I would like to make a special plea for the early solution of IFAD's funding problems.

We do this out of humanitarian concern. But we also do it out of self interest. We firmly believe that the elimination of the grinding poverty which besets so many millions will bring positive economic benefits for all nations. Nor do we forget that poverty and hunger and gross disparities between nations have been so often the breeding grounds for politico/military adventures which ever threaten international peace and security.

Mr Chairman, we in Australia fully appreciate the daunting complexity of the issues which must be tackled to provide longer term security of food supply for all the peoples of this earth.

Today I wish to focus on two issues which I believe are of central importance.

The first point I make is that every nation must accept responsibility ultimately to provide for its own food security through the development of its own economic resources. Food aid to the low income food deficit countries can play a part in the short to medium term. But food aid must not be seen as a palliative or an alternative to agricultural and other economic development in the recipient nations. Food aid, if used indiscriminately, can positively hamper development by interfering with market prices and destroying incentives in recipient countries. The goal of development must always be uppermost.

Pursuit of development goals makes heavy demands but they must be faced and accepted. It requires strong national commitment at the political level of government to identify appropriate development strategies and to pursue them with purpose and vigour.

Such strategies must be aimed at making the best possible use of the resources available -identifying the areas of comparative advantage and making the most of them.

Some nations do not have the resources of climate to enable them to become self sufficient in food production. They must look to those things which they can do best to earn the export income with which to purchase their unsatisfied food requirements.

The inevitability of some nations having to rely on export earnings to purchase their food requirements leads me to my second point. It is this - achievement of world food security is going to require further dismantling of trade barriers and a much freer world trading order than we currently have.

Developing countries must have opportunities to sell those goods which they can produce efficiently. They need to be able to sell them on fair and reasonable terms into markets which are not artificially restricted and at prices which are not artificially reduced by protectionist and subsidy practices of more wealthy nations.

I do not under-estimate the difficulty of achieving this more perfect order. There can be legitimate political, social and economic reasons why nations protect and support particular groups of their own producers. No nation can be expected to surrender its sovereignty to provide such protection and support. But nations can be expected not to do so through measures which rely for their effect on causing injury to others.

The industry support measures which nations pursue should be of a kind which minimise the imposition of costs and burdens on others.

The industry support regimes of many countries do not meet that criterion. Support measures which restrict access to markets, which generate surplus production by less efficient industry sectors and which depress and disrupt international prices are often the norm and not the exception. They pose well nigh insurmountable obstacles to third world countries who must rely on trading opportunities to fuel their economic development and to guarantee their food security.

If we are genuinely committed to the attainment of world food security we cannot allow such policies to continue indefinitely into the future. We must move progressively to replace them with policies which are more neutral in their impact on the international trading regime.

The transformation of protectionist policies may have to proceed in a measured and carefully managed way if undue social and economic disruption in the home country is to be avoided.

In the longer term the countries eschewing highly protectionist and high price support policies stand to gain no less than their trading partners from the more efficient allocation of national resources which will follow.

Mr Chairman, let me now turn to make some observations on some aspects of Australian experience in the efficient use of resources in agricultural production.

It is natural to expect that food deficit countries will concentrate attention on means of expanding output. But in aiming to achieve the most effective use of resources it pays sometimes to look to the possibilities of input saving technology. Considerable advances are being made in devising simpler, lower cost-effective inputs and production systems. Increasingly we are finding this approach being used in Australia as a means of increasing farm incomes rather than resort to ever more intensive output-expanding methods.

For example, much stress is placed upon irrigation as a means of increasing production. Certainly, irrigation can achieve dramatic effects. But it can involve very high capital costs. And all too often it eventually leads to problems of soil salinity.

We have some comparatively large irrigation areas in Australia and we have experience both of the benefits and the costs. Much more of our land is farmed by so called dry land farming methods. Those are extensive farming systems which in the Australian situation provides for very efficient utilisation of land and other inputs.

Some countries with similar endowments of relatively abundant land and a dry climate are adopting these methods. They certainly warrant consideration in such circumstances as an alternative to more intensive systems which might achieve higher outputs but at a very much greater cost.

Mr Chairman, if I might return to my opening remarks, Australia has always been a strong supporter of FAO. It is the main international organisation concerned with that most basic of human needs -food. Its activities and experience are many faceted, extending across the whole spectrum of the production, consumption and marketing of agricultural, fishing and forestry products.

As such, FAO has a heavy responsibility. The problems it must address are enormous. Yet the environment in which it operates is one of severe financial stringency.

All of us are only too well aware of the difficult financial times in which we live. In our own national administrations every item of expenditure must be carefully scrutinised and its effectiveness fully demonstrated. In many cases not only do we have to forego any real growth in activities, but we are forced to absorb inflationary increases.

In this environment, international organisations, more than ever before, must demonstrate their worth in terms of practical activity and cost effectiveness. The details of their programmes must be transparent enough for member governments to assess whether they are worthwhile. Also the procedures for the evaluation of their activities must be such that members can have full confidence in their effectiveness. Agencies will not have our support, Mr Chairman, if their resources are dissipated in unproductive bureaucratic infighting.

Mr Chairman, Australia believes that the Director-General, Dr Saouma, has responded to both the needs of the membership, especially the developing countries, and their difficult financial situation in framing his proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85. He has striven to contain the growth in the Budget but has been able to propose real increases in the technical and economic programmes. Moreover, the documentation of his proposals has been improved, so enabling member governments to consider and assess programme proposals more conveniently and effectively. We fully endorse his approach.

My delegation will be participating actively in the detailed work of this Conference. In so doing, we will maintain the policy that we have long followed in FAO'S governing bodies and specialised committees of providing objective and I hope constructive assessments and suggestions.

Mr Chairman, we will continue our strong support for FAO so long as its activities are practically orientated, sufficiently transparent and cost-effective. Dr Saouma's proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85 accords with these criteria and has Australian full support.

U.G. MWILA (Zambia): Allow my delegation to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election to this most important position of Chairman of the Twenty-second session of the FAO Conference. We could not have a more fitting Chairman than the Secretary of Agriculture of the world's largest producer of food and agriculture products - The United States of America. We have confidence that you and your Vice-Chairmen will steer this Twenty-second session with wisdom and ensure that the resolutions which we shall adopt here may lead to the improvement of the lives of millions of people now suffering utter poverty, malnutrition, disease and ignorance. It is for these suffering millions of people that we are here gathered.

Mr Chairman, Zambia believes that the world we live in is shrinking each day that passes. As such it is getting increasingly difficult for any country to isolate itself from the happenings of other countries. The economic and political events in many countries have ripples in other countries. The world's developed countries are expected to assist the poor and developing nations. If this were done we would then have some hope that one day, all of us will be developed, that all peoples of the world will one day be able to eat well, be well-housed and participate better in the development of the world they live in. This should be the mandate under which we meet at this Twenty-second session of the FAO Conference.

During the past few years, many third world countries have made strenuous and concerted efforts to increase food and agricultural production. Zambia, for example, has over the past four years given great emphasis to the development of agriculture. Farmers have more than ever before been given attractive producer prices and numerous other incentives. It has been very encouraging to note that both the large-scale commercial and the peasant farmers have responded well to these incentives. Unfortunately, due to drought, instead of realising increased production, we have had decreased production. What a terrible and frightening reward for hard work !!

Mr Chairman, there is a great need for massive investment in irrigation infrastructure. I take this opportunity to appeal to the FAO and to donor countries to ensure that funds are provided either multilaterally or bilaterally for the development of irrigation infrastructure for Africa.

Mr Chairman, we note that a number of industrialized countries are restricting the entry into their markets of semi-processed and processed products from the developing countries. In other words industrialized countries are becoming more and more introspective. It is important for developing countries to be able to export processed products to the markets of the developed countries in order to gain foreign exchange - which in turn is required for the importation of industrial goods necessary for the modernization of agriculture.

Mr. Chairman, we gathered here should agree to monitor protectionist measures existing and being introduced in the various countries. We must agree to monitor export subsidies and other aids being used by industrialized countries that are aimed at preventing entry into their markets of goods from the developing countries.

As I have observed already, the world is shrinking and we are all becoming more and more dependent on each other. There is no doubt that improved trade between the North and South and improved trade among the developing countries themselves is beneficial to the world economy. We ignore it to our own peril.

Mr Chairman, we are pleased to note from the Programme of Work and Budget that Africa has been given due emphasis. We have tremendous problems, especially the incidence of drought which is devastating crops and livestock on which human life depends. The Programme Work and Budget should accordingly emphasize water resource conservation and use. My delegation gives its full support to the Programme of Work and Budget tabled by the Director-General. While we appreciate the fact that only a small increase has been allowed in the budget which is now before us, we can only hope that in the future, the FAO Programme of Work and Budget will be allowed to increase at a reasonable rate in order to assist developing countries to resolve the immense problems they are now facing.

On the question of food security, we feel that we cannot talk about world food security before national food security; in fact, national food security depends on food security at the family level. Emphasis must, therefore, be given to increasing the production efficiency of the peasant. His ability to preserve whatever he has produced is a crucial part of food security. In this connection, we fully support the redefinition of food security which the Director-General proposed at the last session of the Committee on Food Security.

Mr Chairman, we believe that the only lasting solution lies in strengthening the capacity of each nation to produce its own food. It is now, however, so expensive to open up new land, in view of inadequate financial resources. The immediate prospect, therefore, lies in increasing yields from existing cleared farm land. It is for this reason that we support strongly the creation of a regional maize research centre in southern Africa. As you may know, Mr Chairman, maize is the staple of most of southern Africa. We have the problem of low maize yields in our region, especially when compared with maize yields in the USA, Yugoslavia and Latin America. The centre would greatly help in increasing grain production and, therefore, food security in our sub-region.

Mr Chairman, our peasant farmers need adequate extension services and agricultural research geared to their needs, that they should understand the inter-relationship between agriculture and forestry. Fisheries development is also realized as an important instrument for development of our peasantry. Zambia has abundant inland fishery resources. There is tremendous scope for both artisanal and industrial fisheries. The development of our fisheries resources will put a great many peasants into the money economy. We need assistance in strengthening our operations in these fields.

Mr Chairman, safe storage of food is of great concern to us. We believe that it is not correct to let the little food that Africa produces go to waste. We have, in Zambia, already worked out a programme of storage improvement that requires funding.

Mr Chairman, Zambia is determined to increase her food production. If we appear not to be making progress, it is not due to lack of will and determination, but due to lack of skilled manpower and funds. We therefore appeal to FAO and the international community to assist us in training our people and in the provision of the necessary funding.

S. LUNDKVIST (Sweden): Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

Almost ten years have passed since we gathered here for the World Food Conference. Although the high expectations expressed during the World Food Conference have not been met, we can register a number of achievements during the past decade, new institutions have been set up and old ones have been strengthened and reinforced. There has on the whole been considerable advance towards the goals set out ten years ago.

During the past decade new initiatives have also been taken. The World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development and its action programme is a bold attempt to redress imbalances and inequities at national as well as at international level in order to bring a better life to millions of people.

A decade ago the world faced a serious food crisis. Stocks were being depleted, food prices sky-rocketed and large population groups were confronted with serious food problems, or, even worse, starvation and famine. Despite some setbacks the world cereal production has nevertheless continued to increase. During the last year FAO targets for minimum world food security have been met. In certain regions we have witnessed remarkable results, thanks to the ingenuity of researchers, support by governments, national and international financing institutions and the hard labour of farmers. However, certain areas of our world continue to face very serious problems. The countries whose situations seem to be the worst and whose populations the hardest hit are situated on the African continent, particularly south of the Sahara.

The alarming reports recently presented by the Director-General on the African situation are a memento to all of us that quick action needs to be taken. As in past years, the Swedish Government will make important contributions towards the alleviation of the plight of refugees and the prevention of acute food shortages.

As was pointed out by the Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme in his World Food Day address here in Rome some weeks ago, there is a direct relation between war and hunger. Most hunger catastrophes that have struck the globe during the latter decades have been caused or aggravated by armed conflicts. The victims of hunger caused by war are very seldom soldiers.

It is the civilian population that is uprooted and deprived of its normal means of livelihood. And there is often nothing to replace it. One important way to start the struggle against hunger would be to struggle for the peaceful settlement of conflicts and to fight for disarmament. This message has to be repeated again and again.

Military expenditure requires more and more resources at the expense of peaceful economic development. Even poor developing countries increase their military expenditure at an alarming rate. No one can say that there are no resources. It is only a question of how to use them; to feed humanity or to exterminate it.

Time has come to start a long needed reduction in military spending in order to use the resources for peaceful development. Thus, even if the main responsibility for a reduction of military expenditure rests with the industrialized countries, the developing countries themselves have to take their share of the responsibility.

Mr Chairman, the Swedish Government has now acquired some measure of experience, extending over a couple of decades, of development cooperation with countries of the third world. Much of this has been directed at rural development, and a lot of it has been conceived and executed in close contact with FAO. All through the 1970s and the first years of the present decade, Sweden has been a staunch supporter of the FAO endeavour to focus attention and effort on rural development encompassing peasants.

A milestone in this endeavour was the 1979 WCARRD declaration of principles. It is the considered opinion of the Swedish Government that all parties concerned with development, whether multilateral organizations or national governments, should urgently pay more attention to the role of the peasant population in development. The peasants, whether they are smallholders or landless, constitute the majorities in almost all countries in the third world, and surely no genuine self-generating and lasting development can come about without their involvement and active participation. This is a matter of social equity, of course, but it is also very much a matter of increased national self-sufficiency in food, and of economic development generally.

I am happy that FAO is showing an increasing awareness of the importance of productivity incentives to peasants as illustrated *inter alia* by the initiative of a study on pricing policies and incentives. I trust that this study will provide the organization with a useful tool with which to assist member countries to establish policies which encourage agricultural production at prices that are reasonable also to consumers.

Much more needs to be said - and, above all, needs to be done on the subject of promotion of peasant productivity. If, for example, scarce agricultural inputs were more available to small farmers their production could increase. To this end the developed countries could contribute by avoiding the use of scarce resources of, for example, fertilizers that would only give marginal increases to an already efficient production but could be of great importance to developing countries to produce their daily food. This brings me to another concern I would like to share with you - my concern for the forests.

Sweden is a country of forests. The Swedish forests have always been a great asset to us. At times they have been mismanaged and overexploited. Gradually, however, we have come to understand that forest resources have to be carefully and rationally managed if they are to give a sustainable yield and thus the same strength and security to future generations as they have given in the past. Likewise forest resources are assets to other countries. In the last few years in a number of countries alarming signs of forestry destruction have been discovered. The forest depletion is of growing concern to thousands and thousands of people. Forest death is a phenomenon that we witness in larger and larger areas in Europe. To bring a stop to this very alarming situation concerted international action is needed. In Europe and North America the damages caused by air pollution such as acid rains require rapid and concerted action. Time is short. Europe and North America cannot afford to lose any valuable time - measures have to be taken now to reduce the emissions harmful to the forests, the environment and to people's health. Likewise the rapidly deteriorating situation in tropical areas is of great concern to us all. Tropical forests constitute natural resources of extreme importance. The widespread mismanagement and depletion of tropical forests is a serious environmental problem with devastating consequences not only in the regions directly affected. Exhaustion of genetic resources and increased carbon dioxide content in the atmosphere are problems of even global importance.

The rapid depletion of forests will have serious consequences also for the supply of fuelwood and wood for household needs, needs that are very basic for the rural populations in developing countries. The human actors are mostly poor people, who destroy the forests not because of ill will, but because they see no other means for their survival than exploiting the forest resources.

An assessment of the tropical forest resources undertaken jointly by FAO and UNEP has provided us with base line data for further concerted action. This study is one of the results originating from the United Nations Conference on Human Environment held in Stockholm in 1972. This joint undertaking by FAO and UNEP is a good example of fruitful cooperation between two organizations of the United Nations system. Such a good cooperation on environmental problems and natural resources management the Swedish government would like to see expanded and enhanced, not only between FAO and UNEP, but among all organizations within the UN family. Likewise we want a fruitful cooperation among all organizations dealing with food and agriculture.

The Swedish Government contributes to a global social forestry programme managed by FAO. The overriding objective of the programme is to meet the local needs for fuel wood and building material with the active participation of the village people. This activity has been undertaken for some years now and I am pleased to announce that the Swedish Government has approved a continuation of its support to this programme.

I am pleased to note that the forestry department seems to have been influenced in its work by the WCARRD principles. These principles should be the guiding principles not only for the forestry department but for the whole work of the FAO.

A conclusion of what I have just said is that, in the view of the Swedish Government, forestry development is a most important sector both for forestry and agricultural development. The world forestry congress in 1985 will provide a good opportunity for us to discuss interrelated questions and take new initiatives. It seems, however, that forestry has not so far been given its proper place within the FAO of the total regular budget resources for 1984-1985, only 4 percent has been allocated to forestry. The Swedish Government is certainly aware of the limited resources available to FAO but we cannot accept that forestry should be the stepchild of FAO. For the next programming period 1986-1987 we request increased resources for forestry. We are convinced that by a careful review of ongoing activities, resources could be reallocated from other sectors. It is our view that in times of economic difficulties, it is good policy that we pool our resources for solving our common problems.

The Programme of Work and Budget for the coming two years has been prepared in an atmosphere of financial austerity. This atmosphere will probably prevail in future years. Nevertheless, it seems to my delegation that with the resources available a number of important activities can be continued and new ones initiated. The task before us is enormous and time is running short. The problems could seem insurmountable. But, Mr Chairman, let me support the declaration pronounced by Dr Bruno Kreisky yesterday. We have only one way to go: the way of international solidarity.

The meeting rose at 18.45 hours.

La séance est levée à 18 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.45 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C 83/PV/7

C

Twenty-second Session
PLENARY

Vingt-deuxième session
PLENIERE

22° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING
SEPTIEME SEANCE PLPIERE
SEPTIMA SESION PLENARIA

9 November 1983

The Seventh Plenary Meeting Was opened at 9.45 hours,
John R. Block, Chairman of the Conference presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45,
sous la présidence de John R. Block, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la séptima sesión a las 9 45 horas bajo la presidencia
de John R. Block, Presidente de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

-STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATION (continued)

-DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)

-MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: As much as we have a great amount of business to accomplish today, I want to express appreciation for the effort that was made yesterday to stay within the time limit. You have been very helpful and we have a very big agenda to get through today. The first speaker I would like to call is His Excellency Mr Kofoed, Minister of Agriculture of Denmark.

N. Anker KOFOED (Denmark): Our meeting takes place against the background of rather unfavourable natural and economic conditions. We live in a kind of paradox. Many industrialized countries face the need for reducing production as a result of too large resources in agriculture. At the same time developing countries must step up efforts to increase their production. The harvest this year has been below average in a number of Member States of importance for the world food situation. Therefore the state of food and agriculture looks a bit darker than when the Director-General published his report. Furthermore, the economic recession which existed at the time of the last FAO Conference still prevails.

The variations in crops from year to year and from one region of the world to another reminds us how dependent we are on the climatic conditions, even in technologically advanced countries. However, we should be careful to draw wide-ranging conclusions based on short-term changes. Reappraisal of concepts and approaches of world food security must take place in the light of prospects for the late eighties and the nineties and not under the impression of events during only one year.

It appears necessary to give high priority to assistance to countries in sub-Saharan Africa where projections of populations growth and of food production show growing deficits. We appreciate the initiative of the Director-General in calling a meeting focusing on African problems a few weeks ago.

We have a good basis for a reappraisal of the world food security concept in the report of the Director-General to the Committee on World Food Security. The report foresees three lines of attack - through production, stability of supplies, and access to available supplies. We accept both the concept and approach. The ideas in the report of the Director-General on the institutional framework in connection with world food security have been provocative. These ideas are still highly controversial because they infringe on the competence and mandates of existing international organizations. It is useful to provoke discussions but it is also important that we take the necessary time to consider the implications of new ideas which change the balance between existing institutions.

The economic climate in the world was rather gloomy at the time of the last Conference in 1981. That was the background for a situation in which a number of countries contributing substantially to the budget of the Organization felt obliged to vote against the proposed rises in the costs. My own country voted for the budget but with considerable reluctance, as explained in a Nordic statement.

The economic situation is not better today, even if some recovery is forecast. For this reason we appreciate that the Director-General has prepared a budget better adapted to the present situation. We have noted the efforts made to rationalize and to utilize the resources of the Organization more efficiently. This is a process which most of the member governments of FAO, including my own, have been exposed to. As a responsible member of this Organization I am obliged to point to the wide area comprising expenditure on administration. There is an enormous development of new technology in this field of which the Organization is making some use. We have also noted with satisfaction that the budget is showing restraint in the allocations to administration and that the Organization will introduce more new technology. I welcome this trend since there is room for improvement in the Organization's performance in the field of administration. With the reduction in funds allocated, combined with use of better technology, it will, in our opinion, be possible to bring about further improvements.

In this connection I have to point to the cumbersome recruitment system which FAO is making use of and whereby applicants to advertised posts are left for long periods before receiving a reaction to their applications. I hope that this area will benefit from a modernization process which could streamline the system and serve the Organization in maintaining the high professional standard for which we all wish.

What remains to be discussed after an acceptance of the level of the budget are the priorities given to the many different activities of the Organization. This will be the main theme for discussions in Commission II.

I would, however, like to mention a few areas where my Government's views are not identical with the priorities given in FAO's Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85. The area of nutrition is one of the fundamental responsibilities given to FAO by its constitution. My Government, as mentioned earlier, is supporting action in relation to improving world food security. However, we feel that it is not enough to advocate and support increased food production. It is also very important to improve the nutritious quality of the food produced. FAO should, in our opinion, pay more attention to this aspect.

In 1977 a new system of FAO Representatives at the country level was introduced as the first step in a process of decentralizing FAO's activities at the country level. My Government supported this proposal, including the expansion of the system comprising an additional number of developing countries covered, at recent conferences. We did so to support the common wish to make FAO more action-orientated.

In connection with the expansion of the system of FAO Representatives my Government has on several occasions pointed to the possibility of a corresponding reduction of the allocations to FAO Regional Offices. May I propose that in view of the good country coverage now reached with the system of FAO Representatives, the Organization be requested to review the long-term purpose and role of its Regional Offices with the aim of bringing about a further decentralization at the country level. To secure the optimal use of scarce resources it is important also that member countries and officials in the international organizations are aware of possible overlapping in the work of the organizations. It is not very fruitful to use the time to compete on responsibilities and concrete tasks. Cooperation should be the key word.

According to reports received, I am obliged to state here that there is an urgent need for better cooperation between international organizations. There is also room for improvement in the cooperation between international organizations and national aid agencies. These improvements should be brought about in the Field, and certainly also at Headquarters. Since we are in FAO I will not hesitate to state that improvement in the cooperation between the agencies situated here in Rome is urgently needed.

My Government is strongly committed to support international development efforts. Unfortunately the resources are limited and we therefore spend considerable time and energy on discussing budget levels and programme priorities. I feel that marked improvement in utilizing the limited resources in a more efficient manner could be brought about by better cooperation.

An important part of the technical assistance activities of FAO is financed from official development assistance (ODA) in the form of voluntary contributions by donor countries either directly or through UNDP. We regard the technical assistance activities of FAO as extremely Valuable and I am therefore happy to be able to say that following a general debate in Parliament this year, the Danish Government has decided to continue to maintain Danish ODA well beyond the 0.7 target set forth in the international development strategy. That decision will also allow Denmark to continue its high level of support of international development efforts in the area of food and agriculture, bilaterally as well as through contributions to international organizations.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I would like to turn to the World Food Programme. This Programme has grown to be the largest development programme in the UN system outside the world bank group, and it has managed to administer large quantities of food aid very efficiently with a minimum of administrative costs. The Programme continues to work as an action-orientated development programme with enough flexibility to adapt itself to changing circumstances. It has, thus, met the sub-Saharan African challenge with growing emphasis on development projects in Africa.

May this example be a good omen for the future of international cooperation in food and agricultural development in the world.

L.J. CASTAÑOS MARTINEZ (México): Deseamos felicitar al señor John Block por su elección como Presidente y por la eficacia y buen humor en la conducción del debate general. Extendemos este reconocimiento a los Vicepresidentes.

La Delegación de México ofrece una calurosa felicitación al Director General, Dr. Edouard Saouma, por la organización de la Conferencia y compartimos con él muchas de sus preocupaciones y propuestas contenidas en su declaración a la Conferencia.

Para la Delegación de México, es particularmente trascendente participar en este evento con tan nobles propósitos, en momentos de fuertes tensiones que amenazan la convivencia y la cooperación internacional.

La recuperación de la crisis y la recesión mundial que enfrentamos no se vislumbra como una mera reactivación económica, es imperativo modificar las reglas y orientaciones del sistema económico internacional actual que resulta injusto e inoperante. Es por ello que México lucha por un orden económico internacional diferente, con apoyo en un esfuerzo multilateral vigorizado con un enfoque de negociación global en las relaciones económicas del mundo.

Postulamos que Solamente en la paz, concebida no sólo como ausencia de guerra, sino como efectivo desarrollo económico con justicia, equidad y libertad en todas las naciones podrá avanzarse en el esfuerzo de seguridad alimentaria y atención a los problemas del hambre.

Destacamos aquí la trascendencia de los esfuerzos que realizan en Centroamérica: Colombia, Venezuela, Panamá y México como integrantes del Grupo de CONTADORA. Reiteramos los principios de derecho internacional que deben normar la actuación de los Estados y que México defiende permanentemente, como son entre otros, la libre determinación de los pueblos; la no intervención; la solución pacífica de controversias; la abstención de recurrir a la amenaza o al uso de la fuerza y el respeto a la integridad territorial de los Estados.

Las tensiones políticas a nivel mundial así como la recesión económica que abierta o veladamente atraviesan todos los países del orbe, hacen necesario fortalecer nuestras instituciones internacionales de carácter multilateral. Vemos con preocupación que la mayoría de estas organizaciones no hayan experimentado un crecimiento sustancial en sus presupuestos y se han visto condenadas a un estancamiento de sus recursos y programas. México, se opone aquí como en otros foros, al debilitamiento patente que han sufrido estos órganos de apoyo y entendimiento universal. Ante estas limitaciones económicas reconocemos ampliamente el esfuerzo que realiza el Director General de la FAO.

Por otra parte, apoyamos todo esfuerzo por la soberanía alimentaria y nacional y respaldamos, sin reservas, el concepto revisado y ampliado de seguridad alimentaria así como las doce orientaciones generales para el reajuste agrícola internacional. Las implicaciones y trascendencia de estos conceptos y objetivos a nivel nacional, regional y mundial permiten esperar que se supere la inconveniente, desequilibrada y peligrosa situación prevaleciente.

Consideramos que el esfuerzo deberá desarrollarse en varios frentes, entre otros: la producción, la disponibilidad y el acceso y asistencia alimentaria. Esto no será suficiente si no profundizamos en atacar el problema de la pobreza, causa básica de la desnutrición, de la incapacidad productiva y de las manifestaciones de inconformidad Social.

Los problemas de hambre y desnutrición se relacionan a aspectos demográficos pero, sobre todo, básicamente a la desproporción en la distribución de la riqueza mundial y a la desigual distribución de la riqueza a nivel de cada país.

Vemos con creciente interés, los planteamientos y resultados de la Conferencia Mundial sobre la Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, concepto y marco integral para combatir la pobreza en las áreas rurales. En México, recientemente, se ha elevado a la categoría constitucional, el concepto de desarrollo rural integral en el entendido de que los campesinos son los sujetos del desarrollo rural y su contribución a la producción agropecuaria y forestal debe constituirlos como los primeros beneficiarios

Nuestro país enfrenta actualmente la crisis económica más seria de su historia moderna, en el marco de una situación mundial en transición, inseguridad e inestabilidad.

Para combatirla México ha promovido reformas a los principios normativos del desarrollo socioeconómico del país con la finalidad de establecer un sistema nacional de planeación democrática; en mayo del presente año, el Presidente de la República puso en marcha el Plan Nacional de Desarrollo para el período 1983-1988.

La estrategia que se propone el Plan Nacional de Desarrollo es la de superar la difícil coyuntura económica nacional e iniciar cambios estructurales que demanda la sociedad, sobre todo una distribución más justa de la riqueza generada entre los distintos sectores de la población y las regiones del país. Con la puesta en marcha de éste Plan, México aspira a recobrar la capacidad de crecimiento económico sobre bases que permitan la generación de fuentes de empleo, disminución de la inflación, uso racional de los recursos naturales y protección al medio ambiente, así como el fortalecimiento del mercado interno de productos y la estructuración de un aparato productivo con mejor capacidad de respuesta a las necesidades sociales básicas.

El Contenido rural del Plan Nacional de Desarrollo comprende cuatro políticas sectoriales básicas: desarrollo rural integral, agua, bosques y selvas y reforma agraria integral.

En el contexto de este Plan, recientemente también el Presidente de la República ha dado a conocer el Programa Nacional de Alimentación que se propone como objetivos generales: asegurar la consecución de los objetivos de soberanía alimentaria y el logro de las condiciones de alimentación y nutrición que permitan el pleno desarrollo de las capacidades y potencialidades de cada mexicano.

Para implantar este programa se ha creado la Comisión Nacional de Alimentación y como expresión de reconocimiento; se instaló justamente este año en el Día Mundial de la Alimentación.

Congruente con los esfuerzos de la FAO, América Latina continúa trabajando en pro del desarrollo agropecuario, forestal y pesquero y de una mejor situación alimentaria y nutricional en la región. El Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura, el Sistema Económico Latinoamericano y la propia Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina, se ha constituido en foros dinámico para el debate sustancial y la negociación fructífera.

En marzo del presente año, se constituyó el Comité de Acción sobre Seguridad Alimentaria Regional del SELA, entre cuyas actividades se encuentran la formulación de una estrategia alimentaria latinoamericana, la puesta en marcha de un mecanismo para promover activamente la cooperación técnica entre países miembros así como la promoción del intercambio comercial de alimentos y el establecimiento de mecanismos de protección alimentaria y de colaboración en casos de emergencia.

El pasado octubre, la Junta Interamericana de Agricultura aprobó la puesta en marcha del Programa Hemisférico de Seguridad Alimentaria dentro de las actividades del Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura, con lo que se demuestra la preocupación fundamental de la región de América Latina y el Caribe por coordinar esfuerzos en la lucha contra el hambre y la malnutrición.

Le preocupa a México la concentración de excedentes alimentarios en algunos países desarrollados y las implicaciones de una dependencia tan marcada de parte de la mayoría de las naciones. Las decisiones internas y unilaterales en pocos centros de decisión afectan, en estas circunstancias, las perspectivas no sólo de progreso o nutrición sino la supervivencia de decenas de millones de seres humanos.

Los países en desarrollo tenemos que buscar la soberanía alimentaria como fórmula para optimizar producción, asegurar disponibilidad y garantizar el acceso a la población de cada país. En este contexto resulta prioritario intensificar los esfuerzos de una mayor cooperación internacional, incluyendo el intercambio Sur-Sur.

Dentro de esta Conferencia, se debatirá el asunto que por su estratégico carácter para la agricultura ha requerido de toda nuestra atención durante los últimos años, me refiero al tema de los Recursos Fitogenéticos. Es indudable su importancia como insumo insustituible y perecedero para la obtención de nuevas variedades para la agricultura, induciendo modelos y formas de producción con consecuencias económicas y sociales sobre millones de campesinos en el mundo. Es este un tema que debe tener todo el apoyo científico-técnico necesario para que los responsables de la conducción de las políticas en materia agrícola alimentaria puedan tomar las decisiones que más convengan a sus pueblos.

Es por ello que México ratifica aquí, en la Sesión Plenaria de esta Conferencia de la FAO, su convicción de adoptar el principio de que los recursos fitogenéticos son patrimonio de toda la humanidad y de apoyar todos los intentos encaminados a asegurar el libre intercambio y disponibilidad de dichos recursos. Por eso, apoyamos el establecimiento de una normatividad internacional que permita el pleno uso de estos recursos, en beneficio de todos los seres humanos, sin restricciones de ninguna índole, así como el establecimiento de un banco internacional de germoplasma. Felicitamos y apoyamos por tanto al Director General en las propuestas contenidas en su magnífico informe.

No debemos olvidar que otra de las perspectivas alentadoras para mejorar la alimentación es el desarrollo de los recursos pesqueros, sobre todo, por el potencial existente en los países en desarrollo.

Es motivo de especial complacencia para la Delegación de México el anunciar que habremos de firmar en el período de esta Conferencia con el señor Director General de la FAO, el acuerdo de asistencia y cooperación para la organización del IX Congreso Forestal Mundial, a celebrarse en la ciudad de México durante el mes de julio de 1985, con lo que el Gobierno de México refrenda entusiastamente su interés de hospedar tan magno evento, orientado a destacar la contribución de los bosques, selvas y vegetación forestal de zonas áridas al desarrollo integral de la sociedad. Durante esta Conferencia será grato hacerles llegar a todos ustedes un documento preliminar de carácter informativo sobre este Congreso.

Al conmemorarse el vigésimo aniversario del inicio de actividades del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, deseamos expresar un especial reconocimiento a los esfuerzos orientados, en estos años, para brindar asistencia y ayuda alimentaria a millones de habitantes de los países en desarrollo expresando que este programa se oriente en forma creciente a los intereses de los países receptores y que sus estrategias se inserten en los planes nacionales de desarrollo.

P. DE KEERSMAEKER (Belgique): Monsieur le Président, de même que ceux de mes collègues qui m'ont précédé à cette tribune, je voudrais vous adresser les très vives félicitations de mon gouvernement et les miennes pour votre élection à la présidence de la présente session de la Conférence générale de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture. Permettez-moi de vous dire tous les vœux que je forme pour le succès de votre action.

Je voudrais de même dire au Président sortant la reconnaissance de la Belgique pour la manière exemplaire dont il a mené durant la session écoulée les travaux de notre Conférence. Je tiens également à rendre hommage à l'efficacité de la FAO dans l'aide aux pays en voie de développement et au dynamisme de son Directeur général, M. Edouard Saouma que je remercie chaleureusement de l'activité qu'il a déployée au service de l'Organisation. Je puis assurer au Directeur général qu'il peut compter sur la Belgique et moi-même pour le seconder dans sa tâche.

Enfin, la Belgique se réjouit de l'admission à la qualité de Membre de l'Organisation de Antigua-et-Barbuda, Belize, Saint-Christophe-et-Nevis et Vanuatu à qui elle souhaite cordialement la bienvenue.

Je me bornerai à exprimer quelques préoccupations qu'éprouve mon Gouvernement au sujet du problème de la lutte contre la famine et la malnutrition.

Tout d'abord, dans son rapport sur la production alimentaire en 1983, la FAO a indiqué que la production au niveau mondial est plus qu'encourageante, caractérisée par des records et des stocks suffisants pour nourrir la population mondiale. Cependant, on constate qu'une situation grave persiste dans beaucoup de pays en voie de développement surtout sur le continent africain. Il en résulte que le problème fondamental se situe dans la redistribution de disponibilités à ceux qui en manquent. Il en va de même au niveau des pays individuels où l'on voit souvent des disponibilités en céréales dans les régions productrices, mais des pénuries dans des zones moins favorisées. Ceci est un problème qui touche en premier lieu au niveau de développement du pays même.

Quoiqu'il en soit la faim dans le monde persiste et la situation reste préoccupante. Les causes fondamentales sont multiples et assez bien connues. Des remèdes ont été tentés à grande échelle sans pour autant renverser cette tendance d'aggravation continue.

Bien que l'aide alimentaire sous forme de fournitures de denrées essentielles soit un palliatif indispensable à court terme, elle ne reste qu'un remède insuffisant pour s'attaquer aux causes fondamentales.

Je crois qu'il n'y a qu'un moyen pour redresser cette grave situation de faim et de malnutrition : elle se situe à long terme. Il s'agit de coordonner tous les efforts en vue de déclencher un véritable développement rural autocentré se fondant sur la mise en valeur des ressources existantes et disponibles aux niveaux local, régional et national de chaque pays et s'orientant en priorité vers la satisfaction des besoins alimentaires nationaux. Dans le cadre d'une telle approche et tant que ses moyens le permettent, le Gouvernement Belge mène depuis plusieurs années une action en faveur de la lutte contre la faim dans le monde.

Tout récemment, sur l'initiative du Parlement Belge, mon Gouvernement a créé le Fonds de survie pour le tiers monde. Ce fonds vise à assurer la survie des personnes menacées par la faim, la malnutrition et le sous-développement dans des régions du tiers monde où l'on enregistre les plus hauts taux de mortalité dus à ces causes. C'est un objectif qui doit être réalisé d'urgence par adoption de programmes globaux portant sur des stratégies alimentaires et le développement rural intégré.

En outre, le Gouvernement Belge participe activement aux activités en faveur de la lutte contre la faim dans le monde tant au niveau mondial qu'au niveau européen par sa contribution à la mise en oeuvre de stratégies alimentaires dans les pays en voie de développement. Je ne voudrais pas manquer de me référer ici au rôle très positif joué par le Club du Sahel créé auprès de l'OCDE pour aider au développement des pays du Sahel et auquel la Belgique est étroitement associée.

Permettez-moi de vous fournir quelques chiffres qui reflètent l'importance que la Belgique attache au secteur rural comme moteur de développement : la part obligatoire de la Belgique dans le budget ordinaire de la FAO représente environ 1,5 pour cent, soit 2,6 millions de dollars en 1982. La participation belge, aux activités extrabudgétaires de la FAO s'est élevée à 8,2 millions de dollars en 1982, représentant environ 14 pour cent des montants fournis par l'ensemble des autres pays. Si on ajoute ces contributions aux activités du Programme alimentaire mondial et du Fonds international du développement agricole, l'aide de la Belgique se situe à quelque 20 millions de dollars pour l'année 1982.

Les programmes d'activités appuyés plus particulièrement par la Belgique se concentrent sur l'augmentation de la production vivrière et la préservation des récoltes complétées par un effort spécial pour la préservation et le développement du patrimoine agricole. Une attention particulière est réservée aux programmes de la vulgarisation pour l'utilisation d'engrais afin d'augmenter la production vivrière. Une contribution substantielle est affectée à ce programme pour l'exécution des projets dans six pays. La préservation des récoltes a été mentionnée à plusieurs reprises comme étant un thème de préoccupations particulières de mon pays. Il ne s'agit pas simplement d'une action isolée, mais qui s'inscrit dans un contexte plus vaste de facteurs qui affectent toutes formes de pertes alimentaires tant sur le plan de la production que sur le plan de la commercialisation.

Notre soutien continu au Programme d'assistance à la sécurité alimentaire en fait la preuve. La reconstitution de la préservation du patrimoine productif par des actions sur le plan de la lutte contre la sécheresse fait partie de ce plan pour améliorer la sécurité alimentaire. Les résultats fabuleux et le succès du projet de reboisement aux Iles du Cap-Vert en font témoignage et donnent actuellement des espoirs d'une application agro-pastorale dans des conditions climatologiques extrêmes.

L'application de techniques mises au point dans ce projet pourrait permettre d'assurer une production maximale de céréales auparavant tout à fait aléatoire. Augmenter le revenu du paysan et améliorer son alimentation font partie intégrante d'un développement rural autocentré, et s'inscrivent dans notre participation au Centre de développement horticole au Sénégal. Les résultats obtenus jusqu'à présent ont amené à doubler la production horticole en dix ans et à faciliter l'utilisation optimale des ressources naturelles disponibles dans certaines régions avec des conditions marginales pour l'agriculture.

La Belgique a l'intention de continuer sur ce chemin et d'appuyer pleinement les activités de la FAO qui visent plus spécialement le déclenchement d'un développement rural afin de permettre aux populations de se renforcer sur le plan de l'autosuffisance en alimentation. Cette autosuffisance pourrait être rendue accessible grâce aux applications des résultats qui sont actuellement obtenus par la technologie agricole dans les pays industrialisés, dans la mesure où ces techniques seraient adaptées aux systèmes de cultures traditionnelles des pays en voie de développement.

En effet, la science a fait des bonds spectaculaires et il serait souhaitable que l'on puisse transposer ces nouvelles méthodes de développement au profit des cultures tropicales; une de ces nouvelles méthodes est la culture in vitro des tissus végétaux où des succès importants ont déjà été mis à l'actif de chercheurs belges qui ont mis au point une méthode efficace de régénération de plantes entières à partir de cultures de cellules isolées.

Une seconde méthode extrêmement prometteuse consiste dans le développement de techniques industrialisées de multiplication des plantes in vitro. Les cultures de tissus d'une part, et la multiplication in vitro d'autre part, permettent d'espérer des résultats rapides pour la sélection et l'obtention d'une masse uniforme de plantes exemptes de maladie; ces méthodes seraient applicables par exemple aux cultures du café et de l'hévéa, après l'adaptation aux espèces et aux conditions écologiques locales.

Je cite également les progrès faits en matière de mobilisation de l'énergie photosynthétique en matière de médecine vétérinaire, mais sans entrer dans les détails.

Toutes ces recherches et tous ces résultats déjà obtenus relèvent de la biotechnologie que certains semblent découvrir aujourd'hui, et cependant toute la science agricole n'est que de la biotechnologie et celle-ci date de l'origine de l'humanité.

Monsieur le Président, Chers collègues, en face de ce potentiel scientifique de recherche agricole dont je crois qu'il ne cessera pas de se développer encore davantage au cours des années à venir, on ne saurait qu'être optimiste quant au succès de la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition dans le monde.

Je voudrais enfin évoquer le rôle positif et constructif de la Communauté économique européenne dans l'aide aux pays en voie de développement qui a été mise en évidence tant par M. Pisani, Membre de la Commission de la Communauté Européenne, que par mon collègue Rocard, Ministre de l'Agriculture de France. Le temps qui m'est imparti ne me permet pas d'entrer dans les détails, mais je voudrais néanmoins souligner certains aspects essentiels de l'action de la CEE en faveur du tiers monde tels que la Convention de Lomé, le Système des préférences généralisées, les stratégies alimentaires qui vont être progressivement étendues à un plus grand nombre de pays sans oublier notre participation à la Convention d'aide alimentaire. La CEE est souvent accusée injustement de limiter ses importations en provenance de pays en voie de développement, alors qu'elle est en réalité le plus grand importateur de produits agricoles du monde.

La politique agricole commune de la CEE a assuré au sein de la CEE elle-même un développement efficace de son agriculture, ce qui a permis de garantir une quasi-autosuffisance alimentaire à ses populations en même temps qu'elle a apporté les moyens d'aider les pays démunis à faire face à leur pénurie alimentaire.

Voilà quelles sont les principales considérations et préoccupations de mon gouvernement à cette vingt-deuxième session de la Conférence générale. Je ne doute pas que grâce à l'esprit de conciliation, de réalisme et de volonté d'aboutir qui nous anime, des progrès substantiels pourront être réalisés.

T. YLAJARVI (Finland): Mr Chairman, on behalf of the delegation of Finland, I have the honour to express our most sincere congratulations upon your election as Chairman for the Twenty-second Session of the FAO Conference.

My Government looks upon the biennial FAO Conference as an important focal point for reviewing the global food and agriculture situation as well as for looking ahead which actions should be taken to improve the world food situation, including the world food security, the conditions of agriculture producers and rural people in general.

In today's world, full of various international crises, it is of utmost importance, that the member countries give to the FAO and other United Nations Organizations their strong support.

During the last few years the world has been going through a very serious economic recession with a heavy impact on both the developed and the developing countries, especially, on the least developed countries.

Although improvements in the economy of some important developed countries have taken place this year, the world economic outlook still remains extremely uncertain.

As far as the world food situation is concerned, the picture since our last Conference has been both good and bad. On the positive side one must mention the good harvests in 1981 and 1982 and the fact that carry-over stocks of cereals are at present at a high level.

However, in many low-income food-deficit countries and in most African countries, the food situation has even deteriorated. Last year cereal production per capita fell in 33 out of 69 low-income food-deficit countries, whilst in 24 of them the volume fell as well. Africa is, indeed, in a very grave shape which seems to get worse. Therefore, it is very appropriate that FAO's activities will be concentrated even more on this continent. It is tragic that in addition to natural catastrophes, like drought, also man-made political disasters like the difficult problem of refugees worsen the food situation.

Mr Chairman, going over to the important issues on the agenda of our Conference, I would like firstly to state my Government's firm support to this Organization. In our view, FAO is working hard and successfully in a multitude of ways to tackle the problems of food and agriculture especially in the developing countries.

The main item on the agenda of this session, of course, is the next biennium's work programme and budget. My Government has studied carefully the Director-General's proposal for Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85, and with some comments which we are going to present later in Commission II, I can state that we are ready to support the Director-General's proposals and welcome the stringent saving measures. In this connection, I would like to refer to some points in the work programme which we consider of special importance.

We are very satisfied to note that the follow-up of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development has received enough attention in the proposed Programme of Work and Budget. More resources have been allocated to the sub-programmes dealing with agricultural education, extension and training, agrarian reform and land settlement, rural institutions and employment as well as women's role in agricultural production and rural development. This we warmly welcome and appreciate that a special report on WCARRD follow-up is on the agenda of this Conference.

On our agenda there is also for the first time another important topic for discussion, namely Food and Population. We are of the opinion that it is particularly opportune that the FAO Conference should discuss the FAO's study at this time, because an International Conference on Population is to be held in August 1984 as a follow-up to the World Population Conference of 1974. We think that a research subject of this nature falls very naturally to the sphere of competence of the FAO. The findings of this study will assist the developing countries in planning their national food strategies and policies and they are also helpful in the determination of international development strategies and policies.

The Finnish Government also supports the emphasis on research and technology development in the work programme and the establishment of a new Research and Technology Development Division.

Another important point which has not been mentioned specifically on our agenda is the protection of the environment. I want to express our deep concern about the risks of pollution of soil, forests and watercourses. We propose that FAO strengthens its activities in this field in cooperation with other UN agencies. I am referring specifically to the problem of acid rain which is a great concern for us all. According to the Director-General's proposal for the next Programme of Work and Budget a report of the state of natural resources and the human environment of food and agriculture will be prepared for the Latin American and Caribbean regions as well as for African, Asian and Pacific regions. We hope that a similar report will be prepared for the European region as well.

I would like to say a few words about the Field Programmes of FAO. It is really very regrettable that the present biennium has witnessed a marked downturn. As the Director-General states in the Review of Field Programmes, this is a most worrying development in view of the deteriorating food situation of many developing countries and the mounting challenge of food security.

This unfortunate development is a direct result of a falling off in the flow of contributions to UNDP, the largest single source of allocations for FAO's field projects. On the other hand, Trust Fund delivery has continued to expand compensating partly the decline in UNDP allocations. My Government, in accordance with its foreign policy, maintains its full and firm support to the United Nations system as a whole. In our development assistance policy the multilateral aid plays an important role. We have been able to increase our contributions and pledges to such UN-organizations and programmes as FAO, WFP, IFAD and UNDP. Parallel to that we have increased our bilateral aid as well, thus maintaining the upward trend of our total development assistance. I am happy to note that we are planning to intensify our efforts in the field of food aid and international agricultural research.

Permit me to conclude by a few remarks on forestry which is of great economic and environmental importance in my country. Knowing by experience how much wise management of existing forest resources and good planning of the utilization of forests can contribute to the welfare of the national economy, I have considered with great concern the alarming results of the FAO/UNEP study on tropical forests. The rapid regression and degradation of the tropical forests presented in the study is no doubt a serious threat to the living conditions for people in many rural areas. In our view this matter deserves urgent attention by governments and the tropical forest situation should be monitored and updated continuously by joint FAO/UNEP efforts.

Mr Chairman, last but not least, I have the pleasure, on behalf of the Government of Finland, to extend our warm congratulations and welcome to the new member countries of FAO: Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Saint Christopher and Nevis and Vanuatu.

G. CASTRO GUERRERO (Colombia): Señor Presidente, Señor Presidente Independiente del Consejo, Señor Director General, señores Ministros, señores Delegados y Observadores:

Vivimos una época particularmente difícil. Los problemas que afectan la producción de alimentos, denunciados en todas las Conferencias anteriores, están muy lejos de resolverse y siguen obstaculizando los esfuerzos que vienen haciendo nuestros gobiernos, por mejorar los niveles de alimentación de nuestros pueblos.

Los precios reales de la mayoría de los productos agropecuarios, después de haber descendido en los últimos años a los niveles más bajos desde la época de la postguerra, se mantienen excesivamente bajos y continúan sometidos a una excesiva inestabilidad.

Asimismo los países desarrollados importadores de materias primas han intensificado las medidas proteccionistas, agravando las trabas al comercio exterior de nuestros países, mientras la exportación subsidiada de sus productos, tanto agrícolas como manufacturados, distorsiona y reduce artificialmente el mercado mundial en un proceso incontrolado que condenamos.

Al mismo tiempo, la deuda externa de los países del tercer mundo, excede la increíble suma de seiscientos mil millones de dólares, comprometiendo gravemente la capacidad de importación de los bienes que requieren nuestros países para su crecimiento.

Estos factores externos negativos, sumados a los propios problemas de cada Estado, perturban los sistemas de producción en la mayoría de los países en desarrollo. Sus manifestaciones son claras y bien conocidas: desaliento de la empresa productora y un incremento mayor de las importaciones de los alimentos, al tiempo que se reduce la demanda de nuestras exportaciones. Todo lo cual conduce forzosamente a la escasez y a los altos precios internos de los alimentos, con todas las secuelas de desestabilización política y social.

Es así como la agricultura sigue sometida al omnímodo arbitrio de quienes disponen de recursos, tecnologías y climas privilegiados, sin importarles el enorme desequilibrio y la falta de equidad existente en esa situación.

Una nueva concepción más equitativa del desarrollo, de las relaciones comerciales y de la cooperación entre todos los países, es la única forma de lograr tasas de crecimiento más aceleradas y de hacer posible un mayor aprovechamiento de nuestros recursos naturales. Además, es el único medio de contribuir a la seguridad alimentaria y a la paz mundial, dentro de un nuevo orden económico internacional.

En ese marco como angustioso que inquieta hoy a todos, hay que situar la función de una Organización como la FAO, el foro más idóneo en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas, para celebrar debates como éste y del cual esperamos que surjan recomendaciones dirigidas a mejorar la situación alimentaria mundial.

Para el Gobierno de Colombia es muy grato reconocer cómo la FAO ha venido intensificando sus eficaces servicios en este campo, cada vez de manera más práctica y positiva con notables beneficios para nuestros Estados.

Asimismo apoyamos el Programa de Cooperación Técnica, que se ha convertido en un valioso instrumento de asistencia operativa, con efecto multiplicador que se refleja en la promoción, identificación y preparación de proyectos prioritarios.

También reiteramos el apoyo a la política de descentralización de la FAO, a través de las oficinas regionales y en los países. En Colombia tuvimos el privilegio de establecer la primera oficina con representante propio de esta Organización en América Latina y el Caribe. Esa oficina de la FAO ha sido muy útil en nuestro permanente contacto con la Organización y ha contribuido considerablemente a estimular mejores servicios y una asistencia cada vez más eficaz.

Por otra parte, el Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola (FIDA), es una agencia de las Naciones Unidas que está prestando importantes servicios de crédito a los pequeños y medianos agricultores. Preocupa, sin embargo, el estado actual de los recursos de este Organismo y será necesario poner en práctica toda la voluntad política para que se cumplan los compromisos, morales y legales, adquiridos al acordarse la primera reposición y para seguir adelantando, con ánimo positivo, las negociaciones para la segunda reposición.

Igualmente aplaudimos al Programa Mundial de Alimentos y agradecemos los aportes que viene haciendo en favor de la mejor alimentación de algunos sectores vulnerables de la población colombiana.

En nuestro país la producción y el comercio de alimentos nos preocupan sobre manera, entre otras razones, porque el sector agrícola es la base de nuestra economía. La contribución del sector agropecuario al producto interno bruto es del 23 por ciento; el 35 por ciento de la población aún vive en el campo; el 25,8 por ciento de la misma deriva sus ingresos de la agricultura y la ganadería; y la contribución a la generación de diviñas de estos sectores varía entre el 68 y el 75 por ciento.

El actual Presidente de Colombia, Belisario Betancur, es consciente de esta situación y ha aceptado el reto de concederle a este sector primario de la producción la prioridad y el dinamismo necesarios para convertirlo en un factor de desarrollo y mejoramiento social.

En este orden de ideas, el gobierno adoptó el plan de desarrollo denominado "CAMBIO CON EQUIDAD", entre cuyos objetivos está la formulación e implementación del programa nacional de uso de tierras, aguas y recursos naturales, con énfasis en la función social de la propiedad. La tierra debe pertenecer a quien la trabaja.

Señor Presidente: vivimos en un mundo interrelacionado y nuestras propias acciones tendrán muy poco efecto si no logramos una mayor colaboración, a nivel mundial, para eliminar el proteccionismo, que como lo expresara el Presidente de Colombia Belisario Betancur en la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas constituye "una de las expresiones más injustas de discriminación".

No es posible que la comunidad internacional siga indiferente ante el crecimiento del proteccionismo, sin que reaccione contra aquellos países que por medio de ese sistema deplorable estrangulan las economías de los países en desarrollo.

El Tercer Mundo asiste impasible a una tremenda paradoja: hay excedente de alimentos concentrados en unos pocos Estados y la distribución de los mismos es tan injusta, que llega hasta conformar el hecho triste y doloroso de que en los países industrializados los animales comen mejor que los seres humanos en muchos países en desarrollo.

Sin ninguna consideración social ni humana, con absoluta indiferencia por la suerte de millones de personas que padecen hambre y malnutrición, los Estados que poseen esas grandes reservas manipulan la situación alimentaria mundial, a través de congelación de áreas de producción, subsidios y todas las formas de subvención, de tal modo que son ellos, sólo esos pocos países, los que determinan las leyes de la oferta y la demanda y regulan la existencia y los precios.

También debemos referirnos en este debate a la tendencia existente en algunos países a reducir las contribuciones e incumplir compromisos adquiridos con organismos internacionales y desplazar esa asistencia al campo bilateral, en el cual es posible seleccionar los beneficiarios, con criterio discriminatorio, y obtener así dividendos particulares. Esta Conferencia debe reiterar su más pleno apoyo a la validez y a la importancia insustituible de la cooperación multilateral.

Quiero reiterar el aprecio positivo de nuestro país por la FAO. Esta Organización tiene que seguir realizando una importante labor en beneficio de todos los Estados Miembros, particularmente en favor de los países menos adelantados con bajos ingresos y déficit de alimentos.

En los próximos años será indispensable fortalecer adecuadamente los programas y presupuestos de la FAO, a fin de que pueda cumplir la tarea fundamental de eliminar el hambre y la malnutrición en el mundo.

Colombia, con nuestro propio Presidente Belisario Betancur a la cabeza, a través del "Grupo de CONTADORA", está seria, sincera y solidariamente comprometida en la búsqueda de la paz en Centroamérica. Pensamos que a la base de la difícil situación que padecen nuestros hermanos latinoamericanos de Centroamérica están los problemas económicos, sociales y humanos, cuya solución sólo podrá obtenerse con una paz estable, que garantice protección y seguridad a las fuerzas productoras, particularmente en el campo de los alimentos.

Señor Presidente: en nombre del Gobierno de Colombia felicito a usted y a los tres Vicepresidentes por su elección para dirigir esta Conferencia. Estoy seguro de que bajo su Presidencia, esta reunión adoptará recomendaciones y directrices que permitirán a la FAO seguir correspondiendo a la confianza que le hemos otorgado todos los Estados Miembros.

Igualmente, deseo destacar la personalidad recia, inteligente, capaz, competente y carismática del señor doctor Edouard Saouma, Director General, a quien la sociedad colombiana está vinculada por gratísimos y cercanos nexos de afecto. A nombre de mi país felicito al Director General y a sus colaboradores por la forma excelente y eficaz como llevan a cabo sus altas y nobles funciones.

Para concluir, quiero dejarles el mensaje fraternal y amistoso del pueblo colombiano, que tiene irreductible vocación Tercermundista. En nombre del Gobierno de mi país hago un llamado a todos los representantes de los países asistentes a esta Conferencia, para que aporten una verdadera voluntad política -real y decidida- en favor del Tercer Mundo, cuyos intereses, aspiraciones y derechos legítimos aún se siguen desconociendo.

STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY JAAFAR MOHAMED AL NIMERI,
PRESIDENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE SUDAN

ALLOCUTION DE SON EXCELLENCE JAAFAR MOHAMED AL NIMERI,
PRESIDENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU SOUDAN

DECLARACION POR SU EXCELENCIA JAAFAR MOHAMED AL NIMERI,
PRESIDENTE DE LA REPUBLICA DEMOCRATICA DEL SUDAN

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: It is an honour for me and for this Organization, to welcome to its General Conference, His Excellency President Jaafar Mohamed Al Nimeri, the President of the Democratic Republic of Sudan.

President Nimeri is well known to all of us. He is one of the historic great leaders who have left their imprint on the present state of their countries. He pursued his struggle until he was chosen in 1969 as the Head of the Revolutionary Council and the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces and Minister for Defense. In September 1971, and in the wake of a plebiscite he was elected as the first President of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan. In the following year he was unanimously elected President of the Sudanese Socialist Union by the First General National Conference. He was re-elected to this high office in 1977 and in 1980. He was also re-elected as President of the Republic in 1977.

In 1978 President Nimeri was elected by the OAU as its Chairman.

I seize the opportunity of the presence of His Excellency President Nimeri to recall with appreciation all the human stands taken by His Excellency when he opened up his country in order to host hundreds of thousands of refugees without setting any restrictions, ties or conditions, but out of his concern to alleviate their suffering and not to leave them as preys of poverty and disease. The Democratic Republic of the Sudan, which represents one of the biggest countries in the African continent is characterized by huge agricultural and natural resources and the whole world looks to the Sudan as a potential for the provision of food resources to a big part of it.

I have personally witnessed the development surge for which the Government of President Nimeri works on all levels especially in the field of agriculture. I am happy that the FAO is contributing to various development projects in the Sudan and in the planning for future projects.

I have the honour to invite, on behalf of this Organization, His Excellency President Jaafar Mohamed Al Nimeri, the President of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan, to deliver his speech which will be a source of inspiration to many of the activities of your Conference.

H. E. Jaafar Mohamed AL NIMERI (President of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan) (original language Arabic): In the name of God, most Gracious most Merciful. God said in the Quran: "For seven years shall ye diligently sow as your wont: and the harvest that ye reap, shall leave them in the ear, except a little, of which ye shall eat.

Then will come after that seven dreadful years which will devour what ye shall have laid by in advance for them, except a little, which ye shall have specially guarded.

Then will come, after that a year, in which the people will have abundant water, and in which they will enjoy their food".

Mr President, Mr Director-General, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, may I, at the outset, say how gratified I am to address this august assembly. Let me also congratulate you, Mr President, on your brilliant election to your high office. I am sure you will continue to preside over the deliberations of this important session of the FAO Conference with your proven competence and unswerving dedication to the noble goals of this Organization.

May I also take this opportunity to express our deepfelt thanks to the Director-General, who has, over the years, as Executive Head of this universal Organization, guided its affairs with singular ability, high-minded devotion and unflinching courtesy.

I now have the privilege of addressing what may be rightly termed as the World Parliament of Food and Agriculture. But was there such a Parliament in the past? Even fifty years before the FAO was established in 1945 the answer was that there was no international body or forum, to deal with the acute problems of persistent hunger, outright famine and chronic malnutrition in the world. These were matters which fell squarely within the domestic jurisdiction of each State. This was not a cynical assessment, but the real fact of the matter. The International Institute of Agriculture, created in 1905, was essentially a body for the mere publication of statistical and other information. And the Convention establishing it placed no obligations in questions of policy upon States adhering to it. It is true that the League of Nations attempted, during the thirties, to make the problem of nutrition an international issue. But that attempt was to no avail: for the League of Nations was not an organization endowed with universality, and anyway it soon became defunct. Only in 1945, as we all know, was a breakthrough in this respect made in the comity of nations, when the Constitution of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations came into force. For the nations adhering to it expressed their determination "to promote the common welfare by furthering separate and collective action on their part for the purposes of raising levels of nutrition and standards of living of the peoples under their respective jurisdiction securing improvements in the efficiency of the production and distribution of all food and agricultural products, bettering the conditions of rural populations, and thus contributing towards an expanding world economy".

These are lofty goals but they are within our reach, if we have the political will and the practical imagination to pursue them.

I would venture to say that the FAO has more or less lived up to its obligations. Over the four decades, since its inception, the FAO has conceived policies at once imaginative and practical, has initiated and taken action within its competence and has solidly contributed, within its means, to alleviate the plight of the hungry and the poor of the world.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, though a viable international machinery to promote food production and agriculture, can only be and accomplish what the powers that be will allow it to be and accomplish. Be that as it may, we in the Sudan, in Africa and indeed all over the Third World take special pride in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. We attach great value to its work and activities, which in no small measure, have helped our countries and peoples. It is often said that the United Nations, the parent organization primarily concerned with questions of peace and war or, if you like, with the maintenance of international peace and security, is a reflection of the international scene, the interplay of conflicting ideologies and the divergence and convergence of interests. That is likewise true of every organization in the United Nations spectrum, though with variant shades and stresses. That may be so, but we are further told that we are not yet in the Ideal City. And that Utopian tendencies and goals must be discarded. This we refuse. It was cynical and defeatist adage of the League of Nations. The League faltered during the inter-war period, helplessly witnessed the first world economic depression and haplessly collapsed before the second World War, which brought "untold sorrow to mankind" on a global scale.

Since the establishment of the United Nations system, including the FAO, the world has changed in a manner and on a scale unprecedented in man's history. With the twilight of the movement of self-determination and the advent to statehood of the Third World countries, international organizations have acquired a degree in universality hitherto unknown.

Since the end of the Second World War a process of rapid change with global repercussions, unparalleled in history, has immensely accelerated. It embraces all aspects of human activities, whether in industry or agriculture, transport or communication, science or technology. International politics has also changed, in that political forces interact upon each other throughout the world. The world economic organizational structure has become so interdependent, to the point that it is now elusory for any power to exercise any effective national control in agriculture, industry, or commerce. The world has shrunk and is shrinking. In one word, we are living in one world as never before. The question now arises: can the membership of the United Nations system shrink from their responsibilities to pursue policies for the safeguard of international peace and the promotion of the common welfare of man, among as within nations?

I believe that in this context the membership of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has a crucial and all-important role to play. I will confine myself to some matters within the competence of the FAO, and, perhaps mutatis mutandis, in cooperation and in consultation with other concerned agencies.

First and foremost we have the agonizing problem of world hunger, I will not delve into the dreadful statistics of which you are well aware. Suffice it for me to cite that 870 million people in the world are under-nourished or threatened by famine; and that 40 000 small children are struck by death or disability every day because, of lack of food. How can such a sad and pathetic state of affairs be justified in this day and age, when the world, we are told, enjoys food abundance on a scale unattained before? Last October the Director-General reminded us with regret that the pledge made some nine years ago in the World Food Conference that by 1984 child hunger would be eradicated, will not be honoured.

At the root of the world food crisis are different causes; some man-made and others related to natural catastrophe. The crisis is further aggravated by the population explosion, engulfing many Third World countries, especially in Asia.

The problem of the deterioration of the terms of trade has been debated at international forums for over a decade. In simple words: the problem is that the developing countries are getting less for whatever they export in primary goods, and paying more for whatever they import by way of goods and services. The drastic rise in the price of oil following the two oil shocks of 1973 and 1979 has been passed on conveniently by the industrialised countries to the developing countries to, as it were, foot the bill. In the meantime, the developing countries, in order to survive and to maintain the minimum momentum of their development effort, have had to incur more and more foreign debts. Some of them, in order to meet their foreign debt commitments, embarked on the production of so-called cash-crops, to the detriment of the traditional food producing sector. The North/South dialogue is now at a deadlock, because of the intransigent positions taken by the industrialised countries, in violation of the rules of fair play, good faith and international morality. It is not right for the strong to persist in doing harm to the weak unjustifiably. This is a man-made problem and can be solved by mutual accommodation, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations must make a contribution in the matter.

Within the general framework of multilateral exchange of opinion, a South/South dialogue must commence with a view to identifying fields of common action and mutual interest in economics, commerce and technical cooperation. Such a dialogue is by no means a substitute to that existing between the North and the South. In the heyday of industrialisation, it was regarded in developed and developing countries alike that industrial development per se was the essence and measure of overall growth and national progress, with the result that agriculture and food production were given a relatively low priority. The deterioration in the prices of agricultural products has also given rise to an exodus of young persons from rural areas to urban centres in pursuit of an elusive "better deal", thus weakening the vitality of the countryside and destroying the equilibrium of society. How can we make the countryside as attractive to young people as before? Can we create productive jobs in rural areas? The FAO of the UN should continue to intensify its efforts in this serious problem-area.

In this connection we urge that the international institutions mandated to promote food production, such as the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Food Programme, be afforded increased resources and allocations to enable them to meet their tasks to combat hunger and malnutrition.

Mr President, a grave natural disaster is now besieging Africa. It is the twin-phenomenon of drought and desert erosion or desertification. The distinguished delegates are fully aware of the technical and scientific implications of this phenomenon. Let me just say that the rate of desert encroachment on our fertile and arable land in Africa is between 4 and 5 kilometers every year. This relentless destruction of our resources and subversion of our environment must be stopped. That is why the Inter-African Socialist in its last meeting in Khartoum issued, only a week ago, "The Khartoum Appeal". In that document the Inter-African Socialist endorsed my proposition to alert and focus the attention of the international community on this most insidious threat to the very existence of man, his environment and patrimony in Africa. The document calls for a concerted and emergency action by all international and regional organisations in unison with governments, with a view to arresting desert erosion and coping with the difficulties ensuing therefrom. May I therefore invite the FAO to play a leading and vigorous role in this effort. The FAO has and can acquire the technical and the other wherewithal to do the job.

However, Africa is not only afflicted by drought and desert erosion. Certain parts of it are ravaged by military hostilities, destabilisation and civil strife. In one part of Africa, military campaigns have been raging for years and years, and the end of the tunnel is not yet in sight. A scorched-earth policy has brought about devastation, carnage, famine and an incessant exodus of innocent men, women and children seeking refuge and security in the Sudan. I must apprise the Conference of the tremendous and intolerable pressures and demands exerted on our economy, food supplies, social services and security by an ever-increasing number of refugees. Nonetheless, we are according them the right of asylum in conformity with international law, and are doing our best to alleviate their Dlight, sharing with them what we have, in a spirit of African solidarity and' the brotherhood of Man. It is true that international aid to the refugees in the Sudan has been forthcoming; but one wonders whether it is commensurate with the magnitude of the problem.

Mr President, the Sudan has been blessed by Almighty God with many gifts. We have expansive and extensive fertile and arable land, abundant water-resources and rainfall, and sunshine throughout the year. Since the dawn of history, the Sudan has been a country with a vocation for agriculture, and longstanding traditions in farming and irrigation. We have big agricultural projects. An important water infrastructure of dams and canals has been, over many years, built and is being maintained and extended. Since the advent of the May Revolution, we have built roads and bridges, where almost none existed before. An infrastructure of transport and communication, the very lifeblood on any viable economy, is being maintained and extended. Failing such an infrastructure whatever we do or attempt to do would be like ploughing in the sea.

In the Sudan the adage is agriculture and more agriculture. That is why we have given high priority to agro-industrial projects in cotton, sugar, hides, oil-seeds and the like.

The components of national development in the Sudan are: agriculture, livestock and agro-industry. Our development model offers flexible formulae of bilateral and multilateral cooperation with Governments, international and financial institutions and private capital; with no preconceived notions, rigid dogmas or chauvinistic tendencies. The laws governing investment in agriculture, industry or services provide solid guarantees and good incentives, in respect to every investment, be it national or foreign, public or private.

The Sudan has contracted bilateral treaties with some foreign states, whereby we offered legal guarantees and safeguards in favour of investments whether public or private against any arbitrary or unilateral measures. For instance, on 17 February 1974, we concluded a treaty with the Swiss Confederation in the matter. We stand ready to conclude such agreement with any state which so desires.

I have perused with interest some of the FAO documents, and have noted that there are some references to the all-important problem of disarmament. For instance, the Director-General has observed in his address on the occasion of the Third World Food Day last October, that the total military expenditure of Member States of the United Nations amounting to 700 billion dollars yearly is more than 30 times the total development aid governments' allocations to alleviate the economic and social difficulties of countries of the Third World. In 1980 military budgets of the developing countries themselves amounted to approximately 115 billion dollars. He alluded to these two statistical facts as examples of the anomalies and contradictions in our world. The hotbeds of poverty and hunger are the hotbeds of tension and war. And the Declaration of Philadelphia of 1944 proclaimed that poverty anywhere was a threat to prosperity everywhere. One wonders: Whither the World? May I offer a salutary reminder from our not-too-distant past. Salvadore de Madariaga wrote a book in 1929 entitled "Disarmament". In it he said: "The world is one. It must be thought of as one, governed as one, kept in peace as one. And if it goes to war, it goes to war as one - i.e. against itself".

I thank you for your attention. May Allah's peace and blessing be upon you all.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Mr President, you have honoured us with your presence. You have inspired us with your address endorsing, in your own words, the noble goals of the Food and Agriculture Organization. Certainly, you are aware that there are more than one hundred ministers of agriculture attending this Conference - a "summit of agriculture", if you will.

The production of food and fibre for mankind - food and fibre, a fundamental necessity of life - is indeed the noblest and most prestigious of our national responsibilities and, as the Director-General said in his introduction, you have served us as a source of inspiration. May I express our sincere appreciation to you on behalf of all the agricultural leaders in this forum.

Now we have some agricultural leaders who have asked to say a word or two, and I call first upon the delegate from Lebanon.

A. ABDEL-MALEK (Lyban): La delegation du Liban a l'honneur de se joindre à d'autres delegations pour souhaiter la bienvenue à Son Excellence Jaafar Mohamed Al Nimeri, Président de la République démocratique du Soudan, à cette Conférence générale de la FAO. En fait, son discours vraiment historique peut être considéré comme un plan d'action qui sera suivi dans l'avenir, précisément pour développer les projets économiques et agricoles dans tous les pays, et surtout dans les pays en développement. Nous ne pouvons que remercier le Directeur général de la FAO, qui, en invitant le Président Nimeri, nous a donné la possibilité de faire la connaissance de Son Excellence en personne et de pouvoir l'écouter. Nous avons été véritablement émus de l'entendre. Nous souhaitons à Son Excellence pleine santé et plein succès à la tête de la République démocratique du Soudan. Nous souhaitons au Directeur général santé et prospérité pour qu'il puisse poursuivre et maintenir ces contacts et inviter d'autres grandes personnalités à visiter la FAO et à s'adresser à cette Auguste Assemblée car cela consolide les efforts déployés par l'Organisation afin de faire face aux problèmes vitaux auxquels se trouvent confrontés les peuples du monde entier.

T. RAISON (United Kingdom): Mr President, I am particularly delighted to express very great appreciation to His Excellency President Nimeri on behalf of the member countries of the European region. I am particularly delighted because of the United Kingdom's close connections with the Sudan and our substantial support for the development of the Sudan. Perhaps I should say that I speak as a development minister rather than an agriculture minister. His Excellency's speech was a most interesting and wide-ranging one and it covered very many important subjects. I note, for instance, with great interest, his words on such vital matters as the grave problems of desertification, the cruel drought and the need to make life in the countryside such that it will attract people back to it.

His Excellency spoke of very many other important topics and I am sure we are all most grateful to him.

ACHMAD AFFANDI (Indonesia): Your Excellency, on behalf of the Member Nations of the region of Asia, I have the honour and privilege to express our most sincere appreciation and thanks to His Excellency Jaafar Mohamed Al Nimeri, the President of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan for having honoured the FAO Conference with his esteemed presence at this Twenty-second Session.

We are further deeply grateful indeed for the inspiring address His Excellency has just given. We are sure that the many valuable matters and views conveyed by His Excellency in his address will guide this Conference in the three weeks of deliberation, and further contribute to the success of the Conference and the achievements of our common objective of ensuring food security for mankind as a whole and improving the standard of living of our millions of farmers and fishermen in the developing world.

L.J. CASTAÑOS MARTINEZ (México): El Grupo Latinoamericano y el Caribe se siente honrado por la presencia del Jefe de Estado del Sudán. Nos estimula su exposición, y su mensaje claro para fortalecer a la FAO y, en general, sus reflexiones testimoniales que compartimos, sobre la paz, el desarme y la desertificación.

Con su asistencia le da usted, Sr. Al Nimeri, relevancia a esta Conferencia. Conocemos y admiramos los esfuerzos que realiza para alcanzar la soberanía alimentaria y su lucha contra la marginación en las zonas rurales. El Grupo Latinoamericano y el Caribe se une a esta felicitación general al distinguido Presidente Al Nimeri y le desea, junto con el pueblo de Sudán, y en particular con los campesinos, lo mejor.

P. DE KEERSMAEKER (Belgique): Au nom du groupe des pays européens je crois être l'interprète des sentiments de gratitude et d'admiration pour les paroles inspirées qui ont été adressées par Son Excellence Nimeri, Président de la République démocratique du Soudan.

Avec raison Son Excellence le Président Nimeri a attiré l'attention sur les changements drastiques qui se sont produits depuis la fondation de la FAO, sur la gravité croissante que reflète aujourd'hui le problème de la faim dans le Monde et les conséquences, en général, de la carence du développement intégré rural, ainsi que de l'insuffisance des moyens mis en oeuvre.

Nous avons surtout entendu son appel urgent à la nécessité d'une coopération gratuite entre les pays et entre les secteurs publics et privés. Je puis assurer à Son Excellence le Président Nimeri que son appel a été entendu par mon pays et par les pays faisant partie du groupe européen.

A.S. SABALLY (Gambia): Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Honourable Ministers, ladies and gentlemen, I feel highly honoured and privileged to express, on behalf of the African Group, our sincerest appreciation to His Excellency Jaafar Mohamed Al Nimeri, President of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan for the most inspiring statement he has just made. The great and impeccable qualities of President Nimeri have eloquently been spoken of by the Director-General of FAO and I certainly do not intend to go back to it. I only want to say that those of us from Africa are extremely proud to have President Nimeri here with us. As we continue our discussions we should reflect on the right ideas that President Nimeri has presented to us. President Nimeri has amply highlighted the food situation in the developing countries, especially in Africa. We sincerely hope that your message, President Nimeri, will be heard and will guide the Conference for the rest of the period we have in Rome. I thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN: The President will be departing now. If you will remain in the room, we will continue the Conference upon his departure. I shall turn the Chair over to the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources from Cyprus to proceed with the statements.

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

J F. PEÑA DIEZ (España): Señor Presidente, Señor Director General, distinguidos Delegados, Señoras y Señores :

Deseo ante todo, expresar mi sincera felicitación al Presidente de este 22º Período de Sesiones de la Conferencia, Señor Block, Secretario de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos de América.

Quiero también dar mi enhorabuena a los Representantes y Delegaciones de los nuevos Estados Miembros de FAO, así como a los agraciados con los premios Sen y Boerma, uno de los cuales ha sido merecido por un español, el Sr. Calvelo, que como experto trabaja para la Organización.

He de dedicar una mención muy especial al ex Canciller Dr. Bruno Kreisky, por la importante disertación que ha pronunciado en memoria de MC Dougall, a cuyas iniciativas y sugerencias me adhiero sin reservas.

Mi delegación ha escuchado con el máximo interés la Declaración del Director General, y compartimos su preocupación por el perceptible deterioro de la Solidaridad Internacional, debido a la crisis económica y a otros factores. Todo ello retrasa y cuestiona la cooperación al desarrollo, en el momento en que se agudiza y hasta se hace dramática la necesidad de ayuda de toda la Comunidad Internacional para muchos países.

Creemos en una solidaridad real, no de palabras, sino de esfuerzos, para realizar reformas prácticas intersectoriales e internacionales.

Señor Presidente, deseo hacer una afirmación concreta al inicio de mi exposición: España asiste a esta Conferencia con preocupación y con espíritu de superación respecto a los problemas que afectan al mundo. La recesión económica que padecen las naciones incide con caracteres más dramáticos en los países en desarrollo, y solo con un espíritu de generosa colaboración podrán superarse sus efectos negativos.

La FAO es la Organización de las Naciones Unidas que nos posibilita un conocimiento amplio y profundo de la situación y problemática de la agricultura, alimentación, pesca y montes, lo que permite a los Gobiernos compartir sus experiencias en estos sectores.

En el curso de la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación celebrada en 1974, se definió el concepto de seguridad alimentaria, estableciéndolo como uno de los objetivos fundamentales de la Comunidad Internacional. Con el transcurso del tiempo se ha conseguido una mayor experiencia, por lo que creo oportuna la propuesta del Director General en el sentido de ampliar el concepto de seguridad alimentaria, incluyendo todos sus múltiples componentes y dimensiones, marcándose un objetivo final: "Asegurar a todas las personas el acceso material y económico a los alimentos básicos que necesiten".

Señor Presidente, España, testigo de excepción de dos de las zonas del mundo más castigadas por el hambre y la insuficiencia alimentaria, África e Hispanoamérica, observa con preocupación la progresiva falta de alimentos en esas zonas, a las que tan ligada está por lazos históricos y económicos y trata de colaborar, dentro de sus posibilidades, a paliar esta situación.

Nuestra ayuda, además de la aportación directa de alimentos en momentos de emergencia, trata de orientarse a la creación de infraestructura que posibilite el uso adecuado y pleno de sus inmensos recursos potenciales. Muchos países en desarrollo se han beneficiado de nuestra experiencia y nuestros técnicos en aprovechamiento de recursos hidráulicos para regadíos, de nuestros sistemas de lucha contra la deforestación y la aridez, de nuestra investigación aplicada a la agricultura, de nuestros sistemas de capacitación agraria que este año ha merecido ser premiado de forma especial en la persona de un español que desarrolla sus trabajos en Hispanoamérica.

Nos parece prioritaria la lucha contra el hambre y vemos complacidos que se trabaja para ello en determinadas áreas concretas, que pueden garantizar en parte la alimentación del futuro; me refiero al informe del Director General sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos que presenta a la Conferencia.

Estamos firmemente convencidos de- que la independencia de los pueblos sólo es efectiva cuando va unida a la capacidad de producir sus propios alimentos y somos conscientes de que los Recursos Fitogenéticos constituyen la materia prima necesaria para la producción de los mismos tanto en el presente como en el futuro. Es por ello que mi país da a este tema una importancia capital y considera que se trata de un problema de seguridad alimentaria y que debe ser función prioritaria de la FAO garantizar y asegurar la libre disponibilidad del Germoplasma.

En 1979, mientras España ostentaba la presidencia de esta Conferencia, la delegación de mi país solicitó la creación de un Banco Internacional de Germoplasma al servicio de todos los pueblos. Esta propuesta fue recogida en el proyecto de resolución 6/81 presentado por México y aprobado en la XXIª Conferencia de la FAO en 1981. En la presente Conferencia este tema se tratará en profundidad en la discusión del documento del Director General sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos. En él se recoge la oferta generosa y abierta de España de poner nuestro banco de germoplasma bajo la jurisdicción y el control del sistema de las Naciones Unidas. Esta es la expresión de una voluntad política de abrir camino al establecimiento de una red internacional de colecciones básicas de germoplasma que en el marco de la FAO, garanticen la libre disponibilidad y uso de los recursos fitogenéticos.

Consideramos por tanto fundamental que con el debido respeto a los intereses nacionales se llegue a un acuerdo negociado que permita institucionalizar, en beneficio de todos, las relaciones internacionales en dicha materia.

Señor Presidente, en relación con la CMRADR (Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural) es de esperar que las políticas nacionales intensifiquen sus esfuerzos hacia un mejor aprovechamiento de sus recursos, incluyendo aquellos parcial o totalmente sin utilizar.

Las acciones de la ayuda internacional han de ser dirigidas primordialmente a la asistencia técnica, estableciendo programas de desarrollo agrícola y rural, conjuntamente con planes y proyectos concretos de capacitación y extensión agraria que permitan un crecimiento rápido en la producción, con la participación de los agricultores en los problemas que les afectan.

El desarrollo de los programas debe proporcionar las necesarias oportunidades de formación a todos los que pertenecen al mundo rural y muy concretamente a la mujer y a los jóvenes de ambos sexos. En este sentido he de señalar que España se ha ofrecido como sede para la celebración en 1986 de la Sección del Grupo de Trabajo sobre "La mujer y la familia agraria en el desarrollo rural", siendo uno de los objetivos del Gobierno de mi país el asentamiento y formación de agricultores jóvenes.

Señor Presidente, el Gobierno español está prestando una atención extraordinaria a los problemas del desarrollo y a todos los proyectos y esquemas internacionales de cooperación económica y técnica. En este sentido se está elaborando una Ley de Cooperación, para su envío a las Cortes, que servirá de marco jurídico para una mayor y mejor canalización de recursos hacia los países en desarrollo.

Quiero ahora referirme al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto valorando positivamente el que se haya limitado a un crecimiento del 0,5 por ciento durante el bienio, considerando oportuna la reducción de los gastos administrativos en favor de los programas técnicos y económicos. Los asuntos concretos a exponer por nuestra delegación serán tratados en la Comisión que estudiará los mismos.

Comprendemos y damos gran importancia al fomento de la investigación que es la base de gran parte de los programas técnicos de la FAO, y apoyamos por tanto la creación de una nueva Dirección de Fomento de la Investigación y la Tecnología.

En la línea anteriormente citada mi país participa activamente en la Comisión Europea de Agricultura y en la Conferencia Regional para Europa, colaborando, entre otros asuntos, en las redes de Investigación Cooperativas, cuyos trabajos y resultados deben ponerse a disposición de todas las naciones y en especial de los países en desarrollo.

La interdependencia entre los países, exige medidas que permitan conseguir los objetivos del Reajuste Agrícola Internacional en la dirección que marcan las orientaciones que se proponen como acciones a nivel nacional e internacional.

Señor Presidente, la necesaria actualización de estas orientaciones, debe permitir una formulación de las mismas aceptable para todos los países Miembros o incluso no Miembros de la Organización.

Reconozco los esfuerzos que la FAO viene dedicando al sector forestal, tanto en materia de producción e industrias forestales, como en los campos de la defensa de los bosques tropicales y otros más, que contribuyen al desarrollo rural. Pienso, no obstante, que debería prestarse mayor atención a la restauración de los recursos forestales, en áreas como la del Mediterráneo, donde dichos recursos son esenciales para proteger el medio ambiente y evitar la desertificación.

Mi país participa intensamente en la preparación de la Conferencia Mundial de Pesca, a la que concede una gran importancia, teniendo en cuenta las conclusiones que de ella se obtengan.

Considero que la FAO debe seguir alentando la transferencia de tecnología pesquera a los países en desarrollo, mediante la constitución de empresas pesqueras conjuntas, o en el contexto de acuerdos de cooperación que favorezcan el desarrollo integral de la actividad pesquera extractiva y comercial, así como programando la formación profesional y las técnicas de mercado.

De esta forma el nuevo orden jurídico de los mares en materia de pesca se irá haciendo efectivo en beneficio de los estados ribereños, contribuyendo a resolver el déficit alimentario y evitando perjuicios excesivos y desequilibrios estructurales, de difícil solución a corto plazo, en los países con flotas tradicionales de pesca a distancia.

Señor Presidente, la actual política de "cambio" del Gobierno de mi país en relación a la agricultura, montes, pesca y alimentación, se basa en la creencia de la capacidad de las personas de todos estos sectores para mejorarlos con una participación más activa.

Mi país sufre las consecuencias de la crisis económica y energética, así como de los problemas del paro; conoce dificultades debidas a la sequía y a la pobreza en ciertas zonas rurales donde existen bolsas de subdesarrollo.

Pero contamos con una voluntad política para ayudar a reformar las estructuras; aumentar los rendimientos y las producciones; apoyar la capacitación, investigación y tecnología y facilitar un mayor acceso al crédito. Todo ello dirigido en especial a las cooperativas así como a las pequeñas y medianas explotaciones, teniendo muy presente la participación de los jóvenes agricultores y de la mujer.

Queremos que nuestras experiencias y esfuerzos puedan ser útiles a otros países y estamos abiertos a colaborar para ello, dentro del marco de actuaciones de la FAO con una mayor cooperación.

Deseo terminar estas palabras exponiendo mi más firme convicción de que las conclusiones que se obtengan de los trabajos de este período de la Conferencia, contribuirán a lograr una convivencia más justa y equilibrada en el mundo.

Debo alentar sus esperanzas en los ideales que perseguimos; en mi país sabemos que a veces esos ideales se van convirtiendo en realidad.

Muchas gracias Señor Presidente.

JOHNG-MOON PARK (Korea, Republic of): We are gathered here again to review the overall developments and perspectives of the world food and agricultural situation, to open the discussion of the major issues related to the expulsion of hunger and poverty from the globe, and to make a decision on the FAO's Programmes of Work and Budget in 1984 and 1985.

In the year of the next Conference, we will celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the foundation of FAO. One can hardly underestimate the contributions and achievements of FAO over 38 years to the lofty goal of promoting human welfare through "Freedom from Hunger". However, I am obliged to point out that we are still faced with the unsolved tasks to battle against, namely, the ever-existing hunger and malnutrition at the global level.

Some developing countries are suffering from hunger and poverty mainly due to the lack of enough flow of financing, technology and information to utilize their agricultural production potential, while some other parts of the world are in excess of food production. Major natural resources are in use for maximizing a few endowed nations' own purposes rather than truly improving the welfare of mankind.

Taking into account the importance of promoting international and regional cooperation to cope with these problems, I hope that this Conference can prove to be a constructive forum to exchange views and experience between Member States.

In the Republic of Korea, high level economic growth has been sustained since 1962, when the first 5-year economic development plan was launched. Accordingly, I am pleased to report to this Conference, that we have got out of the vicious circle of poverty which prevailed up to the early 1960s.

In the agricultural sector, a remarkable increase has been made in food and agricultural production, and especially a sound foundation for accelerating the rural development has been established in rural economy, due to the Saemaul Undong, an integrated rural development movement indigenous to Korea,

Despite continuous population growth and decreased land, self-sufficiency in rice and barley, the two major food grains in Korea, has been attained since 1975, by improving new high-yield varieties and by introducing new technologies. Rice production, in particular, recorded high-level yields of 5.4 million tons in 1982, about 30 percent higher than that of 1972. The production of fruits, vegetables, fish and meat, the demand for which tends to rise along with the income growth, has also increased sharply. Consequently, the change in food consumption patterns to high-quality food increased the people's height by more than 3 cm. during the past decade.

The average growth of agricultural production amounted to 3.1 percent annually during the last two decades. The average household income of farmers in 1982 was \$6,104, more than six times higher than that of 1972.

Under the on-going fifth 5-year economic and social development plan which began in 1982, my government put stronger emphasis on social development for the betterment of equity, and on the promotion of fair-trade in market economy. In line with the above-said plan, rural development policies are coordinated to give higher priority to improve the welfare standards of rural life.

In the process of Korean agricultural development, each farmer's efforts based on the spirit of self-help, diligence and cooperation have played an important role. In fact, the Saemaul Undong, or new community movement, is considered to be one of the most effective approaches in solving rural problems.

Nevertheless, I could hardly fail to underscore the precious contributions to the agricultural developments in Korea made by the international organizations such as FAO, and also by the various types of bilateral cooperation both in financing and technology transfer.

In view of the foregoing considerations, the Government of the Republic of Korea believes that it is quite necessary to share its experiences and technologies with other developing countries.

Since the latter half of the 1970s, we have offered training programmes to high-level policy makers, agricultural experts, and field projects staffs from developing countries, in such fields as crop cultivation, sericulture, agricultural cooperatives management, irrigation and farmland development, policy planning and implementation, and the Saemaul Undong.

In addition, the Republic of Korea has associated itself with the FAO/TCDC programme for irrigation and farmland development and is running a centre for agricultural technology training in the agricultural cooperation agency. It is in this context that we support the position of FAO that the Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and the Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries programmes should be strengthened through enlargement of assistance from developed countries.

According to FAO reports, the carry-over stock of cereals is expected to reach a high level, but more than half of the total stock is being held by a few countries, and a number of developing countries are lagging dangerously behind in achieving food security for their growing population.

It is regrettable to observe that even though the world community has exerted a great deal of effort and invested resources under the initiative of FAO during the last decade, the results have not matched our expectation.

The Korean Government is of the opinion that not only the expanded assistance of FAO and developed countries, but the expansion of technical cooperation among developing countries and economic cooperation among developing countries together with the continued and intensified efforts of developing countries themselves are necessary to ease food shortage. In this connection, we hope that the pledging target of U.S. \$1.35 billion set by the world food programme for the biennium 1984-1985 can be achieved.

With regard to the proposed Programme of Work and Budget of FAO 1984-85, my delegation observes that it has been desirably formulated by cutting down programmes and costs of relatively low priority on the one hand, and expanding programmes and expenditures of high priorities in order to meet urgent needs of low-income food-deficit countries on the other hand. My delegation wishes to reconfirm that the Korean Government will support the Director-General's plan for the work programme and budget for the next biennium.

My delegation also reconfirms its continued support for the plan of action to strengthen world food security, and is willing to accept the wider concept of food security. The Republic of Korea has implemented various food policies for a three-month food reserve system. This system notably includes development of an integrated food demand-supply stabilization scheme in which the concept of staple food is expanded to include vegetables, fruits, fish and meat, beside cereals.

Further, I hope that the draft agreement and international undertaking on plant genetic resources, as well as the establishment of a pioneer gene-bank under the auspices of FAO, will be reviewed favourably at this Conference. Genetic resources are a common heritage of mankind. Consequently, they should be collected, preserved, utilized and exchanged for the coexistence and common prosperity of all human beings.

I wish to pledge the full cooperation and willingness of my delegation to contribute to the great success of the Twenty-second Session of the FAO Conference.

DATO' ABDUL MANAN OTHMAN (Malaysia): I would like, first of all, to take this opportunity on behalf of my delegation, and on my own behalf, to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Conference. We deem it a privilege to have you as Chairman at this session, for we believe that your wide personal experience and prestige will facilitate the success of this Conference.

Similarly, I would also like to congratulate the three Vice-Chairmen on their election.

In addressing this august body today, my delegation is conscious of the fact that we are still facing difficulties as a result of the world economic recession. The world economic crisis in the recent past has threatened all countries, both developed and developing, but, as always, in such crisis, it is the developing countries that are the worst hit. Though today the crisis is somewhat abated, the signs of full recovery are still modest. There is still great uncertainty, especially among the developing countries whose meagre resources make it difficult to sustain an acceptable standard of living. While the crisis was destructive to the developed countries, it was, to say the least, disastrous to the developing countries.

Malaysia, Mr Chairman, Sir, is a small country, which is struggling hard to find its own place in the sun. With a relatively small population and rather limited resources, it is, nonetheless, our desire to make the best of whatever resources we have for the benefits and welfare of our people. The agricultural sector continues to be the prime contributor to our economy, and the future growth of the country would well depend on the progress made in it. Like most other developing countries, we depend on our agricultural exports for foreign exchange earnings with which to finance our development. As with other countries in a similar situation, we are always buffeted by the violent fluctuations in the demand of our products. These fluctuations are often serious with negative consequences on the farmers who produce these commodities. While it is our hope that such fluctuations in price and demand for our commodities would be reduced or eliminated altogether, it is apparent that the free market system of the world had been manipulated to the extent that it has brought us to the present crisis. Under this difficult economic condition, developing countries have to make adjustment, however painful it may be at times, to accommodate the current economic disorder. Thus, Malaysia has, in recent years, in response to the deteriorating terms of trade, to cut certain level of development expenditure in line with the country's export earnings. But, having regard to the importance of the agricultural sector's contribution to the country's GDP, the government still maintains an allocation of 27 percent of the total national expenditure for agriculture.

Having said that, I feel duty bound, in consonance with the majority of the member countries, to state Malaysia's concern over the slow progress achieved in the implementation of the Declaration and Plan of Action of the new international economic order. So much has been said in various international fora, and so much hope has been raised in the developing countries. We cannot but be greatly disappointed to note that in spite of all priorities professed by world leaders, very little indeed has been achieved in a way that may and can overcome the problems of poverty and food shortages in the world.

A global policy and strategy is no doubt necessary. It provides the framework within which Member Nations could formulate their national policy. But, the reality of the situation did not make a global strategy very effective. The diversity and intensity of factors, demographic, economic, physical and climatic, and the stage of development of developing countries, make it necessary for member countries to search for a more effective approach. In this connection, regional and sub-regional strategies have shown to be the more successful policy option. This potential for regional and sub-regional strategy and cooperation should be fully exploited.

Much efforts have been taken by international agencies, like FAO, and national governments in the field of agricultural production; but the gains thus far secured would count very little in terms of trade earnings until certain structural changes are effected on the present unequal trade relations between developed and developing countries. Malaysia lends its voice in support of those developing countries which depend on agriculture for their export earnings, and suffer as a consequence of the existing inequitable trade relations.

The situation in the international commodity trade has, in fact, been made worse lately by the growing tendency among the developed countries to impose more and more trade barriers. Many agreements made in GATT and UNCTAD, designed to stabilize world trade, had been ignored. In fact, there has been an increasing trend towards a growing disregard for international rules and guidelines. We cannot but stress here that the growing tendency towards inward looking and protective trade policies among the developed countries has the potential of leading the whole international economic system along a direction that has dire consequences.

The proposal of the European Economic Community to impose a consumption tax on oils and fats, except butter, including vegetable oils, is an example on the part of the Community, to ignore the principles and guidelines of the international agreement and the firm assurance made at bilateral level. We have but to continue to express our deep apprehension and disappointment at the new turn of events. In view of the far-reaching consequence of the new proposals on the well-being of the vegetable oil exporting developing countries, my delegation sincerely appeals to the governments of the individual Member States of the EEC to stop the proposal from being accepted and implemented.

On the global scale, Malaysia, along with the vast majority of Member States pleads the wisdom and understanding among the developed countries in this regard, and reverse the course they are now undertaking and proceed to return to the concept that we are all partners in this great venture on this planetship.

Looking at the food and agricultural situation in the world today, though there has been encouraging developments recently, the prospect for complete food security is still far from real. We will continue to experience the paradox in which many developing countries will continue to live in the shadow of hunger and famine while there is plentiful supply of food in the world. Hunger seems to continue to exist in the face of abundance.

Malaysia expresses its great sympathy and sorrow to the less fortunate member countries whose ill fortune in food production has been brought about by a number of distabilizing factors, including the aberration of climate and the cruelty of nature.

I assure distinguished delegates that we understand the impact of this tragedy fully, since Malaysia, too, is not self-sufficient in food production. Malaysia still depends on food imports by policy design and will continue to do so as long as we can finance this food import. Malaysia is, perhaps, a little more fortunate in this regard that her agriculture had been able to sustain the country's development thus far.

Even though there had been one breakthrough after another in food and agricultural development, we still find today more hungry people than ever before. There is still the feeling of disappointment and also doubt over the present approaches towards food and agricultural development. In view of the increasing complexity and sophistication, there is, therefore, the need for more realistic and pragmatic approach to food and agricultural development taking into account the changing needs and conditions today.

Malaysia has embarked on the process of industrialization. While industrial development is gaining momentum, and industrial economy has become the principal outlet, focus and attention continued to be given at the same time and with the same emphasis to the development of the farmers, fishermen and the livestock rearers. It was with them we began development, and today they are still a major concern to the Government.

The recent record of some countries in Asia testifies that industrialization could begin from modernized agriculture. We rejoice at their success and take heart that with a similar level of determination and sacrifices we, too, can hope to attain similar success.

Touching now on the role of Economic and Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries, we find that over the last twenty years of the movement's history, there had been a number of resolutions adopted which have received international support. What perhaps needs more attention now is the need for implementation of these resolutions - the need for quick action.

Malaysia fully subscribes to the concept of ECDC and TCDC. Over the years, Malaysia has, with its own efforts, acquired experience and expertise in certain development fields. We believe that some of these experiences might be relevant to other developing countries. We would like to share whatever little we have and know with other developing countries in the spirit of ECDC. We hope also that other countries would similarly respond to the movement's aspiration, so that one day developing countries would proudly have a place in the international community.

In saying all these I am conscious of the fact that it is not my role to lecture to this very distinguished gathering on the merits and demerits of certain development policies. It is my understanding that the greatest benefits any member can derive from an organization such as FAO are the opportunities the organization gives us to study from each other's experiences, successes and failures. It is left to us to avail ourselves of the opportunities commensurate to our own level of needs, and with the assistance from international community to strive for the ideal that we hope to achieve.

It is, Mr Chairman, in this spirit that I expressed my views, with the sincere hope that with courage and determination we can help bring about hope and aspiration for a better life in the future, particularly in the developing countries.

I. TESU (Roumanie): Monsieur le Président, veuillez me permettre de me joindre aux personnalités qui m'ont précédé à cette tribune, en vous adressant, au nom de la délégation roumaine, les félicitations les plus sincères pour votre élection à la fonction de Président de la 22ème Conférence générale de la FAO.

Je suis persuadé que sous votre direction, avec l'appui des membres du Bureau auxquels j'adresse aussi des félicitations chaleureuses pour leur élection, et avec la contribution active et constructive de toutes les délégations participant à la Conférence, ses travaux seront comblés de succès.

J'adresse en même temps la bienvenue aux nouveaux membres de notre Organisation : Antigua-et-Barbuda, Belize, Saint-Christophe-et-Nevis et Vanuatu.

Les travaux de la Conférence générale se déroulent dans un moment où l'humanité se voit toujours confrontée à une série de problèmes d'une particulière complexité, dont la solution est décisive pour le progrès de l'humanité tout entière, pour la garantie d'un climat de paix, de sécurité et d'entente entre les peuples du monde.

L'un de ces problèmes est celui représenté par l'accentuation de la crise économique mondiale, ayant des implications directes sur l'économie des pays en développement, lesquels, dans les efforts soutenus qu'ils font pour leur développement économique, rencontrent les plus grandes difficultés.

Quoique la situation de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation ait enregistré certains progrès, la faim, la malnutrition et la pauvreté restent quand même des problèmes non encore résolus dans nombre des pays du monde, dans des circonstances où, annuellement, sont dépensés des centaines de milliards de dollars pour l'armement et pour le perfectionnement des moyens de destruction.

C'est pourquoi la Conférence générale de notre Organisation, laquelle s'est affirmée au long des années par la responsabilité qu'elle a su assumer dans le domaine de l'alimentation et du développement agricole, est appelée à trouver des solutions nouvelles et efficaces afin de combattre le sous-développement, à promouvoir une politique d'aide et de coopération, objectifs majeurs exprimés d'ailleurs avec beaucoup de clarté et de conviction par le Directeur général Edouard Saouma, à l'occasion de la célébration de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation de même que par le message vibrant lancé dans la déclaration prononcée à l'actuelle Conférence.

Monsieur le Président, ainsi que nous l'avons fait noter dans d'autres occasions, la Roumanie retient qu'une solution viable et durable du problème alimentaire, la garantie à longue échéance de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, réside essentiellement dans la prise de mesures concrètes et efficaces pour le soutien du développement de l'agriculture en vue de l'accroissement et de la diversification de la production agricole. La réalisation de cet objectif réclame l'élaboration et la mise en pratique par chaque pays d'une stratégie propre de développement de l'agriculture, comme partie intégrante de la stratégie générale du développement socio-économique.

Certes, Monsieur le Président, l'expérience de mon pays, de même que celle des autres, démontre que la réalisation de l'objectif de l'accroissement de la production agro-alimentaire, du développement général de l'agriculture, ne peut pas être conçue sans une mobilisation extrêmement forte des efforts propres de chaque pays, sans l'utilisation d'une manière efficiente des propres ressources matérielles et humaines.

Persuadée que le propre effort constitue le facteur déterminant dans la réalisation des objectifs du développement national, y compris dans le domaine de l'agriculture, la Roumanie retient en même temps qu'une contribution à cet effort, qui peut et doit porter à l'accélération de l'essor de l'agriculture en général, surtout dans les pays en développement, passe par la mise en oeuvre sur le plan international d'une large coopération entre tous les pays, tant sur le plan bilatéral que sur le plan multilatéral, sur des bases équitables et réciproquement avantageuses.

Nous pensons, Monsieur le Président, que pour le développement de cette collaboration, une contribution parmi les plus importantes peut être apportée par la FAO et par d'autres organismes internationaux spécialisés. Comme nous l'avons déjà mentionné, nous retenons qu'il est nécessaire de trouver et de convenir, lors de la présente Conférence, de nouvelles mesures et actions afin d'amplifier la participation des organisations internationales à l'appui des efforts faits par les pays en développement, visant à l'accélération du développement de leur agriculture.

Permettez-moi de souligner l'importance particulière que pourraient, avoir l'élaboration et la mise en pratique par la FAO, en collaboration avec d'autres organisations internationales, avant tout la Banque mondiale et le Fonds international pour le développement agricole, d'un ample programme à longue échéance pour le développement et la diversification de la production agricole, conformément aux besoins spécifiques des pays en développement, programme dont le lancement avait déjà été proposé par la Roumanie lors de la précédente Conférence générale.

Evidemment, la mise en pratique des mesures nécessaires pour l'application d'un tel programme réclame de disposer d'un volume important de ressources matérielles, financières avant tout. Leur garantie est, à notre avis, tout à fait possible à condition qu'il existe la volonté politique nécessaire, en premier lieu de la part des Etats développés.

Dans ce sens, une source de la plus grande importance serait représentée par la diminution des dépenses militaires, lesquelles, comme nous le savons tous, ont atteint des niveaux très hauts. Comme la Roumanie l'a proposé aussi à l'actuelle session de l'Assemblée générale de l'ONU une baisse de 10-15 pour cent seulement de ces dépenses apporterait la garantie de ressources très importantes, dont une partie pourrait être utilisée pour le soutien des pays en développement, en vue de l'accroissement de la production agro-alimentaire.

Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi de faire maintenant quelques précisions concernant le Programme de travail et budget pour la période 1984-85. A notre avis, les propositions présentées par le Directeur général Edouard Saouma reflètent sa préoccupation de réaliser une concordance toujours meilleure entre l'activité de l'Organisation et les besoins actuels de l'agriculture des pays en voie de développement, d'affecter une proportion toujours croissante des ressources FAO aux activités destinées directement au soutien des pays en voie de développement. Dans ce sens, nous avons vu l'élargissement des programmes spéciaux tels que le Programme pour la coopération technique; le Programme pour la sécurité alimentaire mondiale; les programmes et les projets visant à l'approfondissement de la coopération entre les pays en voie de développement et d'autres pays.

Quant à l'activité au niveau régional, nous retenons que celle-ci correspond aux problèmes spécifiques de chaque zone. En tant que pays européen, la Roumanie est intéressée à encourager le développement de la coopération économique et technologique entre les pays d'Europe dans le domaine de l'agriculture et de l'industrie alimentaire, aux niveaux bilatéral et multilatéral. Dans ce sens, nous avons en vue la thématique relative au développement des systèmes d'irrigation, d'assèchement, de lutte contre l'érosion du sol et de conservation des ressources d'eaux; à l'amélioration et la production de semences de haute qualité; à la mise en pratique de programmes communs concernant l'échange d'expériences, d'informations, de personnalités de la science et de spécialistes, en vue de connaître réciproquement les résultats obtenus par la recherche scientifique et par la pratique, pour leur mise en application en tenant compte des conditions spécifiques des pays respectifs.

Dans ce sens, nous nous adressons à la Communauté économique européenne, aux Divisions communes FAO/CEE, pour qu'elles appuient la réalisation de ces objectifs qui peuvent faire l'objet d'actions de coopération à la fois entre les pays d'Europe et les pays en voie de développement situés dans d'autres zones géographiques.

Permettez-moi de souligner à ce sujet le fait que la Roumanie élargit sans cesse sa collaboration économique et sa coopération dans le domaine de la production, de même que la coopération technique-scientifique, dans les domaines de l'agriculture et de l'industrie alimentaire, avec nombre de pays en développement.

Mon pays est décidé à amplifier et à diversifier encore plus à l'avenir la coopération avec ces Etats, considérant que par des efforts communs, à travers une large collaboration entre eux, les pays en voie de développement peuvent solutionner beaucoup de problèmes, auxquels ils se voient confrontés.

C'est la conviction de la Roumanie que le problème de l'alimentation, ainsi que tous les grands problèmes auxquels le monde d'aujourd'hui est confronté, qui engendrent l'instabilité économique et politique, des phénomènes de crise, des états de tension, ne peuvent être solutionnés que par l'action conjointe des peuples, ayant pour but d'instaurer un nouvel ordre économique international, appelé à garantir un développement plus rapide des pays retardés, à amener le progrès général.

Je désire mentionner ici que la Roumanie participe activement aux actions promues par la FAO et qu'elle continuera à y participer aussi à l'avenir, afin d'apporter la contribution nécessaire à la réalisation et à la mise en pratique des programmes que la Conférence approuvera.

Nous avons bénéficié de l'aide de la FAO dans la réalisation de quelques projets en Roumanie. En même temps, la Roumanie a participé, par l'intermédiaire de spécialistes roumains experts de la FAO, à la réalisation de programmes dans quelques pays en développement de l'Afrique, de l'Amérique latine, visant au développement de la production de semences, à l'octroi d'assistance technique, et exprimons notre intérêt constant de participer à la mise en pratique et au déroulement de certains programmes de la FAO dans les pays en développement.

Dans ce contexte, nous informons la Conférence du fait qu'au mois de février de l'année prochaine, Bucarest, la capitale de notre pays, sera l'hôte de la réunion du "Groupe des 77" ayant pour objet l'alimentation et l'agriculture.

A cette occasion, on examinera l'état de la réalisation des actions entreprises et on élaborera des recommandations visant au renforcement de la coopération dans ce domaine.

Pour conclure, je voudrais souligner que, tenant compte de notre conviction profonde que les problèmes auxquels le monde se trouve aujourd'hui confronté dans le domaine de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture imposent la participation active et directe de tous les Etats, la Roumanie est décidée à apporter sa contribution au côté des autres pays pour trouver des solutions viables et durables à ces problèmes.

The meeting rose at 13.00 hours

La séance est levée à 13 h 00

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.00 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

C 83/PV/8

C

Twenty-second Session
PLENARY

Vingt-deuxième session
PLENIERE

22° periodo de sesiones
PLENARIA

EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING
HUITIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
OCTAVA SESION PLENARIA

(9 November 1983)

The Eighth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours,
Demetrios Christodoulou, Vice Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45 sous la présidence
de Demetrios Christodoulou, Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la octava sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas, bajo la presidencia
de Demetrios Christodoulou, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)

- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: The meeting is resumed. I call upon Mr Jean-Claude Piot, Director of the Federal Office for Agriculture, Switzerland, to address the Conference.

J.-C. PIOT (Suisse): La faim a été l'accompagnatrice fidèle de l'homme dès ses origines. L'homme a su dominer la terre, l'eau et les airs; jamais dans son histoire il n'a su garantir la sécurité alimentaire de son espèce. Il a été par contre très ingénieux dans le développement et l'utilisation d'instruments de guerre pour soumettre d'autres hommes. Le pouvoir se fondait souvent sur la misère et la faim des pauvres, et le déficit alimentaire a été à l'origine de nombreux conflits entre individus, entre couches sociales, entre pays.

La sécurité alimentaire pour tous, tout comme la paix, doivent donc être la première préoccupation de la communauté internationale et de chacun. A la FAO a été confiée la lourde tâche de moteur et de catalyseur de notre lutte commune contre la faim et pour une meilleure alimentation pour tous.

Monsieur le Président,

Une grande responsabilité vous a été confiée, Monsieur le Président, je vous en félicite ainsi que les Vice-Présidents et je vous remercie de l'assumer. Ma reconnaissance s'exprime aussi à M. Saouma, notre Directeur général et à tous ses collaborateurs et collaboratrices du Secrétariat, pour leur excellent et considérable travail, tout au long des bienniums dont le moindre n'est pas la bonne préparation de la présente conférence.

J'aimerais au nom de mon gouvernement souhaiter la bienvenue aux quatre nouveaux pays membres de notre Organisation.

La sécurité alimentaire pour tous n'est pas un but hors de notre portée. Nous avons lu avec intérêt dans la documentation qui nous a été proposée pour la conférence, que les pays en développement pris dans leur ensemble disposent des ressources nécessaires pour nourrir leurs populations même sans changement des techniques agricoles actuellement pratiquées. Nous avons également noté que bien que les ressources soient suffisantes pour l'ensemble des pays en développement, elles ne le sont pas pour chaque pays pris individuellement. Bon nombre d'entre eux se verront dans l'impossibilité de nourrir leurs populations, s'ils n'arrivent pas à freiner leur croissance démographique et à transformer leur agriculture de subsistance en une agriculture intensive, capable de produire des excédents au niveau des exploitants tout en ménageant l'environnement.

Nous savons tous que la sécurité alimentaire c'est d'abord la responsabilité de chaque gouvernement, qu'il s'agisse de pays industrialisés ou en développement. Cette responsabilité ne peut pas être laissée à la solidarité internationale, qui ne devrait intervenir qu'en cas de besoin urgent. Il est évident que la coopération régionale est un complément utile voire indispensable souvent. La production alimentaire intérieure reste la base la plus solide de la sécurité alimentaire nationale. La solution du déficit alimentaire ne viendra ni de la bureaucratie nationale, ni de la bureaucratie internationale, mais seulement du paysan. Notre souci et avant tout celui de chaque gouvernement concerné, doit être de créer le cadre qui permettra aux paysans de produire plus, de produire mieux et de contribuer ainsi au renforcement de la sécurité alimentaire nationale. Ce cadre donné par la politique agricole doit offrir des prix rémunérateurs à la production et l'accès facilité du petit paysannat aux facteurs de production, aux crédits et aux connaissances.

Les paysans des pays en développement ne peuvent pas produire aux prix d'un marché mondial qui accuse trop souvent des prix de liquidation des excédents des pays industrialisés.

Bien qu'il puisse être tentant, à courte vue, pour un gouvernement d'approvisionner ses villes aux prix attractifs du marché mondial, une telle politique serait dangereuse à la longue.

Le conflit entre les intérêts des consommateurs qui veulent pouvoir se nourrir à bas prix et ceux des producteurs qui ont besoin de prix suffisamment élevés pour stimuler la production n'est pas nouveau, et ne facilite pas le choix des politiques appropriées.

En fin de compte, la protection du consommateur conduit à une protection des secteurs industrie et services - donc des cités si je puis m'exprimer ainsi - au détriment de l'agriculture.

Des aliments bon marché peuvent provenir soit d'une agriculture de subsistance, avec des excédents occasionnels que le paysan doit céder à bas prix en raison de sa situation difficile, soit ils peuvent être le fruit d'une amélioration de la productivité, qui demande un cadre favorable à la production ainsi que, je le répète, l'accès des paysans aux facteurs de production, aux crédits et aux connaissances.

Les conditions de production dans l'agriculture de nombreux pays ne sont pas satisfaisantes. Et de mauvaises conditions de production sont aussi de mauvaises conditions de travail. Elles se traduisent par l'exode rural de ceux que nous pouvons appeler des réfugiés économiques. Si les autres secteurs de l'économie ne peuvent pas leur offrir du travail, le chômage et l'instabilité politique s'installent. Et pourtant, une agriculture plus intensive offre un potentiel immense d'occupation productive qu'il faut soigner et développer surtout pour que les jeunes puissent y trouver un avenir attractif. C'est aux politiques agraires nationales de tirer parti de ce potentiel. Aujourd'hui, le niveau des prix offerts à la production dans de nombreux pays et l'exiguïté des marchés n'incitent guère à l'emploi de facteurs de production extérieurs en plus de la terre et des prestations fournies par le paysan lui-même. Pourtant nous savons que le chemin conduisant à la sécurité alimentaire passe par l'augmentation des rendements à l'hectare à l'aide d'intrants que les cultivateurs, en règle générale, doivent acheter.

Une agriculture plus productive, plus intensive ne fait pas seulement appel à des intrants extérieurs, mais également à la main-d'oeuvre. Si elle est soutenue par un marché rémunérateur, elle peut offrir du travail non seulement à elle-même, mais aussi à l'industrie, aux transports, tant en amont qu'en aval. Une bonne agriculture est donc la base d'un sain développement.

Il faut bien constater qu'en ce moment, seule une minorité de paysans des pays en développement oriente leur production selon les prix. Les paysans dits de subsistance sont encore à l'écart des politiques et marchés agricoles de leurs pays. Pour les convaincre de s'engager dans une production accrue à l'aide d'intrants achetés, il faut leur offrir une formation adéquate et gagner leur confiance, leur enthousiasme, en leur proposant une politique agraire convaincante, claire et stable, qui leur garantisse des prix suffisants dans le cadre d'une sorte de contrat social.

L'accès du petit paysannat aux crédits à la production et aux intrants est une condition préalable pour que les fruits d'une politique de soutien puissent leur revenir. A cet effet, des systèmes bancaires et de crédit agricole plus performants sont nécessaires. Cependant, la capacité de remboursement d'un crédit dépend en premier lieu du résultat de la production et de la vente future, et moins de la situation actuelle. Il me paraît dès lors essentiel que les critères d'attribution de crédits tiennent mieux compte de l'aspect dynamique de la production. A cet effet, il est indispensable que les institutions de crédit agricole disposent d'une connaissance approfondie des conditions de production et des marchés agricoles locaux, connaissance qu'ils ont intérêt à faire partager aux paysans afin de renforcer leur capacité de remboursement. Il est plus que regrettable qu'aujourd'hui de nombreuses possibilités d'investissement à haute rentabilité par le petit paysannat ne soient pas mieux utilisées, tandis qu'un apport relativement abondant de fonds dans des secteurs apparemment plus attractifs se solde par un endettement dont les conséquences dramatiques touchent surtout les pauvres et les paysans.

Après ces considérations générales, j'aimerais me tourner vers les préoccupations plus directes de notre Organisation.

J'ai pris bonne note des activités proposées par la FAO dans son programme de travail. L'accent mis sur l'amélioration des politiques agricoles dans les pays en développement nous réjouit. Celles-ci devraient cependant encore mieux tenir compte du maintien de la fertilité des sols et de la conservation des ressources forestières et halieutiques.

En ce qui concerne le budget ordinaire, il fait preuve de réalisme. Nous soutenons particulièrement l'effort de limitation des coûts administratifs en faveur des activités techniques. Nous en remercions le Directeur général.

Nous appuyons le Programme de coopération technique qui cependant devrait être limité dans son expansion. Nous estimons en effet que les activités de terrain devraient être principalement financées par des ressources extra-budgétaires. Nous soutenons également les efforts visant à une transparence encore meilleure du PCT et de ses réalisations.

Nous avons toujours attaché beaucoup d'importance au renforcement de l'évaluation des activités de la FAO et nous souhaitons que la restructuration du Service d'évaluation porte de bons fruits et s'avère un utile instrument de gestion.

Mon pays, malgré ses difficultés budgétaires, n'a cessé d'augmenter son budget d'aide au développement. Nous avons fait de gros efforts pour concentrer encore davantage notre aide sur les pays les moins avancés et les populations les plus démunies. La première priorité est régulièrement accordée à l'agriculture et au développement rural.

Une part substantielle de notre budget d'aide au développement est attribuée à la coopération multilatérale. Nos contributions en matière d'aide financière sont destinées aux banques régionales et au FIDA. Quant à notre coopération technique avec les institutions du système des Nations Unies, elle est principalement canalisée par le PNUD.

Hier, la Suisse a annoncé à New York une nouvelle augmentation de 10 pour cent de sa contribution au PNUD pour 1984. En outre, nous continuerons notre soutien actif aux programmes de terrain de la FAO par des contributions volontaires substantielles.

Pour ce qui est des activités de la FAO en Europe, elles ont également notre plein soutien. Rappelons qu'il y a quelques semaines nous avons organisé en commun avec la FAO un symposium sur la pluriactivité agricole en Europe. Il s'agit là d'un aspect de la mobilisation du travail dans les zones rurales qui pourrait également intéresser les pays en développement.

Enfin, la situation alimentaire alarmante qui nous a été décrite concernant les populations de nombreux pays africains nous incite à considérer leurs besoins accrus avec une bienveillance toute particulière et nous nous réjouissons de participer à la réunion qui aura lieu demain après-midi.

Il me paraît que les problèmes qui nous préoccupent peuvent trouver une solution, La sécurité alimentaire pour tous est donc à notre portée, efforçons-nous de la rechercher avec la détermination, la compétence et la solidarité nécessaires.

T. RAISON (United Kingdom): This is my first visit to FAO, and I am very glad to have the opportunity to address the Conference on behalf of Her Majesty's Government and to reaffirm the United Kingdom's support for the Organization.

I would like also to welcome the new members of our Organization to our growing family - Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Saint Christopher and Nevis, whose Independence ceremonies I attended only a few weeks ago, and Vanuatu. My welcome is all the warmer, of course, because they are Commonwealth countries.

The aim of the FAO is essentially to help humanity in its struggle to free itself from hunger. It has achieved much since its foundation nearly 40 years ago. But if there have been some notable successes in a number of areas of the world in agriculture, fisheries and forestry, there have also been severe setbacks.

The latest cause for concern must be the particularly difficult situation in Southern Africa and in the Sahel, where the prolonged drought has already added to already severe problems. We have on a bilateral basis already given considerably to the countries most severely affected.

FAO has moved swiftly to alert the international community - most recently at the important meeting held on 19 October here in Rome immediately prior to the meeting of the Committee on Food Aid. Mr Saouma's introductory remarks to that meeting and at the Conference set the problem out with stark clarity, and at the same time gave heartening evidence of the extent of FAO's concentration - some 40 percent of the regular budget - on sub-Saharan Africa.

We in the United Kingdom understand the need for immediate help and have recently provided some £1/2 million of drought relief assistance to Ethiopia, donated trucks for Botswana, contributed towards an emergency air lift of food to Chad, and provided transport for relief supplies in Mauritania. We have also helped in Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

This is only the disaster relief element in our programme. We naturally have projects in many countries designed to make it less likely that these problems will recur. For example, we are involved in water supply programmes in Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland and in the Western Savannah area of the Sudan. We are assisting with irrigation in Zambia, and evaluating underground water resources in Botswana. In short, we continue to regard Africa as a prime area in need of our assistance, and we attempt to relate our aid closely to the countries' needs and to be responsive to their requests.

Natural disasters, droughts and diseases which slowly but surely stifle production, floods and whirlwinds which destroy in a few minutes the patient work of years, are all the more cruel because they most frequently strike those least able to resist them. And to the number of these familiar demons stalking abroad has been added another - economic recession.

Natural disasters have, at least usually, the characteristic that they do not strike everywhere and everyone at once. The drought in the Sahel does not affect the rice growers of India or the sugar-cane crop in the Caribbean. But the economic crisis has hit us all, including those of us who are normally spared the worst of the natural disasters. As a result of the recession, governments everywhere have had to try to find ways of saving money. They have looked as far as possible for savings on the inessentials, both in their domestic and overseas spending, so that they can keep the essentials of their programmes unaffected. The British Government has been no exception. We have had to look, both at home and abroad, for the most effective and economical use of limited funds.

It is against this background that the British Government and a number of other governments have been obliged to approach the problem of the budgets of international organizations of which they are members. We must now, of all times, get value for money, ensure that it is well spent on the things that matter most and ensure that none of it is wasted.

It is right, therefore, that the Director-General has been able to submit proposals for only modest real growth in his Programme of Work and Budget. I appreciate in particular his proposals for effecting a major shift in resources to substantive programmes and a reduction in administrative expenditure. I am happy to say that we will be able to give our support to this Budget, even if there are a few points which my delegation will wish to discuss further during the Conference. It goes a long way towards the aim of greater effectiveness in the field, which is in all our interests.

There are, of course, encouraging signs that economic activity is picking up, at least in certain areas. But this recovery is still fragile. We cannot afford to take it for granted. Even if the signs of recovery were more encouraging, it would continue to make sense for developmental organizations to aim at the greatest possible cost effectiveness.

This is why we attach so much importance to the Director-General's proposals for ordering his strategies and priorities for 1984-85. In general, we agree with them. It must be right for the Organization to concentrate on the poorest countries, because that is where the need is greatest and that is why we approve his concentration on Africa. We appreciate fully the problems posed by the present limitation on resources. The promotion of local activities in rural development is particularly welcome, so is the increase in technical and economic programmes designed to develop greater self-reliance in food supply and to encourage technical and economic cooperation between developing countries themselves - very much in line with the Lagos Plan of Action in Africa.

It is in this light that we ourselves look at the question of food aid. Apart from its use in famine relief and emergencies - when, of course, we strongly support its use - we do not really regard it as the best way of countering the problem of world hunger. We therefore prefer to support a policy aimed at the adoption of national food strategies by developing countries, under which all activities directed towards food availability are integrated within the development plans for the country as a whole. This is in line with FAO's own policies. In looking at one or two of the points in the Director-General's proposals, I have found it useful to relate them to the function of the FAO as given in the Constitution. The first is to "collect, analyse, interpret and disseminate information relating to nutrition, food and agriculture". It has a duty therefore to keep the world informed about progress in agriculture, about new developments and new agricultural techniques; to warn the world of impending problems; to provide suggestions for improvement and solving problems as they arise; and to assist the course of development generally. Examples of their work in the field which are particularly valuable to us are the early warning system, the review of the state of food and agriculture, and the numerous technical meetings to deal with specific problems.

FAO has fulfilled this information function admirably. Without its efforts, many problems would have been more serious, and much helpful knowledge would not have been diffused. We fully agree, in this context, with the priority given by the Director-General to the development of research and technology, and to the proposal for allocating additional resources to the programme for food and agricultural information and analysis. We also regard the FAO specialist panels, which are a vital link in getting the right level of know-how through to the end-user, as a particularly valuable and active part of FAO's function.

As part of the information function, many Member States, ourselves included, have found great value in the technical consultations which take place, both informally and in the three major Committees dealing with Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. I should like to make a plea to all Member States that, wherever possible, they should ensure that delegations to these important meetings should be fully technically qualified and able to make a creative and informed part in the proceedings. This is necessary because of the pace of development in all these fields, because of the complexity and intractable nature of many of the problems, and because of the need for the world to be aware of the investment risks and opportunities in the development of agriculture. I know that representation at meetings poses difficulties for some countries; but it is generally true that time spent on discussing technical problems is time well spent.

The other functions of the FAO, as listed in the Constitution, can perhaps be conveniently described under the heading of technical work. The range and quality of this work is well-known. Some of those which I would like to pick out are its help, in cooperation with other donors, in crop production work and the attack on trypanosomiasis. But what I find especially impressive is the range of work undertaken by the Organization, from, for example, advising on a single irrigation project in one country, perhaps for one village, to the formulation of overall schemes for rural development; from the development of new seed for a particular area to the establishment of whole forests; from advice to the single fisherman on improving his techniques to advice to governments on the development of fisheries in their Exclusive Economic Zones.

The sheer scope of the work tackled compels our admiration. But because there is so much and because of its complexity it is all the more difficult to follow and to ensure that there is a proper ordering of priorities. This is why we are particularly glad to see the Director-General's reports on both the Regular and the Field Programmes which have been presented to this Conference. The reports offer an essential overview of FAO's past activities on which we can base our attitude to future programmes.

I note, too, the welcomed emphasis he has given to programme monitoring in his introduction to the Programme of Work and Budget. This prompts me to recall the importance attached by the UK to programme evaluation. It is essential to ensure that we have the best possible analysis of the success of a project once it is completed.

We are glad, too, that the Director-General's reports bring out the importance placed on extension services. We believe these are vital to ensure that the benefits of research training in agriculture do actually reach those in need.

In the last decade, FAO has seen an enormous extension of its technical work. It has ceased to be solely the agent for other organizations for technical cooperation in the field. It has for some time now had its own technical cooperation programme. We accept this development although we believe that it is important to preserve UNDP's central role in the UN system. We also welcome the priority given to the concepts of technical cooperation and economic cooperation among developing countries.

It is clear from what I have said that we regard FAO as being at the very centre of the fight against hunger. It is not, however, for very good reasons, the only body in the United Nations system concerned with food and agriculture. For example, this year we are celebrating the Twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the World Food Programme; and the Conference will no doubt record its justifiable appreciation of the vital work carried out in the name of the World Food Programme since 1963. But WFP is only one of a number of agencies with an interest in one aspect or another of food and agriculture and we must perhaps look briefly at the question of collaboration between them.

Resources for development are now under heavy strain, and the aim of all concerned must be to avoid waste. We are confident that FAO share these views, and that their staff in post will be more than willing to collaborate with all United Nations and bilateral agencies, ensuring the maximum benefit to developing countries.

I have covered in my speech a number of detailed points about the FAO. They are all important. They cannot be neglected because attention to detail, rigorous planning, implementation and evaluation of programmes and projects are essential to any well-run organization. In particular, they allow that dedication to a cause which should be, and is, a hallmark of those working in the FAO to be applied to the greatest possible effect.

But of course the success or failure of the FAO does not depend only on the permanent staff and experts. They depend on the efforts of us all especially at this time when the problems of Africa are so pressing. We are all partners in what FAO has achieved, and we share the responsibility for needs still not met. I can assure the Conference that my Government will continue to play its part to ensure that the FAO is as efficient and as effective as it must be if we are to win the battle to wipe hunger from the face of the earth.

L. BEN OSMAN (Tunisie):(langue originale arabe): En tout premier lieu, j'aimerais exprimer toute ma fierté de participer aux travaux de cette session, qui sont considérés véritablement comme un sommet agricole international et comme une précieuse occasion offerte aux responsables du développement agricole venus des quatre coins du monde pour dialoguer et pour discuter d'un des sujets les plus importants de l'époque contemporaine, je veux parler du développement de la production agricole et alimentaire, problème qui en plus de son importance économique et sociale, commence à avoir des répercussions sur le plan politique et sur le plan de la sécurité.

La Tunisie est tout à fait convaincue du rôle de tout premier plan qui revient à la FAO dans le domaine du développement agricole dans les pays membres et elle est d'ailleurs toujours le membre actif que vous avez connu et qui sera soucieux d'assumer ses responsabilités et d'oeuvrer pour la réalisation des objectifs de la FAO et pour servir la cause de la paix, de la sécurité et du progrès de l'humanité tout entière.

Personne ne peut nier l'apport de la FAO aux divers pays membres et le soutien qu'accorde l'Organisation dans les divers domaines de l'activité agricole et ce par le truchement d'échanges fructueux sur le plan technique et scientifique par les précieuses études élaborées par les divers départements et par la contribution efficace à la lutte contre le phénomène de la faim, de la sous-alimentation et pour la réalisation du progrès et du bien-être pour tous les peuples du monde.

C'est là que réside l'importance du rôle que doit jouer la FAO dans la situation alimentaire internationale qui ne cesse de se détériorer et ce, malgré le fait que des succès éblouissants ont été réalisés par les êtres humains dans les domaines scientifique et technique. C'est pour cela qu'il faut absolument fournir à l'Organisation les moyens financiers nécessaires susceptibles de lui permettre d'assumer pleinement ses responsabilités croissantes. D'ailleurs, la Tunisie appuie pleinement l'orientation saine définie par le Directeur général dans le but de renforcer les moyens financiers consacrés aux activités techniques en réduisant les dépenses administratives d'organisation.

La situation alimentaire ne cesse de se détériorer depuis plusieurs années et en est venue aujourd'hui à menacer la vie de centaines de millions d'êtres humains et à empêcher sérieusement leur marche vers le développement. Cette situation s'aggrave surtout que les résultats obtenus jusqu'ici sur le plan de la production restent tout à fait en deçà du niveau souhaité, ce qui provoque l'inquiétude de larges couches de la population mondiale et plus particulièrement en Afrique.

Vu la détérioration de cet état de choses, la volonté de conserver les intérêts nationaux s'est renforcée et les pays développés ont fait preuve d'une certaine réticence à accorder l'aide en faveur des pays en développement dont les économies ont le plus souffert.

Nul doute que la persistance de cette crise alimentaire, voire son aggravation au moment d'une terrible crise économique mondiale, n'aide aucunement à l'instauration de la sécurité, de la stabilité et de la paix dans le monde.

Il va de soi que des politiques de récession, d'ostracisme et de protection commerciale n'aident nullement les objectifs d'interdépendance économique et de progrès globalement souhaités.

Dans ce contexte, je suis tout à fait heureux d'exprimer le soutien de la Tunisie à la vision courageuse et positive dont a fait preuve le Directeur général en définissant la sécurité alimentaire dans son sens le plus large et ce, dans le but de résoudre le problème avec le maximum d'efficacité. Nous espérons que le Directeur général pourra obtenir tous les moyens nécessaires à la réalisation de ce plan.

Les peuples des pays en développement sont devenus de plus en plus conscients du problème de la sécurité alimentaire et d'ailleurs les responsables des divers pays en développement ont bien reflété cette prise de conscience de leur peuple dans les plans de développement et dans la mobilisation de toutes les ressources disponibles pour accorder la priorité absolue à l'agriculture, car le développement du secteur agricole et la promotion de sa productivité s'inscrivent dans le cadre des responsabilités des peuples eux-mêmes. Il est possible de réaliser ces objectifs en comptant sur un effort national réel et continu, qui repose en tout premier lieu sur la capacité nationale et sur l'exploitation des ressources humaine et matérielle disponibles.

Toutefois, Monsieur le Président, il est impossible à notre avis d'emporter la bataille du développement économique et social et d'éliminer la pauvreté et la sous-alimentation sans la promotion d'une coopération fructueuse et l'intensification des échanges entre les peuples et sans le développement de l'agriculture, d'une manière qui tirerait profit des progrès scientifiques et technologiques, et sans l'ouverture des marchés des produits agricoles des pays en développement.

Dans ce cadre, Monsieur le Président, j'aimerais vous affirmer la nécessité de la coopération agricole entre pays développés et en développement, ce qui nous incite à rechercher tous les moyens susceptibles de renforcer la coopération agricole horizontale entre pays en développement, en raison de la similitude des données qui permettent de tirer profit des possibilités de la coopération technique tout en réduisant leur coût et ce, dans le but de promouvoir et de renforcer l'intégration économique et régionale. La Tunisie veille toujours à ce que la coopération se traduise dans les faits dans tous les domaines et surtout dans le secteur agricole.

Mesdames et Messieurs, la Tunisie a oeuvré, dans son Sixième Plan de développement économique et social, à concrétiser sa conviction, c'est-à-dire à donner la priorité absolue à la promotion de l'agriculture en la transformant en véritable pilier de l'économie nationale.

C'est dans cet esprit que 13,9 pour cent des investissements globaux ont été consacrés à cet effort. Cette augmentation vise trois objectifs.

Premièrement, le renforcement des infrastructures dans le domaine de l'eau et de l'irrigation, dans le but de faciliter l'accès des agriculteurs à ce genre d'activités.

Deuxièmement, le renforcement des principaux secteurs tels que viande, céréales, beurre et lait dans le but de réaliser l'autosuffisance.

Troisièmement l'encouragement de l'exploitation agricole intensive et moderne et intégrée et ce, pour augmenter la productivité.

A plus long terme, nos plans visent à l'exploration et à l'exploitation de toutes les ressources naturelles disponibles au bénéfice de la réalisation de nos objectifs économiques et sociaux et pour la modernisation des moyens de production pour mieux exploiter nos ressources.

Toutefois, ces grands investissements ne suffisent pas à faire réussir le plan et à atteindre les objectifs définis car il faut en même temps encourager les agriculteurs pour les inciter à travailler avec beaucoup d'enthousiasme et de volonté.

Dans ce même contexte, un journal d'investissement agricole a été publié. Ce journal contient tous les encouragements et tous les avantages accordés aux agriculteurs. Il donne aussi la liste des entreprises et des individus qui jouent un rôle actif dans le secteur agricole. Il vise à organiser ce secteur, à trouver un grand nombre de promoteurs agricoles, à renforcer la crédibilité de l'agriculture aux yeux des investisseurs. Il vise à dépasser le stade de l'agriculture individuelle isolée pour créer une jeune génération de promoteurs agricoles à l'instar des promoteurs industriels et touristiques dans le but d'assurer cette évolution sur le plan législatif pour le soutien et pour le renforcement de cet effort et pour en profiter dans les faits, une agence de promotion des investissements agricoles appelée APIA et une Banque nationale pour le développement agricole ont été créées pour encadrer ces promoteurs agricoles, les orienter, les aider choisir les projets fiables et leur fournir les investissements nécessaires à ces projets.

Nous sommes convaincus par ailleurs de la nécessité de changer les structures d'exportation dans le but de faire participer les grandes entreprises et institutions à la revalorisation et à l'exploitation des terres agricoles surtout dans les zones insuffisamment exploitées et qui nécessitent la consécration de ressources matérielles, techniques et humaines importantes et impossibles à trouver chez un seul exploitant.

Notre vision du travail agricole et des exploitants agricoles est une vision globale qui vise à offrir leur chance à des producteurs, qu'ils soient petits ou grands, pour les inciter à produire, à créer et à participer au développement à leur façon propre.

Parallèlement à ces efforts et compte tenu de la situation agricole qui prévaut en Tunisie et qui se caractérise par un grand nombre de petits et moyens agriculteurs, l'Etat ne cesse d'accorder ce genre d'aide à cette majorité de professionnels de l'activité agricole.

A ce sujet, j'aimerais saluer le PAM qui accorde une aide efficace et positive à tous ces petits et moyens agriculteurs et ce, dans le cadre de projets bien définis et très fiables, ce qui nous incite en Tunisie à penser que les projets du PAM sont un véritable instrument de développement de grande valeur et de ce fait, qu'ils s'inscrivent dans le plan de développement économique et social du pays.

La Tunisie, dans ce même cadre, a pris un certain nombre de mesures visant à faciliter l'obtention des prêts et à renforcer l'encadrement technique des agriculteurs et ce, par l'orientation et la généralisation des services tels que la fourniture des instruments de la production, par l'analyse de l'eau et de la terre, par l'aide à l'écoulement et à la commercialisation des récoltes en soutenant des coopératives de service disponibles et en encourageant et en créant d'autres dans les zones où les structures d'approvisionnement et de commercialisation sont inexistantes.

Par ailleurs, un Fonds de Solidarité et de Coopération a été créé dans le but d'apporter un soutien réel aux entreprises nationales et aux coopératives de service qui ont besoin de financer leurs investissements. L'Etat oeuvre aussi, en même temps, à trouver un équilibre entre le producteur et le consommateur dans le but de protéger l'harmonie sociale. C'est pour cela qu'il a protégé la création d'un Fonds de subvention des légumes et des fruits, ce qui aide à inspirer confiance aux agriculteurs tout en fournissant les produits de première nécessité au marché à des prix abordables.

Le but de tout cet effort est d'intégrer rapidement cette catégorie d'agriculteurs dans le cycle économique national et ce en les incitant matériellement et techniquement à créer des projets intégrés qui soient de véritables unités économiques comprenant diverses activités connexes permettant de promouvoir l'exploitation de la terre et de varier les récoltes.

Autant nous sommes soucieux d'aider et de soutenir les agriculteurs et de leur créer des conditions propices susceptibles de leur permettre de bien travailler, autant nous sommes encore plus soucieux de changer leur mentalité pour leur permettre d'assimiler les derniers progrès réalisés en matière agricole car la modernisation et la prospérité agricoles dépendent du degré d'assimilation des techniques et sciences modernes par des professionnels des différents secteurs.

C'est la raison pour laquelle nous avons déployé autant d'efforts que possible pour renforcer la recherche agricole et réaliser la décentralisation par la création de véritables relais, d'antennes régionales de recherches sectorielles - oliviers, betteraves à sucre, dattiers - dans le but de

rapprocher les chercheurs du centre de production et de lui permettre d'être au courant des préoccupations des agriculteurs. On aura ainsi créé une relation étroite entre les chercheurs et l'agriculteur, ceci pour les sensibiliser aux recherches et à leurs effets bénéfiques sur la modernisation de l'agriculture.

On pourra lors d'une étape ultérieure faire participer les agriculteurs aux expériences et aux recherches pour leur permettre de s'intéresser au développement des moyens de production et pour créer une base scientifique permettant la revalorisation de l'agriculture tunisienne afin qu'elle soit au niveau de celle des pays développés et pour qu'elle repose sur la science et la technologie comme les pays développés.

Ces réalisations qui ont vu le jour en un court laps de temps et ont été accompagnées de nos encouragements visent à assurer le succès du Sixième Plan pour la création d'un environnement économique et social susceptible de promouvoir le secteur agricole et de lui donner une nouvelle dynamique pour qu'il puisse réaliser son décollage et pour qu'il contribue à renforcer l'économie nationale. Ces efforts déployés par le Gouvernement tunisien sous l'égide du Président Bourguiba constituent la meilleure preuve de la volonté qui anime notre Gouvernement et notre peuple de remporter une victoire dans la bataille du développement agricole et de réaliser l'autosuffisance alimentaire; convaincus que nous aurons ainsi réduit le déficit et les insuffisances alimentaires régionales, nous aurons par là créé un climat de prospérité et de bien-être dans une des régions du monde.

E. F. WHELAN (Canada): Mr Chairman, I should first like to congratulate Secretary Block on his election as Chairman of this Conference, and also to congratulate you, as Vice-chairman. Your wise counsel and leadership will be valuable assets at this Twenty-second Biennial Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

I should also like to welcome new members. I am sure they will bring fresh ideas to an Organization which is now forty years old. I say "forty years" because the first organizational meeting took place in 1943 in Hot Springs, Virginia, United States of America. It is interesting to recall that it was an Australian, Frank McDougall, who spoke to Eleanor Roosevelt about the need to establish a world agricultural organization. It was Mrs. Roosevelt who persuaded President Roosevelt to pursue that idea. Two years later the FAO came into force at the meeting in my country, in Quebec City, Canada.

We are meeting here on the heels of the annual harvest across the northern hemisphere - a harvest which was reduced by poor weather conditions in many countries including Canada, the United States, the USSR and parts of Europe. Despite that situation, international grain stocks should once again be adequate to meet world requirements. However, hunger and malnutrition are still with us, and will be for quite a while, it appears. The plight of many developing countries, particularly certain African nations, has not improved. With grain prices rising this year, some countries will be even more hard-pressed to find sufficient resources to buy food.

It is a paradox that people are dying of hunger while grain stocks are adequate for world needs. This just proves that food stocks cannot be used as a true measure of food security. It underlines the need for food-importing countries to develop their own production capability and resources in order to become self-sufficient in food.

Canada's concern about food disparities throughout the world has not declined. If anything, we are more alarmed than ever about the cause of the disparities which I have just mentioned. I am talking about things like trade wars, reductions in crop acreage, lack of support for the United Nations system, and a general lack of discipline in food production supports.

While millions of people in some parts of the world do not have enough to eat, farmers elsewhere have cut production because of low returns from the marketplace. Farmers must realize a profit or they will not continue to produce food. Some people think farmers are a super race of people. When you look at a big part of our developed world you will find that everyone is looked after pretty well, and you will find even in the United States that everyone is looked after pretty well in a pretty secure fashion, but the farmers who produce food in most of the world are not looked after anywhere near as well. Even in my own civil service in Canada you do not have the same sort of security in the agricultural production area. It is one of our big problems that you do not have that kind of security. So, in some countries, they have been paid artificial prices, or subsidies, to continue producing. All this is pointing dangerously towards a trade war and a situation of unstable food production.

Obviously, the world is capable of producing enough food for all of its people. Every one of us knows that. That is not our prime concern. Our challenge, as I stated here in 1981, is to see that the food production and distribution systems develop in a rational way in all areas of the world. When I say "food" I also mean fish because we in Canada are a large fish-producing country.

I mean fish as well as all other agricultural products. The fisheries are largely an untapped resource in many parts of the world. This highly nutritious food is an excellent source of protein that can be a valuable resource for the hungry world. Although Canada is the largest exporter of fish in the world, I know that our fishing industry is thirty years behind agriculture in terms of its harvesting and marketing methods. Preparing this very nutritious food, from the time it is caught until it is put on your table, if it is handled in a proper fashion, can be one of the most delightful, delicious, nutritious foods that there are in the world. Unfortunately, many fishermen in Canada today are caught in a serious cost price squeeze to keep the fishing industries alive. Thus, the fishery shares many of the problems as well as the opportunities of the agricultural sectors in other parts of the world.

In Canada last year we harvested a record crop of cereal grains and oil seeds. This year's wheat crop is high in quality but is expected to be down in volume by 2 per cent from 1982. That is not because we have cut the acreage but we have actually increased our acreage by 12 per cent. It is due to adverse weather conditions: some areas had too much rain, some areas had drought with excessive heat unknown in Canada before. A second consecutive bad weather could lead us dangerously close to a shortage situation such as we faced ten years ago. If we have bad weather again next year we could be in for a catastrophe that we never forecast.

We had a programme in Canada one year where we paid people not to produce grain. It was called "LIFT", that is Lower Inventory for Tomorrow. I was not a minister at that time, but as a backbench member I sent to all my cabinet colleagues a letter - I get it out every now and then and read it just to remind myself - saying "Please don't put this programme in. Pay the farmers more to produce; pay them to build storage; advance them so much an acre to produce grain to cover the day when they do not have grain to deliver". It was not two years before we did not have grain to deliver because of the crop conditions that existed not only in our part of the world but in other parts of the world also.

When we are talking about products and controlling production, let us not forget that there is a difference between grain and other products. Meat products and dairy products degenerate and go down in value; they degenerate so that after six months a lot is not fit for human consumption. When we are talking about grain, if it is stored in good conditions it will keep for years and years. I know an old farmer in Canada who has had grain in his bin fourteen years old and he calls it his experimental bin. Naturally, when grain gets drier it gets higher in protein. He says "this is fourteen years old. Mr Minister" - he writes me a letter every year - "it is better than it ever was". Its protein content is higher, so it will keep, and the grain in the bin is better than gold in the vault. Do not forget that. Which would you rather be with? Would you rather be locked up for a week or two with grain or with gold? Which could you live the longest with? You would quickly die with the gold, but you could live for some time on grain.

We see some of these problems that we are talking about as ways to solve the market problem. In Canada, we have formed a new organization, the Canadian Agricultural Export Corporation. It is to deal directly with nations in agricultural trade products, to assist our farmers and the farmers in other parts of the world to trade with us. It is a crown corporation; it is not a huge thing, but it is for those areas which want to deal at government to government level. We are now in the throes of appointing a board of highly qualified people in Canada to run that, and I must say when we hired a private firm to do the headhunting, as we call it, for this organization we had some real surprise in the highly qualified people who wanted to head Canagrex, who wanted to accept this challenge to work with other parts of Canada. We have agricultural controls in Canada and protection. Some of the controls I have talked about are in poultry and dairy production. We have no unmanageable amounts of surplus of those products because they deteriorate too rapidly, and we do not pay any money to our farmers in most of those production entities. Our dairy industry has never received an increase in subsidy for eight years. Our poultry industry has never received a subsidy since I have been Minister of Agriculture. The average industrial wage in Canada is very high. Some people do not make that much in a month, or two months in some of the developing countries. The average industrial wage in Canada is \$ 12 Canadian an hour, but that will buy twelve dozen eggs. The average Canadian eats twelve dozen eggs a year, so the average Canadian's whole year's supply of eggs can be bought for one hour's wages. It used to take nearly an hour's wages to buy a dozen eggs in Canada, so you can see how efficient we have become through our marketing systems and the board. People condemn them in some parts of the world saying they are terrible things. We call them supply managements, and we let our farmers run them. You have to let the farmers participate in the management of the whole structure. Some people think they are just good for producing food and then the smart business managers will come in and market a product for them. We know better. There are better ways of doing it: let the farmer have some say, because if farmers are to be good farmers they have to be educated too. Never were our farmers better educated than they are today in Canada.

The next Minister of Agriculture who comes to address you at an FAO Conference whenever that might be - I mean when another Minister should take my place - he or she will be a very intelligent young person, probably with a couple of degrees, but their practical agricultural experience will be farming. Today I have with me at this Conference the President of the Canadian Federation of

Agriculture, who is a poultry farmer, and a swine producer, a grain farmer in Saskatchewan, the province which produces over 80 percent of our wheat. I have with me also the President of the National Farmers' Union, not such a large group but an important group in Canada, and he is from the smallest province in eastern Canada, Prince Edward Island. His name is Wayne Easter. The President of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture is Glen Flaten from Saskatchewan. They are here to watch what you are doing, to listen to what you are saying, to talk to you, to learn and to tell you some of the things they are doing in Canada. They are attending some of your meetings, and are sitting in the audience at the present time. They are here because they think it important that farmers know what their Minister of Agriculture is telling you. They are here because we think they can make a contribution to some of the things you may be asking questions about.

We believe in a free and open trading system. Trade is a two-way street; you just cannot go one way. We are one of the largest trading nations in the world - our farmers depend on 50 per cent of their income for trade, and we are one of the freest trading nations in the world. I can give you a comparison: if you want to send cheese into the European Community the duty is over 2.46 dollars per kilo. If you want to send it into Canada it is 6 cents, - in the U.S. it is 50 cents, so you see who is the freest trading nation. We are. Tropical products can come into Canada duty free, practically every one of them.

In that land of ice and snow called Canada we cannot produce a lot of those so why put a tariff on them Some countries still do that. Fifty-five percent of our farming in Canada is further north than any other country in the world so we have to farm under very severe conditions. Agriculture in our country has been one of the most important things; this made us so proficient in agriculture. Agriculture is an important priority in Canada. We provide farmers with technological and research support so that they can be efficient and productive, compete in the market place. We have a budget of just slightly over a billion dollars in Canada, that is about 1.4 percent of the Federal Budget. We give more than that to foreign aid than we give to Agriculture in Canada's operation. Ninety-five percent of my farmers in Canada own their own farms and operate them. Pride of ownership is an important thing in agricultural production. There are very many hired people on family farms, husband, wife, young people on the farms are the ones who do the production When I was first Minister of Agriculture, if you shook hands with me you would have thought it was a bear's paw you were shaking hands with because my hands work hard. These hands have done everything you can think of on a farm from delivering a calf to slaughtering an animal, to plant seeds of every kind, to harvest every crop, fix every kind of mechanized equipment on our mechanized farm. My hands have done that. The farmers' hands today on our farms in Canada do that same kind of things. We need more people in FAO who have played in dirt with their hands and understand the feeling of earth. I have been checking how many of our officials in FAO really know that much about agriculture, really have done those kinds of things and I am amazed how few of you have had that experience. It is most important that more and more of us have that experience if we are to tell somebody else how in the hell to do so. It is important that we have that experience, some of that practical knowledge ourselves. We have not lessened our contribution, go ahead and clap, I am a politician too. I have been elected since I was 21 years of age and I am 59 this year so you can see how long I have been in public life.

Applause

Applaudissement

Aplausos

I was listening this morning - if I am not in the audience I am up in the World Food Council office listening - and someone said, "There shouldn't be speeches made at FAO." How are we going to tell anybody what we think should be done when the only opportunity we have is here. The Commissions are full of bureaucrats. We are ministers, we are responsible for tax papers' money. We have to question, we have to tell, we have to know what is going on. So when they suggested we should not make speeches - I heard an FAO person say this the other day, "What do we have all those speeches for, "It acts like it is an exercise in futility every two years, that we should come here and deter them away from their work and occupation or whatever it may be for one week in this chamber that we should be making speeches, etc., this type of thing.

Our aid, as I said, has not been cut back even though Canada is a net exporter of food and agricultural products. We have made agriculture the top priority of development assistance in this decade. We have planted about 45 percent of all Canadian official development assistance to activities in the agriculture and food sector in 1985-1986. This includes food aid, bilateral development projects and indirect contributions through other institutions and organizations.

One of the things I find as Minister of Agriculture and also as President of the World Food Council, the thing we take for granted in Canada, right from the beginning of our country our people have had free elementary education. It was in a crude fashion in one-room schools in the middle of bush

country, rough muddy roads, etc. but that was something that the fathers of confederation in our country saw from the beginning when they created it, that education was the most important thing. Some countries when I go to them, I can understand part of their food problem: illiteracy rate 95 percent, only 5 percent of the people can read or write. What a challenge it is to have and to see these people trying to have those things we take for granted in my country. Secondary education is free in Canada, university education is free to anyone who has initiative in Canada. When I was first in politics we only gave \$36 million to the higher schools of learning, from the Federal Government. Last year we gave nearly \$5 billion to schools of learning, technical schools, universities, all the higher schools of learning that you could think of. They told Mr Pearson, who is Prime Minister and who was at that founding meeting of FAO, when he said that every young Canadian whether they come from a 'have province' or a 'have not province' are entitled to education, because some of the provinces were richer than others. They said to him, " Mr Prime Minister" - I can remember it like yesterday - "you are interfering in provincial jurisdiction, it will be a dangerous thing for you to do that." He said, "I don't care." And we interfered in provincial jurisdiction according to the Constitution. Now we have probably one of the highest educated group of people in the world- and I say in the world. Canadians come from all over the world, you know. In my own city, in my own county that I represent there are 72 different ethnic groups in that area, people from all over the world who have come to Canada in a free democratic society to make a way for themselves, and they have, and we have built a country called Canada. We are willing to share that. We are willing to share in IFAD and other organizations, but we also want to make sure that what we are doing is on the right track, that we are doing it in the right fashion, that we are doing these things that are so important to share with the rest of the world, because, you see, that is how Canada was built. At one time the King of France when we were a colony of France was told "You are abandoning France, new France, what are you going to do with those people?" He said, "Who wants that land of ice and snow anyway, let them survive the best way they know how." And we did. Some people are amazed at me, probably would hope that I didn't survive because of the problems that I create and the suggestions that I make about democracy working and participation by people, but you see that is the way I was raised. I was raised very poor. My dad died in 1931 during the Great Depression and left my mother with 9 children and we were raised on welfare. Do not tell me that I do not know anything about a hard life, a poor life, because I lived all those things, and went to work at 16 years of age in a factory during the Great War. And if some of you are wondering what this little badge I am wearing is, that is what we wear in Canada on Remembrance Day for the great contribution Canadians made in two World Wars when we lost more people per capita than any other country in the world fighting for democracy, fighting for freedom, and we will continue to do that whether it is at home in Canada or whether it is at Rome, FAO, or any other place in the world.

A.C. BUNDU (Sierra Leone): On behalf of my delegation, and on my own behalf, I extend to you, Mr Chairman, hearty congratulations and felicitations on your election to the high office of Chairman of this Twenty-second FAO Biennial Conference.

Allow me also to extend a special welcome to the four new members of the Organization: Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Saint Christopher and Nevis and Vanuatu. We are confident that they deserve Such admission and will play a meaningful role in pursuit of the goals of this Organization.

Mr, Chairman, during the past two years, the world economy continued to impose severe economic difficulties everywhere. And, as events unravelled themselves, a deepening crisis characterized by a somewhat seamless web of political and financial constraints revealed itself even more clearly. Instead of strengthening our collective commitment in overcoming these difficulties, we rather persist in encouraging our several instincts for self-preservation as if prosperity is divisible, a retreat from the internationalism that has sustained the world throughout the post-war period, rekindling the prospect of a return to the bunkers and barricades which in the 1930s brought not separate salvation but global depression. And thus the world economy remains deeply troubled. There is no point in pretending otherwise. Prospects of recovery do appear to exist for some, but no one is out of danger, and most see little, if any, light at the end of the tunnel. And the FAO has not been singular in alerting us to the danger. But most important of all, the peoples we represent know only too well that times are bad - whether they live in a developed or developing country, whether they are categorized as rich or poor. How many of us can say with real confidence that things are better this November than they were this time last year, or that the prospects for next year are better.

The tendency towards strong monetarist policies with accompanying snow-balling interest rates has brought about traumatic rises in unemployment and a growing adherence to protectionist policies which ensure the benefit of neither developed nor developing countries.

Far from abating, the situation has progressively grown harsher for developing countries particularly low-income food-deficit countries and in recent times this situation has deteriorated even more alarmingly involving unprecedented levels of food imports against worsening foreign exchange profiles. Should this state of affairs be tolerated? The more it persists, the greater the threat it poses

to the political and social stability of the world community as a whole. We cannot allow starvation and human suffering to continue unabated. Food must be made more widely available and better distributed if the plight of the world's hungry is to be ameliorated.

Available data indicate that globally the 1982 harvests were excellent. We are told that global food production increased by 2.5 percent. Yet we cannot ignore how uneven is the record around the world, both in terms of potential and fulfilment. With increased production in 1982 in the industrialized world, there has been some improvement in the short-term outlook for world food security. But the situation in most developing countries, particularly in Africa, continues to deteriorate as their aggregate cereal production fell below 1981 levels and per capita food production increased in only 15 out of 65 low-income food-deficit countries.

There is thus no room for complacency and it is important at this critical juncture that consensus be secured on a viable and self-sustaining basis.

In the context of International Agricultural Adjustment, it is the fervent hope of my delegation that the revised and updated guidelines will be found acceptable and I trust that the Conference would, for the first time, issue an authoritative statement on them, bearing in mind that the first review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade will be undertaken in 1984.

That there is an urgent need for adjustment in national and international policies embracing these guidelines I know is a matter acknowledged by all. But that acknowledgement is reaffirmed when we look at developments in the international agricultural scene since the adoption of the International Agricultural Adjustment guidelines by the FAO Conference in 1975. From that time to 1980 there was a noticeable improvement in agriculture in developing countries as a whole with consequent improvement in international trade also. Export crops enjoyed higher prices up to the close of the 1970s and the real price of food decreased. Food aid also recovered and increasing use was made of international financial markets to meet shortfalls in the balance of payments.

So up to 1980 there was some apparent progress. Since then, however, certain weaknesses have manifested themselves. Export prices for primary products have fallen sharply as oil prices have continued to escalate. Cereal prices rose as rapidly as food aid levelled off. We are now witnessing a sharper reaction from developed countries than they did in 1974 when oil prices quadrupled, and the recession in world trade has been further compounded by policies to restrict effective demand.

Today widespread unemployment has fostered protectionist measures and budget deficits have led to further cutbacks in aid. Moreover, monetarist responses to inflation have brought higher interest rates and the running down of inventories. Yet, of all those affected, the developing countries have been the hardest hit. They suffer not only dramatic falls in their terms of trade but also a soaring increase in indebtedness and stagnation in the volume of their exports, while food imports have continued to rise and the share covered by food aid has fallen rather dramatically. Attempts to negotiate new commodity arrangements have brought no relief either; at the same time progress in the arrangements for world food security has been rather lamentably sluggish.

This is the grim reality of our time. Against this background it is imperative that some positive measures must be taken to improve the agricultural performance of the developing world, considering that agriculture is the mainstay of their economy. That the developed world should help in this regard is not an invitation to charity but rather a recognition of a mutuality of interests which binds the developed and developing worlds alike. For to develop this sector is to improve the living standards of the rural population in developing countries and thus enhance their capacity to buy. Such enhanced capacity would in turn induce and stimulate external trade with the industrialized countries who on their part depend on the expansion of their industries to overcome the persistent problems of inflation and recession. This is the light in which my delegation perceives the International Agricultural Adjustment guidelines and would therefore urge speedy agreement on them for the betterment of all.

We observe with deep regret the diminution by the FAO of its own capacity to deliver its programmes to recipient countries by a significant reduction in its administrative and support services by 6.6 percent of the total budget and the net elimination of 40 posts. Those of us who value the benefit of FAO programmes know only too well what this cut means for our development programmes. At the same time, we are realistic enough to appreciate that the Director-General has undertaken this painful exercise in response to the dwindling resources of the Organization, a dwindling which is itself dictated by the world economic situation. The Director-General has consequently proposed an overall budgetary increase of no more than 0.5 percent for the next biennium. How this would respond to the pressing demands of developing countries and the African region in particular must remain problematic; yet the African agricultural situation, as we have all acknowledged, will continue to feature among the highest priority concerns of the Organization.

In the face of this situation, if there are countries which would like to see further cuts in the budget, and we understand that there are some who would even advocate the application of a zero-growth budget for the Organization irrespective of the relevance of its programmes for developing countries, then we are entitled to ask what real alternatives are there for the fulfilment of our development aspirations. If this is what they want, let me say to them that we do understand their position and the reasons for it. It is the natural human response to a world economy whose recovery is still eluding human ingenuity.

However, in consonance with their desire to see developing countries improve their economic performance with the consequent beneficial impact on the economies of both developed and developing countries alike, we can only appeal for their understanding and tolerance. None desires more than the developing countries themselves to move rapidly from the grip of underdevelopment; none suffers more than the developing countries themselves from the anguish which has flowed from underdevelopment in the agricultural sector; and none can understand better what unfulfilled demands of their masses can mean for political and social stability in their part of the world. We therefore crave the indulgence of the developed countries to understand our plight and the reasons why we must prevail on them to approach the budgetary issues of the Organization with understanding and indulgence.

Given these severe budgetary constraints it is reasonable that the Organization should tailor its programmes accordingly. The significant shift of resources from the administrative services to the technical and economic programmes such as agriculture, fisheries and forestry confirm our conviction that the Organization is fully responsive to the changing needs of developing countries. In this context we note with satisfaction the plans of the Organization to give renewed emphasis to programmes aimed at alleviating the problems of low-income food-deficit countries.

There is another area of concern to my delegation - global action in the field of plant genetics. Undoubtedly the real benefits of plant genetic resources will be fully realised if they are freely available. Such accessibility certainly demands careful selection and conservation in pursuit of the concept of the common heritage of mankind. We therefore not only welcome the attention given to this subject by the FAO Committee on Agriculture but we also subscribe to the recommendations before this Conference including the draft International Understanding which has been submitted by the Organization.

We would therefore urge all delegations to consider this draft favourably.

There can be no doubt that we have set ourselves important tasks in the years ahead. We should not by any means underestimate these tasks. Facing up to the reality of our times is not always easy, but it is unavoidable. Using epithets and rhetoric alone will not suffice nor will accepting the benefits of change while rejecting its cost. We must conjointly, rich and poor alike, generate a new international agricultural order. Nor is it the case that structural changes in food production and distribution can be postponed for what are sometimes called "better times". History has one clear lesson: change does not issue from good times. As necessity breeds invention, so change is born of crisis. To shut out this reality, to persuade ourselves that change must wait until good times are with us again, is in truth an alibi for inaction ad infinitum.

Those who would postpone change for better days speak not of change but of welfare; speak not of a less unequal world but of palliatives for chronic inequality. The time to make changes in food production is now. All the evidence is that such changes are essential to an even more prosperous future for the industrialized and developing countries alike. To the acknowledgement of interdependence born out of our singular oneness, therefore, we must add not only motivation and opportunity for responding to its mandate but hard empirical evidence of a mutuality of interests between the developed and developing countries, between rich and poor, in the evolution of a new agricultural development order.

The challenge before us therefore is as serious as it is wide in scope. It is one for the world's decision-makers at the highest levels. We must listen to each other more and learn from each other; for we may not know all the answers. And indeed the answers are to be found not in conferences or resolutions but in the vineyard of agriculture where the peasant farmers toil. What we can do to help is to provide them with the basic tools and inputs they need and the proper incentives that give them a just reward for their labour.

I thank you.

O. TEKINEL (Turkey): It is indeed a pleasure and honour for me to address the Twenty-second session of the FAO Conference, which takes place at a time when peoples of the developing world are increasingly expecting solutions to their urgent problems from its deliberations. Allow me to express my distinct pleasure to have, as the Chairman of this Session and to extend my

whole-hearted congratulations on his unanimous election. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Vice-Chairmen and to extend my warmest felicitations to the new members to this great Organization.

At this point, I should like to praise the tremendous efforts by the Food and Agriculture Organization under the outstanding leadership of the Director-General, Mr Edouard Saouma, to assist the developing countries and thus to increase food production and to prevent hunger.

The beginning of the 1980's and particularly the year 1983 has witnessed an apparent change in the character of the world food and agricultural situation compared to that which confronted the world community during the 1970's.

This change has brought about a new set of problems to the efforts to develop the agricultural sector in developing countries. These changes in the causes of the world food and agricultural difficulties. However, have not alleviated the long lasting, painful experience, involving millions of peoples in the developing world, who go hungry and live in unnecessary misery.

While food-related problems in the 1970's were attributed to the low level of food and agricultural production and high international prices of raw materials and inputs, difficulties of the present seem to rise from just the reverse situation with respect to production and price levels. Global food and agricultural production, in fact, is currently at satisfactory levels and prices of major agricultural commodities and foodstuffs are in real terms at a minimum in comparison with recent decades.

A closer look at the above situation however, makes it clear that most of the increase achieved in production is attributable only to the food exporting developed countries and to a few middle-income developing countries, while the situation of the target countries seems to have further deteriorated due to drops in their per capita food production, as well as to decreases in their foreign exchange earnings.

In the face of the resulting weak demand of developing countries for food commodities, large stocks have accumulated in the major food producing countries, causing additional concern for the attainment of aims set forth for greater food security in the world.

We are pleased to note that the committee on world food security during its Eighth session in April of this year has approved as a whole the wider concept of food security as proposed by the Director-General of FAO, aimed at ensuring material and economic access of all people at all times to the staple food they need.

We agree with the Director-General that in order to reach this target, large scale action will be necessary, involving all the factors that affect the capacity of countries and persons to produce or to buy food.

The new concept for world food security aptly takes into account the problems of recent origin and incorporates measures to resolve them. It is in this spirit that my delegation fully endorses the new definition of world food security and expresses its eagerness to actively take part in the search for identifying and implementing the corresponding new programmes and measures. I will attempt to highlight some of the aspects which I believe deserve priority.

With regard to the new policies required to adjust agricultural development programmes in line with this change in the situation in food and agriculture, we believe that greater emphasis should be given to increasing production in the countries which fall in the category of low-income, food-deficit countries.

The implementation of such a policy requires concentration of national efforts in the direction of shifting more resources to agricultural activities. It is equally imperative to place sufficient emphasis on the focusing of international assistance in support of these national efforts. In particular I wish to underline the importance of providing assistance through the multilateral channels to such undertakings.

International efforts should also take into account and benefit from the experiences gained by a number of middle-income developing countries, like Turkey, which have attained the target of food self-sufficiency in recent years. These experiences may be made available to the countries that wish to benefit from them, and my country is perhaps a positive example and is ready to do its utmost in this venue.

However, I should emphasize that technical cooperation among developing countries can not be truly achieved by simply stressing the important role it can play in furthering agricultural development in the Third World. Technical cooperation among these countries should be supported, assisted materially and financially by the International Organizations which were instituted for that purpose.

We propose that FAO's role in this particular area be strengthened. It should undertake programmes in the promotion and implementation, monitoring and coordination of such technical cooperation programmes among developing countries.

Better food security is also related to the extent to which world food reserves are stocked in centres as near as possible to the demand. This is also an area in which economic cooperation among developing countries can assist by setting up regional stocks. Past experience has made clear the benefits that could be derived from establishing collective food stocks, I am pleased to bring to the attention of this forum that economic cooperation among the Islamic Countries on food security is a promising new development towards self-sufficiency in food within the Islamic Countries

Our experience indicates that unless an expanding market is assured to the excess produce obtained in the food and agricultural sector, it is extremely difficult to undertake programmes aiming at increasing production. Following the achievement of self-sufficiency in Turkey with respect to many agricultural products, the production is still increasing and the surplus needs to be sold in foreign markets. In the face of sluggish demand in international markets for agricultural products and subsequent low prices, it has become rather difficult to continue with policies promoting production.

This brings me once again to the subject of economic cooperation among developing countries, taking into consideration that demand exists in developing countries for foodstuff and agricultural products. We commend FAO for according priority to programmes aiming at increasing agricultural trade among developing countries during the coming biennium.

The prevailing state of the world economy underlines the need for adjustments in the agricultural policies of the developed countries. We know that the economies of developed countries suffer from stagnation in demands for their exportable products which is unfortunate, but it would be even more counter-productive if we were to impose restrictions on the agricultural exports of developing countries, which would result in the deterioration of their purchasing power. Developing countries should also be accorded more financial aid for their investments in agriculture through bilateral and multilateral channels. We wish at this moment to appeal to the major donors for the realization of their pledged commitments to IFAD and support for its second replenishment.

Please allow me now to elaborate on a few aspects of agriculture, which are of special concern to my country.

For increased production in Turkey emphasis was placed on the use of high-yielding seeds and hybrids, reduction of the acreage of fallow land, rational use of fertilizers and production of a second crop during the agricultural year.

The decrease in fallow land which contributed one million extra hectares in 1982-83, resulted in an additional 280 million dollars of income. Similarly, the cultivation of second crops in a pilot area of 61.000 hectares contributed 48 million dollars to the national economy in one year.

A big part of the progress which we have achieved is also due to the improvements within our agricultural education, research and extension system.

On the basis of such experience, Turkey is willing to offer technical cooperation to the less fortunate countries which have a shortage of food supply.

Hence, we are planning at the fortieth anniversary of the foundation of the Food and Agriculture Organization, which will take place in 1985, an international seminar under the theme "Turkish experience in reaching self-sufficiency in food production" for the benefit of all developing countries.

Although the relevant commission will take up the examination of FAO's programme of work, I wish to briefly point out some areas and aspects that we consider to be of particular importance. We are interested in seeing long-term programmes initiated to reach food sufficiency and we support mainly programmes on agricultural research and technological improvement.

Therefore, the support of the Food and Agriculture Organization to many countries, including Turkey, in the field of remote sensing research is appreciated. Research work is being carried out with the support of FAO in Turkey to facilitate the improvement of a new method for the early estimation of cultivated land acreage and yield to furnish the Turkish agriculture with statistical data to be used for the preparation of agricultural production programmes and for planning project developments.

The technical cooperation programme, in general, gives FAO some flexibility for the implementation of its programmes and provides possibilities to intervene in situations in which urgent assistance is required.

We are grateful to the Director-General that in response to our request in September 1982 an FAO representation was established in Turkey. Undoubtedly this representation has already had a significant and most welcome impact on agricultural development in our country. We therefore welcome and support the proposed consolidation and strengthening of the existing FAO representations during the biennium 1984-1985.

In closing, I should like to reaffirm Turkey's support of the general objectives of the Conference, and express our belief that in our day the world community is more aware of the responsibility for food-deficit countries. The modest level of FAO's 1984-85 budget should be fully supported in the light of the contribution that FAO is promising to expand the world economy, for the benefit of both developed and developing countries. And in this respect we express our congratulations to FAO for its work, and we are confident it will definitely continue to stimulate the spirit of solidarity that necessarily ought to exist among nations in order to make the world a better place to live in for all

John R. Block, Chairman of the Conference, took the chair

John R. Block, Président de la Conférence, assume la présidence

John R. Block, Presidente de la Conferencia ocupa la presidencia

CHAIRMAN: I want to express special appreciation to Vice-Chairman Christodoulou for his assistance from time to time. It is a great help to have a Vice-Chairman.

J.P. ARANGUIZ (Chile): Señor Presidente, en nombre del pueblo y del Gobierno de Chile, agradezco la oportunidad de dirigirme a esta importante Asamblea que agrupa en su seno a quienes les une como objetivo común buscar los medios de darle al mundo una mejor y más justa alimentación.

Quiero manifestar mis felicitaciones al Presidente de la Conferencia, Sr. Block, a los Vicepresidentes y, en forma muy particular, al Sr. Director General y al personal permanente de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación, cuya lucha diaria contra el hambre en el mundo reconocemos y apreciamos.

Deseo expresar también la más cordial bienvenida a los nuevos Estados que se incorporan a la Organización en esta oportunidad.

Es nuestro deber, además, reiterar desde esta alta tribuna la trascendencia que mi país asigna a la función de la FAO y su respaldo a los programas técnicos de desarrollo. Ellos permiten avanzar hacia una calidad de vida rural compatible con la dignidad del ser humano.

En este plano, Chile tiene muchos motivos de agradecimiento para la FAO y para su Oficina Regional ubicada en nuestra capital. Su presencia en el país se ha traducido en una intensa actividad en todo cuanto dice relación con el desarrollo forestal, agrario y pecuario, y en un provechoso intercambio de experiencias entre expertos que ha significado un mutuo beneficio.

Nada fácil han sido los últimos diez años para nuestro quehacer agrícola, forestal y pecuario, pues hubo mucho que reconstruir luego de los efectos de la reforma agraria que destruyó activos, inventarios, capital de trabajo y hasta la tierra misma.

Al asumir este Gobierno, el país se encontraba absolutamente desabastecido de los elementos más indispensables de nuestra dieta alimentaria.

Superada esa situación anterior, un más acelerado desarrollo del sector se ha visto frenado por las recesiones de los años 1975 y 1981 cuyo efecto todavía se hace sentir.

Por otra parte, un gran escollo lo constituyen las medidas proteccionistas de algunos países, que han distorsionado los mercados internacionales, reflejándose todo ello en caídas de precios y competencia desleal, lo que se traduce en inseguridad para nuestros productores.

Nuestro país para superar el daño inmenso ocasionado por la reforma agraria y la secuela de violencia que le fue connatural, a la que ya me he referido, ha puesto en práctica una política agraria, coherente y coordinada, la que se ha ido cumpliendo paso a paso.

En primer término se restauró el derecho de propiedad porque el hombre del campo, para hacer producir la tierra necesita sentirla suya y consecuentemente se otorgó títulos definitivos de dominio a

los campesinos que habían recibido las tierras en concesión política; en segundo término se elaboró un código de aguas con el objeto de regularizar la propiedad y el aprovechamiento de este limitado recurso.

El Estado adoptó firmemente el rol subsidiario que le corresponde apoyando la iniciativa privada o emprendiendo obras cuya capacidad escapa a los particulares como son entre otras, el Plan de fomento forestal, la creación de parques nacionales, la protección de áreas silvestres, la investigación y transferencia de tecnología.

En este último orden de materias se han puesto en práctica dos programas de transferencia tecnológica, de acuerdo con las características socioeconómicas de nuestros productores agrarios. El Instituto de Desarrollo Agropecuario atiende a los usuarios de cabidas inferiores a 12 hectáreas y proporciona, a través de empresas privadas, asistencia integral que comprende: apoyo técnico con visitas a los predios, enseñanza sobre administración, información y orientación en la comercialización y, lo que es fundamental asistencia crediticia para desarrollar explotaciones y cultivos de acuerdo con la zona agroecológica donde el predio se encuentra situado.

El programa busca convertir a este productor agrario en un ser capaz de valerse por sí mismo y actuar libremente en la economía de mercado abierto.

En dicho programa se pueden distinguir tres niveles: transferencia tecnológica integral, básica e información técnica. Con el apoyo financiero del Banco Mundial asistiremos a cien mil productores en un lapso de ocho años, convirtiéndose éste en un instrumento efectivo de coordinación de la investigación con la extensión y el crédito, el que estará administrado por un solo organismo. Este año ya se ha iniciado el Plan con la atención de 30 000 familias.

El Instituto de Investigaciones Agropecuarias ha puesto en práctica un programa de grupos de transferencia tecnológica, para atender a los productores que poseen más de 12 hectáreas. La meta que nos habíamos propuesto a esta fecha ha sido sobrepasada largamente.

Respecto a las áreas cuya especial situación de atraso no hace factible la aplicación del programa de transferencia, el INDAP, actuando como entidad coordinadora de los entes públicos que actúan en el medio rural, declarará determinadas comunas en calidad de "áreas de proyecto específico de desarrollo rural" con una especial participación de la comunidad local organizada,

Buscando la mejor asignación de los recursos y teniendo en cuenta las ventajas comparativas que nuestro país tiene en algunos rubros, estimamos de la mayor relevancia apoyar el desarrollo de nuestro mercado exterior, labor en que estamos comprometidos con decisión, tanto el Gobierno como el sector privado para coordinar esfuerzos a fin de acceder a dichos mercados.

Con el objeto de perfeccionar las condiciones del mercado interno, el Gobierno impulsó la organización de poderes compradores privados de granos y leguminosas, lo que significó para los productores precios sustancialmente más altos.

En lo que a protección y conservación de recursos naturales renovables se refiere, el Gobierno consciente de la importancia que ello tiene para las generaciones futuras, está perfeccionando todo un ordenamiento jurídico, que permitirá un tratamiento integral para la consecución de estos fines.

Otro rubro alimenticio de importancia es el pesquero, que aporta divisas al país por más de 400 millones de dólares y que da empleo a más de 55 000 personas.

En este sector las exportaciones han crecido en un 1 750 por ciento con respecto al año 1973, y en materia de empleo el crecimiento ha sido de un 87 por ciento en el área industrial, y de un 627 por ciento en el área artesanal. Con orgullo podemos señalar que nuestro país es el cuarto productor pesquero del mundo.

Somos partidarios de una economía abierta y nuestro ideal es que los aranceles sean bajos y parejos; pero, las prácticas de dumping de algunos países y la bonificación que ellos otorgan a determinados productos exportables, nos ha forzado a establecer derechos específicos y lo haremos en caso de ser necesario para cualquier producto que sea objeto de competencia desleal, bajo el amparo de las normas del acuerdo "GATT".

La política puesta en práctica por el Gobierno de mi país, a pesar de la recesión internacional, ha logrado resultados que estimamos satisfactorios:

- La balanza comercial del sector agrícola, forestal y pecuario, siempre deficitaria hasta 1978, pasó a mostrar un saldo favorable desde entonces, llegando a 147 millones en 1982; esperándose un saldo de 210 millones para el presente año.

- Nuestras exportaciones sectoriales han aumentado de 62,5 millones de dólares en 1973, a 711 millones en 1983.

- El rubro que más sufrió el deterioro propio de las épocas de ajustes fue el que dice relación con los 14 cultivos anuales. Sin embargo, hemos entrado en una acelerada recuperación. Nuestras estimaciones de siembra superan en 22,1% las del año pasado y llegan aun millón 58 mil hectáreas, cantidad superior a la de los últimos cuatro años.

- En materia de bosques artificiales, en Chile había 230 mil hectáreas en 1973; actualmente esa superficie llega a un millón de hectáreas.

- Nuestra masa ganadera ha aumentado en 600 000 cabezas, siendo la existencia actual de 3 millones 800 mil.

Especial énfasis ha tenido la redistribución de ingresos desplegados por el Supremo Gobierno en beneficio de los sectores más pobres de nuestro país, reorientando sustancialmente el gasto público en una acción subsidiaria real. La política social ha determinado un crecimiento constante del gasto público en programas de viviendas, escuelas rurales, salud e infraestructura comunitaria, entre otros. Notables y apreciados mundialmente, han sido los avances logrados en materia de nutrición y mortalidad infantil.

Especial importancia han tenido los programas de capacitación al sector rural y los esfuerzos de promoción a la mujer a través de centros de madres, hogares de la madre campesina, donde se actúa en las áreas de capacitación y la salud.

El gasto fiscal en programas sociales para 1982, fue de alrededor de 2 800 millones de dólares, lo que equivale a un 59,5 por ciento del presupuesto nacional.

Lo aseverado anteriormente no quiere decir que no tengamos problemas, los tenemos y muchos; y no podemos pensar en solucionarlos exclusivamente nosotros.

Especialmente grave es el problema que significa el endeudamiento de nuestros productores, afectados por el alza en las tasas de interés y la caída en los precios internacionales. Esperamos que se logre una solución global a tan delicada situación, que afecta a muchos sectores productivos y a muchos países, dando la posibilidad que estos compromisos puedan ser pagados en términos razonables y posibles.

Señor Presidente: con el propósito de lograr una acción mancomunada que ayude a la solución de nuestros problemas, Chile desea dejar expresa constancia de su adhesión, en líneas generales, a los planteamientos y directrices presentados por el señor Director General, en su Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el bienio 1984-1985.

Consideramos que dicho documento contiene un diagnóstico acertado de la situación mundial del sector, y una priorización adecuada de los objetivos de la institución. Especial interés reviste para nuestro país las actividades relacionadas con la investigación, tecnología, comercialización, crédito y educación agrícola.

Deseo dejar establecido mi reconocimiento respecto de la asistencia que en estas materias nos ha entregado la FAO, a través de los fondos provenientes del Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo, y del Programa de Cooperación Técnica.

En lo concerniente al plan de acción propuesto para América Latina y el Caribe, estimamos fundamental el reforzamiento del sistema de redes de cooperación técnica que han demostrado eficiencia en el intercambio de experiencias entre países en desarrollo.

Señor Presidente: después de estas consideraciones, deseo plantear cinco puntos que estimo de la mayor importancia:

- Se deben mejorar las condiciones de intercambio comercial entre los países en desarrollo y los desarrollados a través de mecanismos eficientes.

- La asistencia técnica y financiera proveniente de los países desarrollados debe considerar prioritariamente las áreas que interesen y las necesidades reales de los países de menor desarrollo.

- Se debe mejorar la accesibilidad de los países en desarrollo a las tecnologías.

- Deben eliminarse las políticas de subsidios a los precios agrícolas que practican algunos países, en especial de aquellos productos considerados como sensibles, que crean distorsiones en el mercado mundial y perjudican las producciones en los países de menor crecimiento relativo. Asimismo, una rebaja general y estable de los aranceles en los países desarrollados redundaría en una notable expansión de nuestras producciones silvoagropecuarias.

- Debe alentarse la plena participación de todos los países dentro del Comité de Comercio Agropecuario que ha sido activado en el seno del acuerdo general sobre aranceles y comercio (GATT), para que éste se constituya en un mecanismo válido de solución de controversias del comercio agrícola mundial.

Señores: tengo la más absoluta certeza que cuanto aquí se decida redundará en beneficio del bien común, en una mejor calidad de vida y en un esfuerzo por erradicar la deficiencia nutricional y el subdesarrollo. Chile, como siempre lo ha hecho, está dispuesto a colaborar con decisión en estas trascendentes tareas.

A.T. IBRAHIM (Niger): La délégation nigérienne que j'ai l'honneur de conduire, est heureuse de prendre la parole à l'occasion de cette vingt-deuxième session de la Conférence de notre Organisation.

Aussi, en son nom, je voudrais saisir cet instant privilégié pour vous féliciter de votre élection, Monsieur le Président et pour la manière dont vous conduisez nos travaux.

Qu'il me soit aussi permis d'exprimer au Gouvernement et au peuple italiens, tous nos remerciements pour l'accueil plein de cordialité que nous avons reçu.

Je voudrais enfin féliciter très sincèrement et saluer l'admission des nouveaux membres de notre Organisation.

Ceci témoigne de la noblesse de ses objectifs, de son dynamisme et de sa vitalité.

Nous pouvons nous réjouir que notre Organisation gagne ainsi en universalité.

C'est là le lieu de rendre hommage à son premier serviteur et grand combattant de cette lutte, j'ai nommé Monsieur le Docteur Edouard Saouma.

Nos assises se tiennent au lendemain de deux événements fort importants chez nous, au Niger, la fin de la Campagne Agro-pastorale 1983 et la célébration de la Troisième Journée mondiale de l'alimentation. C'est pour nous plus qu'un concours de circonstances.

Une fois de plus, l'austérité de l'environnement agroclimatique de notre pays situé au coeur du Sahel a engendré un bilan pastoral très alarmant, menaçant la vie de plus de 1 200 000 bovins et 600 000 ovins et la survie de plus de 400 000 éleveurs, ce qui, lié à l'état des stocks, nous imposera un appel de produits vivriers à hauteur de 5 000 tonnes de céréales, riz, sorgho, blé et produits laitiers pour être intégrés dans les plans de développement, notamment en les recyclant dans les achats locaux pour reconstituer le stock pour le financement des opérations de développement et les secours aux groupes vulnérables.

Des mesures exceptionnelles de lutte contre ce sinistre doivent être prises en vue d'assurer la sauvegarde du potentiel reproducteur du cheptel, notamment: le déstockage impératif, généralisé et précoce du troupeau pour ramener l'effectif de ce dernier à un niveau compatible avec le peu de ressources fourragères naturelles disponibles et les aliments de bétail pouvant être acquis; c'est une question de survie pour notre capital-cheptel. En deuxième lieu, une transhumance prudente et rationnelle vers les zones pourvues de pâturage et les pays limitrophes, et enfin, un programme d'approvisionnement en aliments de bétail. Les besoins sont fort importants et ne peuvent être couverts à partir des ressources locales.

C'est vous dire combien est grave la situation qui prévaut en ce moment au Niger quand on sait que le déstockage des animaux est une opération fort complexe qui doit intégrer la prospection des marchés extérieurs rémunérateurs, l'utilisation d'infrastructures d'accueil et de transformation du bétail et de la viande, la mobilisation de ressources financières importantes et l'application des mesures sanitaires et réglementaires hardies.

Vous le voyez, il y va de la sécurité alimentaire de nos populations.

Ce défi, nous l'avons magnifié à travers les manifestations commémoratives de la Troisième Journée mondiale de l'alimentation par des conférences-débats sur des thèmes aussi fondamentaux que la désertification, la dynamique des structures d'exploitation et le phénomène de population, les stratégies alimentaires, etc.

Une exposition intitulée "Energie et Ecologie, Technologie et Production agricoles" s'est déroulée une semaine durant et se voulait une des faces de la vitrine des contraintes technologiques de notre système de production agricole et des solutions possibles.

C'est donc dans un contexte précaire que nous menons ce combat dont la finalité est d'assurer à tous, et en tout temps, l'accès matériel et économique aux aliments de base indispensables pour reprendre la nouvelle conception de la sécurité alimentaire qui nous est proposée par le Directeur

général et que nous n'avons aucune difficulté à adopter, En effet, le Président du Conseil militaire suprême, Chef de l'Etat, le Général de Brigade Seyni Kountché, était, un des précurseurs de cette approche avec son serment historique de 1974, quand il déclarait "Aucun Nigérien ne mourra plus de faim, même s'il faut engager la totalité du budget de l'Etat, ce qui ne s'est jamais démentie

Ainsi, au Niger, la sécurité alimentaire est définie comme un processus à long terme de mise en place d'une capacité de production et d'approvisionnement susceptibles de fournir régulièrement à toute la population une ration équilibrée et suffisante.

Elle pose la problématique de l'autosuffisance alimentaire. Celle-ci implique une croissance continue, mais aussi une diversification de la production compatible avec l'évolution qualitative et quantitative des besoins.

Notre souci permanent demeure la façon dont nous pouvons mettre en oeuvre notre capacité propre d'autosuffisance alimentaire, afin d'optimiser notre potentiel de production, avant même d'aborder toute question d'avantages comparatifs, pouvant déboucher sur une nouvelle extraversion de nos habitudes alimentaires et une dépendance plus grave. Il s'agit pour nous, d'améliorer nos systèmes de production agro-sylvo-pastorale dominée actuellement par une activité de subsistance et une pression très prononcée des aléas climatiques et des déprédateurs. La solution se trouve avant tout au niveau national et dans la dynamique des structures socio-économiques de ces systèmes.

Nous ne doutons point que le problème de la sécurité alimentaire, en général, dépasse la dimension de nos frontières et de nos ressources. C'est une des raisons de notre participation active aux organismes régionaux et internationaux de coopération pour cette lutte, la CBLT, la CEBV, la CEAO, l'OCLALAV, le CILSS, la CEDEAO, l'OUA et la FAO.

Néanmoins, nous continuons à croire que les stratégies alimentaires ne doivent plus être une fin. Elles doivent concrétiser un double engagement du Gouvernement et de la communauté internationale à concentrer et à accroître les ressources à affecter pour leur matérialisation.

A cet effet, ce contrat doit s'adapter à nos options politiques et à nos réalités socioculturelles, afin d'éviter les effets pernicieux de certaines aides.

Ce sont ces conséquences malheureuses et en particulier les erreurs dues à l'importation des schémas de développement et de certains phénomènes culturels qui ont été au centre d'une concertation nationale, que dis-je, du rendez-vous du progrès, qu'a été le Séminaire national sur les stratégies d'intervention en milieu rural nigérien, tenu en novembre 1982 à Zinder. Je voudrais au passage saluer ici tous ceux qui ont bien voulu répondre à notre invitation et dont la contribution a enrichi et élevé le niveau de la réflexion

Les résultats de ce débat ouvert à tous les partenaires extérieurs du Niger sont: la réhabilitation du monde rural et du développement à la base auto-entretenu et intégré, la débureaucratiation de la vulgarisation et le retour effectif des cadres sur le terrain, Ces conclusions avalisées par le Gouvernement constituent un des programmes de travail pour le département du développement rural que j'ai l'insigne honneur de diriger.

Le paysan, ce grand technicien pragmatique conscient de ses contraintes et des limites de sa capacité, doit désormais jouer un rôle à la mesure de son mérite et des défis qui lui sont lancés.

Ainsi, le développement doit-il désormais suivant l'esprit de Zinder partir de la base, correspondre à la volonté réelle des bénéficiaires et premiers acteurs, à savoir les paysans qui le mettront en oeuvre et l'entreprendront. Les projets de développement seront analysés, réévalués et initiés à l'avenir dans ce sens.

C'est ce consensus social qui est et doit demeurer la pierre angulaire, le fondement de la société de développement dont l'instance suprême, le Conseil national de développement a été installé solennellement le 3 août 1983, après quatre ans de réflexion, de concertation et de consultation.

Ce conseil de 150 membres, issus de toutes les couches socioprofessionnelles de notre pays, est composé de 50 pour cent de ruraux, représentants des coopératives agro-pastorales et des associations des jeunes dénommées SAMARIYA. "Il est investi d'une tâche, celle de l'élaboration d'une Charte nationale qui devra être le support juridique d'un programme national, complet et cohérent qui soutiendra l'action de l'Etat et du Gouvernement, et engagera le peuple par-devant la nation" déclarait le Chef de l'Etat, à l'occasion de l'installation officielle du CND.

Voici donc défini le nouveau cadre sociopolitique nigérien. Mais les embûches sur la voie du développement sont multiples s'agissant de notre pays, elles ont aussi pour nom: l'eau, la désertification et les échanges économiques.

L'importance de l'eau dans un contexte saharo-sahélien est plus qu'évidente, tant pour l'homme, le bétail que pour l'économie en général.

Je voudrais simplement, sur ce point, exprimer nos sentiments de gratitude à tous ceux qui ont concouru au démarrage de notre programme national d'hydraulique villageoise et pastorale, et à la réalisation des aménagements hydro-agricoles, élément de sécurisation de la production alimentaire

S'agissant de la désertification, les obstacles sont fort nombreux: les conditions écologiques, l'incompréhension du problème par les populations et l'insuffisance de leurs moyens devant son ampleur, les coûts des plantations, le surpâturage, les feux de brousse, les coûts des investissements de base pour les énergies de substitution.

N'a-t-on pas coutume de dire que la crise du pauvre ne tient pas du pétrole mais du bois? Cette crise nous conforte dans notre bataille pour le reboisement national; ainsi, le 3 août, fête nationale est devenue "Fête de l'arbre" et 1984 est décrétée au Niger "Année de reboisement".

Enfin, mon pays n'a pas échappé aux perturbations d'ordre structurel qui continuent d'affecter les économies des PMA écrasées par le poids des dettes extérieures, mais surtout érodées par la dépréciation des prix de nos produits primaires. C'est ce deuxième aspect qui détériore davantage notre balance des paiements. Tout ceci renforce notre conviction, de la justesse de la lutte à mener pour une rémunération équitable du travail de nos paysans et de nos mineurs, et milite en faveur d'une nouvelle forme de partage des risques avec les institutions financières multilatérales, d'un transfert plus important des ressources financières et de notre foi dans les vertus de la négociation, même si les intérêts immédiats sont très souvent divergents.

Notre confiance en l'avenir est grande malgré les multiples échecs des négociations Nord-Sud, du fait des lois assez rudes des égoïsmes nationaux. Les sacrifices et le courage de notre peuple face à l'adversité en constituent la motivation. En attendant, le Niger, mon pays, a pris des mesures d'assainissement des agrégats économiques, de compression des charges de fonctionnement, et de planification des dépenses publiques et des investissements en conformité avec un plan de redressement économique et financier. Je ne voudrais pas terminer, sans réaffirmer notre détermination et notre volonté de coopération franche afin de gagner la bataille la plus exaltante, celle de l'autosuffisance alimentaire, dont la concrétisation appelle également un peu plus d'intérêt et de compréhension pour le grand projet de campagne panafricaine de lutte contre la peste et la péripneumonie contagieuse des bovidés, ces affections fort redoutables qui continuent à hypothéquer lourdement la productivité de notre cheptel et aujourd'hui avec les déficits en pâturage menacent de disparition le capital bétail du Sahel. Pour conclure, nous appuyons sans réserve le programme de travail et le budget 1984-85, véritable chef-d'oeuvre qui honore notre Directeur général et fait croître la crédibilité de notre Organisation. Les priorités défendues sont justes ce qui permettra le développement des programmes de coopération technique, la mise en place de l'aide alimentaire affectée à des actions productives.

Avant de terminer, je voudrais rendre ici un hommage à l'Italie pour son geste très honorable à l'intention des Etats Membres du CILSS.

Ce sont de telles actions de bonne volonté déployées par le biais de nos organisations régionales et internationales, telles que la FAO, qui confirment notre foi dans les possibilités qu'offrent le dialogue et la concertation.,

Il importe cependant de prémunir nos agences nationales et internationales de coopération de toute duplication superflue afin que les ressources allouées au développement rural déjà limitées puissent être orientées vers les véritables bénéficiaires, les ruraux, pour des actions concrètes sur le terrain.

L. PAPOCSI (Hungary) (original language Hungarian): Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic I would like to greet cordially the Twenty-second session of the FAO Conference and also to wish to the distinguished delegates every success to their great and highly responsible work. In particular I would like to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on your election and to express our appreciation to the Director-General and to his colleagues for the excellent preparation of this Conference.

I would also like to congratulate the representatives of those countries which have been admitted as new members at the present Conference.

There are many important issues on the agenda of this Conference. Here and now I would like to deal with the most important problems in the world's food and agriculture situation.

The Conference documents offer a thorough analysis of the food problems and the causes of slow progress in developing countries drawing a number of conclusions concerning the major tasks in the food and agricultural production in the world and particularly in the developing countries. The food problems of the world are still unsolved. In the countries threatened by

starvation the rate in increase of the population exceeds that of agricultural production. Per capita production in the world increased by 6 percent between 1970 and 1982 but behind this average there is an extremely great dispersion. While the increase in per capita production in the developed countries was remarkable, the per capita production in several African countries fell to a great extent.

For this reason, we consider at present inevitable the support of needy people by providing food aid. Although Hungary is a small country, within the reach of our possibilities we also take part in food aid programs both on bilateral basis and through the World Food Programme. We continue to maintain the level of our pledges in the World Food Programme inspite of the fact that this year my country was stricken with one of the most severe droughts of the century.

As we constantly emphasised in the past it is evident however that although food aids mitigate the problems of the hungry people they do not offer real solution at all. Development assistance in the food and agricultural sector and the increase of scientific and technical cooperation with developing countries is much more effective. My country strives to play an active role in these kinds of efforts.

Hungary has always collaborated with the developing countries in order to share production and other experiences. In this endeavour we have taken advantage of the experiences gained in our rural development, agrarian reform and cooperative movement. We worked out a cooperative development program with the intention of helping to promote the increase of the agricultural production in developing countries. Following the programme organized in recent years we also held courses in cooperation with FAO in 1983 for experts from developing countries in the subject of increased agricultural production through small and large-scale cooperative farming. In this connection, I would like to mention that we consider the integrated participation of the small producers in the production and marketing of agricultural products very important. The cooperation between large-scale farms and small producers in our country is a well proven method. Besides large state farms and cooperatives small-scale production has a great role to play in the domestic supply as well in enlarging the commodity stocks to be exported.

In addition to the above-mentioned training courses, in 1983 other courses and consultations were also organized in Hungary for the experts from the developing countries. In this year for example the participants were able to enrich their knowledge - among others - in the methods of inland fisheries and utilization of renewable energy resources.

In recent years more and more Hungarian experts have been working in developing countries with FAO. On a bilateral basis we have sent nearly one thousand experts to these countries to take part in management and organization of food and agricultural production. In the same period more than a hundred FAO fellows were received in my country.

We have attached great importance also to the international trade in food and agricultural commodities. Hungary has developed intensive contacts in trade without discrimination or protectionism.

We also kept in view first of all the interests of the developing countries when the Hungarian Government invited the Club of Rome to hold its 1983 Conference in Hungary. Through its main topic "Food for Six Billion" this conference has provided another forum for focusing attention to the food problems of the developing countries. FAO also contributed to the success of the conference by valuable background documents.

The World Food Day's observance of which was proposed by the Hungarian delegation at the Twentieth session of the FAO Conference in 1979 also received great publicity in my country. Besides the publicity given by the TV, Radio and the Press the World Food Day's observance was widespread also in educational institutions.

The Hungarian delegation considers European cooperation within the framework of FAO very important. This cooperation extends for beyond regional boundaries and its results are of profound significance also for the developing countries. This is demonstrated by the fact that more and more developing countries are participating in the activities of the European research cooperative network of FAO.

Hungary has always actively supported the cooperation in technical scientific-research in the UN system. The results so far achieved give an impetus for our further, even more active participation also in the global scientific research programmes of FAO including the programme for the use of new and renewable sources of energy as well as the development of new processes in agriculture and biotechnology.

In connection with the European cooperation my Government was satisfied with the fact that the Final Document of the Madrid Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe laid particular stress on the importance of the development of the scientific cooperation in the field of agriculture at

bilateral, multilateral and subregional level with the aim - among other things - to improve livestock and plant breeding and to ensure optimal use and conservation of water resources. To this end the cooperation among research institutions should be further promoted. My Government fully agrees with this.

The facts clearly illustrate that cooperation between FAO and Hungary is very fruitful. Promoting the purposes set by FAO and personally by its distinguished Director-General, Dr Edouard Saouma we shall strive also in the future to play an active role in the complex solution of the world food problems. This intention of ours is justified by the increasing strategic importance of food in our time. This fact also adds to the significance of avoiding by all possible means the use of food as political or economic weapons.

We are pleased and satisfied with the Programme of Work and Budget of FAO presented by the Director-General for 1984-1985. My delegation supports the priorities set and dealing with the global problems among them the primary attention paid to the urgent alleviation of problems of countries at present in the most desperate situation. We agree with the view expressed by several delegates at this Conference that the means at our disposal should be concentrated at the most critical points and should be used with the highest possible efficiency.

With this in mind Hungary will be glad also in the future to share her experiences, to send her experts and cooperate in every possible way. It should be emphasised that only international economic, technical and scientific cooperation and international solidarity can bring the result desired by all the nations of the world.

I do hope that there is general agreement on one thing. Namely, that the containment of the armaments race is a prerequisite for the increase of food production and for the elimination of hunger and malnutrition. The billions of dollars wasted for armaments should be channelled through the development of food production, infrastructure and of the whole economy. The Hungarian Government supports all genuine effort which promotes the use of the resources at the disposal of humankind for peaceful, creative work. We do hope that the achievements of world food security and the containment of the arms-race will contribute to the strengthening of peace and international security.

In this spirit I call upon all the participants of the Twenty-second session of FAO Conference to promote the achievement of these noble goals at this place, in the respective countries and at any other fora.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

F.T. ISAKSEN (Norway): Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. In the International Development Strategy for the UN Third Development Decade adopted in 1980, great importance was given to food production and nutrition. It was emphasized that agriculture and rural development must be given high priority in the coming decades. I would like to point out that only through increased agricultural production and improved utilization of fish resources can developing countries achieve a satisfactory degree of national and local self-sufficiency in food, as well as improved nutritional standards.

In other international fora there is also consensus on the importance of giving priority to agriculture, forestry and fisheries, both for each individual country and for the international community.

However, increased efforts within the agricultural sector are important not only for improving the degree of self-sufficiency and the nutritional standard, but will also have a profound effect on the general economic development. The majority of the people in the developing countries live in rural areas. Generally, these people are connected with agriculture. If income and production for these groups are improved through higher producer prices, this will in turn create increased demand for goods and services. This means that other sectors in the economy are given the opportunity to expand and thus provide job opportunities for more people.

In the formulation of general policies on the development of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, the international organizations should play a central role. In my Government' view, FAO must continue to play the leading role in the food and agricultural development and the fight against hunger and malnutrition.

Earlier this year my country got a new coalition Government following a reshuffle. It was at the same time decided to create a new Ministry which will be responsible for the overall bilateral and multilateral development assistance effort, with a view to achieving a more effective development policy.

The Norwegian Government has for the year 1984 proposed that 1,15 per cent of the Gross National Product should be appropriated for official development assistance. Because of the significance of agriculture for the economy of the developing countries, Norway is prepared in the years ahead to make a more conscious effort in the food and agricultural sector in our development cooperation. The conclusion drawn from a number of international meetings and conferences is that it will be necessary to increase food production in both the developing and developed countries. In Norway the aim is furthermore to examine the existing trade pattern with developing countries with a view to increasing imports from developing countries in respect of the traditional imported products.

In order to carry out a sound, effective and goal-oriented development policy, it is necessary to have a long-term planning perspective showing the connection between objectives and means available. Through the study "AT 2000" FAO has made a valuable analysis of the need and consequences of increased global agricultural production.

It is important that this work be continued and given higher priority in the future. The analysis should be expanded from a sector study to a study comprising several sectors and the economy as a whole, thus providing a basis for assessing the interrelationships and relative importance of the various sectors of the economy. The international economic crisis makes it imperative to give priority to questions of agricultural policies in the context of general economic development by UN Agencies and governments alike. Such a broadened scope for these endeavours should therefore be of interest to other UN Agencies, such as UNIDO ILO etc.

The WCARRD principles and the programme of action also provide a good basis for, and illustrate the complexity of, an effective and goal-oriented development policy. The programme emphasizes the fundamental interrelationship between food production, distribution and consumption. The WCARRD programme of action emphasizes that in order to have adequate supplies of food, it is necessary to take into account the underlying connection between social conditions, distribution of resources and population growth. The principles and the Programme of Action point out that a solution to the problem of hunger and malnutrition is a political issue. The political will must therefore be present.

A basic element of Norwegian development assistance policy has been to help the very poorest groups of the population. Experience shows that this is difficult to achieve. I am therefore pleased to note that the Conference is devoting special attention to the WCARRD programme. It is important that this part of FAO's work be given high priority in the years to come.

The Norwegian authorities are particularly satisfied with the initiative taken by FAO to strengthen its activities with regard to analytical studies on the effect of pricing policies on increased food production. An important pre-requisite in this respect, together with the more technical aspects of the production process, for increased food production is that the farmers are given the necessary incentives to increased production. For example, this may be done by higher and stable producer prices as well as by improved marketing systems. At the same time due regard must be paid to the possibilities for low-income groups to buy food.

In FAO's constitution it is laid down that one of the major goals of the organization is to improve nutrition. I would like to emphasize the importance of the nutritional aspects in the development of rural communities being given systematic consideration in all FAO programmes.

The Norwegian authorities support the view that food aid, as well as other forms of assistance, should be directed towards supporting the national agricultural and food policy in each individual country. The aim must be to ensure that the individual is secured a satisfactory food supply, proper nutrition and general welfare. We therefore welcome the enlarged concept of world food security adopted by the FAO Council and ECOSOC.

In this connection it is important to have in mind that most of the poor farm population in developing countries are women. In Africa for example, women undertake 60 per cent of the work in agriculture. It is also women who are primarily responsible for the family diet. The situation of women should be improved through training and changes in the agricultural production. Furthermore, it is important, as adopted in the UN Convention on Women, that women themselves participate in the formulation and implementation of development plans and programmes at all levels.

Statistical information on world food production shows that there is much to be done before the objectives on increased food and agricultural production in AT 2000 are fulfilled. The considerable increase in food production in 1981 compared to previous years is positive. However, what gives reason for anxiety is the large variations between countries and regions, and in particular the alarming situation in Africa. It is therefore important that assistance even to a greater degree be concentrated on this part of the world.

Research within forestry, agriculture and fisheries is and will also in the future be of great importance for increased food production and for a better use of resources in the world. In this

connection, the Norwegian authorities would like to underline the importance of examining the possibilities of expanding the research capacity in the developing countries themselves, based on existing research cooperation.

Finally I should like to make a few comments on developments in the fisheries and forestry sectors. At present Norway's Trust Fund activities in this field are mainly channelled to FAO's programme for "Exclusive Economic Zones". Norway will also in future give its support to this programme. Furthermore, Norway has stressed the importance of giving greater weight to fish in nutrition. As part of the preparations for The World Fisheries Conference in 1984, an expert seminar was arranged in Norway on this subject.

Several reports give today an alarming picture with regard to forestry. This applies in particular to the fuel-wood situation and to the deforestation problem in developing countries. We also have this problem in Europe, due to pollution - as pointed out by my colleague from Sweden this morning. I would like to suggest that the future situation for industrial wood should be analyzed so that possible measures to correct the situation could be taken in time and that projects be re-oriented towards the deforestation problem.

In conclusion, given today's international economic situation with reduced growth in the world economy, it is important that all countries follow up the international recommendations concerning development assistance. At the same time, it is important to encourage the optimum use of available economic resources. My delegation would like to support the budget level proposed by the Director-General.

I should like to stress the importance of a better cooperation between international organizations in the food and agriculture sector. Both at the national and international level, we must in the years ahead work together towards the world's problems of hunger and malnutrition.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

S. TRAORE (Haute-Volta): Monsieur le Président, Messieurs les Ministres, Monsieur le Directeur général, Honorables Délégués, Mesdames, Messieurs.

Au nom du Peuple Révolutionnaire de Haute-Volta, au nom du Conseil National de la Révolution, notre délégation s'associe à toutes celles qui l'ont précédée à cette tribune pour exprimer nos félicitations à Monsieur le Président pour son éclatante élection à la Présidence de cette vingt-deuxième session de la Conférence Générale de la FAO.

Nous sommes convaincus que sous votre clairvoyante Direction, la Conférence se déroulera dans d'excellentes conditions à la grande satisfaction des nombreuses délégations.

Monsieur le Président, notre délégation participera de la façon la plus active aux travaux avec la ferme volonté de faire de cette conférence quelque chose d'utile pour les populations du tiers monde qui vivent dans la misère, la souffrance et l'ignorance.

La délégation de Haute-Volta saisit l'occasion qui lui est donnée pour adresser ses félicitations au Directeur général de la FAO, le Docteur Edouard Saouma, pour ses activités, ses prises de positions courageuses en faveur des pays en voie de développement et plus particulièrement les pays les moins avancés.

C'est avec satisfaction que nous avons suivi les travaux des différentes commissions qui ont eu à tenir leurs réunions depuis la dernière conférence générale en 1980 et la dernière conférence Régionale tenue à Alger en 1981.

Nous félicitons tous les membres de ces commissions pour les efforts accomplis afin de rendre les résultats de leurs travaux plus performants et plus opérationnels pour nos pays. Avec votre permission je mentionnerai les points qui ont retenu le plus notre attention:

- La Sécurité Alimentaire: c'est un sujet brûlant d'actualité et notre délégation apporte son ferme soutien au nouveau concept de la sécurité alimentaire qui est une initiative personnelle du Directeur général. Cette vision qui prend en compte les problèmes de production, de commercialisation, d'approvisionnement, de stockage, vise l'indépendance et la dignité de nos peuples; nous marquons un vif intérêt pour le principe qui veut que toute sécurité alimentaire repose sur des productions nationales suffisantes.

Il n'y aura pas de sécurité alimentaire tant que les productions vivrières des pays en voie de développement resteront très faibles. Il n'y aura pas non plus de sécurité alimentaire tant que les stocks mondiaux de céréales se trouveront dans les pays développés, donc loin des populations néces-

siteuses. Nous condamnons toute politique qui consisterait à maintenir le statu quo dans ce domaine. Nous sommes favorables à des échanges régionaux, intrarégionaux en matière d'approvisionnement et à toute aide tendant à faire acquérir à chaque pays une capacité de production pour assurer sa propre sécurité alimentaire.

- Le programme technique: en dépit d'une croissance zéro et des difficultés financières, assez ardues, le programme technique sera exécuté avec une légère augmentation des activités.

C'est surtout les pays en voie de développement qui vont bénéficier le plus de ce programme en particulier les nations les moins avancées.

- Les programmes de coopération technique: il s'agit de programmes ponctuels très adaptés et très efficaces. La Haute-Volta porte un intérêt particulier à ce type d'intervention et approuve l'augmentation du budget qui a été faite pour renforcer ces programmes. Nous pensons d'ailleurs qu'il est souhaitable d'accorder une importance toute spéciale à cette aide d'urgence.

- L'utilisation de l'expertise des pays en voie de développement et la place qu'occupent les femmes à la FAO : la délégation de Haute-Volta exprime sa satisfaction pour une telle disposition à condition que cela soit une réalité car c'est la seule façon pour nos pays d'acquérir leur indépendance en matière d'expertise qui jusque là est le domaine exclusif des pays nantis.

Or le fait que les programmes de développement soient conçus à partir de documents élaborés par les experts, il est tout indiqué que nos experts qui connaissent mieux nos réalités socio-économiques, socio-culturelles puissent prendre la relève des experts des pays développés.

A propos du recrutement de femmes ressortissantes des pays en voie de développement, notre délégation apporte un ferme soutien à la promotion de la Femme. La femme qui a pendant longtemps souffert de la domination et de l'injustice de l'homme, occupe une place privilégiée en Haute-Volta. En effet, dans le discours d'orientation rendu public par le Président du Conseil National de la Révolution, le 2 octobre 1983, le Camarade Thomas Sankara disait, je cite: "Notre Révolution intéresse tous les opprimés par conséquent les femmes. La Révolution en changeant l'ordre social qui opprime la femme, crée les conditions pour son émancipation véritable.

Elle sera associée à tous les combats que nous aurons à entreprendre contre les diverses entraves de la société néo-coloniale et pour l'édification d'une société nouvelle. Elle sera associée à tous les niveaux de conception, de décision et d'exécution dans l'organisation de la vie de la Nation entière" fin de citation.

- Les problèmes de développement : notre délégation apprécie les nouvelles priorités faites aux productions vivrières pendant longtemps délaissées au profit des cultures dites de rente destinées à alimenter les économies des pays développés, au détriment des pays en voie de développement, qui croupissent dans la misère, la pauvreté absolue, parce que victimes de la détérioration des termes de l'échange, du pillage orchestré par l'impérialisme international avec la complicité de ses valets locaux.

Nous soutenons les efforts fort justes qui sont faits pour l'intégration de la femme dans le processus du développement et des mesures envisagées pour l'élevage, la pêche, la foresterie, la recherche dans tous les domaines par un renforcement entre la recherche et le développement.

Nous appuyons les démarches pour la mise en pratique des résolutions de la conférence mondiale sur la Réforme agraire et le développement rural. Ce processus dans son ensemble vise une meilleure justice dans la répartition des ressources nationales, dans le développement global des populations. Il vise également l'intégration des femmes, des petits agriculteurs en vue d'une promotion réelle. Notre soutien ne fera jamais défaut dès qu'il s'agit de la défense des intérêts des couches les plus déshéritées.

Monsieur le Président, voilà les quelques points les plus marquants parmi tant d'autres sur lesquels nous avons voulu donner un avis.

Monsieur le Président, avec votre autorisation et avec l'indulgence de notre auguste Assemblée, nous voudrions vous donner un aperçu succinct de la situation socio-économique politique de notre pays.

La Haute-Volta était une néo-colonie jusqu'à l'avènement de la Révolution populaire du 4 août dernier. La proclamation de la Révolution en Haute-Volta vise à mettre fin à 23 années d'injustice, de marasme économique, d'exploitation perpétrée par l'impérialisme international avec la complicité de ses valets nationaux.

Le discours d'orientation publié le 2 octobre 1983 met cruellement à nu les défauts de notre économie: économie arriérée, dominée par les intérêts de l'impérialisme international et de la bourgeoisie locale.

La Révolution voltaïque reçoit donc un lourd héritage de 23 années de stagnation, de tâtonnement et de gabegie.

Le Conseil national de la Révolution et les Comités de défense de la Révolution et des coopératives agricoles s'attelleront sans délais à redonner au peuple sa dignité, à reconstruire son économie. Il s'agira de construire, nous citons le leader de la Révolution voltaïque, le Capitaine Thomas Sankara: "une économie nationale indépendante, autosuffisance et planifiée au service d'une société démocratique et populaire qui passe par la transformation radicale de la société actuelle; transformation qui, elle-même, suppose les grandes réformes suivantes: la réforme agraire, la réforme de l'administration, la réforme scolaire, la réforme des structures de production et de distribution dans le secteur moderne" - fin de citation.

Pour réaliser ce programme gigantesque, le peuple voltaïque compte tout d'abord sur ses propres moyens qui, nous en sommes convaincus, sont loin de faire défaut. Les aides bilatérales et multilatérales ne comportant pas des aspects de domination et d'exploitation impérialistes, viendraient en complément à l'effort national.

Je profite de l'occasion pour remercier tous les pays, l'Italie, le Canada, les Etats-Unis et tous ceux que je ne peux citer, qui interviennent pour permettre à la Haute-Volta de lutter contre les adversités de la nature qui nous préoccupent en ce moment.

C'est avec regret que nous informons l'opinion internationale que la Haute-Volta pour une fois encore a été durement frappée par une sécheresse qui a réduit dans les proportions inquiétantes son cheptel et le volume de ses productions vivrières et d'exportation. En effet, la saison agricole a connu les caractéristiques suivantes: 1) retards dans les semis; 2) sécheresses et déficit pluviométrique; 3) arrêt prématuré de la saison pluvieuse.

Les effets cumulés des facteurs défavorables ci-dessus mentionnés ont conduit inéluctablement à un déficit céréalier estimé à 300 000 tonnes. Ce chiffre paraît élevé mais il correspond cependant à la réalité car des régions entières représentant plus de la moitié du pays auront très peu ou pratiquement pas de récoltes.

Ceci a été surtout plus grave dans l'ouest du pays où en année normale il se dégageait des excédents céréaliers qui venaient réduire le déficit national. Au niveau national, un grand effet de mobilisation est mis en marche pour limiter les effets de cette calamité par la création d'infrastructures de collecte, de stockage et de distribution au niveau local.

Cette situation catastrophique de la campagne agricole ne se limite malheureusement pas à la seule Haute-Volta, c'est pourquoi le soutien de mon pays, la Haute-Volta, ne fera jamais défaut aux efforts inlassables que la FAO déploie en faveur de l'Afrique et tout particulièrement du Sahel, pour faire prendre conscience à l'humanité entière des réalités cruelles que vivent quotidiennement des centaines de millions de personnes.

Notre délégation apporte son soutien au budget pour le biennium 1984-1985 qui se caractérise par un grand souci de rigueur de gestion.

Pour conclure, nous adressons nos vives félicitations aux nouveaux pays membres de notre organisation, laquelle a besoin de toute l'humanité pour mener le combat contre la faim, la malnutrition et la misère.

Unis nous vaincrons, la patrie ou la mort nous vaincrons

Javier Gazzo F.D., Vice-Chairman of the Conference, took the chair

Javier Gazzo F.P., Vice-Président de la Conférence, assume la présidence

Javier Gazzo F.D., Vicepresidente de la Conferencia ocupa la presidencia

P, BRODERICK (Jamaica) : On behalf of my delegation, I would like to extend to you, Mr Chairman, congratulations on your election as Chairman of this Conference. We are confident that you will guide our proceedings towards a meaningful conclusion. I would also like to take this opportunity to extend our appreciation to the Director-General for the dynamic way in which he has directed the Food and Agriculture Organization.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome the four new members to FAO. Indeed, on behalf of my government, I would like to extend a very special welcome to our CARICOM partners. We are confident that all of them will make a positive contribution to the work of the Organization.

It is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to address the Twenty-second session of the FAO Conference. This session is being convened at a time when more than ever before, developed and developing countries need to recommit themselves to the objective of eradicating hunger and poverty wherever they exist.

These goals can, however, only be achieved within the ambit of international cooperation and unity. While both rich and poor countries alike have been seriously affected by the current economic recession, the developed countries have been able to weather this crisis much better than those of us in the developing world.

It is well known, that most of us are greatly dependent on the agricultural sectors in our countries, not only to provide food for our people, but also to earn foreign exchange to import necessary commodities which we cannot produce.

While there has been a relatively modest increase in the price of some agricultural commodities recently, it is a fact that there has been a general erosion in the terms of trade to the detriment of the developing countries.

Against this background, FAO and other international organizations have continued to provide technical assistance and policy guidance on a level which can only be described as commendable -and this in spite of a growing scarcity of development funds.

Notwithstanding this, many developing countries find themselves in the situation of getting into deeper financial debt and with falling levels of agricultural production, which retarded their economic growth.

Mr Chairman, countries with a limited agricultural resource base in many instances cannot produce on a scale which would make it possible for them to become suppliers of large markets, even when such markets exist. There is need, therefore, for developing countries which can produce the same commodity to continue the dialogue in a serious way on how they can cooperatively organize the marketing of these crops so that any short-fall in supply from one country could be met by a cooperating country in such a way that all participating countries benefit.

I sincerely believe, that there will be no lasting benefits to any country rich or poor, large or small if the pattern of economic trade continues in a way to allow one country to benefit at the expense of the other.

I am not for a moment suggesting that economic competition should not exist. This is both healthy and necessary to stimulate production and to reward initiative, but it must exist within a framework of cooperation and support if the whole system of world economic trade is not to collapse.

Another major area in need in many developing countries is for a much more careful selection of crops to be developed, based on the principle of comparative advantage. But while this sounds relatively simple in-concept, it is most difficult to implement.

How do you, for example, get a farmer who has been producing bananas all his life, but for which he receives little economic return, to shift to a crop for which the potential economic return is greater but of which he knows very little or nothing? This is a serious challenge we face and it is one to which FAO should turn increasing attention in designing more programmes for effectively attending to this problem.

Turning to the activities of FAO, first let me say that in the review of the Organization's Regular Programme for 1982-83, it is clear that this Organization is cognisant of the major problems involved in agricultural development in the fight against hunger and poverty.

In FAO's major programme on agriculture, it is encouraging to know that renewed emphasis has been given and will continue to be given to the poorer countries and the disadvantaged groups, in spite of the difficulties faced by current world economic recession and the inability to mobilize extra-budgetary resources.

Also, the possible improvements to field inter-disciplinary missions rather than separate visits by individual specialists to review the work plans of larger multi-disciplinary projects is welcomed. FAO's interest and involvement in effective information and training activities is also commendable.

In fisheries' development, FAO's regional network activities must lead to positive improvement in this vital protein resource for feeding the poor. The development of small-scale fishing in island economies like Jamaica and other Caribbean nations is considered to be of primary importance towards food security.

Turning to rural development programmes, the focus on forestry and its activities for improving the life and economic welfare of the rural people who depend on this resource is welcome.

The progress made in improving the productivity on upland or hillside farming has not been very rewarding owing to constraints of capital cost. But the fact that FAO is determined to tackle the problem is indeed reassuring.

In technical cooperation and development support, it is considered a major step in emphasizing the streamlining of the organization's procedures for processing Trust Fund proposals in order to shorten the time involved.

In 1982, the Director-General visited a number of CARICOM countries including my own. During his visit it was agreed that the establishment of technical networks among our countries would lead to an increased transfer of skills and know-how. These networks would be similar to those already existing in other countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region.

The following areas were identified: food legumes, bio-energy, artisanal fisheries, rural agro-industry, small stock development and watershed management. Jamaica indeed hosted two of the activities, namely bio-energy and rural agro-industry. During the course of this month a number of workshops are being conducted to complete the preliminary work leading to the establishment of this system of networks.

I, for one, see great value in this project and look forward to the integration of the CARICOM network into the networks already established elsewhere in Latin America, starting in January 1984.

In the Latin America and Caribbean region it is recognized that the past efforts to expand the agricultural frontier both horizontally and vertically have been enormous, both in terms of capital and human resources. Such efforts have not shown the desired results of increasing agricultural production. In fact, agricultural production in the Caribbean has fallen progressively over the last decade and can now be considered to be in an alarming state.

In Jamaica we are deeply concerned about this situation and we are consequently committed to the orderly development of the agricultural sector with an intended strategy designed to tackle rural development and to create an improved quality of life for the small rural farming family. The strategies which date back to 1949 started with land settlement programmes and from then recognized the need to create services, education, as well as improved facilities for health, electricity, transport and communication. We are cognisant of the fact that such commitment will necessitate a more integrated approach to rural development which should result in the creation of a climate that would enable the agricultural sector to expand output and indeed increase productivity, while taking into full consideration inter-relationships between agriculture and other sectors of the economy, particularly industry and tourism.

Based on our commitment to integrated rural development, a set of basic policies for the development of the agricultural sector have been formulated.

The agricultural sector must provide as much of the food and raw material as is feasible to meet the needs for an adequate food and nutrition level of the population, agro-industrial needs and the requirements of the export markets. To attain this objective, we are committed to provide all the necessary incentives such as credit, availability of land, inputs on a timely basis, market intelligence and a stable political climate to that incentive and will to produce will not be lost.

The production of the sector should be so structured so as to reduce the reliance on imports, hence an objective towards self-sufficiency and increased food security in areas where the sector can produce best.

In committing ourselves to ensure that all agricultural lands are used to the fullest potential, which will result in optimum economic and social benefits to the country as a whole, the farmers have been given the assurance that agricultural lands will be protected as far as possible from misuse and speculation, and we believe that this is most desirable in a country which can only expand its agricultural frontier vertically and not horizontally because of the relatively small amount of good arable lands available.

An assurance to assist small rural farming communities to increase their farming income is also given. It is interesting to note that at present the average rural income is approximately J\$ 3 000 (US\$ 1 040) per annum and the target of Government is now set at J\$ 6 000 (US\$ 2 080) per annum. An objective to improve rural amenities and social infrastructure as a basis for raising the standard of living of the rural family is also a primary goal.

We must set ourselves the task of creating more employment opportunities so as to reduce unemployment and under-employment, and arrest the rural urban drift of the small rural farming family.

On this point it has to be understood that poverty and hunger will never be substantially reduced if job creation is not seen as the focal trust of all the policies and the strategies in the development of our agriculture globally.

The Caribbean Region and the United States of America recently entered into one of the most important initiatives which will focus on the development of the agricultural and agro-industry sector.

The Caribbean Basin Initiative is seen as a positive step towards expanding production and marketing of Caribbean nations' produce. In addition my Government, in seeking to fulfill the aims and aspirations of the Jamaican people, has embarked upon a programme in agriculture to bring into production approximately 50 000 hectares of land and to improve productivity on approximately 40 000 hectares within the next five years. This programme Agriculture 21 is designed to complement the efforts within the C.B.I. and assist Jamaica in the fight against poverty among its people.

We recognize, Mr Chairman, that all these initiatives will require supreme effort and we will certainly not achieve our objectives without the goodwill and support of the international community. In this regard we believe that FAO will continue to play a vital role. We therefore take this opportunity of approving the budgetary proposals for the biennium 1984-85 and in endorsing the proposed programme of work and medium-term objectives.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

D. NORMAN (Zimbabwe): Mr Chairman of the Council, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to begin by congratulating the Chairman of this Conference, Mr John Block, and his three Vice-Chairmen, not only on their election to office, but on the impeccable manner in which they have handled the business of the Conference so far.

Mr Chairman, I am well aware of the pre-Conference instructions where we were advised to omit detailed references to our own country, but I hope that you will forgive me if I break slightly with the instructions as I feel that the experiences of Zimbabwe in recent times could be useful for two reasons: firstly, it appears that one of the main focuses of this Conference is on the food situation in Africa; and secondly, we in Zimbabwe depend very heavily in our total economic life upon farming and agriculture.

Since our independence in April 1980, we have experienced three extremely diverse agricultural seasons. In the first one the weather pattern was almost perfect. We produced record yields and harvests. We took in a crop of maize, the staple diet of our people, in excess of 2 million tons, of which the small-scale farming sector contributed 363 000 tons compared to a previous high of a mere 86 000 tons. Likewise, cotton produced a similar crop. Out of a total of 200 000 tons delivered, 39 000 tons came from the small-scale sector. Peak yields were obtained by producers of both soybeans and sorghums. Finally, we saw the beginning of a revival of a cattle industry which had been severely ravaged by war. In all, this was a satisfactory start to a new independent state. With peace restored we found that every sector in agriculture responded in a positive manner.

The following season, 1981-82, showed a clear indication that farmers intended to maintain this momentum but, unfortunately, the weather was far from ideal. The effect of the dry season was greater on the livestock industry than on the cropping programmes, but nevertheless all crops were reduced. But we managed to take in a surplus of maize to the local demand. It is interesting to note that the deliveries from the small-scale sector advanced even further to a new record of 370 000 tons or, to put it another way, 27 percent of the total. I feel that this indicates the ability of the peasant sector to respond to production incentives. And I was interested to note and to read that incentives were emphasized in the report of the Committee on Commodity Problems which was presented to the Council last week.

We try to promote our production on four main fronts: firstly, better price. We feel that a fair commodity price must be paid and must be offered to our farmers. We do not expect our farmers to produce at a loss. We review the prices annually and adjust where necessary. I fail to understand why farmers of our country or any country should be expected to earn an income which is less than that of the lowest paid worker. Secondly, in the peasant sector we have increased the access to vital inputs, particularly that of cash credits to our farmers. With the cash credits they are thus enabled to purchase fertilizers, chemicals, tools, seeds and other items which are so vital to improving their productivity. Thirdly, the Government is giving greater assistance to research and extension, particularly in the field of appropriate technology and plant breeding of improved varieties of traditional grains. While in extension our major thrust is to teach the farmers how to farm, to increase their productivity per unit, and this I believe is one of the keys to solving the present problem of food shortages.

Fourthly, as most of the commodities produced in Zimbabwe are government controlled, we now have a policy of taking the market place to the farmers. In the last three years we have established and constructed many intake depots in the production areas, thus giving encouragement to small-scale farmers to exceed the subsistence level of production and have a market for their surpluses.

Mr Chairman, let me assure you that these measures do work. In the past three years production for all sectors of agriculture has risen both in mass and in value. But I think the most significant growth can be seen in the small-scale farming sector where we have so far recorded a growth in value

of 420 percent. This is an achievement for which we are justly proud, and I believe that when the figures for the 1983 season are audited we will find a further improvement on that growth factor. I think this follows the point raised yesterday by M. Pisani who pointed out that farmers need security in order to farm.

I contend that we in Zimbabwe are attempting to give them that security. I am also a firm believer in the philosophy that if you look after your farmers they will indeed reward you with the food that you need. However, we have just completed our third season, the one of 1982-83, when low rainfall, the lowest ever recorded temperatures, have combined to give us the worst drought we have experienced in the history of our land. Regrettably, once again the main sufferers have been the livestock producers, and despite government relief measures and intervention I am afraid that many cattle will eventually die.

However, turning to the crop situation, and crops were also badly affected, we have had the lowest intake of maize - just to remind you, that is has been our staple die for the last 15 years - and that has to be measured against the highest offtake by domestic demand of 1.3 million tons, a figure that has doubled in the last five years. However, thanks to a policy of stock holding, we have sufficient food to meet our demands. In fact, we have sufficient food in stock in Zimbabwe until next year's crops are harvested. We have stocks of maize, oil, seed, beef and milk products sufficient for all of our internal requirements.

That brings me to the topic of food security. I am a great believer in regional projects. In many instances I believe that more can be achieved in combined efforts than in a policy of going it alone. Since April 1980 Zimbabwe has had the responsibility of formulating and administering the food security programme for the SADCC region of countries. Despite adverse weather conditions in this region significant advances have been made, advances in the identification of resources both natural and agricultural, the assessment of post-harvest losses and programmes to try and reduce them. Much has been said at this Conference about post-harvest losses, and I do see this as one area which, if tackled correctly and courageously, would go a long way in meeting the present food deficit that has been experienced in Africa. The ability to increase this processing of food grown in the region is another area under vigilant investigation at the moment. There, again, I believe there is scope for vast improvement. To all intents and purposes this is a virgin area for us to explore. Investigation into improved marketing structures to meet both the needs of the producers and the consumers is under constant review at this moment. Here I must support the views advanced by the Minister of Agriculture for Canada earlier today when he spoke of controlled marketing. I think there is a danger that if we lose control of marketing it can only be replaced with black marketing. The establishment of regional food stocks is an area which I see as of immediate assistance, because we do have small pockets of surpluses grown in the area, but unfortunately, because of inadequate and insufficient stockholding capacity, these have not been utilized to the full.

In order to coordinate all these programmes and other programmes we have recently established a small agricultural unit within the Ministry of Agriculture in Harare.

At this point, I should like to acknowledge the help and assistance that we and the SADCC countries have received from the international community and the international agencies, not least the FAO and the agencies within that body. Without that assistance and without that help no programmes would have been possible, but we have received assistance not only for development programmes but we have also had generous help by the injection of counterpart funds from many countries.

In conclusion, I should like to give a brief view on the situation in Africa as I see it. The situation is serious. For many it is even desperate, but I do not believe that the situation is impossible. As has been pointed out by previous speakers, we have resources which are adequate to meet the current demands in Africa. It is the utilization of what we have that is important. These resources need to be exploited and developed, particularly water storage for irrigation purposes. I realize that these involves vast capital costs but nevertheless I view them not so much as an investment - although an investment they could well be - but more as an insurance. That is a premium that will have to be paid now in the next decade to ensure that we do indeed overcome this problem of food deficit in Africa.

However, these are the exciting, challenging prospects for the future. In the meantime, I should like to issue a small warning: that it take more than land, water and people to have an agricultural industry. One must have within one's own country adequate structures and adequate services, structures such as organized marketing, financial institutions and transport facilities, and services such as research extension and veterinary. Farmers cannot farm without the backup services. Assistance to develop or, in some instances, to redevelop in these areas would be of enormous and immediate benefit. To rephrase what the Secretary for Agriculture of the United States, Mr John Block, said yesterday, which in turn was re-emphasized by the United Kingdom Minister, Mr Raison, today, what we need in Africa is not so much food aid as aid to grow food.

Much has been said of the African scene, but I am optimistic and I am confident that with positive approaches and dedicated attitudes we can reverse the present trends on that continent. I am convinced that the answers to Africa's problems lie in Africa.

Finally, to all members of the African group, I say we look forward to meeting you in Zimbabwe for the Regional Conference of Africa beginning on 16 July 1984.

C. MATTOS MOGLIA (Uruguay): Sr. Presidente, Sr. Director General, Señores Ministros de Agricultura, Señores Delegados, Señoras y Señores:

La delegación de la República Oriental del Uruguay, que tengo el honor de presidir, desea expresar su felicitación al Sr. Presidente por la elección de la que ha sido objeto. Sus cualidades personales y su experiencia aseguran el mejor éxito de este 22° período de sesiones de la Conferencia.

Asimismo, nuestro reconocimiento al Sr. Director General y a los funcionarios de la Secretaría de la FAO por los esfuerzos realizados en la preparación de esta Conferencia. Los documentos presentados han constituido un material de trabajo invaluable para los Estados Miembros y han permitido reflexionar sobre la situación actual de la agricultura y alimentación en el mundo.

Nuestra principal inquietud, Sr. Presidente, en el contexto de la grave situación actual, reflejada en el documento C 83/2, es el creciente deterioro que han sufrido, en los últimos años, los precios de los alimentos y materias primas agrícolas y la aplicación indiscriminada de políticas restrictivas en materia de importaciones, a las que se ha agregado la aplicación de subsidios a las exportaciones agrícolas por parte de los países desarrollados.

Estas prácticas discriminatorias han afectado seriamente a los países en desarrollo, productores y exportadores de alimentos y materias primas agrícolas.

Nuestro país, ubicado en dicha situación, ha visto agudizados los efectos de la recesión económica mundial por estas circunstancias.

Las exportaciones del Uruguay de productos cárnicos, lácteos y cereales han sufrido constantes restricciones bajo la forma de cupos, barreras arancelarias y no arancelarias, derechos compensatorios, subsidios, etc., que han limitado los esfuerzos realizados para incrementar sus volúmenes y, por ende, los ingresos provenientes del comercio exterior.

La situación del mercado internacional de productos cárnicos, en el cual se ha sufrido la agresiva competencia de países desarrollados; que, a través de fuertes subsidios, han desplazado la colocación de nuestros saldos exportables, constituye una clara demostración de que el proteccionismo no ha disminuido y sigue siendo una grave traba a nuestro desarrollo.

El esfuerzo productivo realizado por el Uruguay en materia de producción de carnes, que lo ha llevado a límites record de faena y producción en el corriente año, no ha proporcionado los resultados aguardados por nuestro Gobierno.

Por ello, hemos abordado negociaciones bilaterales con otros países en desarrollo, materializándose convenios de intercambio comercial; y, con los países desarrollados, a través del diálogo multilateral, la posibilidad de adoptar políticas de comercialización coordinadas que permitan tonificar los precios y manejar las situaciones de excedentes coyunturales que distorsionan el mercado internacional.

También, Sr. Presidente, nos preocupa los limitados avances alcanzados en los diversos foros internacionales, convocados para la liberalización del comercio internacional. Pese a la creación del comité de productos agrícolas, en el ámbito del GATT, dichos productos han merecido escasa atención; e inclusive, en los últimos años no han existido medidas significativas en las políticas vigentes que benefician a la agricultura.

Los limitados resultados logrados en el 6^o período de sesiones de la UNCTAD, en materia de productos básicos, tampoco permiten expectativas favorables para los países en desarrollo en el futuro próximo.

La situación de hambre y desnutrición que afecta a muchos países en desarrollo y a vastos sectores de su población, merece una especial atención de nuestra Conferencia.

Las inquietudes manifestadas, reiteradamente, por el Sr. Director General, sobre esta situación expresan un justificado llamado de atención a la comunidad mundial y, debemos reconocer en forma expresa y pública, sus esfuerzos para el fortalecimiento de la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

Nuestra delegación desea reiterar, en este tema, la estrecha relación existente entre proteccionismo y seguridad alimentaria.

En efecto, la capacidad productora de alimentos de los países en desarrollo, se encuentra directamente afectada por todas las prácticas proteccionistas de los países desarrollados. Ello provoca la falta de estímulo a una mayor producción de los países con potenciales agrícolas significativos, dado la pronunciada caída de los precios agrícolas y, a la vez, aumenta la dependencia de los países deficitarios, ya que la superación de su situación exige inversiones cuantiosas en el campo de la agricultura, que no pueden ser amortizadas, dada la situación actual de los mercados. Este círculo vicioso, limita las posibilidades de un desarrollo efectivo en dichos países, ya que, en el corto plazo, deben continuar dependiendo de suministros de alimentos en condiciones de favor o con precios subsidiados.

La liberalización del comercio internacional de alimentos, estimulando el desarrollo agrícola y la integración regional y subregional de los países en desarrollo, será una herramienta básica para promover un mejoramiento de la actual situación y el fortalecimiento de la seguridad alimentaria, tanto a nivel regional como mundial.

La disponibilidad efectiva de los alimentos por parte de todos los países y todos sus habitantes como fuera planteado por el Sr. Director General en su documento sobre el concepto de seguridad alimentaria, podría de esa manera tener un comienzo de materialización.

Sr. Presidente, en relación al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto presentado a consideración de la Conferencia, nuestra delegación comparte objetivos propuestos por el

Sr. Director General en cuanto a limitar la carga financiera de los Estados Miembros, a través de una mayor eficiencia en la administración de los recursos disponibles, y el crecimiento real para el bienio 1984-85 de un 0,5 por ciento. Asimismo, expresamos nuestra complacencia con los criterios propuestos de una ajustada y eficiente administración de los recursos disponibles.

No obstante ello, deseamos en esta oportunidad, expresar nuestro punto de vista, sobre algunos aspectos significativos:

-Nos preocupa la tendencia decreciente en la asignación de recursos a proyectos de campo en América Latina en los últimos años.

-Estimamos conveniente el fortalecimiento de los programas de cooperación técnica, que, a través de su rápida tramitación, constituye un valioso instrumento para atender las necesidades de los países en desarrollo y han cubierto, parcialmente, la disminución de recursos de otras fuentes.

-Consideramos necesario mantener la política de descentralización de funciones y decisiones a través de las oficinas regionales y las representaciones nacionales de la FAO. Para nuestro país, el apoyo recibido de la Oficina Regional de FAO para América Latina y la representación nacional ha permitido implementar programas con mayor eficiencia y óptimos beneficios para el desarrollo agropecuario y pesquero. La modificación de la situación actual aparejaría graves perjuicios para los Estados Miembros y para la organización general de la FAO, por ello nos oponemos a propuestas que tiendan a una mayor centralización de las actividades.

-Apoyamos las modalidades de cooperación técnica, en base a expertos más calificados y de corto plazo, permitiendo un uso más racional y efectivo de los limitados recursos disponibles. Ello deberá ser acompañado de una mayor participación de los países receptores, asumiendo la responsabilidad de la dirección de los proyectos.

-Expresamos nuestro apoyo al sistema latinoamericano de redes de cooperación técnica entre instituciones nacionales, como un instrumento apto para la promoción y difusión de mecanismos de cooperación horizontal entre países en desarrollo.

Sr. Presidente, la situación de endeudamiento de los países en desarrollo y la caída de los precios internacionales de los productos agrícolas agravan la crisis financiera internacional. Como lo expresara en su brillante exposición, el ex canciller de Austria Dr. Bruno Kreisky, las inversiones a largo plazo, el desarrollo de infraestructuras y los sectores agrícolas constituyen el instrumento básico para el incremento de la producción de dichos países.

El mayor ingreso por el desarrollo agrícola y un efectivo reajuste en las relaciones entre países desarrollados y países en desarrollo, será la única forma efectiva en que pueda atenuarse la fuerte carga de las deudas actuales.

Por último, deseo terminar esta exposición reiterando nuestras reflexiones sobre la grave situación del comercio internacional de productos agrícolas. No es posible mantener políticas comerciales que distorsionen, en forma tan aguda, a los países en desarrollo, exportadores de productos agropecuarios. Las graves consecuencias que ello acarreará para la seguridad y la paz en el mundo, nos exigen realizar todos los esfuerzos necesarios para lograr una mínima coordinación de políticas comerciales. De otro modo, las desigualdades económicas se irán agravando y la crisis alimentaria mundial alcanzará características catastróficas para muchas regiones del mundo.

Uno de los objetivos principales de este foro, es estimular todos los mecanismos de contacto y negociación que posibiliten avanzar en la superación de la crisis agrícola.

Por ello, nuestros votos para que, a través de las discusiones de los comités y del plenario de la Conferencia, surjan propuestas factibles de alcanzar logros significativos que permitan superar la situación actual.

R. ANGELES SUAREZ (República Dominicana): Señor Presidente de la Asamblea, señores delegados, señoras y señores.

En primer término voy a felicitar la correcta dirección que ha tenido esta Conferencia en las personas del Sr. Block, el Sr. Gazzo, y también de los distinguidos Vicepresidentes electos el sábado pasado. Vamos a dar también la bienvenida a los nuevos Miembros de la gran familia de la FAO: Antigua y Barbuda, Belice, San Cristóbal y Nieves y Vanuatu.

El Gobierno de la República Dominicana está empeñado en lograr la seguridad alimentaria a través del control de las variables más importantes para nuestras condiciones. Ellas son: el autoabastecimiento en rubros alimenticios populares, el manejo adecuado de nuestros recursos naturales, el control de la tecnología agropecuaria y forestal y el acceso a los recursos de producción por parte de los productores agropecuarios capaces de hacer frente al desafío de producción, lo que incluye el apoyo a través de mecanismos de incentivos a las unidades comerciales de producción, tanto para consumo interno como para exportación.

Como otros países del Tercer Mundo, nuestros problemas y nuestra economía en este momento comprenden la disminución del valor de las exportaciones, que son principalmente de origen agrícola, en contraposición con los precios crecientes de nuestras importaciones de materias primas y bienes industriales, determinando un déficit creciente de nuestra balanza de pagos, acelerado a partir del alza de los precios del petróleo, que somos importadores absolutos. En ese contexto la contribución de la agricultura, lejos de aliviar la situación la ha agravado al no producir los alimentos necesarios para alimentar una población que crece a un ritmo actual del 2,6 por ciento anual en el caso de la República Dominicana.

Los esfuerzos del Gobierno de la República Dominicana, que representamos, con apenas 15 meses de establecido, ha reorientado la política agrícola del país alcanzando objetivos específicos de trascendente significado. Esta experiencia queremos compartirla y al mismo tiempo recurrimos a este foro internacional para demandar ideas y soluciones de conjunto, tanto por parte de países que están en iguales condiciones que las nuestras, como los más favorecidos, entendiéndolo que es responsabilidad de todos arbitrar los medios para implantar un nuevo orden económico internacional más favorable para nuestras economías. Esto permitirá cumplir con las demandas de nuestros pueblos por mejores niveles de vida y solucionar uno de los más acuciantes problemas de la humanidad: el aumento del hambre y la desnutrición debido a condiciones económicas inadecuadas y desestimulantes.

Los objetivos para la década actual en cuanto a oportunidades de empleo, abastecimiento de alimentos, diversificación de nuestros rubros de exportación, ahorro de divisas por sustitución de importaciones, están latentes y su mejoría se trata de lograr mediante la participación de todos los sectores público y privado, involucrados en el desarrollo agrícola nacional. Dentro de este esquema la participación del ciudadano Presidente de la República en el más alto organismo de toma de decisiones del sector agrícola, como lo es nuestro Consejo Nacional de Agricultura, ha generado un estado de confianza en el potencial de nuestra Nación y de sus hombres del campo, y ha determinado resultados en áreas que se juzgaban difíciles de superar.

Por ejemplo, la pretensión tradicional de lograr el autoabastecimiento en arroz y en habichuelas, rubros básicos de la canasta alimenticia popular dominicana, es hoy una realidad, y de una situación de déficit de producción que durante los últimos diez años representó más de 172 millones de dólares y más de 400 000 toneladas métricas, en importaciones en el caso del arroz, hemos pasado a ser auto-suficientes, estudiándose incluso la posibilidad de iniciar la exportación hacia otras latitudes.

Creemos, entonces, que para países como el nuestro la seguridad alimentaria estará determinada por la autosuficiencia productiva, exceptuando aquellos bienes para los cuales no hay condiciones naturales para su producción.

Nuestros países deben producir los bienes alimentarios necesarios rompiendo el esquema tradicional, pagando internamente precios más elevados si fuere necesario, en lugar de pagar importaciones de bienes alimentarios en monedas duras y de las cuales no disponemos suficientemente. Esto se puede sintetizar diciendo que la autosuficiencia alimentaria debe lograrse a cualquier precio, pero pagada en moneda local. Este es el caso de productos tales como el maíz y el sorgo, cereales fundamentales para la producción avícola y porcina, y de los cuales un país pequeño como el nuestro ha de importar la suma de 30 millones de dólares en el año de 1983, y una suma igual en lo que también se refiere a grasas comestibles.

En ambos grupos de cultivo bajo las pautas señaladas, estamos desarrollando programas para alcanzar la autosuficiencia a mediano plazo que incluyen dotación de semillas mejoradas, equipos agrícolas, asistencia técnica y crédito más ágil mediante el marco adecuado de un mecanismo de coordinación operativa.

Nosotros entendemos que hay cultivos agrícolas que para que sea económica su producción deben hacerse en grandes unidades de producción utilizando grandes superficies, equipos y maquinarias, así como disponibilidad de capital de trabajo, que al tiempo que resuelvan problemas de producción locales para abastecer demanda interna o de exportación, sean capaces de sustituir las entregas que hacen este mismo tipo de explotaciones en países desarrollados, de los cuales importamos con grandes sacrificios productos alimenticios para consumo de nuestra población.

Nuestras legislaciones de orden laboral fijando salarios mínimos y porcentajes de participación en las utilidades y otras medidas de redistribución se encargarán de un mejor reparto del producto de la tierra en este tipo de explotación.

Mientras esto se produce no hay duda de que a los conflictos sociales del campo hay que buscarle solución. Los programas de reforma agraria deben ser más agresivos con una clara decisión política de los gobiernos para lograr metas atrevidas, que aun cuando en principio no solucionen problemas de producción, sienten las bases para una mejor distribución de la riqueza y el ingreso.

En este sentido, en menos de 15 meses en el actual Gobierno de nuestro país, se ha logrado más de un 70 por ciento del esfuerzo realizado en los cuatro años recién pasados, y más de un 8 por ciento de las familias asentadas durante los últimos 21 años que constituyen nuestro período de la reforma agraria.

El campo en nuestros países no es sólo para producir alimentos, sino que también debe generar materias primas para desarrollar otras actividades como la agroindustria y la artesanía, las cuales contribuyen a una mejoría en los niveles de empleo en el campo. Se contribuye así a mantener a la población en su lugar de origen, evitando los grandes cinturones de miseria en nuestras ciudades y se produce una distribución geográfica más equitativa del ingreso para que el concepto de desarrollo rural tenga mayor sentido.

Es evidente que además de la autosuficiencia alimentaria, tenemos otros problemas y también otras prioridades.

Entre los más notables nos cabe destacar la necesidad de facilitar el acceso a fuentes de trabajo para amplios sectores, de modo tal que la producción y el consumo se estimulen mutuamente. Esto nos plantea, especialmente en el campo agropecuario y forestal, la necesidad de fomentar la introducción y el desarrollo de tecnologías adaptadas a nuestro medio y a nuestras conveniencias. Estamos corrigiendo tendencias inadecuadas como la dependencia de insumos técnicos importados cada vez más costosos para producir rubros de exportación, cada vez más baratos, que cierran el círculo de la dependencia y cortan las posibilidades de crecimiento autosostenido para nuestro país. La reorganización institucional en el área de la investigación y la revisión del rol que ésta debe desempeñar en el sector agropecuario y forestal dará lugar a una franca recuperación de los objetivos nacionales de generación y transferencia de tecnología. El talento de nuestros investigadores debe estar concentrado en nuestros países en problemas que respondan a los sistemas de producción de nuestras posibilidades internas.

El esfuerzo realizado en la producción agropecuaria en el primer año de gestión del actual Gobierno, nos ha permitido mantener un nivel de precios agrícolas que apenas han aumentado en un 1,4 por ciento hasta el mes de septiembre del cursante año, provocando con esto una mejor distribución de los alimentos vía precios y por otro lado mantener el estímulo a los productores evitando alzas y bajas abruptas como forma de garantizar utilidades que permitan hacerlas fundamentalmente rentables.

Los objetivos de mejorar el nivel nutricional para los sectores menos favorecidos de nuestra sociedad deben sostenerse a través de una adecuada política de precios para los alimentos básicos y la materia prima de la industria alimentaria, a través de la diversificación y el desarrollo de la agroindustria, la creación de canales discriminados de comercialización de rubros agropecuarios y del desarrollo de un sistema de subsidios directos o indirectos, si fuera necesario, con el acceso del producto a consumidores más vulnerables, como es el caso de la provisión de leche en las escuelas a la infancia en edad escolar.

Todas estas acciones requieren del apoyo de organismos internacionales y de países amigos, entre las que merece lugar destacado el apoyo brindado por la FAO, la cual nos ha prestado su cooperación en cuatro grandes campos de interés para la República Dominicana:

- Generación y transferencia de tecnología,
- Planificación y desarrollo rural,
- Desarrollo de la base bioeconómica y recursos naturales, y
- Desarrollo del sistema de seguridad alimentaria.

Queremos finalizar esta breve intervención señalando la necesidad de nuestros países con la asistencia de la Organización para la Agricultura y la Alimentación (FAO), de redefinir para la presente década una política de apoyo al aumento de la productividad agropecuaria y a la apertura de nuevas fuentes alternativas de producción, al desarrollo de tecnologías apropiadas a cada region, así como el aprovechamiento integral de los recursos humanos y naturales, incluyendo los energéticos.

Este esfuerzo de nuevas dimensiones nos permitirá aumentar la producción de alimentos y materias primas en un mundo cada vez más hambriento con el cual estamos comprometidos a ser los ejecutores de esta política para asegurar el bienestar y la paz en nuestros pueblos.

Es necesario que, como forma de atender a la preocupación de la seguridad alimentaria en el mundo, fortalezcamos aquellos organismos de financiamiento que, como el FIDA, vienen apoyando programas y proyectos que realmente tocan el fondo de los problemas sociales y económicos de los países en vía de desarrollo, que al mismo tiempo significa apoyar la paz.

J.B. MACHUNDA (Tanzania): On behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, my delegation and on my own behalf, I offer our congratulation to you, Mr Chairman, on being unanimously elected Chairman of this Twenty-second session of FAO Conferences.

The situation of food and agriculture in Tanzania has been, under a severe strain. The sector has not been able to fulfil its traditional functions effectively. An obvious manifestation of the weakening of the sector is the decline in the volume of production of food and export crops thus creating dependence on imported food and diminishing our ability to earn foreign exchange.

It was against this background that we were prompted to study and assess the problems of raising output in the agriculture sector. This exercise resulted in the formulation of the National Agriculture Policy and the adoption of a National Food Strategy both designed to reverse downward trend in agricultural production experienced in the last decade. The National Food Strategy aims at achieving self-sufficiency by 1990. The programme covers the period from 1982 to the year 2000. The investment required over the whole period is estimated to be about \$6,000 million of which 34 per cent is foreign exchange.

The implementation of this policy and action programme has already started with the ongoing projects. New projects will be prepared by the coordination cell established through DANIDA/FAO assistance. I am taking this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to the Danish Government and FAO who have made it possible to prepare the document which has been of great assistance to the Tanzania Government in spelling out in detail the necessary investment required to obtain our objective self-reliance. I hope other donor agencies will come up in funding the projects which have been identified under this programme.

The adopted National Policy Agriculture aims at streamlining the agriculture sector by fostering close collaboration with all agro-related services, industries and institutions. The policy is specifically directed toward self-sufficiency in food and livestock products including input distribution, collection of output, establishment and maintenance of food reserves, promoting a secure land tenure system and a responsive pricing mechanism to ensure sustained real growth in rural incomes. To this effect, under the newly introduced pricing mechanism, growers will be paid premium prices for crops which are recommended according to ecological zones in order to maximize the production in the potential areas and to discourage farmers from growing crops in unsuitable areas. In order to encourage proper land use, land for agricultural development is to be allocated on a long-term basis. The policy also lays emphasis on irrigation. Rural credit institutions will be strengthened and operated strictly on commercial principles; Cooperative Societies and Unions shall be responsible for the disbursement and recovery of credit for smallholders; farm labour has been accorded similar status as that of industrial labour. With effect from the current financial year, allocation of development fund has been raised from 15 per cent to 24 per cent of total development budget. The crop parastatals have been allowed to maintain an external account of at least 10 per cent of the total export earnings to be used for the import of inputs.

Since the success of this policy depends largely on the volume of export to earn the foreign exchange required, my Government is now preparing an export package of each of the major traditional export crops. Each export package, comprises a policy framework, physical inputs, and institutional support. Each crop package is expected to raise production and export volume over a period of three years to the levels which prevailed in the early 1970's.

With the third largest livestock population in sub-Sahara, Africa, Tanzania attaches great importance to the development of this important sector. However, there are some serious obstacles that hamper its development. About 60 per cent of the livestock graze on 10 per cent of the land causing severe soil erosion, and 60 per cent of the land area is characterized by inadequacy of surface water and tsetse fly infection. The recent foreign exchange crisis has created shortages of vaccines, drugs

and equipment resulting in high mortality particularly in the younger stock. To stem this trend and to emphasize the importance of livestock, my Government established the Ministry of Livestock Development in November 1981. The main policy objectives of livestock development is to reach a level of self-sufficiency in the national supply of animal protein including livestock products for the local industry and surplus for export. This will be achieved through improvement of the environment, improved nutrition and husbandry practices, water supply, disease control, and adoption of improved breeding programmes. The policy also lays emphasis on small-holder livestock producer.

The recent outbreak of rinderpest is now contained, but vaccination and surveillance will continue. I wish to thank FAO/UNDP and EEC for their timely financial and technical assistance.

Fisheries is an important sector in the provision of food within the National Food Strategy. Over 6 percent of the total area of Tanzania consists of Lakes and other bodies of water. Besides, it has a coast line of about 800 kilometres. For these and other reasons my Government welcomes the forthcoming World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development. I take this opportunity to reiterate our full co-operation for the preparation and holding of the Conference. My Government is grateful to NORAD, FAO and UNDP for financing the study on stocks of fish in Lakes Tanganyika and Victoria. The preliminary results indicate there is a good stock in both lakes which is not effectively harvested. It is our hope that when the final report is submitted, we shall have more donors who will help to revive the industry.

Although an estimated 50 percent of the land area of Tanzania is classified as forest-land only 13 million hectares are forest reserves. The most serious threat of deforestation comes from the increasing demand for firewood, which has, in some areas, created problems of soil erosion and siltation of dams. We have embarked on a nation-wide village afforestation programme of assisting and encouraging village institutions and individuals to establish their own "wood lots" near their homes in order to meet their firewood and other forest products related needs. Related to this programme is the National Afforestation Campaign which was launched in 1981 aiming at the establishment of "fuel wood lots" to meet the firewood requirements of urban areas.

Food security means ensuring that the food requirements of the nation are available and that every member of society has access to what is considered the essential minimum calorie intake. Currently in Tanzania, we are engaged in mobilizing people to undertake both extensive and intensive farming in order to increase food production and improve the access of the masses to food. Farmers are being encouraged to improve their methods of cultivation by using draught animals and where feasible tractors instead of the traditional hand hoe. Considerable efforts are also being exerted to increase peasant agricultural output through better methods of crop and animal husbandry and the use of improved seeds, fertilizers including manure, pesticides, as well as measures to prevent post-harvest losses.

In collaboration with FAO, we are implementing the Early Warning Project which aims at providing the Government advance information and assessment on crops condition, stock and supplies. The key components of the project are the processing and analysis of metrological and agricultural data and crop purchases. The pilot project which was started in Tanzania has had positive results and if extended would bring conclusive results.

Tanzania has been infested by the Large Grain Borer (*Prostephanus truncatus*). This pest is spreading very fast within and beyond our boundaries and unless effective control measures against it are taken now, there is a high possibility that famine relief will become necessary for the affected areas. My Government is very grateful for the efforts of FAO to find donors to finance the foreign exchange component which has resulted in timely pledges by several donors. However, we hope that more pledges will be forthcoming in order to ensure the successful implementation of necessary control measures.

My Government has taken note of the efforts being undertaken by FAO for providing technical assistance in identifying and implementing programmes geared to the formulation of agrarian reform and rural development. To make Tanzania's rural development effort successful, one important policy measure adopted was -the decentralization of Government services intended to make practical the planning and the control of rural development matters at all levels. Regional Government Authorities have been given the responsibility to co-ordinate local planning and implementation of integrated rural development. The Central Ministries are responsible for overall development policies, mobilization and allocation of development resources. People's participation in funding their projects at local level is the main focus for improving the lot of the rural poor through their Councils.

An important component of the regional effort as outlined in the Lagos Plan of Action is sub-regional co-operation within a group of adjacent countries. In this respect, Tanzania, along with Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe is a member of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC). One of the first and most important projects undertaken by SADCC is to develop and ensure sub-regional food security. To this end SADCC has

drawn up an inventory of the region's main natural resources with regard to food production with a view to evaluating the potential of each country in the region to achieve food self-sufficiency. In short we view the situation of food and agriculture in Tanzania from three perspectives: national, sub-regional and regional.

Since agricultural development in general and food security in particular to a considerable extent depend on the availability of trained and experienced manpower, I would like to conclude my statement with a special note on the need for regular evaluation of technical assistance. It is often said that the success of a technical assistance programme or project can be measured by the time required for it to be redundant. A technical assistance programme should, at the end of its life, leave a trained and proficient cadre of nationals capable of replacing the expatriates and maintaining continuity of the programme. I therefore commend FAO, the major source of our technical assistance for upholding these objectives.

In this connection, I would like to use this opportunity to invite the attention of member governments of the FAO and non-governmental agencies represented here to Africa's efforts in developing mechanisms for sustained development of skills in the continent by the establishment of the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Africa (CIRDAFRICA) which my country has been given the honour and privilege to host. This Centre, whose major role is to facilitate the sharing of resources and experiences in the continent has benefited immensely from FAO assistance. We do hope that the governments and agencies represented here will also support the Centre.

Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General of FAO and fellow delegates, I am grateful to you for providing me with this opportunity to address this Conference.

Second Report of the Credentials Committee
Deuxième rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs
Segundo informe del Comité de Credenciales

P. VANDOR (Chairman, Credentials Committee): The Credentials Committee, at its second meeting on 9 November 1983, at 15.00 hours, examined the credentials of certain delegations and found them to be in order, thus bringing the total to 138 credentials. Nine Member Nations has not registered to date. Two additional Member Nations have advised the Organization that they will not be represented. They are Guyana and the newly admitted Saint Christopher and Nevis. The credentials of the Permanent Observer of the Holy See and the Order of Malta were also examined and found to be in order.

The Committee also examined the credentials of the United Nations and Specialized Agencies and of the Inter-governmental and Non-governmental Organizations and found them to be in order.

This report and the list of Member Nations and Observer Organizations will be distributed in the document C 83/LIM/16.

EL PRESIDENTE: No habiendo observaciones, queda adoptado.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

The meeting rose at 18.55 hrs
La séance est levée à 18 h 55
Se levanta la sesión a las 18.55 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 83/PV/9

C

Twenty-second Session
PLENARY

Vingt-deuxième session
PLENIERE

22° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

NINTH PLENNARY MEETING
NEUVIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
NOVENA SESION PLENARIA

(10 November 1983)

The Ninth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.45 hours,
John R. Block, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La neuvième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45, sous la
présidence de John R. Block, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la novena Sesión Plenaria a las 09.45 horas, bajo
la presidencia de John R. Block, Presidente de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)
- DECLARATIONS PES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)
- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

S. MATSUMOTO (Japan): Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, I am greatly honored to be able to represent the Japanese Government at this Twenty-second session of the FAO Conference and to have this opportunity to exchange views with delegates from other nations.

First, may I offer the heartfelt congratulations of the Government of Japan to Your Excellency on your unanimous election as Chairman of the session. I am certain that with your abundant experience and outstanding leadership, this Conference will be most successful and fruitful.

I should also like to express my sincere admiration for the efforts of FAO Director-General Dr Edouard Saouma and for his dedication to the Organization's activities.

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I should like to extend a most warm welcome to new members of the FAO: Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Vanuatu and Saint Christopher and Nevis.

I would first like to take a look at the global food and agricultural situation of the past ten years.

The repeated fluctuations of world grain production between good and poor harvests in this period has been due primarily to climatic variations. These fluctuations have also been reflected in the extremely complex trends that have affected agricultural produce prices.

The global supply and demand situation for grain in 1983 is expected to be considerably tighter than in the preceding year, due to acreage-reduction programs in the United States and to the damage caused by heat waves and droughts. In view of current stock levels, however, it would seem that there is no cause for serious concern regarding supply and demand.

Nevertheless, the food situation in Africa, particularly south of the Sahara, remains extremely serious, and I would like to recall a speech by Director-General Saouma in which he stated, "... Surplus stocks of exports do not fill the bellies of the undernourished". There are now more than 400 million undernourished people in the developing countries, and poverty and hunger still represent a major challenge to human dignity. The task allocated to us is to conquer these problems.

Medium- and long-range projections regarding global food supply and demand suggest that a basically tight situation is inevitable because of (1) the difficulty of expanding the acreage of farmland, (2) population growth, and (3) the growing demand for grain as a result of various factors, including increases in the demand for livestock products. FAO projections tend to support this view, I am concerned that this will lead to a further widening of regional imbalances in food supply and demand.

I believe that increased food production in the developing countries is essential if we are to find solutions to the world's food problems. Fundamentally, such an increase can only be achieved if the developing countries overcome the various problems involved and promote agricultural development. In addition to efforts by the developing countries themselves, however, it is vital, both on humanitarian grounds and in view of the realities of mutual interdependence, that the world community act at the international level to provide agricultural development cooperation in forms tailored to the particular circumstances of each developing country.

Japan is deeply concerned about the deteriorating food situation in Africa in particular. This problem can only be solved through the continuation of vigorous international efforts

In 1980, Japan successfully completed a three-year plan designed to double its official development assistance in order to support the self-help efforts of the developing countries. Despite an extremely difficult domestic fiscal situation, we have maintained our efforts to extend Japan's official development assistance under the new medium-term target. The main priorities of these efforts will continue to be agricultural and rural development.

However, in terms of financial and technological cooperation aimed at finding solutions to the world's food problems, it is particularly essential that each recipient country makes the best possible effort to maintain and strengthen its aid-absorbing infrastructure. I believe that the developing countries must strive to define their policy goals clearly and enhance their ability to absorb aid. In this sense, I feel that the following policy objectives are particularly important.

- First: Social improvements including agrarian reform
- Second: Improvements in the agricultural infrastructure
- Third: Development of the human resources needed for agricultural production
- Fourth: Improvements in agricultural productivity through technological advances
- Fifth: Creation of conditions conducive to improvements in rural living standards

I should now like to say a few words about the basic direction of Japan's agricultural policies.

In order to maintain stable food supplies for Japan's more than 110 million people, the government has adopted a policy based on long-term projections of the food supply and demand situation. We are striving through this policy, which clearly defines those categories of agricultural produce which can be supplied from domestic production and those in which we must rely on imports, to maintain and enhance Japan's self-sufficiency in the area of food.

The first step toward the achievement of these goals is the development of a highly productive agricultural sector through the adaptation of the agricultural structure and the improvement of the agricultural infrastructure, and the development and extension of agricultural technology,

Second, in view of the limited availability of land in Japan, agricultural production is being reorganized to provide the most efficient type of output to meet trends in demand and internal regional conditions.

Third, comprehensive measures to secure a stable food supply are being implemented not only at the production level but also at the processing, distribution and consumption stages.

Farming activities in Japan are organized on an extremely small scale. In addition to the main farming activity of paddy cultivation, agriculture has been diversified through the introduction of combined operations that include livestock farming, orcharding, vegetable growing and so on. Our earnest desire is that Japan's historical experience will provide those developing countries whose agricultural environment resembles that of Japan with meaningful hints regarding the solution of their own problems of food and agriculture.

I should now like to make a few comments on the world's forest problems.

The destruction of tropical forests in the developing countries is becoming a serious problem. The maintenance and development of these forests is an extremely important priority from the viewpoints of resource utilization and environmental protection.

A forest is not created overnight. The destruction of forests, particularly in semi-arid regions, may turn an area into desert. Moreover forest depletion leads not only to the loss of timber resources for fuel and industrial uses, but also to the devastation of the natural environment of the region, with serious repercussions for agricultural production and regional society. We hope that every nation will make further efforts to maintain and develop forest resources and that the FAO will expand its activities in this area in cooperation with other related international agencies.

Japan is already providing technical cooperation regarding forest maintenance and development, primarily in Asia and the Pacific and South America. Within Japan, a great deal of emphasis is placed on the multiple functions of forests, which include not only the stable supply of timber but also the preservation of the land and the development of water resources. To date, some 10 million hectares of forest plantations have been established as part of a carefully planned effort to replenish the nation's forest resources and stimulate the development of its forestry and timber industry.

I should next like to make a few comments regarding fisheries. Fishery resources represent an important source of protein that will be of great significance in terms of finding a solution to the world's food problems. The Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea is over and a new international system of maritime law and order is now emerging. In June and July of next year, the FAO will organize the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development, with a view to promoting the establishment of basic ground rules for the management of fisheries and the creation of development strategies. This Conference is an extremely meaningful and timely action, especially for the promotion of fisheries development in the developing countries.

Japan is the world's largest fishing nation. We hope that this conference and similar events will provide opportunities, through cooperation between coastal nations and deep-sea fishing countries, to promote the improved preservation and efficient utilization of fisheries resources.

Japan's fishery industry now faces an extremely difficult situation. Following the introduction of 200 nautical-mile economic zones, operations have been subjected to increasingly stringent regulation as coastal nations exercise their right to control fishing activities. The business environment for the industry has also suffered as a result of the high cost of fuel. Japan is anxious to maintain and foster its fishery resources, and is seeking to achieve stable development in its fishery industry by reorganizing and streamlining the industry's structure and encouraging the development of fish farming.

The FAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations dealing with questions relating to food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and has accumulated an immense store of information and technology in these areas. Japan places a particularly high value on the role that the organization has played in achieving breakthroughs in food problems and in the development of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in the developing countries. We do hope that the FAO will continue to utilize its accumulated information and technology to the full in cooperation with other related international agencies, thereby making an even greater contribution to the solution of the world's food problems.

Japan is deeply concerned about the deterioration of farmland and the destruction of tropical forests in the developing countries. In addition to our existing trust funds for food security schemes and so on, a new trust fund of 200 million yen has been established this year for the purpose of investigating soil conservations methods and schemes for the management and utilization of forest resources

I should now like to say a few words about the agenda for this session.

First, during its Eighth session, the Committee on World Food Security examined new approaches to the food security question. Japan welcomes these efforts and hopes that the FAO, in cooperation with other related international agencies, will strive even harder to strengthen world food security.

Second, we have studied the report regarding the progress made in following up the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. Japan's program of agrarian reform after the Second World War encouraged farmers to produce more by enabling them to have their own land. This move is now regarded as the starting point for Japan's modern agricultural development.

I believe that the developing countries should pursue bold rural development programs based on medium- and long-term perspectives and on the Declaration of Principles and Programme of Action drawn up by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.

Third, it is clear from the Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85 that much has been done to improve the efficiency of the Organization's activities through such means as reductions in administrative costs. We appreciate this point in general, and I look forward to continued efforts to improve operating efficiency, including a clarification of the FAO's order of priorities and further reductions in administrative expenditure.

Japan will continue to emphasize the role of the FAO in finding solutions to the world's food and agriculture problems, and we intend to continue our support to field projects undertaken by the FAO to promote increased food production and agricultural development in the developing countries.

Agriculture, forestry and fisheries are all industries that utilize cycles and energy flows within the systems of nature. When these industries are operated appropriately, the resources on which they depend - farmland and fishing grounds for food production and forest areas for timber - are renewed by the natural reproduction and renewal processes. Provided that exploitation is not excessive, these resources are not exhaustible under normal circumstances. Food and forestry resources also fulfil various functions essential to the general well-being of the people, including the provision of a rich natural environment, the protection of the land, and the development of water resources. As such, these resources play a vital role in preserving the foundation of a nation's life.

The maintenance and enhancement of the various functions of agriculture, forestry and fisheries form a fundamental framework, not only for the solution of the world's present food problems but also the provision of food for mankind for the years and generations to come.

A.Z.M. OBAIDULLAH KHAN (Bangladesh): Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, distinguished delegates, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, first let me congratulate you, Mr Chairman, and the members of the bureau of this Conference for your unanimous election. I take this opportunity also to extend on behalf of my Government our warmest felicitations to the distinguished representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Saint Christopher and Nevis and Vanuatu on their admission to membership of this Organisation.

Every death diminishes us. Death by hunger does it even more. Yet children go to bed hungry and death takes its toll. We met here in 1981 and we had a dream. Today, we realize that perhaps we had made a rash promise, and I quote the Director-General. "We have not yet overcome the destitution of the poor, nor have we diminished the despair of the hungry". The vast majority of the people in the world continue to live and die in unbelievable misery and unnecessary squalor. The few and the powerful continue their arms race unabated. Inequity breeds instability and corrodes the perspective of a harmonious global community. Meanwhile development stagnates and by-passes the many.

The world presents a dismal spectacle as we look around. Regional armed conflicts threaten peace and inflict untold deprivations, death and destruction on the hapless victims. World-wide recession adversely affects the prospects of global development. While this has meant slow recovery and lingering hardship for the developed countries, the plight of the developing countries is much worse. There is continuous deterioration in their terms of trade, dependence on food imports and indebtedness. In the face of growing protectionism, fluctuating primary commodity prices and rising levels of food imports, the LDCs suffer from chronic balance of trade deficits reducing their capacities to promote growth and welfare.

Crushed under debt-burden and faced with shrinking export earnings they make desperate attempts to improve their liquidity position only to find that international financial institutions are overly cautious and the private capital market shy in dealing with them.

Concerted measures are yet to be undertaken to lay the foundation of the New International Economic Order. We sadly conclude that the failure to address the global economic problems reflects the continuing absence of political will to promote international co-operation.

In the prevailing situation the gap between the rich and poor countries has widened and so has the gap between the privileged and disadvantaged within many developing countries. Today, more than thirty percent of the labour force is unemployed or under-employed in the developing countries. The number of people living in absolute poverty is approaching one billion. It is estimated that 40 000 children die every day from starvation, or malnutrition. The desperate situation in Africa in which some 22 countries face imminent prospect and widespread suffering underscores the continuing crisis.

At this Conference, therefore, we must reaffirm our abiding faith in our fundamental rights, including the most basic, the freedom from hunger. We must pledge our determination for peace and prosperity in the world and secure life for those living on the margins of poverty. It is through solemn declarations for concerted efforts backed up by commitments to implement them that such conferences can transcend their ritual dimensions and become part of the daily agenda of action. We must not abandon the dream we had and the promise we made to ourselves.

As we look at the past biennium we find the FAO has suffered a cutback in its total field programme as a result of the downturn in the UN Technical Assistance. The drop in UNDP allocations has had a negative impact on the agricultural and rural development programme of many countries requiring technical assistance. We therefore urge the recovery of UNDP funding towards the indicative amounts envisaged for the Third Programming Cycle. In the light of the UNDP fund contraction, we consider the recent expansion of Trust Fund activities to be encouraging, so this will not completely offset the shortfall. The continued increase in delivery of Trust Fund will substantially enhance FAO's ability to provide operational assistance to developing countries.

It is heartening to note that in spite of resource constraint FAO has maintained its field programme at fairly reasonable levels making cut-backs in other areas. We will expect the Organization to continue its assistance to developing countries towards promoting rural development raising agricultural production, improving efficiency in land and water uses, achieving optimal utilisation of forestry and fisheries resources and strengthening of national institutions.

However, it should be borne in mind that the developing countries are not an undifferentiated or amorphous mass and their diversity requires programmes specific to their stages of development. Greater integration with the national development plans should make FAO delivery more effective and also avoid the impression of FAO field programmes as belonging to a separate line. The recent shift from the concept of technical assistance with extensive reliance on expatriate experts, towards technical cooperation signifying greater role of national experts will definitely buttress this process of integration. The shift of emphasis from resource inventories and appraisal to resource use, management and conservation in recent years will prove beneficial to the recipient countries. As regards Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries the catalytic role of FAO has not yet produced significant results. Much more vigorous efforts are required to be made.

Mr Chairman, it goes without saying that we cannot attach first priority to food and agriculture without a demonstrable renewed commitment to FAO. While we can and must demand proper resource management directed towards enhancing greater qualitative effectiveness in FAO's work programme, it is certainly self-defeating to demand budgetary restraint as an end in itself. Such a move buttresses the growing trend away from multilateralism and inevitably erodes the sense of community that underlies our global interdependence. This is particularly discouraging in the face of the bold steps taken by the Director-General to limit financial burdens of Member States, to cut administrative costs and shift resources to substantive technical and economic programmes at the country level. Surely the time has come to bolster our commitment to eradicate hunger, poverty and malnutrition by concrete steps towards its realization.

May I express at this point our concern over the dire situation facing IFAD, and join in the appeal to all countries to sustain the Fund's momentum through timely replenishment.

Mr Chairman, distinguished colleagues I now wish to turn to a subject with which we are all familiar, and that is food security. Thanks to the Director-General, the FAO and its member countries, there is now a heightened awareness the world over regarding food security. We note with some satisfaction that although the target could not be achieved, the annual growth rate of food production in the developing countries of the period 1974-82 was 3.2 percent compared to 2.8 percent in the preceding period of 1967-74. The amount of land used in agriculture in the developing countries has continued to expand during the period 1974-1981 at a rate of 0.6 percent per annum. There has also been a rapid growth in public expenditure on agricultural research and development. Stock position of basic cereals is satisfactory and FAO has estimated that by the end of 1982-83 crop seasons, stock level would be well above the 'safe' level.

These are happy developments. And, I have prefaced my remarks with these developments because I want, very consciously, to reiterate my conviction that the human race can, in the near future, provide the fundamental security it needs, the security of food for all. But there are disappointing shortfalls in some areas which cause us grave concern. The Food Aid convention has been extended to June 30, 1986, but the 'floor' level of aid it guarantees remains at 7.6 million tons in place of the target which was set at 10 million tons. And, I understand, at the Fifteenth CFA Policies and Programmes, the Secretariat had estimated the requirement at 20 million tons. The FAO states that the Food Security Assistance Scheme still has a substantial shelf of unfunded projects. The International Grains Agreement continues to remain elusive.

Despite the disappointment and the odds, we, in Bangladesh, have made efforts, to the extent it is possible for us, to contribute to fulfilment of the Plan of Action to promote world food security. The short- and long-term Food Security Programme in our context has the following major characteristics :

Ensuring adequate domestic supplies of foodgrains; securing market stability; making possible access to food supplies for all, and maintaining an optimum level of food security reserve.

It is in the context of access to food that we fully endorse the revised concept of world food security proposed by the Director-General for the eighties. We believe that the ultimate objective of world food security should be to ensure that all people at all times have both physical and economic access to the basic food they need. There will be contradictions in the realization of the objective. On the one hand price incentive has to be maintained for the farmers to produce more. On the other, it has to be ensured that food reaches the poorest strata of the population. For many developing countries, even after attainment of self-sufficiency in food production, direct targeting measures have to be continued for quite some time to ensure reaching food to the poorest. International assistance will be required to support direct targeting measures. Such assistance may, in some cases, mean purchasing food within the country for use by the poorest there.

Mr Chairman, global food security is still to be attained. But can we afford any further delay? The world's military budget absorbs 1.3 million dollars every minute and within the same time span 30 children die for want of food and vaccines throughout the world. Can't we divert some of these resources towards achieving food security? Can't we here today make a commitment to support in practice the proposed measures at national, regional and global levels to improve the food security system? We are with you, Mr Director-General, in your suggestion to raise the target for the International Emergency Food Reserve to two million tons. I am confident all of us here also support the three new FAO initiatives of a food security action programme, a world food security fund and a world food security compact.

The medium-term Food Production Plan of Bangladesh holds the key to food security in one of the most populous and chronic food deficit countries of the world. The Government of Bangladesh has channelled as much as 37 percent of the development resources to achieve food-sufficiency but its efforts have to be supplemented by her partners in development. We expect FAO and other agencies to continue their support to the Food Security Policy of Bangladesh whose kingpin is accelerated food production programme.

A serious constraint to increasing agricultural production and making the benefits of increased out-put available to all is the structural constraint. By adopting the Declaration of Principle and the Plan of Action at the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development FAO focussed attention of all Member countries on the urgent need for institutional and structural reforms. For a technology oriented organization it was truly a turning point and demonstrated its capacity to own a broader vision of human aspirations. Developing countries already seized with the problem of inequality of access to resources and markets by the disadvantaged received fresh impetus to pursue the social and economic goals of justice and equity. It was a bold assertion on the part of FAO implying that if hunger can be a global concern, so is poverty arising out of inequitable distribution of assets and resources. Bangladesh is firmly committed to the Programme of Action of WCARRD as it conforms to the national objective of alleviating poverty and ensuring social justice to the poor majority. The recent land and tenurial reforms adopted in my country provides for security of tenancy for the share croppers or tenants at will. The reform measures also provide a fair share of the produce to the actual cultivators. The future land ceiling has been reduced to 20 acres in place of the existing 33 1/2 acres. Minimum daily wage for an agricultural labourer is being legislated at 3.25 kg of rice or its money equivalent.

These reform measures are expected to release productive forces in agriculture from the exploitative production relations which have inhibited growth by denying access to resources, know-how and markets to a large number of producers. The decentralized administration with authority delegated at local level will be supportive of the policy of accelerated agricultural production and at the same time further orient administration towards meeting the needs of the people at the grass roots level. Strengthened local government bodies through devolution of power, will open up new avenues of participatory development for the rural majority.

Significant increase in the allocation of resources for agriculture together with the institutional reforms are expected to usher in a new era of growth, productive employment and equitable distribution. In this bold venture to rebuild our society, women, owner-farmers, landless workers, fishermen, artisans, in short, every segment of rural society will have distinct roles to play and an assured share in the ensuing prosperity. While it is true that all the measures may not have been taken in direct response to WCARRD the awareness for the early adoption of the same has been unmistakably sharpened as a result of its Declaration of Principles and the Programme of Action. Our agreement to initiate a monitoring system on progress in agrarian reform and rural development has further reinforced the commitment to implement the programme.

From the narrow but overriding concern of freeing man from hunger, to the declaration for a just and participatory society, FAO has come a long way. In widening its focus FAO has demonstrated its vision for the ultimate destiny of mankind to live in conditions free from conflict, degradation and poverty. If material poverty is a threat to survival, poverty of soul thriving in an unjust society diminishes humanity. Bangladesh will always uphold the programme of FAO and other bodies directed to the redemption of man from all bondages, human and otherwise. This pledge we owe to our countrymen and to the heritage of man, which is above all, of freedom. We take courage in facing this awesome task by the fact that we are not alone.

Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, we have come here, to be together and to renew our commitment, the commitment to make concerted efforts to banish the four horsemen of apocalypse from the face of the earth. We may not have succeeded so far, but we cannot fail. What can and must sustain us is our belief in the essential humanity that governs all rational beings. Against the tide of the remorseless realities, we cannot abandon the only solace available to the hungry of the world. We must, as the late Secretary-General of the United Nations Mr Dag Hammarskjöld often quoted: "Hope until Hope creates from its own wreck the thing it contemplates."

S. ZIEBA (Pologne): La Pologne exprime traditionnellement le concept du développement de l'agriculture et du milieu rural, de la lutte contre la famine dans le monde. Elle s'oppose à toute politique qui utilise l'alimentation comme arme et moyen d'ingérence.

Les difficultés concernant le développement de l'agriculture mondiale aussi bien que les difficultés d'agriculture polonaise nous incitent à reconsidérer les activités de la FAO ainsi que notre participation dans le cadre de l'Organisation.

La Pologne est l'un des pays dans lequel la production animale et la consommation de viande ont baissé. Les raisons de ces difficultés sont diverses et complexes. Elles sont dues principalement au déséquilibre dans le développement de l'économie nationale et aux sanctions économiques.

Au cours des années 70 en Pologne, l'accroissement de la production de la viande a dépassé celui de la production nationale des fourrages. Cette tendance s'est avérée nuisible, la production et la consommation de viande dépendant de l'importation d'aliments fourragers. Les sanctions économiques de ces dernières années contre la Pologne, imposées par les principaux pays exportateurs de fourrages et en particulier par les Etats-Unis, ont entraîné une diminution de la production animale.

Ces restrictions ont des conséquences négatives sur toute notre économie nationale, rendant difficile à la Pologne l'importation des produits agricoles, et par mesure de rétorsion, en fermant l'accès aux marchés des pays développés. La société polonaise se rend progressivement compte de cette situation. Cependant l'agriculture polonaise et toute notre économie nationale ont démontré une résistance assez importante et une capacité d'adaptation à cette situation. Ainsi le marché alimentaire ne s'est pas effondré et dans le cas de plusieurs produits l'équilibre entre l'offre et la demande a été rétabli. Nous ne pouvons pas nous permettre d'assurer une consommation élevée de la viande, mais les besoins alimentaires en protéines sont entièrement couverts.

La Pologne demande une suppression de toutes les sanctions économiques ainsi que la non-utilisation dans l'avenir de l'arme alimentaire contre le pays. Les sanctions économiques touchant le domaine de l'agriculture sont contraires au principe de la sécurité alimentaire internationale reconnue par la FAO.

Nous avons tiré des conclusions des restrictions entreprises contre notre pays et de notre propre expérience. La mesure la plus importante consisterait à assurer l'accroissement de notre production alimentaire grâce au développement de nos propres ressources nationales.

L'année passée, le Parlement de la République populaire de Pologne a décidé le programme de développement de l'agriculture et de toute l'économie alimentaire en vue d'atteindre l'auto-suffisance alimentaire jusqu'en 1990. Ceci serait obtenu en assurant le développement parallèle de tous les secteurs de notre agriculture sur des bases politiques, économiques et sociales durables. On prévoit une augmentation des moyens mis à la disposition de l'agriculture tels que l'énergie, les machines agricoles, les produits chimiques, le développement de l'infrastructure rurale ainsi que l'extension et la modernisation de l'industrie agro-alimentaire.

La recherche agronomique est déjà bien développée et la restructuration du système de vulgarisation agricole est en cours. Le programme élargit d'une façon importante le rôle de la coopération agricole et des organisations professionnelles agricoles en développement rural. On améliore le système de l'enseignement et du développement culturel dans les campagnes polonaises.

Grâce à une meilleure rentabilité de la production agricole, les revenus de la population rurale se rapprochent du niveau de la population non-agricole. Les agriculteurs et leurs familles sont couverts par le système général d'assurance sociale; le nouveau système des retraites pour les agriculteurs a été élargi.

Le développement de l'agriculture mondiale exige de la part de la FAO de nombreuses activités. Le programme présenté par le Directeur général, Monsieur Edouard Saouma, comprend ces exigences et c'est pourquoi la Pologne l'apprecie et compte lui donner son appui.

Le programme recommande, à juste titre, les mesures qui peuvent changer d'une façon durable l'agriculture et il servira à assurer l'existence biologique des hommes et activer leur progrès social.

Le caractère universel de la FAO impose que ce programme ouvre de nouvelles dimensions aux activités pour tous les pays. Nous observons depuis un certain temps des changements positifs du travail de la FAO en Europe. Le développement de la coopération entre les pays européens servira à longue échéance à augmenter des possibilités d'aide aux pays qui en ont besoin et contribuera au renforcement de la sécurité alimentaire à l'échelle mondiale.

Ces effets positifs seront pour nous tous encore plus visibles si on réussit à réaliser les programmes de la FAO d'importance globale, qui deviendront la cause commune de tous les pays leur donnant la possibilité d'une participation active indépendamment du niveau de leur agriculture et de leur économie. Un des programmes de ce genre a été soumis aux débats de la Session sous la forme du rapport du Directeur général sur "Les ressources phytogénétiques". Un autre exemple constitue le programme mondial "L'Energie en Agriculture". Nous soutenons les propositions contenues dans ces programmes. En ce qui concerne le programme phytogénétique, nous nous exprimons en faveur de cette forme de coopération qui crée les conditions de la participation coordonnée des pays et de l'Organisation en ouvrant les mêmes chances de coopération pour tous.

Le programme de la sécurité alimentaire englobe les activités agricoles économiques et politiques. Ce programme existe depuis près de dix ans. Les formes réelles de cette action ne se développent jusqu'ici qu'à l'échelle assez limitée, mais ce qui est le plus important c'est la prise de conscience spontanée de son importance et de son urgence.

Notre propre expérience, surtout au cours de ces dernières années, renforce notre conviction sur le besoin de construire avec plus d'élan la sécurité alimentaire de chaque pays. L'insécurité alimentaire peut devenir une cause importante de tension politique dans le monde. La recherche de la sécurité alimentaire exige la mise en oeuvre de moyens pour l'accroissement permanent de la production, en même temps qu'elle exige la création de rapports stables dans la coopération internationale et du commerce, libres de pressions politiques et militaires.

Nous sommes pour les mesures de la FAO dans cette direction et d'une manière encore plus prononcée. Nous considérons la réalisation de notre programme alimentaire comme l'apport le plus important à la sécurité alimentaire à l'échelle mondiale. Nous ne considérons pas l'autosuffisance dans un sens d'autarcie mais bien en vue de couvrir les besoins alimentaires de la société en proche coopération avec des pays membres de COMECON et les autres pays.

En Pologne, les fermes d'Etat, les coopératives, les fermiers individuels redoublent d'efforts pour augmenter la production alimentaire. Comme on le dit dans notre pays, les fermiers polonais sont prêts à participer à la coopération internationale.

Dans l'existence pacifique des nations les Polonais voient la seule chance du développement de l'agriculture et du progrès de leur pays et de tous les pays de l'Europe et du monde entier.

C'est dans cet esprit que la Pologne a présenté à l'ONU l'initiative de créer les moyens de confiance dans le domaine économique. Cette idée nous animait, ainsi que les autres pays socialistes, pendant la récente session du COMECON qui a soulevé les problèmes de l'agriculture et d'alimentation au rang des questions les plus importantes du développement des pays socialistes.

A. AFFANDI (Indonesia): May I first of all congratulate you, Mr Chairman, and the three Vice-Chairmen, for having been elected to these important posts of the Twenty-second session of the FAO Conference. I trust that under your able chairmanship and counsel the Conference will not only proceed in a smooth manner, but also materially contribute to the achievement of our common goal of alleviating hunger and malnutrition and the eradication of poverty. Secondly, my delegation would like to extend its heartiest welcome to our newest joining member countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Saint Christopher and Nevis and Vanuatu. We look forward to working together with their distinguished delegates.

The Twenty-second session of the FAO Conference is being convened at a time when a troubled world is still suffering the aftermath of a long and severe economic recession; accompanied and aggravated by such damaging phenomena as waves of protectionistic policies and practices, financial and monetary instability and collapse of commodity prices. The resulting deterioration in terms of trade, particularly of the low income countries, and the erosion in these countries' earning capacity from their agricultural exports, have had their destructive impact felt on the incomes, nutritional levels and capacity for survival of the hundreds of millions of small farmers and fishermen and landless labourers around the globe.

It is also a time, when, after almost a decade has passed since the family of nations gathered in this very city of Rome to resolve the recurrent perils of food crises and the more deep-rooted problem of hunger and malnutrition, that after these many years, the tragic fact remains, that today more than 10 percent of mankind still suffers from the dehumanizing burden of poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

Even more tragic, however, is the fact that while mankind's resolve and determination to tackle the world food problem in a concerted, integral and integrated way appear to have floundered in recent years, the international community on the other hand, appears to be more than willing (as each one of us is able to observe) to devote enormous efforts and increasing amounts of resources to the building up of armaments and other instruments of war and destruction. Such a deplorable situation is not only to be deeply regretted, but - as our President recently stated in Jakarta on the occasion of the third World Food Day - is also not less than disgracing for mankind, who in this age of progress so admirably has made enormous strides, not only in mastering the techniques of increasing food and agricultural production, but also the more complicated technology of outer space as well.

The eradication of hunger and malnutrition, and assuring adequate basic food for all people, is indeed a primary and common responsibility of mankind as a whole. There is no question that progress in resolving the world food problem and in ensuring world food security is fundamental to the promotion of peace, within as well as among nations. It is also increasingly recognized that such progress will immensely contribute to facilitating a more fruitful North-South dialogue, leading towards the establishment of a better economic and social order for humanity as a whole.

Bearing this in mind and taking into account the highly disturbing prospect of world food security in this decade of the nineteen-eighties, my delegation wishes to appeal most sincerely that Member Nations at this Twenty-second session of the FAO Conference reiterate and re-emphasize their resolution to work in a more concerted and effective manner than before, towards the eradication of today's human's greatest enemy, viz, poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

Available data indicate that over the past decade considerable success has been achieved in the region of Asia and the Pacific in production expansion and nutrition improvement. It has been suggested that one of the basic factors underlying such an achievement, is the fact that in several countries of the region, especially in the sub-region of ASEAN, policy makers and planners have succeeded in adopting a strategy approach which establishes direct linkages between food production, marketing and consumption and treats them in a coordinated and integrated manner. Such concept has been further supported by two contributing factors: namely, first, support at the highest political level to food policies and strategies in the context of national development; and, second, the rapid diffusion of new technologies thanks among others to increased and active participation in the development process of individual farmers, farm women and the rural community in general.

The various modes of intensification programmes, as adopted in Indonesia for rice and other food crops, but recently expanded to also cover livestock and fisheries, and which increasingly rely on local participation and decision making, are a good example of participation in this respect. In addition to the active involvement of the farm community, these programmes have been supported also by close and intimate cooperation between the public sector, cooperatives and the private sector. The latter is very clearly reflected in the so-called "Nucleus-Estates-Smallholders" arrangements, whereby large commercial plantations producing export commodities, transfer technology to the surrounding smallholders and process as well as market not only their own products but also those of the smallholders.

Allow me now to say a few words on the progress we have made in regional cooperation in the sector of food and agriculture, especially among the five member countries of ASEAN. Such cooperative undertakings, basically initiated under the so-called "Bali Concord" in February 1976, have now covered a wide field of activities, the most important of which are the following. First, the ASEAN food security reserve, now in its fourth year of operation, is increasingly recognized as a model which could well be suitable and viable also for several other regions or sub-regions. Second, cooperation in production and supply of production inputs: the first ASEAN urea plant will start operation in Indonesia early next year and will be followed by a second ASEAN urea plant in Malaysia and ASEAR plants of other types of fertilizers in the Philippines and Thailand; and, third, the promotion of an ASEAN common agricultural and forestry policy, which includes: the establishment of a common quarantine ring and joint eradication of animal diseases; the pooling of research and technology; the sharing of training and extension facilities; and management and conservation of forestry resources and ASEAN trade of tropical timber.

This wide spectrum of regional cooperative activities has been further broadened by the signing of an understanding on cooperation in fisheries, only three weeks ago by the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry at their Fifth Meeting in Singapore. Preparations are now being made to lay the foundations for cooperation in agricultural cooperatives. In this context of ASEAN cooperation and relations, my delegation wishes to indicate our sharing of the sentiments expressed by his Excellency the Minister of Agriculture of Malaysia in his statement yesterday on the most regrettable restrictions imposed on the exports of agricultural commodities, especially vegetable oils, to markets in Western Europe.

Before concluding, my delegation would like to comment briefly on the FAO Programme of Work and Budget as proposed for the coming biennium.

Indonesia welcomes in this respect the continuing emphasis the Director-General has given (and will continue to give) on such vital areas as food production, nutrition and food security, farming systems especially on land under less favourable environments, commodities and trade, appropriate research and technology, rural development, fisheries, forestry for people and rural development. We have observed with concern the financial problems faced by FAO, and we join the other delegates in urging donor countries to increase their assistance to the FAO. We are pleased, however, to see that, confronted by these difficulties, the FAO has managed to adopt the proper strategies and priorities by re-allocating its budget and thereby safeguarding the continuation and even increasing technical and economic programmes. We therefore fully endorse the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85.

R. CHELTENHAM (Barbados): The Twenty-second Plenary session of the Food and Agriculture Organization meets at a time when the story of world agriculture is one of conflicting trends. On the one hand, there is evidence of increased production and of growing diversification in many countries. On the other hand, food distribution continues to be "skewed" and uneven and food remains outside the reach of millions of hungry mouths.

These developments are taking place in the context of a world economy which is still hampered by the restraints of recession. This in turn has led to reduced funding of the international institutions in the agricultural sector. I refer in particular to the United Nations Development Programme; the Food and Agriculture Organization itself and the International Fund for Agricultural Development. To this must be added the increasing resort to protectionism on the part of many countries, both developed and developing.

The unanimous election of Secretary of Agriculture Block to the high office of Chairman of this Conference at once emphasizes the outstanding role which the United States plays and must continue to play in food production, and in the struggle against hunger. Moreover, it is a tribute to his own personal contribution and commitment to agriculture both as a farmer and administrator. My delegation readily joins with all others in offering him warmest congratulations and best wishes. The Vice-Chairmen, who will assist him in guiding the deliberations of this Conference, are also congratulated.

We are delighted to welcome to the family of FAO, the neighbouring CARICOM countries of Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Christopher and Nevis and Belize. We extend a sincere welcome to the sister Commonwealth country of Vanuatu. I am confident that they will each make a contribution out of all proportion to their size and will, in turn, find the FAO a most useful forum in which to discuss agricultural issues and a ready source of advice and technical assistance.

Increased food production at the national level has rightly come to be recognized as the first and most important requirement of food security. We must also add the requirement of easy access, both physical and economic, to food by all as a matter of deliberate policy. Barbados has always subscribed to this view, to that extent, firmly supports the new focus of the Director-General along these lines. But in many countries, the realization of increased food production is not a simple matter. Invariably, it involves a difficult mix of activities from the clearing of forests to the

resettlement of farmers and the installation of irrigation systems. It also embraces the recasting of existing land tenure or the introduction of new laws to give a hitherto landless class a secure form of land ownership. The technical problems of food production such as the control of pests and disease, the provision of extension and marketing services and the minimizing of post-harvest losses must also be overcome.

The problem of marketing of agricultural produce is inveterate and particularly acute in small countries where the domestic market is so limited that with modern farming technology a relatively small area under production can readily over-supply at any given time the needs of the population. This situation introduces the necessity for food and nutrition strategies aimed at higher levels of consumption of vegetables per caput together with effective systems of storage, distribution and processing. Above all, it calls for access to the large markets of the developed countries.

My country is tackling most of these problems simultaneously. We have addressed the long-standing problems of plantation tenants who occupied lands around and about the plantation from the early days after slavery without being able to secure a freehold title to such land. The enactment of the Plantation Tenantry Freehold Act and the Agricultural Tenantry Landholding Act, which give tenants the legal right to purchase at minimum cost and with easy legal transfer the land which they occupied or worked for over three years, have corrected this inequity. The latter Act in particular will make its contribution to increased food production felt now that tenants have an ownership stake in the lands. Our agrarian reform efforts have also been manifested in a new land settlement project in the north of the Island. Here the Government has purchased a number of hectares of plantation land and has subdivided them into manageable units for leasing to young farmers who would otherwise be landless. In addition, the Government has helped these farmers with housing, credit for production, marketing, extension and irrigation facilities.

These efforts and others have begun to produce fruitful results in our diversification programme. And last year 1982-1983, the contribution of non-sugar agriculture to our Gross Domestic Product for the first time surpassed that of sugar.

Mr Chairman, in our emphasis on the reorganization of our agriculture leading to the increase of food production, Barbados has been greatly assisted by the FAO. This assistance has always been timely and appropriate. For instance, FAO has within recent times helped us in identifying and reversing problems in our dairy industry. They have helped us too in the training of our extension staff and in the strengthening of our plant quarantine systems. Besides, the areas of irrigation and prevention of food losses through the establishment of collection centres wholesale and retail outlets are currently being addressed.

Many of these collaborative programmes with the FAO, which I have just instanced, are shared with the Regional states. And I wish to applaud the beneficial impact which the work of the Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean, together with the country representative for Barbados is having on agriculture in our area in general, and in my own country in particular. My delegation is convinced that the FAO policy of decentralizing its activities leads to cost effectiveness and increased efficiency.

In fact, the FAO at a time of financial stringency and budgetary restraints is somehow achieving more in our area than in the past. Beyond any doubt, the Technical Cooperation Programme has proved to be a flexible, swift and responsive mechanism for assistance to the agricultural sector of developing countries in various stages of need. All beneficiaries of this programme have attested to its great utility and have expressed gratification and pleasure that a small increase has been provided for the Technical Cooperation Programme in the next biennium. I trust that hereafter the remaining critics and skeptics of this programme will come to accept its worth and give it full support.

The matter of food and population is one which must neither be overlooked nor sidestepped. My delegation supports the FAO for treating this as an area of serious concern by placing it on this Conference Agenda. Let me very briefly refer to the Barbados experience in this area. Barbados, with a population density of over 1500 inhabitants per square mile (among the highest in the world), has for over thirty years provided government support for a family planning programme. Today we have a growth rate of less than twenty per thousand. This has meant that expenditure on health and education programmes can provide greater benefits to every member of the population.

The management of population growth has made it possible too to improve significantly the standards of human nutrition. We have been able to provide nutrition programmes to benefit special groups such as infants, lactating mothers and primary school children. And here I would like on behalf of my Government to acknowledge with appreciation the important role played by the World Food Programme in providing help with our school feeding scheme.

The control of population growth is a vital prerequisite in the balancing act of equating food production with population needs and I trust that many countries will redouble their efforts in this area.

Mr Chairman, fishing is not only a way of life for many hundreds of persons in island states, but it is also a reliable source of protein for man and animals. Nevertheless, it remains a vital renewable resource which we have insufficiently harvested for use in the struggle against hunger. This is among the reasons that Barbados joins in welcoming the initiative of the FAO in convening the first ever World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development. It is our hope that, as a result of this Conference next year, both the problems and the potential of fisheries development will be more fully appreciated. We also hope that fisheries will come to occupy a higher place on national and international agendas for development, and that increased resources will be channelled to this very important sub-sector.

The issues calling for corrective attention in this sector are many. They range from the need to introduce boats of cost effective design, the provision of modern fishing gear and techniques, to the need to identify the location of fishing banks for traditional fishermen. The introduction of the New Economic Zone extending marine boundaries up to 200 miles, has certainly presented new opportunities and fresh problems to many countries, particularly, small island states. In brief, the problem may be posited as follows: how best can a small island state exploit this added territory or, alternatively, exercise control over it so effectively as to prevent others from plundering its resources. In whatever way we examine this issue it becomes clear that in the foreseeable future many small states will surely be unable to accumulate the resources necessary to exercise or defend their rights in their marine jurisdictions.

My delegation considers that island states urgently need assistance in formulating the strategies and the approaches required to confront the large fishing powers now operating illicitly in our territorial waters. I believe that some regime of sharing and compensating should be formulated and introduced. And I suggest that the FAO view this upcoming focus on fisheries as an opportunity to assist small states with a prototype agreement which will bring on the part of the trespassing nations some understanding, collaboration and sense of fair play in their actions towards small island states.

Mr Chairman, as you yourself reminded us recently, it is now forty years since the FAO was founded with the laudable goal of ridding mankind from the scourge of hunger and want. Next year it will be ten years since the FAO first issued its clarion call for a food security network among Member countries. It was in 1974, too, that the decision to establish the International Fund for Agricultural Development was conceived. In fact, the 1974 biennial Conference of FAO was a landmark - held amidst high enthusiasm. The supporting gestures made and the encouraging words issued at the time gave hope to the hungry and malnourished, and raised the expectation of every undeveloped country.

Regretfully, we must face the sombre conclusion that after 40 years, the goals of FAO are far from realization. That is not to gainsay the fact that much useful work has been done and progress realised in many countries and in specific agricultural sub-sectors. But the transfer of technology and capital from the developed world has not as yet been sufficient to meet the scale of the problem. Nothing short of a "big push" approach would suffice.

Mr Chairman, world food security admittedly a concept with a brief history, seems affected by a decline in political will. Meanwhile, the numbers of the world's hungry have swollen and some developing countries, particularly in Africa, are experiencing ever-widening despair.

I prefer to believe that the apparent lack of commitment along with the slackening of enthusiasm is the direct result of the economic recession and the resultant reduction in financial means.

As soon as the first signs of economic recovery become clearly manifest therefore, we must demand that additional resources be devoted to food production and distribution as a matter of urgency. We must insist that access to food, particularly by the weak and vulnerable, be given the highest priority. We must renew our faith in FAO and our commitment to its goals. And we must throw all our political support behind removing the obstacles that stand in the way of their attainment.

The size of the problem of malnutrition and hunger in today's world is at once an international outrage and an international challenge. Let us together at this Twenty-second Conference, on behalf of the world's poor and hungry and in the name of justice and humanity, once again pledge to meet that challenge.

G.A. SMITH (Bahamas): Mr Chairman, Honorable Ministers and distinguished delegates, I bring you greetings from the Government and people of The Bahamas on the occasion of the Twenty-second session of the FAO Conference.

Confident of the success of this event I trust that all Member States will be mindful of the fact that the deliberations of this meeting will have wide and lasting impact on the people of all countries as we meet to re-examine the world food situation, and formulate meaningful and workable solutions to this grave problem. It is therefore incumbent upon all of us to give the most serious consideration to the matters before the Conference, so that we shall not fail the millions who are depending upon us. We owe them a sacred responsibility to do what is right, and not what may be expedient at this time.

Mr Chairman, The Bahamas is proud to join in the expression of welcome extended to the 4 new Member States of this international family. We are particularly proud to have them with us since Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Saint Christopher and Nevis, and Vanuatu share with The Bahamas the special relationships which are provided through our membership in the Commonwealth. Our pride and happiness extends a bit further in the case of the first three Nations since they are geographically our regional neighbours, and also share in the Caribbean Community of Nations. As a region, the Caribbean is strengthened by their presence here, and we are confident that they will do their best in dealing with the matters which fall within the purview of FAO.

It is opportune, Mr Chairman, that I should congratulate FAO for redesignating the Latin American Region to reflect more accurately the true composition of that area. The addition of the word "Caribbean" to the designation of the Region reflects the acknowledgement by the organization that the input and involvement of Caribbean States in these affairs is indeed appreciated and valued.

Fellow delegates, The Bahamas has over the years benefitted well from the services of the FAO through its assistance and guidance in agriculture, fisheries and forestry, and we have been able to maintain a steady increase in our annual production of food from the land and the sea. Although that increase might seem small and insignificant to some, it represents the will of our people to work steadily towards the attainment of self-sufficiency in food as far as we are able.

I should therefore like to extend the deep appreciation of my Government and our people to the Director-General Dr Edouard Saouma, and the staff of FAO, for the assistance provided. The distinguished leadership which the Director-General has maintained in guiding the affairs of the FAO is evident in the degree of respect accorded the organization by all Member States, and the professionalism displayed by staff sent to The Bahamas has not only meant the presence of technical officers, but also has served as a catalyst for our own people to benefit from exposure to advanced technical expertise.

Mr Chairman, the decision of my Government to press forward with increased food production is not designed solely to ensure food security for The Bahamas. The aim is to eventually contribute to the needs of our brothers and sisters in other parts of the world. We do not however possess the necessary 'natural resources and means to develop as we would wish, but since we cannot do what we wish, we shall do what we can. We pledge ourselves to help as far as we can.

In a previous statement before this organization in 1979, I outlined the state of our land resources in The Bahamas, and despite our progress, some 86 percent of our land with high agricultural potential is still available for development. Recently we have embarked on a new thrust towards increased food production through agro-industrial development. We are inviting private entrepreneurs, Bahamian and foreign, to unite with the Government in this quest towards providing more food. Attractive and relatively liberal concessions have been agreed upon which should create a favourable climate for investment in food production ventures for the local market and for export. I am pleased to state that three projects are in progress of implementation, two in livestock production and one in mariculture.

As many of you are aware, The Bahamas is an archipelagic state spread over 100 000 square miles of the Atlantic ocean. As such, the largely untapped and vast resources of our seas is an important area for meaningful development. It also has potential for providing employment for many more of our citizens creating economic power particularly in the scattered areas of our family of islands.

We are proud to be a party to the Law of the Sea Treaty as this indicates our desire and intention to cooperate in fostering a just and proper use of the sea. It is therefore with good reason that we welcome the forthcoming World Conference on Fisheries, and we give notice of our intention to become fully involved in this and all other efforts towards the orderly and proper exploitation of the seas for the common good of all states whose coasts are fortunate enough to be bathed by them.

At the same time, aquaculture holds tremendous promise for food and economic development. The geography of The Bahamas provides excellent potential for the successful implementation of aquaculture and mariculture development. Here I should like to acknowledge the input of FAO in providing experts to assist in the formulation of proper legislation to govern the development of this activity.

Mr Chairman, I should like to record the deep concern of my Government about the world situation with regard to hunger and malnutrition. Much reference has been made to the expenditure on armaments as opposed to funds spent on the development of food supplies. The correlation between this vast and outrageous expenditure, and the millions of human beings who suffer and die each year because of lack of adequate food is cause enough for all of us to be ashamed. This is particularly true, Sir, when we consider that some developing countries account for approximately 50 percent of the world expenditure on armaments.

At the same time, the importance of the rights of all sovereign peoples to determine their own future cannot be overshadowed by the basic rights of all men and women to be sustained by good and wholesome food. The importance of this upon world peace and security cannot be overstated. When I speak of peace, I do not mean just the absence of war, for the lack of food and sustenance is indeed the beginning of injustice and the flash-point of injury to peace and harmony. It is important therefore, in my view, that those of us who subscribe to the concepts expressed through the United Nations charter give the fullest possible affect through that pledge, and demonstrate our concern for men and women everywhere.

In this context we have examined the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget 1984-85 and we urge all Member States to fully support it. For our own part, we believe it to be a step towards continuing meaningful assistance where it is needed most. We again compliment the Director-General and his staff for preparing a futurist and workable plan.

I would wish however to offer comment in one area which is of particular concern to The Bahamas, and indeed to all archipelagic states.

One of the greatest needs appears to be the lack of proper marketing strategies, combined with inadequate transportation of products between farming islands and the population centres. The lack of such facilities, together with increased handling of produce results in undesirable and defeating situations. It may well be timely therefore, for FAO to consider examining this matter with a view to formulating strategies which could help to alleviate the problem.

Mr Chairman, in the year 1492, a brave Genovese sailor, had a vision of a new world for Europe which would come about through the development of a new trade route and in his bold quest he stumbled onto a beautiful island which he called San Salvador. I am proud to be a part of the nation which includes that island. 1992 will mark the 500th anniversary of the realization of Christopher Columbus' dream, and in solemn observance of that event The Bahamas will be inviting Member States to share in the celebrations of an event which marked meaningful change for the whole world.

In 1983, The Bahamas shares a vision of a new world of peace and tranquility where all men and women will live in harmony, and having turned swords into ploughshares, divide the fruits of their labour for the common good.

If we are bold enough in our vision, some time in the future, humanity will celebrate our efforts^{1/}.

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.

La séance est levée à 11 h 15

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.15 horas

^{1/} Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal
Texto incluido en las actas petición expresa

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 83/PV/10

Twenty-second Session
PLENARY

Vingt-deuxième session
PLENIERE

22° periodo de sesiones
PLENARIA

TENTH PLENARY MEETING
DIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
DECIMA SESION PLENARIA

(10 November 1983)

The Tenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours
John R. Block, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La dixième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 00, sous la
présidence de John R. Block, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la décima Sesión Plenaria a las 15.00 horas, bajo la
presidencia de John R. Block, Presidente de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATIONS (suite)

- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

E. DU'AIJ AL-SABAH (Kuwait) (original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, distinguished Heads of Delegations: I salute you on behalf of the State of Kuwait, and I convey to you my Government's appreciation of all the efforts made by the Organization in its areas of competence. Allow me, Mr Chairman, to congratulate you on your election to the presidency of this Conference. We are convinced that you will discharge your functions wisely and competently. I should also like to congratulate the distinguished Vice-Chairmen on the trust that the Conference has placed in them. I welcome the delegations of the States that have recently joined our Organization - they will, I am sure, greatly increase the efficacy and importance of our Organization.

We extend our thanks to the Director-General of FAO for the achievements of the last few years, despite the problems faced by the world economy. We sincerely hope that the goals of this Organization and its various bodies - the elimination of famine and malnutrition - will be attained, so that we can look forward to a brighter future for the peoples of the Third World.

My brother, the Head of the Saudi Arabian delegation, put forward some positive proposals before this meeting with regard to the conduct of the meetings of the Conference and the main committees. May I take this opportunity to thank him and to express my endorsement of these proposals, for they will, I believe, greatly enhance the efficacy of our meetings.

A few days ago we celebrated World Food Day. It saddened us to hear in the midst of our celebrations that millions of persons in the Third World are dying of hunger and malnutrition. Undeniably, this is due first and foremost to a fault of international cooperation in producing adequate levels of food. If we look at the Organization and its part at setting down a world food policy, we have to underscore the need for action to overcome all the barriers that impede cooperation in the agricultural sector. We would like to urge all Member States to double their efforts as well as investment in agriculture, stressing the vital nature of such investments for developing countries.

It has been declared that food production in the countries of North America has registered a fall compared to past figures as a result of specific production policies. I do not believe that responsibility for food availability should lie with these countries alone; however, I would request these countries to review their policies and to help raise productivity in other countries, in order to enable these countries to meet part of their escalating food requirements. Furthermore, we believe that there is a need to set up a long-term reserve programme, to draw upon in the lean years in the neediest countries, in order to secure basic food items for these countries. The countries of the Arab Gulf States Cooperation Board have given this issue top priority, and are seeking to secure adequate reserves of basic cereals for their peoples.

We hope to hear in the coming years news which will dispel the pessimism which we have been living with lately. We hope that true cooperation will prevail in this field in particular, and that regional and national organizations and institutions will attain full agricultural integration wherever it is possible.

Kuwait therefore is in agreement with the other members of the Gulf Cooperation Board about the intensification of aid to needy countries through the various funds. We have earmarked approximately 5 percent of our annual income for aid, without overlooking the importance of providing the best conditions which will encourage and develop the agricultural sector in our region, and which will enable us to cooperate in order to set up joint agricultural projects for the purpose of meeting the bulk of our food needs.

My country's positive results in the various sectors of agriculture over the past few years have spurred us to take further action and to make a greater effort in order to meet an increasing proportion of our food requirements. Thus, a few months ago, the Joint Agricultural and Fisheries Board was set up and was entrusted with the task of developing the nation's agricultural and fisheries' sector. The Board's first activity was the establishment of the Agricultural Projects' Company which will raise productivity by using an economical method which diverges from the state service oriented methods. The Board's other activities are in the shape of resolutions containing new ways of back-stopping local agriculture and fisheries.

To conclude, I wish to endorse the contents of the Director-General's statement, as well as the proposed budget.

A ADEDEJI (United Nations Economic Commission for Africa): Mr Chairman, distinguished Director-General of FAO, Honourable Ministers, distinguished delegates, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it is for me a great honour and privilege to be here today to address the Twenty-second session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization. For this opportunity, I am indeed indebted to my brother and colleague, the distinguished Director-General of your Organization at whose invitation I have come. I am also grateful to you Mr Chairman and, through you, to all the distinguished delegates here present for agreeing so readily that I address your Conference and for making the time available so soon after my arrival in spite of your very crowded agenda. Although I have had the opportunity, in the past, to address the FAO Regional Conference for Africa, needless to add that this is the very first occasion that I am appearing before this august body of the FAO.

My presence here today is partly a reflection of the considerable progress which my colleague and I have made painstakingly and successfully over the years in strengthening the co-operation between our two Organizations. My appearance before you is also a reflection of our common concern; this is the danger posed to world peace and political stability by the pernicious and persistent problem of world hunger and poverty. It is common knowledge that I currently work for a region - Africa - which is the least developed even among the developing world and where hunger and malnutrition is the order of the day. Consequently, most of the problems of which you are seized are problems which are discussed every year by the ECA Conference of Ministers. Indeed, how to ameliorate the worsening food and agriculture crisis which we face in Africa is the common concern of both your organization and mine. For without doubt, the persistence of this crisis underlines the continued and worsening poverty of Africa.

You have before you an FAO report on the food and agriculture situation which describes most succinctly the true picture of Africa's food and agriculture situation as it is today. The report shows that the African food situation which has been deteriorating in the past two decades remains critical and bleak in outlook as the gap between food needs and availability continues to widen. The prolonged and continuing world economic recession and widespread drought in Africa have further aggravated the African food and agricultural situation. For Africa to get out of the present unfortunate growing food-import dependency, major and concerted efforts at national, regional and international levels will have to be made. Fortunately, African governments are increasingly showing great commitment and determination to solve the food crisis but their efforts will not be sufficient unless they are complemented by massive international support.

For some years now, I have been raising the alarm about what I have termed Africa's five devastating economic crises and have been crying aloud about the imperative necessity to do something about them in order to avert possible economic collapse and the inevitable consequent social and political disaster in Africa. These are the food crisis; the energy crisis; the deteriorating trade balance due to persistent fall in the demand and prices of Africa's export commodities; the balance-of-payments crisis including debt servicing problems; and, the crisis of economic management. Of all these crises, the one that calls for the most urgent and concerted action is no doubt the food problem.

The annual rate of change in per capita food production declined by 7 percent during the 1960s and by 15 percent in the 1970s. Unfortunately, this downward trend has continued unabated. Consequently, the food self-sufficiency ratio has dropped considerably from 98 percent in the 1970s to around 86 percent in the 1980s. For cereals, the self-sufficiency ratio fell from 81 percent to 71 percent during the same period.

To cover the widening food gap, Africa has had to resort to increasing food imports and food aid. Between 1970 and 1980 the volume of total food imports increased by an average annual rate of 8.4 percent to a total of 20.4 million tons in 1980. Rising cereal imports increased Africa's aggregate cereal import bill ten-fold during the 1970s and brought it to the value of \$US5.6 billion in 1981. In 1979 and 1980, the cereal import bills of Sub-Saharan Africa averaged almost 30 percent of their total agricultural export earnings, and in some countries accounted for almost all of those earnings. Regrettably, during the 1980s, the need for food imports appeared to continue on the increase. On the other hand, African agricultural exports (excluding forestry and fish products) declined from an annual rate of growth of 1.4 percent in the mid-1960s to -3.0 percent in the 1970s.

This rapidly growing food import dependency threatens to pervert local food habits from staple food-stuff towards commodities, such as wheat, which cannot be easily grown in some parts of the continent. A more worrying trend is that Africa has now replaced Asia as the world's principal food aid recipient in spite of the fact that Africa's population is only about one-fifth that of Asia. Africa currently receives 50 percent - or about 4.3 million tons - of all cereal food aid as against 6 percent in the 1970s. Moreover, Africa's wheat and flour market with its unprecedented growth of 10 percent per annum has become the fastest growing market in the world. This ominous trend for Africa which, by and large, is not ecologically a wheat growing region, compounds import dependency.

The causes of African food and agricultural problems are complex. Chief among these are natural catastrophes such as floods and drought. For instance, the current unprecedented drought which has struck many African countries since 1982 has caused great human sufferings, particularly in the twenty-two countries which are now on the verge of mass starvation. In this connection, may I take this opportunity to congratulate the Director-General of FAO for the effort he has made to convene for today a meeting of donor countries with the hope of assisting these benighted countries.

Compounding the food and agricultural problems are man-made disasters such as political upheavals and civil strife which have resulted in a large number of refugees, returnees, and other displaced persons thereby putting extraordinary strains on the already overstretched resources of African governments. Above all, a major cause is the past neglect of the food and agriculture sector, especially the small-holder sector, by both national governments and donor agencies.

The result of these causes is that the number of severely hungry and malnourished people has increased considerably on the continent; growing from 70 million in 1969-71 to 83 million in 1972-74 and the current figure could be much higher, possibly 100 million people. The evidence available indicates that one out of three African children dies of hunger and malnutrition-related diseases before reaching school-going age and hundreds of thousands of those affected who survive do not develop the requisite mental and physical capabilities to lead a productive life.

There is, of course, the demographic factor. In the race between food production and population growth, the latter seems to be winning. No wonder many people are beginning to think that the Malthusian theory is currently operative in Africa.

The only lasting solution to the African food and agriculture problems, lies, we believe, in the effective implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action, which Heads of State and governments adopted in April 1980. That is why in recent years, ECA has worked hard to reorientate Africa's development strategies; to define more rigorously its priorities; and, to advise governments on how best to effectively realign their economies to meet the challenge of our time. To say the least, this is an uphill task requiring the collective support of the international community as a whole. But before I deal with this issue, let me outline, albeit briefly, some of the activities of ECA in the field of food and agriculture.

Being on-the-spot in Africa, and being a multisectoral and multidisciplinary institution, ECA has the unique role and responsibility of galvanizing action among governments for the solution of these problems. Consequently, the Commission, in collaboration with subregional and regional intergovernmental organizations in Africa, has been increasingly involved since 1980 in the implementation at both regional and subregional levels of the Lagos Plan of Action, concentrating its involvement on a few strategic areas.

The first of these is increasing food and agricultural production. Here the activities have focussed on providing advisory services such as assisting governments in project identification and formulation. Currently, a case in point is a project on the establishment of a subregional Maize Research Centre for Eastern and Southern Africa aimed at developing appropriate technology packages to assist the 18 countries, with nearly 150 million population, in achieving greater food self-sufficiency. Following a project identification exercise, ECA in collaboration with FAO, and the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture, is now embarking on a major comprehensive feasibility study on this project with a view to spelling out the required institutional arrangements and definite funding proposals for consideration of the governments and donors. ECA is also engaged in a major effort to assist the countries of North Africa in formulating and implementing three major programmes aimed at increasing food self-sufficiency and co-operation in trade.

Without viable food security and effective war against waste, no meaningful self-reliance in food can be achieved. Our activities in these areas have been again at subregional levels in the Great Lake countries, in West Africa as well as in the Eastern and Southern Africa who are members of the newly established Preferential Trade Area for that sub-region. Another current example of assistance to African countries is a project relating to integration of women in the development process with emphasis on reduction of food losses.

Other forms of assistance continue to be delivered by ECA in the various subregions in the fields of price and marketing analysis, improvement of training and agricultural statistics and in forest resource development.

In response to last year's United Nations General Assembly Resolution calling for an assessment of existing food and agriculture technology in Africa, FAO, ECA and African intergovernmental research organizations have been engaged in a serious brain-storming exercise aimed at proposing practical recommendations for improving agricultural research and delivery systems in Africa. Currently, and at the request of African governments, both organizations are collaborating in undertaking an intensive study to assess the causes of the apparent discrepancy between the increasing resource allocation to food and agriculture in Africa and the declining performance of this sector. Both organizations are also collaborating in working out specific approaches to the development of the African livestock industry. Moreover, the monitoring exercise on the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action is an important area requiring increased collaboration between our two Organizations.

Co-operation between ECA and FAO began as long ago as 1958 - the year that ECA was established - when the two organizations decided, by a memorandum of understanding, to form a Joint ECA/FAO Agriculture Division at ECA Headquarters in Addis Ababa. During the last quarter of a century, this Joint Division has been the focal point of collaboration between the two Organizations in all matters relating to food and agricultural development. It is through this Division that our two Organizations collaborated in the preparation of the Regional Food Plan for Africa (AFPLAN) the aim of which is to strive towards food self-sufficiency. Both Organizations also collaborated in providing leadership during the preparation of the chapter on Food and Agriculture for the Lagos Plan of Action.

That Lagos Plan of Action calls on African Member States to avail themselves of the services of the Inter-agency Strategy Review missions to assist African countries in identifying food and agricultural development programmes. ECA and FAO have collaborated in such missions as well as in high level WCARRD missions geared towards new approaches and strategies for rural development in Africa. Both Organizations continue to collaborate in many wide-ranging programmes and projects in the field of prevention of post-harvest food losses, food security price policy analysis, and generally in increasing food and agricultural production and in strengthening African institutions so that they are better equipped to deal with development problems.

The recent visit to ECA Headquarters by the Director-General of FAO has strengthened and consolidated even further our already fruitful co-operation and collaboration in providing stepped-up support to the African food and agriculture effort as called for in the Lagos Plan of Action. ECA, for its part, will endeavour to increase such collaboration in many fields, including training and manpower development with a high priority being given to the building up of national capabilities for identification, preparation, monitoring and evaluation of agricultural development projects. The co-operation between our two Organizations has been made all the more easy in recent years not only because of our common concern but also because your Organization, under the dynamic leadership of my dear colleague, Dr Edouard Saouma, has been giving the highest priority in tackling the African food and agriculture problem - the same priority that we have accorded to the sector in the Lagos Plan of Action.

There is no gainsaying the fact that Africa urgently needs massive international assistance if it is to meet the food challenge successfully. And this is a challenge that is increasing in magnitude and complexity over the years. As is shown in ECA's recent study on Africa's perspective during the next 25 years, by the year 2008 the population of Africa is expected to be over 1 billion people. In 1958, it was merely 242 million and in 1980 it was 400 million. The population is projected to grow at 3.2 percent per annum while the urban population is expected to grow even faster - at an annual rate of 4.9 percent. Indeed, the African urban population by the year 2008 is expected to be 472 million i.e. more than Africa's total population in 1980.

The main find of this ECA perspective is that the dependence of Africa on food imports and food aid will intensify and Africa's food import bill in 2008 will be shattering, to say the least, implying a huge cereal import bill in the order of US\$14.0 billion at 1980 constant prices by 2008. Africa's self-sufficiency ratio in cereals would have dropped even more by that year.

It is abundantly clear that Africa faces a great challenge in the years ahead. It is a challenge that Africa has to make successfully but which it cannot do without the assistance and support of the entire international community.

Let me illustrate concretely what I mean. In the Lagos Plan of Action, we estimate that the annual investments needed for the implementation of the food and agriculture plan for Africa is US\$4.28 billion at 1979 prices. At current prices and on a very conservative estimate, this will now be of the order of the magnitude of US\$6.5 billion per annum. Certainly, this is far beyond the means of African governments given their present economic and financial circumstances and in view of the other four economic crises facing the continent to which I referred earlier.

Only a few days ago, when I had the privilege of addressing the Second Committee of the General Assembly currently at its Thirty-eighth session, I made a strong plea for the massive injection of resources into Africa, particularly during the next five years, if the continent is to get out of its current economic quagmire, survive economically and lay a reasonably solid foundation for long-term economic development and transformation. I identified the three crucial sectors which require urgently such massive external support. These are, apart from food and agriculture, industry and transport and communications. Our estimate of the magnitude of investment required from outside sources for these three sectors in the neighbourhood of US\$20 billion annually. It is my fervent hope that the international community will not wait until Africa's current economic crisis has matured to disasters - political, social and human - before rushing in assistance and support.

Let me end this address by thanking you all once more for the opportunity given me and, above all, for your attention. I wish your Conference every success, and I hope that your Conference will greatly assist in sensitizing the international community, and particularly the governments which you represent, to Africa's dire need in the field of food and agriculture.

P. GRUPER (Israel) (original language Hebrew): On behalf of my delegation, please accept our congratulations on your election as Chairman of this Conference. I am sure that under your wise guidance the deliberations of this Conference will reach successful results. I would like also to extend a warm welcome to the new members of our Organization: Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Saint Christopher and Nevis and Vanuatu.

I deeply regret that several distinguished representatives of a distinguished organization rise and leave the hall whenever an Israeli representative wishes to speak. It is very regrettable that those absent represent the very countries who need the aid and guidance of this Organization. In fact, tiny Israel, who wishes to share her experience and knowledge with the people of those regions, in a very undemocratic manner is denied the opportunity to offer a helping hand from this rostrum. Such behaviour does not bode well for an Organization wishing to foster cooperation and goodwill.

We meet these days in Rome to review the world food and agriculture situation, to assess the activities of our Organization during the last biennium and those proposed for the next biennium.

I would like to express here our gratitude and appreciation to the Director-General and the Secretariat for their unending and most commendable efforts to carry on the activities of FAO, to improve the lot of the hungry of this world and lastly for the preparation of this Conference, including the most detailed and comprehensive set of documents submitted to us.

With your permission, I should like to focus on the significance of our national agriculture in its broad sense. As you probably know, in recent years Israel assisted Third World nations to shift towards a transitional economy strategy. It has become natural for Israel, as well as for other countries active in the field, to participate in projects designed to pave the way for developing countries to achieve agricultural progress and a higher quality of life.

Generally speaking, programmes for initiating the transitional economy focus on five principal issues:

1. Agricultural productivity;
2. Off-farm rural job creation;
3. Rural social services and infrastructure;
4. Integrated rural regional development; and
5. Population control; pre-schooling and vocational training.

In Israel, both agriculture and rural settlement are regarded as prime national targets; they are closely linked with aspects of food security, food sufficiency, population dispersion, employment and other national goals. They also have an obvious international aspect, as there is great similarity between Israel's ecosystem and the ecosystems of many developing countries.

Permit me here to say something about agriculture in semi-arid regions such as the Middle East. typical feature of semi-arid regions is the lack of geographical proximity between land and water resources. Another feature is a scanty labour force as people are not attracted to such regions. Government commitment is, therefore, absolutely imperative to supply the required water to the farmers. NO country that is arid or semi-arid can develop without a Government-sponsored supporting system.

Such technological adjustment and support can substantially compensate for lack of natural resources. Our national experience is indeed evidence that a semi-arid region can support a highly developed agriculture. Thanks to its intensive farming methods and advanced irrigation technology, Israel has advanced from an under-developed agriculture to internationally high standards of agricultural development.

I would like to mention that during one generation only, Israeli agricultural production increased almost twelve-fold in real terms. In other words, within 25 years our agricultural production progressed at an internationally high growth rate of 10 percent per annum. Consequently, one Israeli farmer produces a quantity of food sufficient for 50 people, as against 17 people two decades ago.

The Israeli growth rate was made possible due to the following factors:

- High level technology by which the natural constraints were successfully overcome, particularly in the fields of adapted mechanization, improved irrigation practices, improved varieties, crop adjustment and farm conditions.

- The availability of natural resources due to national ownership of land and water.
- The cooperative structure of the agricultural sector, which takes great advantage of economies of scale.

The most outstanding feature of a developed agriculture is its close ties with other economic sectors. In other words, the higher the development level of the agricultural sector the closer its ties with the sectors of industry, trade, transport and services. We in Israel succeeded in establishing extremely close ties between agriculture and industry, particularly in two forms:

1. Industry provides agriculture with about half of its inputs:
2. Industry has become an important purchaser of fresh agricultural produce; about one third of Israel's agricultural produce is destined for industrial processing.

The Israeli village has undergone significant changes. Strictly speaking, the rural economy has undergone important changes as a result of which agriculture has lost its dominant position. To illustrate this point, agriculture employs less than one third of the entire rural manpower. We actually cope today with a pluralistic rural economy, where the cooperative framework is the dominant element. Among other things, the cooperative framework affords the setting up and everyday operation of capital intensive regional enterprises. These enterprises handle large-scale agricultural produce, mainly for export purposes. No other framework can successfully manage these vitally important enterprises.

I have mentioned the fact that Israel is today an agriculturally developed country. Notwithstanding, Israel has a broad common denominator with many developing countries, namely:

- a. Considerable dependence on world market developments;
- b. Internal structural changes; and
- c. The necessity to cope with land and water shortage.

Many developing countries struggling to develop their agriculture under similar conditions can take much advantage from Israel's experience.

Mr Chairman, my country is facing a unique problem of rampant inflation. This problem and its solution with regard to agricultural production and trading may be of great interest to developing countries.

With regard to subjects undertaken so far in cooperation with developing countries, I would like to mention:

- Extension and in-service training
- Development of water resources
- Application of irrigation practices
- Production of field crops, forage crops, vegetables and fruit

- Integrated Rural Area Planning
- Organisation and management of agriculture
- Cooperatives
- Farm business management.

- Agricultural Research
- Post harvest practices, storage and transport
- Livestock husbandry
- Inland fish breeding
- Apiculture
- Plant protection
- Agro-industry.

This cooperation was accomplished through -

- Courses in Israel
- On the spot courses overseas
- Individual specialized training
- In-service training assignments
- Operational projects
- Applied research activities and exchange
- Rural development planning
- Documentation

- Some 300 agricultural assistance projects undertaken in Asia, Africa, Latin America, Oceania, involving planning and implementation in long and short term expert missions, projects realised under bilateral, trilateral (TCDC) and multilateral agreements.

-Interchange of professionals, documentation, project profiles and other information.

- Within the projects framework in-service training given in relevant subjects.

Sharing of agricultural know-how with the needy world is part of Israel's quest for Peace.

Permit me, ladies and gentlemen, to conclude my address with an optimistic view. Now, with the first steps towards peace in the region, international cooperation becomes all the more important. I am positively convinced that Israel can and will cooperate with Egypt and later on with all other countries in the region, in all spheres of agricultural development. Let me use the forum for expressing the hope that regional cooperation in the Middle East will pave the way towards a prosperous future. May the entire region, within a relatively short period, undergo an open change, not only through technology, but mainly by the ambitious vision of the human spirit.

In conclusion, let us all hope for the fulfilment of the vision of the Prophet Isaia: "And they shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks".

H.B. MALLA (Nepal) (original language Nepalese): ; Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen on behalf of my delegation and myself I wish to extend to you, Mr Chairman, our warmest congratulations on being unanimously elected to the high office of Chairman of this Conference. May I also convey, through you, to this Conference the best wishes of His Majesty the King of Nepal for a fruitful conclusion. We are confident that this Conference in this ancient city of Rome will be successful in arriving at substantial conclusions, in which I assure you of our full cooperation.

I would like to express our warmest welcome to Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Vanuatu and Belize who have just joined our growing family here in the FAO.

I had mentioned in my statement during the last session of this Conference that the process of positive changes in our country was underway in terms of securing larger mass participation and strengthening the stability of the Panchayat system following the referendum and popular election of people's representatives. A legislative procedure for a massive decentralization of administrative authority has ensued with a view to bringing about a quicker transformation of social and economic conditions of the country. This bears testimony to the determination of the Nepalese people to achieve all-round development through a process of Panchayat democracy which has evolved from our own special geopolitical situation. The system is working well as it is modified and adapted according to the aspirations of the people under the able and dynamic leadership of our beloved King.

Like in so many other developing countries, growth of the agricultural sector has to play a key role in the overall economic development in Nepal. It is this sector of the economy that has to face the challenge of meeting basic needs of our increasing population and at the same time provide a source for foreign exchange earnings. It is therefore the faster and more stable growth of this sector which has become an imperative task for us.

In spite of this urgency of achieving a sustained growth of this sector, agricultural production has registered an increase of only 0.7 percent per annum compared to the population growth of 2.6 percent per annum over the decade 1971-81. What has been a matter of more serious concern for us in the recent past is the phenomenon of frequent deficits in food. While until the mid-1970s Nepal was mostly a food exporting country, it is now gradually becoming a food-deficit country and soon the Director-General's warning on hunger may be applicable even to Nepal.

We realize that in the Nepalese context, increased food production has to get the topmost national priority and therefore efforts have been made to harness all potentials for cereal grains production whether in the plain Tarai or in the hills, as emphasized in our Sixth Development Plan. To achieve increased food production, we have followed a strategy of increasing productivity per unit area of land, because there is very little scope for bringing new land under cultivation. For a sustained increase in agricultural production, application of irrigation water to the farmer's fields has also to be assured along with several other improved inputs, agricultural credits and technological know-how. We have an abundance of the Himalaya waters but to tap them for irrigational and other purpose has become a gigantic task beyond our meagre resources.

I may mention here that we had been concentrating our efforts in the past on establishing institutions and infrastructures to support a network for adaptations, verification and dissemination of technological innovations and a reasonably viable network has been built up in the Tarai area of the country. This, however, would need strengthening in order to function with dynamism and this is where we would like to make a plea to the multilateral and bilateral agencies for their support.

We have been endeavouring to promote sustained agricultural production programmes in the hills of our country, an area where Nepal has been seeking a tangible regional cooperation through the international organizations like FAO. I may mention here that the feasibility study on establishing a centre for Hill and High Altitude Agriculture Development has been completed through the support of FAO. At this juncture, I would only like to put a proposal that Nepal will be pleased to offer a venue of such a centre as suggested in the report. This, in our opinion, will be of great value not only to our hilly areas but also to other similar high altitude areas of the member nations, where the problems of striking a balance between the imperatives of rural development and ecological preservation are increasingly becoming major policy issues.

In order to gainfully utilize these institutions, the production and the productivity in the farmer's fields have to increase, for which, given the present requirements of Nepal, expansion of irrigation facilities to additional areas needs immediate attention. We have been pursuing utilization of even smaller irrigation schemes with the limited resources at our disposal under the food production campaigns; however, substantial external assistance in harnessing our water resources will be required in order to achieve any significant increase. Obviously this will not only help increase agricultural production on a sustained basis, but also would contribute to easing our food security system which hitherto has been under some strain.

We are aware also of the fact that the problems of food security in Nepal are not only related to the levels of national production but are also connected to over-abundance of the difficult geographical areas and the high density of population per unit of agricultural land. Therefore, the existence of perpetual food-deficit areas even during a normal harvest has been a common phenomenon. Considering these facts, in order to tackle our food supply problems on a longer and broader basis His Majesty's Government in Nepal is developing and implementing a Ten-Year comprehensive master plan for improving the situation of food supply in the country.

We have been participating and will continue to participate in any regional food security programme that promises viability and helps to strengthen the food security system in the region. And in this context, the Director-General's Programme for Food Security enjoys the full support of my delegation.

May I reiterate that the focal points of recommendations of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD) were the rural poor; and the reform measures to relieve their poverty and the creation of social and economic environment in order to bring them into the main streams of national development process were the crux of the global concern. In the light of this, His Majesty's Government of Nepal has taken positive steps to execute our Integrated Rural Development Projects more efficiently. I need hardly say that our experiences in Small Farmers Development Programmes have been very encouraging and we are planning to cover as many villages as possible as quickly as we can. Naturally, therefore, we feel that the follow-up of WCARRD, as proposed by FAO, is of topical interest to us.

Cooperatives are one of the important rural institutions in Nepal. It has a strong base enshrined in the Directive Principles of our Constitution. The third amendment of the Constitution explicitly mentions that the economic goal of the Panchayat System will be to establish cooperative societies and other such institutions to generate jobs, to serve as focal points in utilizing the country's available resources and to lay down the basis for many economic activities in the country. His Majesty's Government of Nepal is seriously considering the establishment of an Apex Level Cooperative Organization with direct linkages up to primary levels, so as to strengthen the functioning of the cooperatives and to expand marketing and processing facilities. We have already initiated an intensive cooperative development programme to cater to the needs of small and marginal farmers. It will perhaps be pertinent to mention here that appropriate management systems for agricultural cooperatives will be adopted on the lines propounded by the FAO. These cooperatives are called upon to play a vital part in the modernization of our agricultural sector for which substantial support in the forms of financial resources is required.

The problems created by destruction of our forest resources are of serious concern to us. Ever-increasing pressure of population on this vital resource of ours has threatened the ecological balance, and led to land-slides and erosion, and has adversely affected agricultural production in the country. His Majesty's Government of Nepal, therefore, has for several years been implementing community forest development programmes. Our experience suggests that liberal international support for these programmes will be of high value to us.

Similarly, we attach great importance to the programmes of inland fisheries development. With the growing food shortages in the country, fisheries are bound to gain in importance as they provide additional protein sources. In brief, both the fisheries and forest development programmes proposed by the Director-General deserve the special support of this Conference.

In conclusion, my delegation supports FAO for its international leadership in the matters related to agricultural and rural development activities. In this spirit we support the programme of activ/?/ announced by the Director-General, and therefore urge the international communities for the stronger commitment to the task of eliminating hunger and poverty from the face of our "Good Earth".

Before I conclude, let me add a few words on the overall programme of the FAO, details of which will be discussed in the different fora of this Conference. My delegation has carefully studied the strategies and priorities assigned and the means of action proposed. I can only say here that they deserve our unanimous support. At a time when the membership of the Organization is increasing and the rapid development activities in the developing world itself are accelerating, any move towards zero-growth must seem to be self-contradictory. I would hope that the financial limitations imposed on this Organization may turn out to be less severe than they appear. We consider the growth of FAO and the new dimension it has assumed is the reflection of activities around the world -particularly in those areas where its services are most needed.

C. di MOTTOLA BALESTRA (Costa Rica): Mr Chairman, I should like to congratulate you on your election, which is recognition of the great interest that your country has always taken and is now taking in the work of this Organization and in its efficient operation. (Continues in Spanish)

Señor Presidente, Excelencias, Señores Delegados, me permitiré empezar esta intervención refiriéndome brevemente a la concepción que, en materia de agricultura, tiene el actual Gobierno de Costa Rica, y que coincide, en muchos puntos, con ideas que se han venido formulando y se han recomendado recientemente en la FAO.

Durante las pasadas décadas, nuestro desarrollo estaba concebido eminentemente en un marco industrial. Se pensaba que un aumento de las pequeñas industrias, cuya producción sería destinada al país mismo y a zonas cercanas, habría resuelto problemas de divisas y de empleo.

La experiencia ha demostrado, en cambio, que la creación de actividades nuevas y ajenas a la tradición y a la vocación de Costa Rica, tan cercana a la tierra y a su cultivo, llevaba consigo un sinnúmero de problemas técnicos, comerciales y financieros con dificultades a veces no superables.

Se maduró en consecuencia una nueva fórmula de desarrollo que durante la campaña electoral del año pasado fue acogida entusiastamente y que fue denominada como el programa de "volvamos a la tierra". Esa concepción no excluye la industria, sino prevé un amplio desarrollo de cultivos agrícolas, tradicionales y no tradicionales, paralelamente a la creación de industrias agrícolas complementarias, para la elaboración de productos de la tierra, ya sea de una materia prima proveniente de nuestro mismo país.

Ese enfoque del desarrollo permite alcanzar varios objetivos esenciales y de diferente índole, que voy a enumerar.

Antes de todo, hay el de la autosuficiencia alimentaria, fundamental para un país de densidad demográfica bastante alta y que posiblemente seguirá aumentando.

El segundo punto del programa es el de obtener, mediante la exportación de los productos de la tierra, disponibilidad de divisas. Paralelamente, hay el deseo de ahorrar divisas, con el cultivo de agro-energéticos, para sustituir el petróleo, cuyo precio constituye una de las causas de la grave crisis monetaria que nos afecta.

Todo esto se piensa realizar en un marco de política social y de medidas fiscales que, aun en el respeto del derecho de propiedad, sea más moderno, más justo y más equitativo, generando empleo bien remunerado y alcanzando un continuo aumento de la pequeña propiedad, que es ya una característica de nuestro país y uno de los elementos fundamentales de su intransigente y solidísima democracia.

Este programa, que nuestro Presidente, Don Luis Alberto Monge y nuestros Ministros de Agricultura, Don Francisco Morales, y de Desarrollo, Don Claudio Volio, definen como una filosofía y como una nueva actitud nacional, se viene realizando con un conjunto de acuerdos y de leyes que se complementan entre sí.

El breve tiempo a disposición no me permite enumerarlos todos. Sin embargo, quisiera mencionar algunos:

El Instituto de Desarrollo Agrario - IDA - viene realizando una actividad que se refiere a ochenta mil hectáreas distribuidas en todo el país

En la Asamblea ha sido presentada una ley para la venta de las tierras de los bancos a profesionales egresados de colegios agropecuarios.

Con la asistencia de la FAO, se ha preparado y se va a llevar a cabo un plan para la creación de 30 cooperativas juveniles y estudiantiles de producción agropecuaria, generando empleo y mejorando los ingresos de la juventud rural, mediante su participación en sistemas cooperativos y asociativos de producción.

Se ha aprobado una ley de Fomento a la Industria Rural y se está creando por ley un servicio nacional de riego.

El crédito, que es tal vez el elemento principal para el desarrollo agrícola, y los precios, son objeto de la continua atención de nuestro Gobierno.

Siempre con la asistencia de la FAO, se ha preparado un proyecto de conservación de los suelos.

El Ministerio de Agricultura trabaja por cultivos que se dividen en varios grupos:

- cultivos tradicionales: café, banano, caña y ganado;
- cultivos de canasta básica: maíz, arroz, frijoles, hortalizas y fruta;
- cultivos no tradicionales: melon, coco, palmito y muchos otros.

Los tres problemas fundamentales que enfrenta en este momento el Ministerio, conciernen a la leche, cuya producción tiene que ser dividida y elaborada en diferentes zonas para evitar gastos de transporte; el azúcar y la actividad avícola y porcina, que necesita ser resuelta con aumentos de cultivos de maíz, sorgo y soja para producir localmente concentrados y contrabalancear los altos costos mundiales de esos productos.

Se me permita ahora pasar a la FAO y a su actividad para el próximo bienio.

Quisiéramos hablar de unos temas fundamentales que se refieren a la misión mundial que tiene nuestra Organización.

Antes que todo, hay el Programa de Seguridad Alimentaria.

Varios de los distintos organismos de la familia de las Naciones Unidas se ocupan también de agricultura y parte de ellos se dedica principalmente a unos sectores de la producción o de la distribución agrícola.

Sólo la FAO, Organismo creado anteriormente a las mismas Naciones Unidas, trata de todos los aspectos de la producción de alimentos y tiene una visión única del panorama alimenticio mundial.

Es lógico que sólo la FAO está en la posibilidad de formular un programa que coordine un conjunto de medidas de diferente índole y complementarias entre sí, para alcanzar dicha seguridad.

Ha habido recientemente otros organismos que han tratado de resolver el problema de la seguridad alimentaria con singulas fórmulas relativas a la producción o a la distribución.

Decimos francamente que se trata de tentativos simplistas y fragmentarios, frente a un problema gigantesco, que puede ser resuelto solo con un análisis profundo y con datos y experiencias que tiene únicamente nuestra Organización.

Bien entendida la complejidad misma del tema lleva a no excluir, sino más bien a hacer un llamado de colaboración a las demás organizaciones internacionales en posibilidad de colaborar.

Permítaseme pasar ahora a otro tema fundamental: los Productos Básicos.

Viviendo en este ambiente desde muchos años, sé perfectamente que hay unos países que tienen duda sobre la conveniencia de arreglos que controlen la producción. Sin embargo, estos mismos países adoptan, cuando proceda, políticas internas para conformar su producción a la demanda mundial.

Para la gran mayoría de los países en desarrollo, el problema principal consiste en obtener una remuneración, por lo menos decente, a los escasos cultivos, mediante los cuales, compran todo lo que no disponen y los mismos insumos para su producción. Es interés de los grandes países industriales evitar que los países en desarrollo lleguen a trusts para imponer precios mundiales.

La experiencia de los productos para los cuales existen convenios internacionales enseña que los acuerdos, alcanzados entre productores y consumidores constituyen la sola forma de solución que prevea precios equitativos, ya sea convenientes para todos. No se trata de limitar la producción, sino de programarla, según las necesidades, lo que es completamente otra cosa.

Los resultados, extremadamente escasos, de la VI UNCTAD y el atraso de la puesta en marcha del Fondo Común, preocupan a todo el Tercer Mundo.

Una solución provisional inmediata, en el sector agrícola, es ofrecida por la FAO, cuya constitución prevé que los Grupos Intergubernamentales puedan llevar a acuerdos officiosos sobre productos.

Creo que en la actual situación mundial, una orientación parecida sea la única forma de enfrentar peligros de crisis que se van perfilando para varios productos básicos. Refiriéndome a mi país, pienso al banano, para el cual un acuerdo de ese tipo sería bastante sencillo, sea técnicamente que económicamente.

Quisiéramos además poner de relieve que, aun si se determinara la posibilidad de negociar nuevos acuerdos sobre productos básicos oficiales en el foro competente, que es la UNCTAD, ellos no tendrían posibilidad de éxito, sin una previa armonización de la posición de los productores, lo que puede lograrse solo en esta sede, por su carácter altamente técnico y realmente al día con todos los elementos y datos necesarios.

Estamos convencidos además que, para el progreso de nuestras economías, es necesario eliminar los aranceles que obstaculizan el comercio de los productos tropicales. Es un compromiso alcanzado en el GATT que debería ser llevado a la práctica lo más pronto posible. Es probable que esta medida, aumentando la demanda y el volumen del comercio, beneficie sea los países vendedores que los compradores.

En otra parte de esa intervención, he hablado de los esfuerzos de mi país respecto a una mejora del crédito en nuestro sector.

Quisiera aquí insistir sobre la importancia que tiene el problema de que los países en desarrollo puedan disponer en cantidad suficiente de préstamos destinados a la agricultura por plazos y a tipos de interés accesibles.

Desgraciadamente, las noticias que llegan del FIDA y de otros organismos son poco alentadoras.

Frente a esta Asamblea de tanta altura, por reunir las máximas autoridades en materia agrícola, se nos permita reiterar nuestro convencimiento sobre el carácter insustituible del crédito agrícola en el proceso de desarrollo.

Un tema de gran importancia en esta Conferencia, que interesa a todos es el de la conservación de los recursos fitogenéticos.

Se trata de salvar un bien no reproducible de propiedad de todo el ser humano.

Esperamos que sea posible, durante este período de sesiones, dar pasos adelante hacia la solución práctica del problema.

Quisiéramos hacer ahora una breve referencia a costumbres de la FAO que se han venido olvidando durante estos últimos años.

Me parece que en el pasado, en esta Organización, aun con ciertas necesarias excepciones, se aplicaba más el principio de rotación en la elección de los componentes de los Organos Rectores.

La formulación de una voluntad política común por parte de todos los miembros era asegurada por la participación de los observadores a las orientaciones del Consejo, con intervenciones hechas durante el curso mismo del debate, costumbre que, desafortunadamente, en la actualidad, no se aplica.

Creo que en la definición de las políticas de la FAO, los Estados Miembros deberían volver a intervenir todos, grandes y pequeños, con continuidad y no solamente cada dos años, durante la Conferencia.

No quisiera terminar esta intervención sin expresar el aprecio de mi país por la asistencia brindada por la FAO y por su local Representación a nuestros programas de desarrollo y a la valiosa cooperación que ella nos está suministrando.

M. STANOJEVIĆ (Yugoslavia) (original language Serbo Croate): Mr Chairman, Honorable delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

It is with particular pleasure that I avail myself of this opportunity to congratulate, on behalf of the Yugoslav Government and in my own name, Mr Block and the other officers of the Conference on your election. I would like to assure you that you can count on the full cooperation of my delegation.

I should also like to compliment the Director-General of FAO, Mr Saouma on the excellent preparations for the Conference and on the high standard of the documents, in particular those that cover the key points of the Agenda such as: State of Food and Agriculture; Concept of World Food Security; International Agriculture Adjustment; Plant Genetic Resources, and others.

As is broadly recognized, the Conference is taking place at a time of alarming deterioration of the international political climate, characterized by increased tension between big powers, the escalation of the armaments race, the political destabilization of many regions throughout the world, etc. At the same time the world economy has been plunged into a deep recession. The recession has affected the developing countries disproportionately, in particular the least developed among them. Unfortunately, the main preoccupation of the vast majority of these countries at this moment seems to be "the programme of survival" instead of a so much more needed programme of further development. The deep structural disturbances in the world economy have caused almost all countries to apply national austerity programmes with radical budgetary cuts, and, unfortunately, led to escalating protectionism.

Although the prevailing financial circumstances in the last decade made increased investments possible and consequently, increased production, including the production of food, they inevitably led to the escalation of the indebtedness of the developing countries. May I also add that the arising global financial mechanisms have caused a further increase in indebtedness of these countries, thus hindering their development and contributing to the further deepening of the already huge gap that exists between them and the developed world. It is indeed paradoxical that in such a situation the world is spending more than 700 billion US dollars annually on the means for its own destruction, an amount which is higher than the total indebtedness of the developing countries.

The crisis that we are faced with, in our view, demonstrates without any doubt the need for deep structural changes in the international economic relations and calls for a concerted effort of the international community to overcome the deepest economic recession since the early thirties. The vision of a changed international economic order is embodied in the conclusions of the Seventh Summit Conference of the Non-Aligned Countries and in many other documents of non-aligned and other developing countries. May I also add that these countries have always expressed their readiness for a constructive dialogue.

In the light of the very close interrelationship between food and agriculture and economy growth, food and agriculture could not be realistically assessed in isolation from the basic global political and economic trends. Today, only a year before the Tenth Anniversary of the World Food Conference, it is indeed impossible to avoid asking how far have we progressed in relation to the main objectives and programmes that we unanimously adopted in 1974. It is encouraging to note that the developing countries, despite the severe external environment have managed to somewhat increase their food production growth which is a considerable achievement. However, food production growth has been lagging far behind the minimum annual rate of 4 percent, which has been repeatedly proclaimed as the major objective of the international community. Unfortunately, the least developed countries which have been exceptionally affected by the series of international crises, since 1979, have not succeeded in balancing food production and population growth. In that respect the most critical situation is in Africa, South Saharan Africa where per capita food production has decreased for fifteen years. Cereal production in the developing countries has been lagging behind the overall food production growth and this has inevitably led to a dramatic increase of import dependence of these countries. The import level of 100 million tons of cereals, which caused consternation as a prognosis about ten years ago, has already been surpassed. If the financial constraints of the developing countries had not been so severe, the level of grain imports would have, most likely, been even higher. I would not like to dwell on details, but only to highlight some significant signs of the crisis in international cooperation in this vital sphere. Official development assistance to the agriculture of the developing countries has, stagnated far behind the international agreed estimate of minimum requirements. In such a situation the resources of international financial institutions have been most seriously affected, especially since 1979. Having said this, I am thinking, first of all, of the International Development Association, of IFAD, of the "soft resources" of the Regional Banks, of the dramatically deepening crisis in UNDP resources, of the level of food-aid in general, and in particular, the part channelled through the World Food Programme.

If we assess the food production growth in the developing countries in the 1970s in the light of the factors that I have indicated, then I believe that it can hardly be denied that international action in support of the efforts of the developing countries to increase their food production growth have largely failed. We, therefore, feel that this Conference, almost ten years after the World Food Conference, should address itself to these essential issues of cooperation in an attempt to invigorate international action in this vital field. That is why, Mr Chairman, we very much welcome the initiative recently undertaken by the Director-General to re-appraise the concept of, and approaches to World Food Security, already received, supported from the Committee on World Food Security, the FAO Council, the World Food Council, and ECOSOC.

We would also wish to reiterate our support to the proposed revision and up-dating of guidelines for the International Agricultural Adjustment. It is our hope that the Conference could devote its full attention to this issue and possibly adopt the revised guidelines as a basis for the monitoring and objective assessment of international economic relations in the field of food and agriculture.

I feel obliged to briefly touch upon the issue of progress made in the implementation of the Declaration of Principles and Programme of Action approved by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. I would like to refer only to the aspect related to a more equitable access to basic agricultural resources, land and water. The Report submitted to us covers a relatively short time span. However, it is visible that the progress achieved has been quite modest. In the light of the importance of a more equitable access to basic agricultural resources, as one of the most essential pre-requisites for increased food production in developing countries, the Conference should, in our opinion, give a new impulse to more rapid changes in agricultural structures. In the same context, we would like to underline the need for more vigorous steps aimed at improving the position of women, in general, and in particular in food production, and related activities in the rural areas. Allow me to stress the satisfaction of my Government with the cooperation that we have established with FAO in that domain. Needless to say we look forward to the continuation of our cooperation particularly in reference to the follow-up action agreed at the Seminar held in Ljubljana this year.

Certainly not the least of the general issues I want to address myself to concerns Plant Genetic Resources. It is indeed difficult to overstate the importance my Government attaches to the establishment of a global plant genetic resource system under the auspices of FAO. Without going into details let me just say that the Yugoslav delegation is in agreement with the basic lines of action proposed by the Director-General. My delegation is ready to cooperate with all others in considering details relevant to this issue in the hope that the Conference will reach an agreement on the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources.

I must take this opportunity to highlight that Yugoslavia, although itself a developing country, has substantially increased its technical assistance to the developing countries, including assistance in the field of food and agriculture. In illustrating this I would like to mention that we have established bilateral agreements with almost 50 developing countries. It is undoubtedly our aim to further increase our cooperation with these countries in all areas of food and agriculture.

Let me finally address myself to the issue of the FAO Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85. My Government believes that there is a sound basis for satisfaction with the progress achieved by FAO. There is no doubt that the level of FAO's efficiency has been considerably increased on the basis of the policy guidelines unanimously adopted in 1977. The Yugoslav delegation has always rendered its full support to endeavours directed towards streamlining the Programme of Work with the objective of increasing FAO support for the efforts of developing countries. In that regard we have always supported the strengthening of the main FAO programmes. We welcome the trend of increasing reliance on consultative services, and particularly the national institutions of the developing countries. Yugoslavia has advocated the increasing orientation of FAO towards the promotion of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries. In that respect we have welcomed the progress achieved but we have always pressed for a more active role. To sum up the Director-General has enjoyed our active support in his endeavours to maximize the impact of FAO on the efforts of developing countries to increase their food production. It is in this context that we assess the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium. We should like to state that the proposed Programme of Work merits the full support of the Yugoslav Government. We in particular appreciate the efforts of the Director-General to strengthen the main FAO programmes despite negligible increase of overall resources. Consequently, this means that we are in agreement with the proposed reduction of the administrative and support services. This is the substance of the proposed Programme of Work and Budget which we, fully support.

In relation to the work of the Organization in the next two years, we are seriously concerned over the likelihood of decreasing extra-budgetary resources available to the Organization in the next biennium. Such a decrease seems inevitable unless the financial crisis of the UNDP is overcome. We invite the Conference to reiterate the appeal to donor countries, to increase their contributions in accordance with the decision on the level of resources for the Third Programme cycle.

In conclusion, I welcome the newly admitted members, Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, and Saint Christopher and Nevis, as well as Vanuatu, convinced that the greater universality of our Organization will contribute to the achievement of the goals we all aspire to reach - the eradication of hunger and malnutrition from our planet.

V.H. SANTIRSO (Argentina): Señor presidente, permítame felicitarlo por su designación y manifestarle lo grato que es para mi volver a encontrarnos en esta oportunidad y ante tan importante evento que tendrá seguramente efectos positivos en la lucha para la erradicación del hambre y la malnutrición.

Antes de ocuparnos de los temas de política quisiera dar la bienvenida a los estados que acaban de incorporarse a la FAO y manifestarle por su intermedio a Antigua y Barbuda, Belice, San Cristóbal y Nieves y Vanuatu toda nuestra cooperación.

Es mi intención abordar en primer término la situación económica global y su relación con la seguridad alimentaria.

Existe una clara relación entre el déficit de nuestras balanzas de pagos y el estancamiento del comercio internacional.

Es sabido por todos los distinguidos delegados aquí presentes que la caída de los precios de las materias primas, el deterioro de la relación de los términos del intercambio en perjuicio de los países en desarrollo y el proteccionismo y otras prácticas seguidas por los países industrializados tienen una relación directa con nuestra vulnerabilidad en el sector externo.

Si a esta situación le agregamos otras variables que intervienen en la crisis global como el estancamiento con inflación y las altas tasas de intereses, entre otras, nos encontramos ante una situación que no puede continuar por mucho tiempo sin crear tensiones que trasciendan el escenario económico.

Señor Presidente, no quiero describir aquí la actual crisis económica internacional pero surge a simple vista que si los países productores de materias primas, y en nuestro caso de alimentos, no contamos con precios estables y justos, tampoco podremos hacer frente a nuestras deudas externas ni podremos contribuir a superar la parálisis que caracteriza la mayor parte de la economía mundial desde hace casi una década.

Nosotros encaminamos nuestros esfuerzos hacia el encuentro de fórmulas equitativas, flexibles y que tengan lugar dentro de un espíritu de cooperación entre el norte y el sur. Ello quedó demostrado con la plataforma de Buenos Aires del grupo de los 77 que, lamentablemente, no fue aceptada por los países industrializados en la reciente UNCTAD de Belgrado.

No obstante nuestras intenciones, los factores perturbadores no sólo siguen existiendo, sino que se agudizan.

Ello consta en informes de los diferentes consejos, grupos intergubernamentales y comités de la FAO. Me refiero, Señor Presidente, a uno de los componentes fundamentales de la seguridad alimentaria: el comercio. Aunque debería decir la falta de un comercio más libre y fluido que es uno de los factores que afecta en forma más negativa el aumento de la producción agrícola.

En este contexto no podemos dejar de señalar que los países desarrollados tienden actualmente a adoptar medidas proteccionistas cada vez más complejas y severas.

Las restricciones cuantitativas, tratamientos arancelarios discriminatorios, disposiciones sanitarias y los recargos variables a las importaciones son los principales obstáculos que enfrentamos al intentar acceder a los mercados de los países desarrollados.

Este difícil cuadro se agravó más aún cuando gracias a los niveles artificiales de protección se incrementó el margen de beneficio en la agricultura en algunos países desarrollados estimulando la sobreinversión en el sector, generando excedentes que luego acceden al mercado internacional a través de subsidios.

El caso de la CEE es el ejemplo más extremo de este tipo de comportamiento. Nuestra posición es clara y concreta.

Nadie puede cuestionar el objetivo de todo país para que sus agricultores alcancen altos niveles de vida. Pero lo que no podemos tolerar es que esto se logre a costa del nivel de vida de nuestros productores como consecuencia de la baja inducida de precios, resultado de la política deliberada de estos países industrializados.

Tampoco podemos dejar de advertir que estos excedentes que producen los países industrializados, que son comprados por los países en desarrollo en términos concesionales, tienen una consecuencia nefasta en el largo plazo ya que provocan desequilibrios en las producciones locales, modifican sus dietas y aumentan su vulnerabilidad alimentaria.

Usted sabrá disculparme, Señor Presidente, por haberme extendido en esta cuestión vital para los países en desarrollo, pero la interdependencia existente entre comercio, deuda externa y seguridad alimentaria en la actual coyuntura, justifica plenamente el tiempo utilizado.

Quisiera referirme ahora al concepto ampliado y revisado de la seguridad alimentaria mundial. La Argentina ha apoyado y apoya en forma entusiasta, este nuevo enfoque, que el Director General propuso en su oportunidad.

Creemos que, sin el análisis integrado de los componentes que se incluyen en él, hoy ya no sería posible abordar este problema. Por ello reiteramos nuestro reconocimiento al Señor Saouma y a la FAO por el valioso aporte que están realizando.

Señor Presidente, dentro de pocas horas tendremos una reunión especial para tratar la situación agrícola y alimentaria en Africa. Sólo quiero destacar ahora nuestra solidaridad y apoyo a la labor que realiza la FAO en y para este castigado continente.

La Argentina respondió con medidas concretas al primer llamado del Director General y tenga la seguridad, Señor Presidente, que continuaremos haciendolo en la medida de nuestras posibilidades.

Dentro de este contexto es que la Argentina otorga un papel preponderante a la cooperación Sur/Sur.

Entendemos esta cooperación dentro de la actual situación internacional, como un factor clave para promover el desarrollo económico en nuestros países.

Es así que priorizamos la ayuda alimentaria como instrumento para esta cooperación Sur/Sur.

Creo oportuno comentarles a los señores delegados la manera en que mi país ha contribuido con ios esfuerzos que despliega la comunidad internacional para mitigar los problemas ,del hambre y, sobre todo, la evolución que dicha asistencia ha experimentado.

Desde hace bastantes años, la República Argentina ha acudido en ayuda de otras naciones que atravesaban situaciones de emergencia, enviándoles productos alimenticios y otros elementos que aquellas requerían.

En la que podríamos definir como una segunda etapa, mi país se adhirió al convenio de ayuda alimentaria, con lo cual tiene el mérito de ser la única nación en desarrollo que se compromete por ese instrumento legal a una contribución anual con carácter obligatorio.

No conforme con ello, pensamos que el esfuerzo que se hacía podría ser mejor aprovechado.

Recogimos entonces las enseñanzas obtenidas en nuestra anterior actuación y - sobre todo - las sugerencias elaboradas por los organismos internacionales que se ocupan del tema, como la FAO. Se decidió entonces maximizar el aporte argentino ampliando su campo de acción. Por un lado se continúa con la provisión de alimentos, cuando ello resulta indispensable, pero por otro se presta cooperación técnica a los países que la necesitan para mejorar y aumentar su producción y elaboración de alimentos.

En este último ámbito las acciones de cooperación alimentaria pueden incluir enseñanza e introducción de tecnologías apropiadas al medio, instrucción, capacitación y perfeccionamiento de personal, etc.

A efectos de implementar las ideas anteriormente descritas, mi país ha comprometido una sustancial contribución en trigo argentino para aplicar a diversos programas de desarrollo rural y mejoramiento de la producción agrícola que el Programa Mundial de Alimentos está llevando a cabo en países en desarrollo.

Además, este año la República Argentina destinó 3 000 toneladas de trigo a la Reserva Alimentaria Internacional de Emergencia.

Quiso así responder a las reiteradas solicitudes efectuadas por la FAO y otros organismos internacionales, tendientes a cubrir este importante aspecto de la seguridad alimentaria.

Estos aportes que acabo de mencionar, tienen el mérito de corresponder a un ferviente deseo de cooperación con otros países en desarrollo y - demás está decirlo - se efectúan pese a la grave crisis financiera que aqueja a nuestra nación, entre tantas otras del mundo no industrializado.

Ya en el ambito regional, quiero destacar como un elemento altamente positivo, la reciente. constitución del Comité de Acción para la Seguridad Alimentaria Regional "CASAR" en el ambito del Sistema Económico Latinoamericano (SELA).

Este organismo constituirá sin duda un aporte fundamental para solucionar los problemas alimentarios que aquejan a muchos pobladores latinoamericanos, y contribuirá asimismo a afianzar la seguridad económica regional.

Tal como lo he señalado en la reunión del Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación, celebrada en Nueva York en el pasado mes de junio, el "CASAR" es un mecanismo que se inscribe dentro del marco de la cooperación Sur/Sur, lo cual ha sido resaltado en la Quinta Reunión Ministerial del Grupo de los 77 de Buenos Aires, como un instrumento idóneo para coadyuvar a la autosuficiencia económica de los países en desarrollo.

Tengo la certeza de que en la próxima reunión sobre cooperación entre países en desarrollo en materia de agricultura y alimentación, a celebrarse en Bucarest en febrero de 1984, será resaltado este organismo como un importante logro.

Con la sensibilidad que la caracteriza hacia todas las iniciativas que procuran la seguridad alimentaria a nivel regional, la FAO prestó desde un comienzo su más decidido apoyo al "CASAR", el cual ya está implementado mediante medidas concretas.

Por su parte, mi país, que tiene el honor de haber sido designado sede del CASAR, ha efectuado al mismo una donación de 4 500 toneladas de trigo para distribuir a los países del área que enfrentan situaciones críticas, y acaba de asignar fondos para la implementación de un proyecto dentro del programa de actividades del Comité.

Señor Presidente, creemos que la Conferencia de la FAO, ya sea por su alta investidura, como por la trascendencia de sus decisiones, es el foro más apropiado para reiterar la existencia de una constante de nuestra política económica exterior: esta es la no utilización de los alimentos como instrumento de presión política o de retorsión económica.

Quisiera ahora, señor Presidente, referirme brevemente a las actividades y programas de la FAO.

Damos nuestro total apoyo al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1984-85, y a los objetivos a plazo medio. Somos concientes del esfuerzo del Director General en su elaboración y por ello queremos dejar especial constancia de nuestro reconocimiento por su realismo y su capacidad de lograr un equilibrio ante un momento difícil para que la Organización pueda cumplir con su noble cometido.

Quiero asimismo destacar la importancia que le otorga mi país al Programa de Cooperación Técnica, al que le brindamos todo nuestro apoyo, y dejar constancia de la urgencia y eficacia con que se ha actuado como lo hemos solicitado.

En cuanto a la labor de la FAO en América Latina, la Oficina Regional con sede en Santiago de Chile merece una mención especial por la actividad que despliega en las distintas actividades del Programa Ordinario en las que, vale la pena agregar, la Argentina colabora activamente conjuntamente con otras naciones del cono sur.

En este sentido propiciamos el fortalecimiento de la oficina regional mediante una adecuada dotación de recursos presupuestarios acordes con el nivel de actividades que desarrolla.

En lo que hace a la producción agropecuaria de mi país, debo decir, señor Presidente, que tengo la satisfacción de ser portador de buenas nuevas: la última cosecha alcanzó un nuevo récord que superan 40,6 millones de toneladas. Esto significa un incremento del 21 por ciento con respecto al año anterior y del 49 por ciento con relación al último quinquenio.

Para 1983, la Argentina estima exportar 29 millones de toneladas, que significará comercializar en el exterior el 74 por ciento de su producción.

Los saldos exportables se han duplicado en el transcurso de una década, es nuestro más importante aporte a la lucha contra el hambre y la desnutrición; es parte de nuestra contribución a la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

Este sostenido crecimiento de nuestra producción es el resultado del esfuerzo conjunto de los agricultores, los profesionales vinculados al agro, las empresas proveedoras de insumos y el estado, que fijó reglas de juego claras y dio el marco adecuado para una mejor y mayor aplicación de tecnologías.

En efecto, el aumento de producción se explica por el rendimiento por unidad de superficie, que ha sido muy importante, alcanzando el 57 por ciento a través de la década, lo que es equivalente a una tasa acumulativa anual del 4,5 por ciento ya que es bueno destacar que el área bajo cultivo prácticamente no ha variado en los últimos años.

Debe tenerse en cuenta que este incremento se ha producido cuidando que las dos premisas y orientaciones básicas de nuestro sistema de producción no se modifiquen. Estas son:

- la conservación de la fertilidad natural de los suelos, patrimonio básico de la producción agropecuaria, y
- la eficiencia energética a través de un sistema semiextensivo pero altamente productivo.

En nuestro caso, las políticas de conservación de suelos están guiadas por la certeza de que el futuro de la humanidad sólo se asienta sobre unos pocos centímetros de capa arable.

Hemos sido siempre conscientes de la alta inestabilidad de los sistemas de producción muy intensivos y la experiencia indica que estos sólo pueden mantenerse mediante el subsidio y la transferencia de recursos de otros sectores económicos. Nuestra experiencia en este campo está permanentemente a disposición de quien lo solicite.

En esta marcha hacia el permanente y continuo aumento de su producción, la Argentina como país en desarrollo y dependiente de la exportación de sus materias primas, se enfrenta con limitaciones y trabas que como decíamos al principio de nuestra intervención, parecen difundirse cada vez más en el comercio agrícola entre las naciones. Estas políticas proteccionistas que ignoran cualquier lógico principio de las ventajas comparativas, provocan severos perjuicios a países como el nuestro, actuando en particular como desincentivo a nuestros agricultores.

No obstante ello, quiero destacar la permanente predisposición de mi país para salir adelante de esta encrusijada internacional.

Finalmente quisiera compartir el llamado que realizó el Director General en la sesión del día lunes cuando se refirió tan sabiamente a la solidaridad necesaria de la comunidad internacional para lograr avances positivos en el sector de la agricultura y de la alimentación. Nosotros somos conscientes de ello así como de los derechos y obligaciones que ello implica para todos los países miembros de esta Organización y en este sentido comprometemos todo nuestro esfuerzo.

J.C. VALMASEDA BALTRON (Cuba): Sr. Presidente, Sr. Director General, Señores Delegados: Acudimos a este 22º período de sesiones que tiene lugar en los momentos en que el mundo atraviesa por la peor crisis económica de su historia, confiados en que los resultados de esta Conferencia repercutirán en favor de la solución de los graves y acuciantes problemas que aquejan a la humanidad, especialmente a los pueblos del llamado Tercer Mundo.

Estamos conscientes de la alta responsabilidad que contrae nuestra Conferencia al abordar los complejos problemas de la situación alimentaria en el mundo de hoy y la difícil tarea que ha de cumplir la mesa elegida para dirigir los debates de la misma, a la cual hago llegar el saludo de la delegación cubana.

Saludamos igualmente a los nuevos Estados que han ingresado a la Organización como miembros plenos, engrosando las filas de los que en el seno de la FAO encaminan sus esfuerzos a la búsqueda de una perspectiva de vida más promisoría para la humanidad.

Sr. Presidente, resulta referencia obligada, luego de transcurridos más de 20 años de que fuera presentado en el marco de la FAO el Plan Indicativo Mundial para el Desarrollo de la Agricultura y más de ocho años de la celebración en este lugar de la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación, convocada con urgencia ante las hambrunas masivas y la alarmante declinación de la reserva alimentaria que movió a postular solemnemente que en diez años con el concurso de todas las naciones debía erradicarse el hambre y la subalimentación de la faz de la tierra, entrar en el análisis del resultado alcanzado por tan bien intencionado propósito. Resulta incuestionable que el mismo ha culminado en un rotundo fracaso. Que arribaremos al año 1985 sin lograr el objetivo, tan primario como esencial, de que todos los seres humanos dispongan de alimentos suficientes para desarrollar sus potencialidades en el disfrute de una vida plena.

El futuro se vislumbra como nada prometedor, según datos del Banco Mundial, la cantidad de malnutridos se elevará de 600 millones en la actualidad a la impresionante cifra de 1 300 millones en el año 2000.

La UNICEF por su parte prevé que uno de cada cinco niños en el mundo del año 2000 estará malnutrido.

En el informe rendido por el Presidente de los Consejos de Estado y de Ministros de Cuba, Comandante en Jefe Fidel Castro, a la VII cumbre de los países no alineados, se describe el dramático panorama que caracteriza al mundo subdesarrollado y las sombrías perspectivas a que se enfrenta la humanidad caso de que persistan las actuales condiciones que generan esta situación.

La producción agropecuaria de los países subdesarrollados alcanzó un ritmo de crecimiento promedio anual de aproximadamente un 3 por ciento entre 1969 a 1971 y 1981. No obstante, entre 1975 y 1980 la producción de alimentos por habitante a nivel mundial creció a una ínfima tasa del 0,3 por ciento anual. En más de 70 países subdesarrollados, en los últimos 20 años se ha producido un descenso neto en la producción alimentaria por habitante y en algunos de ellos, una reducción absoluta del volumen de producción. El crecimiento de la producción agrícola per cápita en los países desarrollados fue del 8 por ciento en 1980 con relación a los niveles promedio de 1969 a 1971, mientras que en el Tercer Mundo no se registró crecimiento alguno. En realidad, durante los últimos 20 años la producción alimentaria de los países subdesarrollados se ha rezagado respecto a la demanda de alimentos, tendencia esta que, según análisis de la FAO, se mantendrá al menos hasta fines de siglo, si no cambian sustancialmente las actuales condiciones en cuanto a la producción, comercialización y distribución alimentaria.

El Director General de la FAO, Sr. Edouard Saouma, quien ha venido luchando tesoneramente al frente de esta prestigiosa institución, en favor de encontrar soluciones a tan graves problemas, señaló ante el Parlamento Europeo en 1980 (y citó . . .) "El hambre no es solamente una cuestión moral, como tampoco es un problema material que pueda resolverse con una mezcla de economía y de técnica, es ante todo un problema político que condiciona el futuro de nuestro planeta". (Fin de la cita).

Resulta claro, que los problemas alimentarios se derivan de la crítica situación económica por la que atraviesan los países del Tercer Mundo, víctimas de los injustos mecanismos de intercambio comercial mediante los cuales los países industrializados adquieren materias primas a precios irrisorios y venden sus productos manufacturados a precios exorbitantes.

Los países del Tercer Mundo son víctimas además, de las elevadas tasas de interés que conforman una egoísta y prepotente política financiera, lo que aumenta la ya abultada deuda externa de esas naciones. A esto hay que agregar la dominación política y económica imperialista a la que están sometidos la mayoría de los pueblos de África, Asia, América Latina y el Caribe y la subyugación a las estructuras internas de carácter semifeudal que frenan el desarrollo de las fuerzas productivas del campo y someten a las poblaciones rurales y urbanas a una miserable existencia en las que coinciden el desempleo, la insalubridad, el analfabetismo, el hambre, la malnutrición y una ingerencia tecnológica que coloca a esos pueblos a la zaga del desarrollo.

Toda esta situación está agravada por la absurda carrera armamentista que aumenta como en ningún otro momento de la historia, lo cual no sólo priva a los pueblos de los recursos indispensables para la satisfacción de sus más elementales necesidades de subsistencia, sino que amenaza la existencia misma de la humanidad.

La lucha contra el hambre y la malnutrición requieren de un clima de paz y seguridad para los Estados grandes y pequeños; el cese de la carrera armamentista y la drástica reducción de los gastos militares provocados por la política aventurera, irresponsable y guerrera del imperialismo.

La Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas ha reconocido que el acceso a los alimentos es un derecho humano fundamental; sin embargo los años recientes han sido testigos de la utilización de los alimentos como un arma en el arsenal del imperialismo, el cual a través de la titulada "Asistencia alimentaria" intenta obligar a los países en desarrollo que se esfuerzan por seguir rumbos independientes, a plegarse a sus dictados.

Corresponde a nosotros, representantes de Estados soberanos, declarar, y así solicitamos a esta Conferencia que lo haga, que los problemas de la alimentación son parte integrante e indisoluble de todos los problemas que afectan económicamente a los países subdesarrollados. Nuestra delegación, Sr. Presidente considera que los recursos financieros propuestos para el bienio 1984-85 en el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, incrementados sólo en 0,5 por ciento en relación al bienio anterior, constituyen en cierta medida un estancamiento de las actividades de la FAO, sin dejar de reconocer que la FAO ha adoptado medidas que permiten una mayor movilidad de los recursos a fin de abordar los problemas más urgentes con soluciones en el corto plazo, como son los programas de cooperación técnica. Estos escasos recursos debieran ser incrementados y destinados prioritariamente a los países clasificados dentro del grupo más pobre y con marcada orientación a la solución de los problemas alimenticios. Debemos reconocer además que a pesar de los esfuerzos realizados por la FAO, la aplicación de la Declaración de Principios y Programa de Acción de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, sigue siendo sólo una aspiración ante la pasividad injustificada de la mayoría de los gobiernos que continúan sin abordar soluciones de fondo.

Manifistamos nuestro apoyo decidido al Acuerdo Internacional sobre los Recursos Fitogenéticos que son patrimonio de la humanidad y deben estar libremente disponibles para su utilización en beneficio de la presente y futuras generaciones.

Sr. Presidente, Señores Delegados, nuestro país inició hace un cuarto de siglo una profunda obra de transformación económica y social que restituyó al cubano el pleno sentido de la dignidad humana.

Nuestros campos se sembraron de escuelas, hospitales y empresas agropecuarias en las que se trabaja por aplicar constantemente los logros del proceso científico técnico y de cooperativas de producción en las cuales nuestros campesinos, en impresionante movimiento de masas, estrictamente voluntario, abrazan nuevas formas de producción que posibilitan su plena incorporación al avance del desarrollo agrícola de nuestro país.

Durante el período de 1976 a 1981 nuestra producción agropecuaria creció a una tasa media anual del 4,2 por ciento a pesar de las incidencias que en nuestra economía tienen los efectos de la crisis económica capitalista. En 1981 se alcanzó una dieta media diaria por habitante de 2 867 calorías y 75 gramos de proteínas, significando que estos per cápitas en nuestro país responden a un irrestricto principio de equidad. Al concluir el año 1982 la tasa de mortalidad infantil fue de sólo 17,3 por cada 1 000 nacidos vivos, y la esperanza de vida alcanzaba los 73 años. Tal es la resultante de un consecuente programa de desarrollo por el bienestar de toda la sociedad del cual participan integrados plenamente en el esfuerzo, nuestros obreros y campesinos. Conscientes de la necesidad de la cooperación entre los países en desarrollo, de diversificar las relaciones económicas del Tercer Mundo, hemos puesto a la disposición de estos países toda nuestra experiencia y nuestros modestos logros imbuidos del más alto espíritu de solidaridad.

En la actualidad una cifra superior a 14 000 colaboradores civiles cubanos, que incluye médicos, constructores, maestros, ingenieros, economistas y técnicos de otras especialidades, prestan sus servicios en más de 30 países del Tercer Mundo, gratuitamente en la mayoría de ellos y más de 19 000 jóvenes de 80 países del Tercer Mundo estudian en nuestro país.

Esta actitud de Cuba está en correspondencia con los principios enunciados en el preámbulo de la Constitución de la FAO, de contribuir a la expansión de la economía mundial y de liberar del hambre a la humanidad, ampliando de este modo la libre cooperación entre las naciones sobre la base de una política de principio y respeto mutuo.

Entre los países que han recibido ayuda y asistencia de Cuba se encuentra Granada, pequeña nación isleña del Caribe, cuyas posibilidades de desarrollo son muy limitadas. Cuba conjuntamente con otros países hizo sus mejores esfuerzos por ayudar, tanto en el plano del desarrollo de los recursos turísticos como en el de la alimentación. El propósito granadino de fomentar su infraestructura contó con nuestro concurso en la construcción de un aeropuerto, e igualmente le brindamos asistencia técnica, semillas y equipos para desarrollar y diversificar su base alimentaria. El puesto de Granada en esta Conferencia se encuentra hoy vacío no por la voluntad de su pueblo, y los anhelos de progreso a que aspiró se han visto tronchados por razones que de mencionarse traerían al plano de esta reunión cuestiones que establecerían controversias fuera de su competencia. En primer término, la FAO se ha empeñado en la lucha contra el hambre y por contribuir a que los pueblos puedan mejorar su nivel de vida y transformar las condiciones de las zonas rurales atrasadas; sin embargo, para ello el mundo necesita la paz y ella es el respeto a la soberanía de los pueblos y a su autodeterminación.

Nuestro héroe nacional José Martí, dijo en el siglo pasado "los hombres se dividen en dos bandos: los que aman y construyen y los que odian y destruyen".

"Cuando hay muchos hombres sin decoro, hay siempre otros que tienen en sí el decoro de muchos hombres. Esos son los que se rebelan con fuerza terrible contra los que le roban a los pueblos su libertad que es robarle a los hombres su decoro".

!Agrupémonos en el bando de los que aman y construyen, que es el bando de los que luchan por la paz y preservemos para la dignidad humana el decoro de los hombres!

He Kang, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, took the chair

He Kang, Vice-Président de la Conférence, assume la présidence

He Kang, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia ocupa la presidencia

J. GAZZO FERNANDEZ DAVILA (Perú): Señor Presidente, señores Ministros, señores Miembros de la Mesa directiva, señores representantes y delegados de todos los países amigos.

Deseo, primeramente, agradecer el honor que se le ha tributado a mi país al haberseme designado uno de los Vicepresidentes de esta Conferencia. Al mismo tiempo expreso mi felicitación y saludo a Su Excelencia el Dr. John Block, Secretario de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos por su elección unánime como Presidente de la Conferencia. Sabemos que desde sus ancestros es un hombre que ha trabajado en el campo y que es un profundo conocedor de los factores de la producción agropecuaria. Asimismo, es ésta una grata oportunidad de dar una cálida bienvenida a los nuevos Miembros de la Organización, todos ellos provenientes del Tercer Mundo en el que está inscrito mi país.

Hace muchas décadas que venimos hablando del fantasma del hambre y la malnutrición en el mundo, y si bien hemos tratado de dominarlo y controlarlo debemos declarar, con toda humildad y con toda modestia, que se ha hablado mucho, pero se ha logrado poco. Esto significa que lo hecho no ha tenido la orientación adecuada y que deberían, quizá, revisarse las bases filosóficas de nuestros esfuerzos. Por suerte, nuestro Director General, Dr. Edouard Saouma, ha encontrado la orientación buscada, pues el nuevo concepto de seguridad alimentaria por él enunciado, está teniendo un efecto multiplicador que ha despertado conciencias y está cambiando actitudes transformándose casi en un nuevo dogma. Ya el ilustre ex Embajador de Venezuela ante la FAO, Dr. Hernández Carabaño, al hablar del tema en su libro titulado "Seguridad alimentaria: un reto a la democracia" dice justamente: "La seguridad alimentaria supone ciertamente el desarrollo de una agricultura nacional moderna y eficiente, capaz de aumentar la producción y productividad agropecuaria en función de una demanda cada vez mayor, para disminuir la dependencia alimentaria de fuentes externas y no siempre seguras, todo ello con salvaguarda del patrimonio ecológico y sin menoscabo de la justicia social". Resulta, señor Presidente, que a menudo nuestros países se esfuerzan en aumentar sus áreas agrícolas y su productividad en productos agropecuarios para los cuales las ecologías del país, debido a sus ubicaciones geográficas, longitud latitud y altitud les otorgan considerables ventajas económicas comparativas sobre otras áreas productoras en el mundo. Pero es el caso que algunos países desarrollados se esmeran en producir sustitutos naturales y/o sintéticos que compiten en el mercado con nuestros productos agrícolas y no obligan entonces a usar esas áreas para sustituir la producción de otros cultivos para los cuales no se tienen aptitudes agroeconómicas.

Nos referimos, por ejemplo, a la sustitución de la sacarosa de la caña de azúcar por fructuosa del maíz, sorgos sacaríferos o también de algunas fibras sintéticas que sustituyen al algodón, al yute y/o kenaf y otras fibras naturales.

Mi país el Perú, es un país con tradición y vocación agrícola. Ya en las épocas de las culturas preincaicas e incaicas, se cultivaba la tierra con gran eficiencia y sabiduría. Quien visita el Cuzco, por ejemplo, encontrará magníficos lugares donde admirará impresionantes terrazas artificiales, o en otros lugares, irrigaciones como la de "Achirana" en Ica, en donde se comprueba que hace varios siglos ya se usaban tecnologías autóctonas que nada tendrían que envidiar a las técnicas de producción moderna. Mi país fue autosuficiente alimentariamente hasta el período colonial. Y sólo debido a la occidentalización de sus hábitos alimenticios y al abandono de sus cultivos alimenticios autóctonos, como la quinua, cañihua, lupinos y otros, se ha vuelto tremendamente dependiente perdiendo, en cierta medida, su seguridad alimentaria que depende hoy largamente de la importación de una amplia gama de productos alimentarios, que crean serios trastornos en nuestra balanza de pagos, al no tener nuestros productos agrícolas ni los minerales metálicos y/o pesqueros los precios justos internacionales. Los esfuerzos del Perú para el desarrollo del sector agrario, en concordancia con la nueva constitución del Estado que dice en su capítulo relativo al "Régimen Agrario" que: "El Estado otorga prioridad al desarrollo integral del sector agrario", han sido reforzados por el Gobierno Constitucional presidido por el Arquitecto Fernando Belaunde Terry, que promulgó la Ley de Promoción y Desarrollo Agrario el 16 de noviembre de 1980, ley por medio de la cual se crean incentivos tributarios y de asistencia crediticia para el desarrollo acelerado del sector agrario del país. Fue justamente sobre la base de los efectos de esta ley de promoción y de las condiciones climáticas favorables que el crecimiento del PBI del sector agrario fue del 11,4 por ciento en el año 1981 - en relación al del año 1980 que fue negativo por condiciones climáticas adversas.

Señor Presidente: lamentablemente, como es de público conocimiento, tenemos que declarar que recientemente, además de los efectos negativos por la falta de equidad en el orden económico mundial, el Perú ha sido azotado por lluvias torrenciales en su sector de la costa norte árida, en donde llovía escasamente, que produjeron inundaciones que han destruido grandes áreas de infraestructura vial y agrícola cuyas pérdidas se estiman en un valor de más de 1 000 millones de dólares, esto ha ido unido, además, a otro factor opuesto en la parte alta andina de la Sierra del sur en donde fuertes y severas sequías han casi aniquilado la producción agrícola, causando serios problemas de escasez de los alimentos para la población andina que representa casi el 50 por ciento de la población total del país. Haciendo honor a la verdad, debo agradecer en forma emocionada la valiosa y pronta ayuda ofrecida por la FAO, El Programa Mundial de Alimentos, la Cruz Roja, Caritas, y por varios países amigos como Estados Unidos de América, Canadá, Alemania Federal, Francia, Italia, Reino Unido, Argentina, México, Cuba y otros más, por la ayuda material y moral que nos han dado y que nunca será olvidada.

En otro orden de cosas, debo señalar que mi delegación apoya decidida e incondicionalmente el presupuesto de la FAO para el bienio 1984-85 y lo considera un ejemplar documento de racionalización en el uso de los recursos y que está demostrando la habilidad de nuestro Director General al saber administrar en la escasez con igual eficiencia técnica que en las épocas de abundancia. Seguimos manifestando que el "crecimiento cero" es un concepto que rechazamos, mas aún cuando se aplica a la consecución de metas constructivas como es luchar contra el hambre y la malnutrición y se es generoso, en cambio, en el crecimiento desmedido de los gastos para obras destructivas, que es para lo único que sirven los armamentos. Felicitamos al Programa Mundial de Alimentos por los 20 años de su existencia y esperamos que la administración eficiente de sus crecidos recursos lleve alivio a los necesitados, sin olvidar de capitalizar la capacidad instalada de organizaciones afines, como la FAO y el FIDA, para obtener una real racionalización en el uso de recursos humanos y físicos ya existentes.

La dinámica política llevada a cabo por el actual Ministro de Agricultura del Perú, Ingeniero Juan Carlos Hurtado Millep, ha hecho más eficiente la utilización de cuatro grandes institutos descentralizados, que ejecutan las políticas dictadas por su ministerio, superando los caminos burocráticos al ejecutar directamente los programas en el campo.

En el aspecto de seguridad alimentaria, se ha creado en el Perú la reserva nacional alimentaria, basada en tres grandes componentes:

- 1) Una Reserva Transitoria: que asegura a la población un abastecimiento mínimo de 90 días de los seis principales alimentos que constituyen la canasta alimenticia, y esto, preferiblemente a base de producción nacional o bien de oportunas importaciones de tales alimentos básicos.
- 2) Una Reserva Ampliada Permanente de otros productos alimenticios adicionales a los de las canastas básicas y de aquellos productos autóctonos para los cuales el país tiene aptitudes de producción con ventajas comparativas, y,
- 3) Reservas Conyunturales, con participación de todos los componentes de la producción donde están representados: el Estado, los productores y los comerciantes de productos agrícolas, otorgándose créditos suficientes, oportunos y blandos a través del Banco Agrario del Perú, se pondrá énfasis

hasta donde sea posible en la recuperación de hábitos alimenticios basados prioritariamente en productos autóctonos, con la finalidad de lograr disminuir exagerados hábitos alimenticios actuales orientados hacia productos foráneos, queremos redomesticar algunos cultivos preincaicos e incaicos de alto valor alimenticio como la quinua, cañihua, lupinos, oriundos de la zona alto-andinas.

Finalmente, Señor Presidente, quiero expresar que el Perú apoya la gestión del FIDA e invoca a los países donantes la pronta reposición de fondos para su marcha efectiva. En relación con las actividades pesqueras apoyamos también las conclusiones de la última reunión del COFI y propugnamos la más estrecha vinculación entre la Comisión Permanente del Pacífico Sur y la FAO como una acción importante de los Países del Área del Pacífico Sur. Asimismo, la delegación de mi país apoya el planteamiento de la delegación mexicana, en cuanto se hace necesario establecer una clara política en lo atinente al uso de los recursos fitogenéticos, usando más las vías multilaterales que ofrecen los organismos internacionales, como el Sistema de las Naciones Unidas, pues la semilla es la base del proceso productivo y su uso y manejo debe estar al servicio permanente del interés público de la comunidad mundial.

Concluyo aquí mis palabras con una reflexión que quisiera que tenga el carácter de invocación.

El Perú, que es parte de la corriente histórica que el movimiento de países no alineados ha generado en el contexto de las relaciones internacionales, está decidido a participar en la búsqueda de soluciones efectivas a los problemas que afectan la seguridad de todos los países y desarrollo de los pueblos del tercer mundo. Cree por ello mi país, que uno de los problemas más apremiantes hoy y, consecuentemente, uno al que hay que buscar con mayor urgencia la solución más justa y adecuada, es el problema de la inseguridad alimentaria, en la que vive la mitad de la humanidad, contemplada por la otra mitad que vive en la opulencia.

Responsable en gran parte de esta situación inhumana es la crítica realidad económica de la mayoría de los países del llamado tercer mundo que han visto sus posibilidades de desarrollo grandemente obstaculizadas por el peso de su deuda externa, las prácticas proteccionistas, la escasez de crédito en condiciones razonables, la caída de los precios de las materias primas y la desigualdad irritante en los términos de intercambio. Corregir estas tendencias es el deber de todos, por ser el derecho de las mayorías. Es extremadamente difícil, sin embargo, sugerir siquiera por donde comenzar. Pero si tuviera que establecerse una escala de prioridades de los problemas, no dudo que la mayoría de nosotros coincidiríamos en que la mayor prioridad debiera tenerla la alimentación, por tratarse de la necesidad más vital que tiene el hombre, sin la cual las demás necesidades no se pueden siquiera pretender cumplir.

"Dar de comer" deber ser el lema envolvente de todos los demás lemas, el tema clave de las preocupaciones del mundo.

Es fácil enunciarlo. Es más difícil creer en él. Más complejo aún es ponerlo en práctica. Sin embargo, no es imposible. Sólo se requiere de un atributo inherente a la naturaleza humana: ¡Voluntad!

Que de este foro mundial de la alimentación surja aunque sea el consenso de voluntad de todos sus miembros para encaminar nuestros esfuerzos hacia meta tan noble, será ya un gran adelanto.

J. DOS SANTOS FERREIRA (Mozambique) (original language Portuguese): May I first of all congratulate Mr John R. Block, Secretary of Agriculture for the United States, on his election as Chairman of the Twenty-second Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization. I should like to give a warm welcome also to the new members of this Organization, the States of Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Saint Christopher and Nevis, and Vanuatu. Your presence in this international body represents a right for which your peoples have long struggled, that is the right to live independently and on an equal basis with all the other peoples in the world.

This assembly is the top decision-making body of the FAO. It is an international forum which periodically draws up a balance sheet of the food and agriculture situation throughout the world.

In this assembly, in spite of all the difficulties which we have to deal with, we have listened with great interest and we have been stimulated by reports on the daily consistent battle which you are leading against hunger. Each delegation has spoken out and given expression to the aspiration of our peoples which is to eliminate hunger. Here, four years ago, in this room, we got together in an historic World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, a WCARRD Conference. In that Conference there were drawn up before our very eyes the most terrible pictures of vast regions of this planet where hundreds of millions of human beings were born merely to starve. At WCARRD we listened to a diversity of specific experience. We understood that there were new ways of moving forward to eliminate hunger, this blot upon the dignity of the human race. Here we reason together, perhaps we dream of it, but together we approved a declaration of principles, and together we approved an action programme. Four years have gone past, and many factors which were unforeseeable at WCARRD have made it difficult for mankind to move forward at the required rate.

One of the factors unfortunately is the decision of some governments to transform into one of their main policies war and aggression. The apartheid regime in South Africa which has turned its back on history has taken a blind decision to maintain anti-humanitarian policies in its own land and has made a domestic conflict international, has created a situation of instability in southern Africa and has constituted a threat to peace and security throughout the world. The People's Republic of Mozambique is one of the main targets of this aggressive policy. The Pretoria government which creates, which trains, which directs and which finances groups of bandits, violates every day the sovereignty of the People's Republic of Mozambique, assassinates men, women and children and destroys civil works, bridges, villages, and our transport capacity. The people of Mozambique, which has lived in a state of war for twenty years, are getting organized more and more to throw back en masse this aggression as it is doubling its efforts to lead the struggle against hunger, to get over its state of underdevelopment and to establish peace. Throughout eight years of independence the agrarian structure of our country has been transformed. The secure basis has been laid down for developing a genuinely developed form of agriculture.

However in agriculture there are no miracles. As expressed by all of us in the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development only the real commitment of millions of the people in the country can lead to a correct solution of the problem of hunger. However, together with their commitment, development of agriculture requires at one and the same time the solution of a whole set of problems, amongst which is seed. In spite of the great efforts which have been made in our country we would like to point to the support which FAO has given us. It is still one of the worst problems, one of the problems which we really must solve as quickly as possible. The People's Republic of Mozambique, as many other countries which are dealing with underdevelopment and hunger, depends almost totally upon the import of seed, particularly when drought destroys the last reserves which our people in the country are holding.

We must state our warm thanks about the way in which FAO has dealt with this matter and hope that at this Twenty-second Conference decisions can be taken to move forward the necessary measures which are required to solve that problem. To be specific, the People's Republic of Mozambique considers the production of seed in local varieties and the introduction of new varieties as appropriate to various degrees of technology which our different countries use; research in seed production can only be done rationally on a national basis and on a regional basis if we have the financial, technological and material base. It is the only way, so that the emergency seed stock which we have talked about so much can become a reality.

I should like to turn to water. We all know what this problem is about, everyone in this room, and the African continent is one of the worst sufferers. Hundreds of thousands of hectares are lost every year because of lack of water in our country. In Mozambique, in spite of the fact that the country has very considerable water resources, vast regions suffer from drought, and a third of our rural population is thus affected. The past weighs too heavily over our present to be easily forgotten. The underdevelopment of our country is the result of a classic form of colonial domination. Drought for us is an ever present spectre. It is one of the very facts of underdevelopment as a general status. Our annual investments in this country are very high. In small projects based upon the principle of counting only on our own efforts, we are setting up reservoirs, small dams, we are going into drainage works for fertile land, and these are the Government's priority areas of action. Small projects which are integrated where production is intimately associated with the development of small, new industries is one of the pathways we are pursuing and our experience is one of the correct ones. We are locating our efforts at the level of the producing man, at the grass-roots level and we are using his creative capacity. Food aid, which the People's Republic of Mozambique has had to ask of the international community, is not any part of the system of governance of our country. It is a necessity and it is part of the transitory phase through which we are having to move. We know that the decisive factor to get out of this situation is the efforts invested by our own country.

Meanwhile the support of developed-economy countries, with the requisite technology and financing, must continue to be a fundamental factor in our country's development. This is the gradual solution towards the hunger problem. Without water there is no agrarian development. Producing food, as far as we are concerned, is based upon the organization of water.

I should like to turn now to training. This again is one of the fundamental factors of our development. The battle to increase production in the People's Republic of Mozambique also involves leading the battle against illiteracy, and that involves 90 percent of our population. The Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique is investing heavily in illiteracy eradication campaigns. Meanwhile training supervisory personnel for production, for research and for management again is not something which can be done over night. International technical cooperation is going to be of fundamental importance for us in the training of those personnel. We think that it is necessary not only to double our efforts in this area, but to ensure that the content of that training involves a considerable stress laid upon technological transfer. From the countries of advanced economies to the underdeveloped countries, I must involve cooperation between the underdeveloped countries themselves where centuries of experience can be contrasted most usefully.

We would like to pay due recognition, which has been received by our country from the international community as a contribution to its economic and social development, to the cause of the present situation of drought, of malnutrition, because we are a target of destabilization and aggression. It is necessary that this support be increased as we move towards progress and peace in southern Africa. Regionally our countries have set up the SADCC organization as an instrument for bilateral and multilateral coordination and as a way of progressively reducing our status of economic dependency. We should like to praise what the FAO has done, we should like to praise what the Director-General, Dr Edouard Saouma, has done, to attempt to win the greatest battle in which we are all engaged and that is the battle against hunger. We therefore support completely the recent decision by the Director-General of FAO to go out to the international community and raise its awareness to the problem of drought in Africa. But his efforts will only have real impact if everyone in this room assumes fully the responsibility for this battle and know that it is not just a job for the poor. It is a job also for the advanced countries, it is a job for the regional and international organizations, which must assume even greater responsibility in this area. Knowledge is for everyone, science is for everyone. A right to food and welfare and a standard of living must be our watchword. These are the prerequisites for peace in the world, in a world in which children must be born to live and not to die. Thank you very much, and the battle must go on.

S. MUGWISA (Uganda): On behalf of the Uganda delegation, please accept our congratulations on your election as Chairman of this Conference and I am sure that under your wise guidance the deliberations of this Conference will reach successful conclusions. I would like also to extend our warm welcome to the new members to the Organization. We believe that they will make useful contributions to the activities of FAO.

I would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to the Director-General and the Secretariat for their contributions to the activities of FAO. I must extend a special appreciation for the prompt action by the Director-General in response to requests made by the Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Africa in Algiers in 1982, regarding a survey of manpower needs as well as the establishment of a Secretariat Task Force to monitor the food supply situation and the production of staple foods in African countries affected or threatened by serious food shortages. I wish in particular to thank the Director-General for all the assistance extended to my country since we last met here.

During the past few days my delegation has listened with keen interest to the discussions related to food and agriculture which have clearly indicated that the overall food situation is not very encouraging. Just last month here in Rome the Director-General of FAO, when addressing the 22 African countries facing acute food shortages said, and I quote, "We foresee that suddenly we may be confronted with the situation that a significant proportion of the population of these 22 countries faces the most serious economic distress and shortage of food, which may reach proportions of hunger and malnourishment on a massive scale." He went on to say that the situation in these 22 countries was steadily growing worse and the prospects for 1983/84 were alarming: that urgent and concerted action was needed to avert a worse catastrophe in these countries in the coming months. My delegation therefore endorses the Director-General's observations and I would like to urge the international community to redirect their strategies in order to avert this pathetic phenomenon.

In this context of serious food emergency in the 22 countries in Africa, let me thank the Government of the United States of America, which announced on the 8th November 1983 that it will provide an additional US\$ 25 million to help meet this food crisis. I also extend similar thanks to the other donor countries which have announced increasing assistance to contain the food prices in Africa.

It also follows, therefore, that the unchallengeable role of FAO in fighting hunger and malnutrition will be called upon more than ever before to help to stave off hunger from the millions of these people not only in the 22 African states but also in other countries facing the same predicament. It is in light of these increased responsibilities to be shouldered by FAO that we find it inconceivable that the Director-General will manage to tackle these multifaceted problems with a Budget increase of a mere 0.5 per cent.

Mr. Chairman, to put it mildly, the hopes of many developing countries are being shattered by this trend towards a "Zero growth". My delegation finds it very difficult to believe that the tempo of efficiency and effectiveness can be maintained considering that in this budget 40 posts will be eliminated; let them be technical or supporting staff.

However, taking into consideration that the pros and cons were thoroughly examined and discussed by the FAO Council, my delegation supports and endorses the Director-General's proposal for Summary Programme of Work and Budget. My delegation hopes that this decreasing trend of budget will not set a precedent for further budget cuts in the coming biennia.

The Uganda delegation regrets to note that international negotiations on commodity trade have yet to produce a worthwhile remedy to improve the present adverse terms of trade between developed and developing countries. UNCTAD VI in Belgrade in June 1983 and other earlier negotiation attempts have failed to produce any immediate practical solutions, thereby leaving international agricultural commodity trade to the vagaries of the existing market channels. While we delay in reaching agreements on these negotiations, investment in artificial rubber, sisal, coffee, cotton, sugar and many other tropical products will continue and new artificial brands will daily appear to push natural products, mainly from the developing world, out of the market.

This situation does not improve the adverse trade imbalances between the developed and the developing countries. My delegation calls for a flexible approach to reach a better understanding of each other's problems so that a harmonious trade balance is established.

Mr Chairman, allow me to briefly comment on a very sensitive issue which concerns all agriculturists and that is "seeds". We are informed that plant breeders developing new varieties of major food crops regularly incorporate wild strains because they contain genes which make them resistant to diseases, pests or extremes of climate. For example a sample of wild rice from India contained the only known source of resistance to grassy stunt virus and was used in breeding IR-36, now one of the world's most widely grown rice varieties. Vast quantities of these vital wild species have been collected from the developing countries and kept as frozen seeds in major developed countries. As you are all aware, for reasons of policies of protectionism, access to seed banks is very limited. My delegation, therefore appreciates the efforts, of FAO to initiate agreement on an international gene bank and convention on plant resources which are designed to guarantee free exchange of genetic material. I find it difficult to understand the reluctance of some countries to accept the usefulness of such a convention when many are busy calling for conventions to limit arms control or to create nuclear free zones.

This leads me to mention something about regional cooperation. It is a well known fact that economic cooperation between developing countries is an important thrust of their search for greater self-reliance. I would therefore like, at this juncture to thank FAO for fostering close cooperation amongst us member countries. We, in Uganda, support wholeheartedly regional cooperation and activities. In this regard, I wish to elaborate on the livestock and fisheries sectors in African Region. The livestock disease situation in Africa continues to be a great hindrance to livestock development. In particular, the scourge of rinderpest, tsetse fly and its borne diseases in both human and livestock, CBPP and tickborne diseases call for greater efforts and support at national, regional and international levels. My delegation therefore endorses the planned actions on Pan-African Rinderpest Campaign and supports similar actions in the control of the other fore-mentioned diseases. As regards to fisheries there is need for basic studies to establish future management and development of fisheries resources. My delegation, therefore welcomes the proposed conference on Fisheries to be held next year in Rome under the auspices of FAO.

Turning to the homeground, Mr Chairman, my Government has formulated and adopted reform policies and strategies aimed at increased food and cash crop production. Among these is the decontrol of prices as well as progressive increases of prices of cash crops, all in a bid to rectify the deteriorating agriculture situation. Then Mr Chairman, although in 1979/80 we had temporary food shortages, I am glad to report that with the policies adopted by my Government, the country has started realising some surplus of various types of food crops. However, Mr Chairman, due to the distribution constraint which my Government is now tackling, certain areas of the country are experiencing food shortages while others have surpluses. In the forestry sector, my Government is laying emphasis on forestry for rural community development in recognition of the urgent need to involve the public in tree planting schemes for their own domestic benefits, realizing the impending future shortages of fuel-wood, building poles, fencing posts and combating desertification to stabilize the environment. Mr Chairman, we do not claim to have achieved all, we are aware that full exploitation of our resources requires much more investment, both in terms of capital and human resources than we can afford at this stage of our recovery period. We in Uganda continue to put more effort in improving the welfare of our people and with continued goodwill of the international community, we are hopeful that the future is bright.

M. DIALLO (Mali): Permettez-moi, tout d'abord, Monsieur le President, au nom de ma délégation et en mon nom propre, de vous adresser mes vives félicitations à l'occasion de votre brillante élection à la Présidence de cette vingt-deuxième session de la Conférence de la FAO.

Mes félicitations vont également au Dr Edouard Saouma, Directeur général de la FAO et à la dynamique équipe qui l'entoure pour le dévouement et la compétence avec lesquels, ils dirigent la FAO et luttent contre la faim et la malnutrition dans le monde.

Etant de ceux qui souffrent le plus de ces deux maux, mon pays, la République du Mali, est aussi l'un des plus engagés, pour leur éradication totale. Cette volonté se trouve affirmée dans la politique de développement économique générale du Mali et tout particulièrement dans la composante développement rural de celle-ci, mais aussi, dans les objectifs et programmes de toutes les organisations à vocation agricole auxquelles le Mali adhère.

La politique de développement rural du Mali, notre délégué l'a dit, il y a deux ans, à cette même tribune, est dynamique: les objectifs et stratégies qui la composent, ont en effet été constamment révisés, en fonction des résultats obtenus, et de l'environnement économique international. La politique aujourd'hui en cours d'exécution, est celle consignée dans le Plan Quinquennal 1981/1985. Compte y est tenu notamment des résultats du Plan Quinquennal 1974/1978, qui avait lui-même été conçu au lendemain de la grande sécheresse qu'a connue le Sahel de 1971 à 1974. Des objectifs y sont définis pour chacun des sous-secteurs. Ainsi:

En ce qui concerne les productions végétales, il est prévu:

- l'accroissement du taux d'autosuffisance céréalière (de 72,5 à 92,5 pour cent) notamment par une meilleure maîtrise de l'eau);
- la valorisation maximale des exportations (de cultures de rente);
- la satisfaction des besoins des industries nationales en matières premières;
- l'amélioration du niveau technique des paysans.

Dans le domaine des productions animales, les objectifs assignés par le Plan sont:

- la consolidation de la reconstitution du cheptel, reconstitution devenue nécessaire après la grande sécheresse 1971/1974, et intervenue au cours du Plan Quinquennal 1974/1978;
- la sensibilisation des éleveurs et des pêcheurs pour une exploitation plus rationnelle des ressources pastorales et halieutiques;
- la protection sanitaire du cheptel;
- la valorisation maximale des exportations;
- la fourniture de boeufs de labour à l'agriculture;
- l'amélioration de la commercialisation du bétail et du poisson.

Pour le sous-secteur forestier, il s'agit de satisfaire les besoins nationaux en produits forestiers tout en luttant contre la sahélisation et la désertification. Cette lutte commence par la préservation des forêts naturelles qui comprend elle même:

- la sensibilisation des populations;
- la lutte contre les feux de brousse;
- la vulgarisation des foyers améliorés;
- le classement et l'aménagement des forêts;
- la conservation des sols.

Les objectifs sont à peu de choses près, la reconduction de ceux du Plan Quinquennal 1974/1978, qui sont eux-mêmes pour la plupart, des objectifs que le Mali s'est fixés depuis son accession à l'indépendance. La stratégie mise en oeuvre, c'est-à-dire, l'ensemble des actions entreprises pour atteindre ces objectifs, a quant à elle, varié une fois par décennie, notamment dans sa composante institutionnelle. En effet:

- de l'indépendance au début des années 1970, la politique de développement rural du Mali a été essentiellement menée par les structures techniques centrales héritées de la période coloniale, ou créées à la fin de celle-ci. Les actions de ces Services portaient sur la vulgarisation agricole, la vaccination animale et les soins vétérinaires, la surveillance des ressources forestières et l'assistance au mouvement coopératif;

- au début des années 1970, l'encadrement par ces structures, jugé trop dilué et peu dynamique, a été progressivement remplacé par celui des Opérations de développement rural (ODR). Les ODR sont des organismes bénéficiant d'une certaine autonomie vis-à-vis des Services Centraux et auxquels sont assignés dans l'espace et le temps, des objectifs quantitatifs et qualitatifs relativement ambitieux. A l'origine, chargées de la promotion d'une spéculation dominante, les ODR ont rapidement évolué vers des programmes à caractère intégré. Au total plus de vingt (20) ODR ont été créées dans les domaines des productions végétales, de l'élevage, de la pêche et de la foresterie;

- l'encadrement par les ODR est lui aussi remis en cause depuis quelques années, les résultats espérés n'ayant pas été atteints, puisque:

- le Mali continue chaque année à importer plus de céréales en quantités et en valeurs;

- le secteur rural demeure sous-équipé et non modernisé;

- et l'exploitation abusive des ressources naturelles continue.

Notre Parti, l'Union Démocratique du Peuple Malien a donc, lors de son Congrès Constitutif tenu en mars 1979, ordonné des correctifs qui tolèrent l'existence des ODR, pendant une phase de transition, mais qui prévoient à terme, leur remplacement par les Tons Villageois, dans une politique de développement intégré de base.

Cette stratégie nouvelle, dont l'application débute avec le Plan Quinquennal 1981-1985, vise à associer davantage le paysan à l'identification, la conception, l'exécution et l'évaluation des actions de développement. Les paysans doivent être organisés en associations villageoises de type coopératif basées sur le volontariat et la solidarité, et qui seront chargées, à terme, de l'élaboration et de l'exécution de toute la politique de développement rural au niveau du terroir villageois. Le rôle de l'Etat sera alors la coordination.

Reconnaissant que la mise en place de Tons Villageois est un long processus de sensibilisation et de formation, l'Union démocratique du peuple malien a par ailleurs chargé les structures techniques centrales et les ODR de conduire l'action idoine dans ce sens, tout en poursuivant l'encadrement.

En attendant le transfert total des prises de décision en matière de développement rural, des structures étatiques aux structures villageoises, le Plan Quinquennal en cours comporte des projets dits d'initiatives de base, conçus au niveau villageois et dont le financement et l'exécution seront principalement assurés par les communautés villageoises.

Outre cette nouvelle stratégie de développement rural, la période quinquennale (1981-1985) de développement rural du Mali est marquée par deux faits importants:

- le programme de redressement économique et financier. C'est une série de mesures ponctuelles visant à réduire certains déséquilibres macro-économiques dont souffre l'économie malienne et qui, autrement, annihileraient tout effort de développement. Ce programme est soutenu par différents bailleurs de fonds dont la Banque Mondiale et le Fonds Monétaire International. Pour le secteur rural l'on notera essentiellement:

la libéralisation de la commercialisation des céréales et des oléagineux;

l'adoption d'une politique de prix aux producteurs, plus rémunérateurs; et

la réalisation d'une étude diagnostique des ODR, en vue de la conception et de l'exécution d'un programme de redressement pour chacune.

- la stratégie alimentaire du Mali. Elle ne définit pas en soit des objectifs de production différents de ceux qui sont arrêtés par ailleurs, mais elle constitue un document et une philosophie uniques regroupant tous les aspects à considérer et tous les problèmes à résoudre pour que soit assurée aux Maliens une alimentation adéquate en quantité et qualité. Cette stratégie a été présentée à la Conférence des bailleurs de fonds tenue à Bamako en décembre 1982, et elle avait alors intéressé la plupart des pays et organismes présents.

Si les objectifs, stratégies et programmes de développement rural ainsi définis paraissent cohérents a priori, leur réussite pourrait être dangereusement compromise par deux autres contraintes aux quelles le Mali fait face et sur lesquelles il n'a aucun contrôle: les difficultés de financement et la sécheresse endémique:

- des difficultés de financement. Ne disposant quasiment pas de ressources propres, le Mali ne peut compter prioritairement que sur l'aide extérieure pour financer ses actions de développement. Celle-ci aura été généreuse, notamment pour le secteur rural, au cours du Plan Quinquennal 1974-1978 mais en définitive, la moitié des investissements prévus dans le secteur n'aura pas été réalisée principalement à cause du manque de ressources. Pour le Plan Quinquennal 1981-1985, le Mali a pris la résolution de financer les actions prévues, sur ressources intérieures, dans une proportion de 14,5 pour cent (20 pour cent pour le secteur rural) mais nous savons par avance que les 800 milliards- de FM attendus de l'extérieur ne seront pas totalement acquis. Aussi est-ce par réalisme et conformément aux recommandations de la Conférence de Paris sur les PMA que, lors de la "Conférence Internationale des Bailleurs de Fonds pour le Redressement et le Développement de la République du Mali" tenue à Bamako du 11 au 16 décembre 1982, seulement 79 projets prioritaires sur un total de plus de 500 inscrits au Plan Quinquennal ont été présentés. Cette Conférence aura été un succès, dans la mesure où elle a permis d'établir un dialogue entre le Mali et les bailleurs de fonds, mais la transformation des manifestations d'intérêts marquées lors de la Conférence en engagements réels semble plutôt lente.

En définitive, la conclusion malheureuse à tirer des difficultés de financement est que, pour les pays démunis comme le Mali, elles remettent en cause la notion même de planification.

La Communauté Internationale a été très préoccupée du sort des hommes et des animaux dans les pays du Sahel, au début des années 1970, suite aux graves déficits pluviométriques accumulés successivement en 1971, 1972 et 1973. Son généreux secours a permis de limiter les dégâts, et il a aussi permis aux pays concernés, dont le Mali, d'entamer un programme commun de lutte contre la sécheresse, au sein du CILSS (Comité Permanent Inter-Etat de Lutte contre la Sécheresse au Sahel).

La sécheresse au Sahel n'a toutefois plus occupé l'avant-scène de l'actualité dans l'opinion mondiale depuis 1974, puisque, depuis cette date, elle ne s'est manifestée ni de manière aussi globale ni de manière aussi sensationnelle. Il demeure que, comme le déclarait en substance, il y a quelques semaines, le Président en exercice du CILSS, devant l'Assemblée Générale de l'ONU, pour les populations du Sahel, le fléau est maintenant permanent. Il a forcé le Gouvernement de mon pays, en 1982 comme en 1983, à lancer des appels à l'aide internationale, pour assurer aux êtres vivants le minimum vital.

Impuissant devant les caprices de la nature, le Mali a adhéré à différents programmes qu'il a conçus et dont l'exécution permettrait d'en atténuer les effets. Ce sont:

- la politique forestière du Mali;
- le programme de maîtrise de l'eau du Mali;
- le programme du CILSS.

Je suis convaincu que ces programmes bénéficieront toujours de l'appui ferme de la FAO.

L'admission au sein de notre Organisation de nouveaux pays membres réjouit particulièrement ma délégation qui salue chaleureusement tout en leur souhaitant la bienvenue Antigua-et-Barbuda et Belize, Saint-Christophe-et-Nevis et Vanuatu.

Je ne saurais terminer, Monsieur le Président, sans parler de l'organisation, au Mali, de la Journée Mondiale de l'alimentation. Cette année encore, le Mali lui a donné un éclat particulier. Une semaine durant, conférences-débats, concours culinaires, projections de films, distributions de vivres, etc. se sont succédés dans le but de sensibiliser chaque Malienne et chaque Malien aux graves dangers que constituent pour l'humanité la faim et la malnutrition. Les autorités de mon pays sont en effet convaincues, Monsieur le Président, que ces dangers peuvent être définitivement écartés.

Foi, Détermination de vaincre, Volonté persévérante d'action assureront la base du succès indispensable pour aboutir à l'radication de la faim, de la malnutrition, soubassement de la misère dans nos pays.

Je sais que cette foi, cette détermination et cette disponibilité constantes animent l'équipe brillante que vous dirigez avec doigté et autorité, Monsieur le Directeur Général. Je salue aussi l'élan de solidarité internationale qui offre l'assise idéale à votre activité soutenue.

J. GNIDEHOU (Eéinin): Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Honorables délégués, Mesdames, Messieurs, à l'instar des délégations qui m'ont précédé, je vous adresse mes vives et chaleureuses félicitations ainsi qu'aux Vice-Présidents.

Mes félicitations vont également aux nouveaux membres de notre Organisation, à savoir: Antigua et Barbuda, Belize, Saint-Christophe-et-Nevis, Vanuatu, sans oublier les bénéficiaires des prix B.R. Sen et A.H. Boerma.

M. le Président, la République populaire du Bénin a toujours apporté son appui aux nobles idéaux de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture et nous souhaitons que les ressources de notre Organisation commune s'accroissent sensiblement afin que la famine, la malnutrition et la sous-nutrition disparaissent à jamais dans le monde et plus particulièrement en Afrique.

Comme la plupart des pays en développement, la République populaire du Bénin est encore un pays essentiellement agricole car plus de 70 pour cent de la population tirent leurs revenus de l'agriculture, de l'élevage, des pêches et des forêts.

En effet, si l'agriculture participe en général pour plus de 40 pour cent à la constitution du produit intérieur brut, l'apport de l'industrie encore à l'état embryonnaire ne dépasse pas les 10 pour cent.

Le secteur des services qui est un secteur hypertrophié en République populaire du Bénin ne correspond pas à la politique de notre parti et de notre état, qui est de faire de l'agriculture la base de l'économie nationale et de l'industrie, son moteur.

L'analyse de la situation dans notre pays depuis le 26 octobre 1972, date de l'avènement du processus révolutionnaire en cours et surtout le 30 novembre 1972 date de publication du discours-programme d'édification d'une société libérée de la domination étrangère et de l'exploitation de l'homme par l'homme, la question de la liquidation progressive des modes et rapports de production féodaux à la campagne s'inscrit comme l'une des préoccupations majeures du parti et de l'état. L'instauration de nouveaux modes de production et de nouveaux rapports de production à la campagne passe inéluctablement par la mise en oeuvre d'une politique conséquente de la réforme agraire. C'est pourquoi, la République populaire du Bénin soutient les lignes d'action de la conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural et a commencé, malgré ses maigres ressources, sa mise en oeuvre sur le terrain.

Les principaux objectifs de la politique agricole de la République populaire du Bénin visent avant tout l'autosuffisance alimentaire de la population et se résument comme suit:

éliminer la pauvreté en milieu rural;

satisfaire les besoins matériels des populations rurales;

créer les conditions permettant à la population de vivre décemment dans son milieu;

épanouir les capacités personnelles des populations rurales;

1) Élimination de la pauvreté en milieu rural

Deux facteurs importants contribuent à l'élimination de la pauvreté en milieu rural. Il s'agit de l'accroissement de la production et de la répartition équitable de cette croissance.

C'est ainsi, qu'afin de promouvoir la production agricole, plusieurs actions ont été entreprises en République populaire du Bénin. Nous pouvons citer dans ce sens:

a) La généralisation des centres d'action régionale pour le développement rural (CARDER). Ce sont des structures chargées du développement rural intégré des différentes régions du pays. Elles ont pour mission:

la vulgarisation des thèmes techniques et plus généralement l'animation pour la diffusion du progrès technique, économique et social;

l'organisation des forces productives en structures de productions coopératives;

l'organisation et la distribution du crédit agricole;

l'exécution de certaines opérations de préinvestissement, par exemple le lancement de spéculations nouvelles.

b) La mise en place d'une structure nationale chargée entre autres:

d'assurer la fourniture des facteurs de production au monde rural à des prix subventionnés;

de garantir les prix aux producteurs;

de rechercher les meilleurs débouchés aux produits agricoles.

c) La création d'une structure nationale de crédit agricole.

Pour garantir la répartition équitable de la croissance, il faut pouvoir assurer le contrôle de la commercialisation des produits agricoles par les producteurs eux-mêmes. Dans ce sens, les efforts actuels du parti et de l'état béninois, tendent vers le changement radical des rapports de production en vue de substituer à l'ancien mode de production individuel et féodal, un mode de production de groupe en mettant l'accent sur l'entraide, la coopération et la solidarité entre producteurs qui ont accepté librement de se regrouper pour travailler en commun et se partager les fruits de leur travail au pro rata des efforts de chacun.

C'est ainsi que plusieurs structures de types précoopératif et coopératif sont actuellement fonctionnelles en République populaire du Bénin. Elles assurent entre autres la collecte primaire des produits de leurs membres.

2) La satisfaction des besoins matériels des populations rurales

La satisfaction des besoins matériels des populations rurales implique:

a) La garantie de leur sécurité alimentaire.

Dans ce domaine, la République populaire du Bénin a entrepris l'amélioration et la généralisation des techniques de stockage en vue de favoriser le contrôle des producteurs sur la commercialisation de leurs produits. Aussi, au niveau des provinces, il a été installé des silos de grande capacité devant servir de centres de ralliement primaire des surplus de production, tandis qu'au niveau des districts et de certaines communes, grandes productrices, des silos artisanaux améliorés de moyenne et petite capacité ont été conçus et réalisés.

b) L'accès à divers biens matériels par les populations rurales. Ici aussi, la République populaire du Bénin a mis en place une structure de crédit agricole qui octroie aux ménages ruraux des crédits pour l'exploitation agricole, artisanale ou pour l'acquisition de biens matériels divers.

3) La création de conditions permettant à la population rurale de vivre décemment dans son milieu.

La satisfaction des besoins essentiels étant l'aspiration fondamentale de tout individu, le paysan ne consentira à rester à la terre que si ses revenus augmentent, s'il a la possibilité de s'approvisionner en produits de ville, de se distraire, de se soigner et de s'instruire.

Dans cette optique, la République populaire du Bénin a entrepris plusieurs programmes en faveur de la population rurale. Nous pouvons citer entre autres:

- les actions visant à réduire les disparités de revenus entre les villes et les campagnes par l'amélioration des prix aux producteurs.

- Les programmes d'amélioration des conditions sanitaires en milieu rural par la généralisation de la création des unités villageoises de santé et des complexes communaux de santé.

- Les programmes de fonçage de puits et de forage pour l'approvisionnement en eau des populations et des animaux.

- Les programmes de construction de routes de desserte rurale pour la mise en place des facteurs de production, l'évacuation des produits agricoles et le désenclavement des zones rurales.

- Le programme d'éducation en milieu rural.

- Etc.

4) L'épanouissement des capacités personnelles des populations rurales

Les acteurs du développement rural en République populaire du Bénin représentent plus de 70 pour cent de la population active totale. Ces acteurs se répartissent en hommes pour 47 pour cent et en femmes pour 53 pour cent. Parmi cette population active rurale, les jeunes de moins de 45 ans représentent plus de 73 pour cent dont près de 58 pour cent de sexe féminin. Partant de ces constatations, la politique de développement rural en République populaire du Bénin, associé aux objectifs d'évolution sociale par la conduite d'actions d'alphabétisation jonctionnelle, d'animation rurale et de formation.

a) Alphabétisation fonctionnelle

C'est une méthode d'éducation permanente des populations rurales qui permet à celles-ci:

- d'apprendre à lire et à écrire dans leurs langues nationales.
- d'acquérir des connaissances directement utilisables dans leur environnement professionnel.

b) L'animation rurale et la formation

- La vulgarisation classique s'adressant surtout, lors des réunions, aux chefs d'exploitation ne touche pas en fait l'ensemble des producteurs. Pour combler cette lacune, il est institué et mis en oeuvre au niveau des centres d'action régionale pour le développement rural des programmes systématiques de formation et de recyclage des agriculteurs.

- Compte tenu de l'importance de la jeunesse dans le processus du développement rural intégré, un projet de grande envergure a abouti à la création d'un centre national d'appui aux clubs de jeunes ruraux et de trois centres régionaux d'appui aux clubs de jeunes dont l'objectif principal est d'assurer une formation agricole, économique et socio-culturelle.

- Outre l'activité de production agricole, la femme, traditionnellement transforme les produits agricoles.

Pour le moment, les actions d'animation féminine en milieu rural portent sur, l'hygiène de la mère et de l'enfant, la nutrition, l'installation de foyers améliorés à faible consommation d'énergie.

Compte tenu de l'expérience des 10 dernières années, le programme élaboré en faveur des femmes béninoises dans le nouveau plan quinquennal 1983-1987 vise à:

étendre l'installation des groupements de femmes à travers toutes les régions

renforcer la formation et l'éducation des femmes au sein des groupements de production

encourager l'organisation des femmes autour de la transformation des produits permettre l'acquisition d'un équipement de transformation plus élaboré, mais maîtrisable au niveau du village.

Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, honorables Délégués, comme vous pouvez le constater, le programme de développement rural intégré entrepris courageusement par la République populaire du Bénin à travers:

- le discours programme de construction nationale du 30 novembre 1972;
- le plan de développement économique et social de 1977-1980;
- le plan quinquennal de développement économique et social de 1983-1987 est complet et immense.

Malgré les efforts soutenus déployés par notre parti d'avant-garde, le parti de la Révolution populaire du Bénin et notre état révolutionnaire, malgré l'assistance morale, matérielle et financière des pays donateurs, des organisations internationales et non gouvernementales, les résultats obtenus à ce jour restent globalement en deçà des prévisions. Cette situation très préoccupante est surtout due à une modification très profonde des données climatologiques de notre pays qui, depuis bientôt 10 ans, n'arrivent plus du tout à se retrouver. Ainsi, la sécheresse et la désertification s'installent progressivement entraînant avec elles toute une série de fléaux préjudiciables à la production végétale, animale, halieutique, forestière et conduisent à la destruction de la terre arable.

Il n'y a aucun doute que les calamités naturelles associées à la crise économique internationale freinent et freineront encore longtemps les actions courageuses que même le peuple béninois pour se libérer du sous-développement, de la domination étrangère et des systèmes odieux d'exploitation de l'homme par l'homme.

Nous sommes toutefois convaincus qu'il est techniquement possible de surmonter toutes les difficultés qui freinent la croissance et le développement rural intégré si la volonté politique se manifeste auprès de tous les pays du monde en faveur d'un ordre économique international plus juste et plus équitable. L'instauration d'un nouvel ordre économique fondé sur la paix, la justice sociale, l'élimination de la faim, de la maladie, l'analphabétisme, en un mot du sous-développement permettra de dégager dans les années à venir les ressources humaines, matérielles, financières et technologiques nécessaires pour réaliser les objectifs pour lesquels notre organisation commune, je veux citer l'organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture oeuvre depuis bientôt 40 ans.

La délégation de la République populaire du Bénin apporte son soutien ferme au programme et au budget 1984-1985 présenté par le Directeur général de la FAO, au programme de coopération technique et au programme général conformément au plan d'action de Lagos.

Elle lance un appel à tous les pays donateurs pour qu'ils augmentent sensiblement leurs contributions en vue de la reconstitution des ressources de l'Association internationale pour le développement (AID), du Fonds international pour le développement agricole (FIDA) et de l'accroissement des ressources devant permettre à la FAO et au Programme alimentaire mondial d'accomplir efficacement leurs missions.

Avant de terminer, permettez-moi, Monsieur le Président, de remercier au nom du Gouvernement de la République populaire du Bénin et en mon nom personnel tous les pays donateurs, toutes les organisations internationales et non gouvernementales qui malgré la conjoncture économique internationale très difficile ont apporté un soutien matériel et financier à notre programme d'édification d'une économie nationale indépendante.

C. DIALLO (Guinée) : Avant de commencer à vous transmettre le message que le Ministre de l'agriculture de mon pays voudrait délivrer à cette Conférence, je souhaiterais vous adresser tout d'abord ses excuses de n'avoir pas pu présenter ce message lui-même pour des raisons indépendantes de sa volonté parce qu'il a dû quitter Rome. Je vais donc vous présenter ce message.

C'est un grand plaisir et un grand honneur pour ma délégation et moi-même de prendre la parole devant cette auguste assemblée à l'occasion de la vingt-deuxième session de la Conférence générale de la FAO.

Aussi qu'il me soit permis de vous adresser à vous-même Monsieur John Block - Président de la présente session, à Monsieur Edouard Saouma, le Directeur général de notre Organisation ainsi qu'à toutes les délégations ici présentes les sincères salutations du peuple révolutionnaire de Guinée et singulièrement celles du Camarade Ahmed Sékou Touré, Chef de l'Etat et responsable suprême de la révolution guinéenne.

Je voudrais également saluer la présence parmi nous de nouveaux membres que sont Antigua-Barbuda, Vanuatu et Bélize en leur souhaitant beaucoup de succès au sein de notre Organisation.

Monsieur le Président, comme vous le disiez lors de la troisième Journée mondiale de l'alimentation, bien des régions continuent de souffrir de conditions difficiles causées par la faim et la malnutrition. Ces conditions sont encore souvent aggravées par des calamités naturelles d'une envergure jamais connue auparavant, triste réalité qui continue de s'imposer à nous.

En effet le rapport de 1983 sur la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture constate de nouveau que la production alimentaire mondiale a non seulement en terme global augmenté en 1982, mais a augmenté à un rythme supérieur à celui de la population.

Malheureusement souligne ce même rapport, cette production a diminué dans certaines régions et la production de céréales ne s'est pas maintenue au niveau de la croissance démographique et enfin, malgré des approvisionnements en céréales abondantes en 1982, les Pays en développement les plus pauvres n'ont pas été en mesure de procéder aux importations nécessaires.

Quant à l'Afrique subsaharienne, le rapport la décrit comme étant en train de perdre la course entre production alimentaire et croissance démographique !

Qu'est-ce à dire ? Notre propos ne sera pas ici de chercher un bouc émissaire pour endosser la responsabilité d'une telle situation.

En République Populaire Révolutionnaire de Guinée, il y a bien longtemps que nous avons compris que la solution à long terme du problème de l'approvisionnement en denrées alimentaires de notre Pays dépendra avant tout de nos propres efforts et c'est pourquoi le Guide de notre Révolution, le Président Ahmed Sékou Touré nous a prescrit comme ligne de conduite "la nécessité de compter d'abord sur nos propres forces et de faire du développement de notre Agriculture la priorité des priorités".

A cet effet, non seulement des ressources de plus en plus accrues sont affectées au secteur de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, mais en plus, les ressources rendues disponibles, dans leur répartition intrasectorielle, donne une priorité absolue à la production vivrière et à l'approvisionnement adéquat des agro-industries.

En effet, l'investissement public global effectivement déboursé et ayant bénéficié à l'agriculture est passé de 11 pour cent durant notre premier plan 1960-1963, à 20 pour cent durant le plan 1973-1978. Cet effort a non seulement été maintenu en 1979 et 1980, mais se poursuit dans le cadre du quatrième plan 1981-1985 au cours duquel, au total, 25 pour cent des investissements concernent le développement rural.

Et pourtant, les performances de l'agriculture guinéenne restent en-deçà des objectifs du Parti-Etat de Guinée ! Situation qui malheureusement ne constitue pas l'exception dans le contexte des pays de l'Afrique subsaharienne en particulier et des pays du tiers monde en général, autrement il n'y aurait pas lieu de s'interroger sur les causes d'une telle situation.

Ces causes, elles sont connues, elles sont d'ordre écologique, d'ordre technique et d'ordre socio-économique.

Cependant, vous permettrez de soumettre à votre attention, quelques thèmes de réflexion commune.

Tout d'abord à propos des contraintes écologiques, il n'est pas superflu de souligner ici, que, contrairement à une opinion couramment admise, l'agriculture en Afrique tropicale, se pratique sur des sols et dans un environnement qui en moyenne sont plus pauvres et plus ingrats que dans l'Asie des moussons et en Amérique latine, pour ne parler que des régions tropicales.

La prise en considération de cette spécificité dans l'analyse de la situation qui y prévaut est d'une importance critique à notre avis et dans ces conditions nous ne pouvons que saluer le fait que le Directeur général de notre Organisation ait déclaré, dans son introduction au programme de travail et de budget, qui nous est proposé pour la période biennale 1984-1985, que l'Afrique occupe une place de premier plan dans les priorités de la FAO.

A propos des contraintes d'ordre technique, les priorités du Programme, en particulier en ce qui concerne le développement de la recherche et des techniques, offrent de réelles possibilités de mutations positives dans les technologies. Tout en soutenant les réaménagements proposés à ce sujet, nous voudrions insister sur la nécessité de la protection "in situ" des ressources phytogénétiques dans le cadre du suivi de la résolution 6/81 de la dernière Conférence, en précisant que celles-ci doivent être conservées, dans le cadre de Banques nationales, régionales et internationales avec la garantie d'accès à tous, contrairement à la tendance qui prévaut actuellement qui, si elle se poursuivait ferait de ce patrimoine de l'humanité, le monopole de quelques multinationales.

Quant aux contraintes d'ordre économique, le problème des incitations à la production est souvent mis en avant. A ce propos, il faut préciser d'emblée, qu'en Guinée, nous nous refusons à ramener ce problème au seul problème des prix.

En effet, nous pensons que pour le paysan, son degré d'incitation se mesure à la valeur relative entre l'effort qu'il fournit et le revenu net réel qu'il en tire. Par conséquent, pour l'inciter à produire, il faut prendre en considération:

- ses possibilités d'accès aux facteurs de production en termes de disponibilité et de coûts...
- les problèmes de la commercialisation des productions en termes de capacité de stockage, de possibilités de transport et d'accès à un marché, en termes de prix aux producteurs...;
- ses possibilités d'accès à un éventail satisfaisant de biens de consommation, en termes de disponibilités et de coûts.

Ces trois groupes de contraintes, qui pèsent sur le degré d'incitation du paysan dans la plupart des pays en voie de développement, coexistent, à des degrés divers, dont l'importance relative varie évidemment selon le point de vue de celui qui en juge.

Cependant, il peut être évident pour tous, que toute intervention, pour lever ces contraintes, tout au moins en Guinée, pour avoir des chances de succès, doit pouvoir résoudre le problème fondamental du secteur, qui est la disponibilité en quantités suffisantes à des prix accessibles aux paysans, des intrants nécessaires à la production et des biens de consommation.

Toute autre intervention, en présence d'une pénurie de ces produits, risque de se solder par une accentuation des disparités entre revenus urbain et rural, par un transfert important de revenus du monde rural vers le secteur commercial, et par l'érosion des revenus réels des salariés en milieu urbain.

A ce point il serait intéressant de réfléchir en commun sur le point de savoir dans quelle mesure les "pays en développement" peuvent seuls lever ces contraintes dans le court terme, d'autant plus que la plupart de ces pays (au moins en ce qui concerne les non-producteurs de pétrole) font face aujourd'hui à une sévère contrainte dans leurs moyens de paiements extérieurs?

Les économies des pays africains sont en effet directement affectées par la récession mondiale à travers :

- une réduction des prix qui leurs sont payés pour leurs produits agricoles et miniers dont ils sont typiquement exportateurs
- une réduction de la demande globale sur le marché mondial de ces mêmes produits;
- une augmentation du poids réel des services de la dette et des intérêts qui y sont attachés, ceci étant dû d'une part aux deux aspects précédents (du fait de recettes réduites) et d'autre part à l'accroissement énorme des taux d'intérêt sur le marché des capitaux;
- une réduction du montant de l'aide dont ils bénéficient et du volume global de capitaux dont ils peuvent disposer.

Producteurs et exportateurs de matières premières brutes, dont la demande est entièrement déterminée par les politiques économiques des pays riches, et en même temps étant industriellement peu développés, la plupart de nos pays sont totalement dépendants des pays industrialisés pour leurs importations de produits manufacturés et de biens d'équipements (y compris les intrants agricoles) et souvent aussi de biens de consommation.

S'il peut être aisé de concevoir des politiques économiques permettant de sortir de cette situation à long terme, il va de soi que dans le court terme il est indispensable que les pays riches coopèrent à la recherche des solutions aux contraintes dont nous venons de faire état, dans un esprit de solidarité effective et non d'aumône, car dans ce même long terme, il ne faut pas perdre de vue que le plus grand potentiel d'expansion des marchés pour les industries des pays riches se trouve dans le tiers monde, potentiel qui ne pourra être mis à profit pour relancer l'économie mondiale, que si les pays de ce tiers monde sont rendus solvables.

Au-delà du volume de l'aide, dont nous déplorons la diminution constante ces dernières années, nous voudrions souligner, à la lumière de ce qui précède, qu'une des conditions à considérer par les sources d'aide, pour une coopération efficace dans la réalisation des objectifs de développement en général et de développement rural en particulier, est la nécessité de créer dans les projets les conditions d'une disponibilité suffisante des intrants nécessaires à la production agricole et des biens de consommation, en prévoyant des apports additionnels de devises étrangères, car l'expérience prouve que les apports de devises nécessaires aux seules dépenses des investissements sont insuffisants pour permettre le relèvement initial de la productivité et l'attaque des distorsions structurelles dont souffrent nos économies.

Ces apports additionnels pourraient en particulier servir au financement des dotations initiales de crédits à la production et à la commercialisation, à la création de fonds de remplacement des équipements et d'achat des pièces détachées, etc.

Ceci dit, nous voudrions attirer l'attention sur le fait que l'agriculture est, plus que toute autre activité économique, un processus d'ordre culturel, et ceux qui veulent nous aider à développer la nôtre doivent, sinon adopter une attitude culturelle nouvelle, ce qui est difficile par rapport à la leur, mais au moins tenir compte de cette réalité.

C'est là un exercice difficile, et pourtant il est grand temps qu'en matière de coopération au développement l'on médite cette pensée de Shaw:

Citation: "Ne faites pas aux autres ce que vous souhaiteriez qu'ils vous fassent, leurs goûts peuvent être différents" fin de citation.

En effet chaque année, les pays développés et les institutions internationales, nous assistent en capitaux et en aliments et conçoivent pour nous, pays en développement, des modèles de production, c'est pourquoi il faut non seulement leur rendre hommage, mais aussi les remercier bien vivement. Mais malheureusement chaque année, dans la même mesure la pénurie d'aliments s'accroît chez nous, en même temps que les modèles qu'on nous propose végètent et périssent.

En République populaire révolutionnaire de Guinée nous pensons qu'il faut innover un plan de la méthodologie du développement rural et de la promotion paysanne, en adoptant une approche globale à la solution des problèmes de développement rural, en donnant aux modèles que nous proposons un style de gestion de type entreprise économique, afin qu'ils servent de modèle pour la création de véritables entreprises villageoises de développement.

Je voudrais pour terminer féliciter Monsieur Edouard Saouma, Directeur général de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture pour le caractère réaliste et équilibré du projet de budget qui nous est soumis.

Je voudrais par la même occasion vous exprimer la détermination et la ferme volonté de notre pays à oeuvrer de tous ses efforts pour le succès de notre Organisation.

Plein succès à la vingt-deuxième session de la Conférence générale de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture.

Permettez-moi d'abord, Monsieur le Président, de joindre ma voix aux orateurs qui m'ont précédé pour vous féliciter d'avoir été choisi pour présider à nos travaux. J'estime que nous avons fait là un choix judicieux. Je félicite également les vice-présidents qui ont été élus pour vous seconder.

Y.L. RAMELISON (Madagascar): Permettez-moi d'abord, Monsieur le Président, de joindre ma voix aux orateurs qui m'ont précédé pour vous féliciter d'avoir été choisi pour présider à nos travaux. J'estime que nous avons fait là un choix judicieux. Je félicite également les vice-présidents qui ont été élus pour vous seconder.

J'adresse les salutations fraternelles de ma délégation aux délégués:

- Antigua et Barbuda,
- Bêlize,
- Saint-Christophe-et-Nevis,
- Vanuatu

qui viennent d'acquiescer la qualité de membres de notre Organisation.

Une déclaration à la Conférence de la FAO ne relève nullement ni d'une simple tradition ni d'une formalité courante à laquelle on doit se soumettre. C'est un acte de responsabilité qui, au-delà d'un témoignage sur l'intérêt et l'importance que chaque membre porte aux objectifs de notre institution, représente un engagement effectif d'apporter à travers l'expérience spécifique de chaque pays, une contribution - si modeste soit-elle - aux travaux de cette auguste Assemblée afin que ceux-ci aboutissent à des conclusions conformes aux aspirations des participants.

C'est dans cet esprit que la délégation malgache souhaite que soient entendus les propos qui vont suivre.

Nombre de délégués qui m'ont précédé ont suffisamment analysé la situation de l'agriculture mondiale. Aussi je me contenterai de retenir le diagnostic global sur la région Afrique à laquelle appartient mon pays.

Face à la crise économique mondiale, les politiques de développement agricole mises en oeuvre par la plupart d'entre nous n'ont pas atteint les objectifs fixés.

Loin de s'être améliorée, la situation agricole et alimentaire est devenue préoccupante sinon alarmante dans beaucoup de pays de la région.

Face à la diminution de nos recettes en devises, conséquence de la baisse des prix sur les marchés internationaux et de la croissance du protectionnisme frappant les produits alimentaires et agricoles, nous avons eu tendance à oublier le rôle prépondérant que joue l'agriculture et les paysans dans le processus de développement économique de nos pays.

Ainsi dans notre cas, cela s'est traduit:

par des restrictions dans les importations de certains facteurs de production tels que les engrais, les pesticides et le matériel agricole,

par l'affectation de moyens insuffisants pour l'entretien du réseau de pistes rurales et de l'infrastructure hydro-agricole, la recherche et la vulgarisation agricole.

par une tendance à vouloir maintenir des prix accessibles à toutes les couches sociales afin de prévenir les remous sociaux, ce qui a entraîné la mise en place d'un système de prix pas suffisamment incitateur aux yeux des producteurs.

Il en résulte:

- la stagnation de la production agricole tant pour les produits d'exportation que pour les produits alimentaires;
- l'accroissement de l'importation de denrées alimentaires diminuant d'autant les ressources en devises nécessaires au développement économique.

Ces quelques exemples qui montrent les effets négatifs de la récession soulignent en même temps l'impérieuse nécessité de mettre en oeuvre une stratégie s'appuyant sur le triptyque suivant:

- priorité au développement agricole,
- stabilité du ravitaillement,
- accès de la population à un niveau alimentaire suffisant.

Priorité au développement rural.

Ceci doit signifier:

- l'affectation prioritaire des ressources rares tant en devises qu'en monnaie locale, à la réhabilitation et l'amélioration de l'infrastructure routière et hydroagricole dans les principales zones de production ainsi que dans l'approvisionnement des paysans en intrants et matériels agricoles nécessaires.
- une politique de développement qui doit s'appuyer essentiellement sur l'accroissement des surfaces et l'intensification de la productivité des petites et moyennes exploitations, seules à même de répondre rapidement et aux moindres coûts aux objectifs d'autosuffisance alimentaire du pays, ceci implique:
- la redynamisation de l'appareil de vulgarisation par l'affectation de moyens de travail plus appropriés,
- la mise en place d'un système de crédit efficace,
- le renforcement de la recherche agronomique et de la production semencière en s'appuyant sur les résultats obtenus sur le plan national et international.

L'ensemble des mesures que je viens d'énumérer sont classiques et indispensables. Toutefois, elles risquent d'être totalement inefficaces si les conditions de ce que j'appellerai l'environnement économique et plus particulièrement l'existence d'un système d'incitations favorable ne sont pas satisfaites.

Pour le paysan cela signifie:

- des prix rémunérateurs,
- des débouchés garantis,
- accès tant aux produits de nécessité courante qu'aux facteurs de production.

Ceci veut dire aussi garantie sur l'utilisation des terres et sécurité sur les investissements consentis.

Ce serait en effet une lapalissade que de souligner que l'amélioration de la production ne saurait s'envisager sans juste rémunération des producteurs.

Il n'est toutefois pas certain qu'en termes réels les prix à la production aient suivi ceux des facteurs de production et des biens de consommation nécessaires aux paysans car si les paysans ne savent pas tous compter, par contre, ils savent tous calculer et nous sommes convaincus que la motivation économique est l'élément déterminant de l'augmentation de la production au niveau des exploitants agricoles.

En ce qui concerne les débouchés, l'accroissement de la production à partir des prix indicatifs ne peut être acquis mais surtout maintenu si la garantie d'un débouché n'est pas assurée. La décennie 70 est malheureusement caractérisée par un rétrécissement constant de ces débouchés.

Par dégradation du réseau de communication mais également par défaillance et carence des organismes de commercialisation, la production commercialisable disponible au niveau des exploitations s'est souvent trouvée sans preneur, décourageant une fois de plus le paysan.

Cette tendance s'est même accentuée lorsque les céréales importées pour pallier l'insuffisance de la production nationale sont livrées sur le marché à un prix rendant la production locale non concurrentielle, donc restreignant encore plus le marché.

Afin de renverser ces tendances, des actions sont à entreprendre sur les points suivants:

- l'amélioration des conditions de commercialisation afin d'abaisser les coûts de collecte, par l'amélioration de l'efficacité des opérateurs économiques, par la réhabilitation des voies de communications et l'augmentation de la capacité des transports;
- la mise en oeuvre d'une politique de taxation des produits alimentaires importés pouvant concurrencer la production locale;
- la satisfaction des paysans en tant que consommateurs: les paysans représentent en effet 80 pour cent des consommateurs et leurs besoins doivent être satisfaits au même titre que ceux des consommateurs urbains.

C'est dans la mesure où ces besoins pourront être satisfaits que l'on assistera à une réelle mobilisation de leur capacité à accroître leur production.

A quoi servirait en effet de produire plus et de détenir plus de disponibilités monétaires si on ne peut même pas les utiliser?

C'est en tant que consommateurs que les paysans contribueront à la relance des activités industrielles et commerciales des agglomérations urbaines, augmentant ainsi le pouvoir d'achat des masses urbaines et en conséquence déclenchant le processus de développement économique.

Cet environnement économique à promouvoir dans le monde rural ne se limite certainement pas aux composantes que je viens de décrire. J'estime cependant que d'une part elles sont les plus déterminantes pour le progrès de la production agricole, et que d'autre part elles sont suffisamment significatives pour expliquer que la politique agricole doit atteindre des dimensions plus larges que celles dans lesquelles on a l'habitude de la circonscrire.

Stabilité des approvisionnements :

La nécessité d'approvisionner l'ensemble de la population d'une manière régulière implique la mise en oeuvre de programmes visant à:

- Equiper le pays d'une infrastructure suffisante de stockage de denrées alimentaires afin de pouvoir disposer de réserves de sécurité.
- Disposer d'un système d'alerte rapide permettant de prévenir les mauvaises récoltes.
- Mobiliser les moyens tant financiers que matériels pour l'information et la distribution intérieure des produits alimentaires déficitaires.

En ce qui concerne l'accès de la population à un niveau alimentaire suffisant:

A l'autre bout de la chaîne se trouvent les consommateurs urbains dont le nombre ne cesse d'augmenter à un rythme supérieur aux possibilités d'emplois, car l'existence d'infrastructures et de services sociaux, ainsi que les facilités d'approvisionnement rendent la vie plus supportable que dans les campagnes, d'où l'existence d'une masse importante de familles à pouvoir d'achat limité.

Pour des raisons d'équité mais aussi pour éviter des troubles sociaux, il est du devoir du gouvernement de leur permettre d'accéder matériellement et économiquement aux aliments de base indispensables.

Il convient donc de veiller à ce que la mise en place d'un système incitatif au niveau des producteurs n'ait pour conséquence l'impossibilité pour certaines couches urbaines de satisfaire des besoins alimentaires minimaux.

Il est difficile de concilier des objectifs aussi contradictoires surtout dans le court terme.

Ainsi pour l'aliment de base qui est le riz, le gouvernement malgache a opté pour la solution suivante:

- Fixation d'un prix plancher d'achat du paddy aux producteurs et d'un prix plafond de vente du riz aux consommateurs.
- Ces prix sont déterminés à partir des coûts réels des productions et des services intermédiaires.
- Le riz importé par l'Etat sert de facteur régulateur du marché, ce riz étant commercialisé à un prix ne décourageant pas la production locale.

L'augmentation de la production agricole, la stabilité des approvisionnements et possibilités pour l'ensemble de la population de se nourrir à un niveau décent, constituent les trois composantes essentielles de notre politique de développement agricole, avec comme objectif à court terme l'auto-suffisance alimentaire.

Comme nous venons de le voir ces volets interfèrent entre eux et concernent finalement l'ensemble des activités économiques du pays. En ce sens, ils font partie intégrante du programme de développement économique.

La réalisation de ces programmes a nécessité et nécessite encore des décisions pénibles et douloureuses sur des problèmes tels que par exemple:

- Le relèvement substantiel des prix des produits alimentaires à la consommation;
- l'affectation de ressources rares aux secteurs clés, au détriment des autres secteurs.

En tout état de cause, les ressources nationales à elles seules ne sauraient suffire malheureusement à assurer la réussite d'une telle politique.

Aussi, la communauté internationale devrait-elle encore être sollicitée davantage pour assister les gouvernements dans la réalisation de leurs programmes de développement. Cette participation pourrait revêtir des formes aussi variées que:

- Aides alimentaires dont les valeurs de contrepartie serviront à financer des projets économiques et plus particulièrement visant l'accroissement de la production vivrière.
- Renforcement des institutions nationales chargées d'élaborer, d'exécuter, de surveiller et d'évaluer les politiques et programmes de développement agricole.

- Assistance aux projets visant la réalisation des objectifs d'autosuffisance alimentaire.
- Aide à la balance des paiements dans le cadre de programme d'ajustement structurel ou sectoriel.
- Facilités d'accès sur le marché des pays consommateurs de certains produits agricoles qui assurent les recettes en devises des pays en développement.

En conclusion, Monsieur le Président, la délégation voudrait renouveler l'intérêt soutenu qu'elle porte aux nobles objectifs de l'Organisation et rend hommage au dynamisme et au dévouement dont fait preuve son Directeur général pour catalyser tous les efforts en vue de leur réalisation. Aussi ma délégation donne-t-elle son appui total au programme de travail et budget pour le prochain bien-nium 1984-85.

S.A.E. SULIMAN (Observer for Arab Organization for Agricultural Development) (original language Arabic):
In the name of God the compassionate and Merciful. It is a great pleasure and an honour for me to greet you in my name and on behalf of the League of Arab States and the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development. I would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for inviting us to participate as observers in the activities of this important session of the FAO General Conference, which coincides with the fortieth anniversary of your pioneer Organization.

On reviewing the march of the FAO, one cannot imagine what the world would be like without this large group of experts deployed all over the developing world who are working most seriously for the development of the agricultural sector and for the provision of food. All these agencies working in the field of food and agricultural development, such as the World Food Programme, the IFAD, the World Food Council, and others would not have come into being had it not been for the initiatives taken by FAO in preparing and convening the World Food Conference which resulted in the establishment of such agencies. They have played and are still playing an important role in the field of agriculture and food production and among others in the containment of crisis and catastrophies. This is but one reason among others are why we do consider the FAO dear to us and worthy of our full respect, and that is why we follow most closely its activities with which we interact in order to realize our common goals.

By the end of this month, the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development will be celebrating its tenth anniversary. The main achievements of our Organization during the last decade include numerous studies conducted in all fields of agricultural sciences and an accurate and overall survey of all the agricultural resources in the Arab world. The Organization also contributed to the solution of several agricultural problems and plays an important role in the field of training technical staff and transferring agricultural technology. At present we are engaged in preparing an Arabic-English-French dictionary in a bid to standardize terminology in agricultural sciences.

Mr Chairman, the emergence of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development coincided with the aggravation of the food crisis at the international level. The Arab region has been affected by this crisis more than other regions, since it is the first food-deficit region in the world in relation to its population. . These circumstances were but a further motive for the Organization to undertake its activities most enthusiastically. Ever since its inception the Organization conducted a series of studies on all issues relating to food. In 1976 a study was published on the course of food; in 1977 another study on food economies was issued; and in 1980 a strategy of Arab food security came out.

This strategy came to the following conclusion: despite the agricultural resources available in the Arab world and which amount to 200 million hectares, and in spite of the human resources - more than 170 million people - and the financial resources which we all know of, the Arab world is 90 percent dependent on the outside world in order to meet its food requirements. At present it consumes about 20 percent of the available food commodities in world trade. If the situation is to continue the Arab world in the year 2000 will consume 50 percent of the food commodities available in the world market.

Such a situation gives rise to two questions. First, would it be possible for the Arab world to have access to such a great quantity of commodities in the world market with deteriorating rates of agricultural production? The second question is: would it be possible for the Arab least developing countries to have access to the necessary financial resources? For all these reasons the strategy of food security identified one hundred and fifty projects which are to realize a great measure of self-sufficiency in the major food products. Those projects are also to have a great impact on the economies of the Arab countries with large agricultural resources.

It is indeed a pleasure for me to state that practical steps have already been taken in this regard. Many projects are being implemented at present. Besides, a working group has been set up which consists of Arab organizations, funds, agencies and companies, to promote other projects according to well-defined priorities. It is our fervent hope to maintain this impetus in a bid to realize food security in the Arab world in particular, and at the international level in general.

Mr Chairman, cooperation between the League of Arab States and its organizations on the one hand and FAO on the other hand, dates back to 1959 when an agreement on cooperation in all fields relating to agriculture was signed. Ever since its inception, the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development has had close and sincere cooperation with FAO. This was substantiated in the organization of joint seminars and the exchange of periodicals and documents. We believe that the areas of cooperation between the two Organizations are unlimited. Such cooperation could be extended to cover further activities - such as sending joint working groups to identify projects, prepare studies, organize training workshops, carry out and publish agricultural statistics relating to the Arab world, and implement projects. To our mind the chances for intensifying such cooperation today are larger than ever. This of course is due to the successful and historic meeting held last June between United Nations and its Specialized Agencies on the one hand, and the League of Arab States on the other hand. We consider that this meeting was really a historic step for the consolidation of the existing cooperation between the international community and the Arab Nations in general, and between FAO and the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development in particular. Therefore, we attach great importance to the implementation of the recommendations adopted by this meeting and to the establishment of close links between the two Organizations and the coordination of activities undertaken in the Arab region by the various technical agencies.

Since, as I said above, the Arab region is the first food-deficit region in relation to population, concerted efforts are needed in order to enable this region to reach a higher level of self-sufficiency in food production. It is most gratifying to see the efforts extended by FAO to focus attention on the food crisis in Africa where more than two-thirds of the Arab population live. This question necessitates concerted efforts and polarization of resources in order to contain the crisis of hunger and malnutrition in the African continent. We all know that Africa is rich in natural and agricultural resources and human potential, but years of colonization and political instability have hampered its march towards development. Therefore, the African continent, with some support in this difficult period, will be able to stand on its own as other regions do.

The question of food in Africa - or in any other region - cannot be assessed in isolation from the question of social and economic development and the question of trade relations. Hence, we appreciate the initiative taken by the FAO Director-General to enlarge the concept of world food security. In fact, the food security question should be tackled through the consolidation of economic development of the countries concerned and through the opening of markets for their products in the world market. The call on developing countries to increase production should go hand in hand with a call addressed to developed countries to open their markets to the products of developing countries. This is the only way to enable the developing countries to acquire foreign currency to pay their debts and to purchase manufactured commodities. Therefore we would like to voice the great concern of the Arab countries over the increasing protectionist measures taken by some countries and some regional groupings. From this forum we appeal to those groupings to reconsider their marketing policies in order to serve international cooperation objectives.

His Excellency, the President of the Democratic Republic of Sudan, yesterday highlighted certain important problems, but I would particularly like to point to the question of desertification in Africa. This is a very serious problem from which the Arab world suffers, whether in the African continent or in Asia. This was subject of several regional and country studies by the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development. This is a problem which requires international effort to mobilize resources in order to help the countries concerned, to face and to halt the desertification, and in order to improve the fertility of the soil. No doubt this session will grant its concern to the question of desertification, and the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development is ready to coordinate its efforts with all the initiatives that are adopted by your Organization.

The whole world is indeed grateful to FAO for the contribution which it has made to developing the agricultural sector and to containing the food crisis and improving the living conditions of the poor farmers. We are fully confident that the Arab countries, which have always extended every support to FAO in order to enable it to play this pioneering role, will continue to do so despite the economic pressures to which we are all subject.

In conclusion, I wish this Twenty-second Session every success.

The meeting rose at 19.00 hours

La séance est levée à 19 heures

Se levanta la sesión a las 19.00 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

C 83/PV/11

C

Twenty-second Session
PLENARY

Vingt-deuxième session
PLENIERE

22° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

ELEVENTH PLENARY MEETING
ONZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
11ª SESION PLENARIA

(11 November 1983)

The Eleventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.45 hours.

He Kang, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La onzième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45, sous la
présidence de He Kang, Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 11ª Sesión Plenaria a las 9.45 horas, bajo la
presidencia de He Kang, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)

INTRODUCTION ET QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)

INTRODUCCION Y CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)

- Third Report of the General Committee (C 83/LIM/21)

- Rapport du Bureau (C 83/LIM/21)

- Tercer Informe del Comité General (C 83/LIM/21)

CHAIRMAN: First, I should like to thank the delegates for their cooperation in enabling our Conference to proceed smoothly on schedule. Now Mr Henderson will read the third report of the General Committee.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL: The report contains two items. The first is the Right to Vote, and I shall read it out.

"In accordance with the instructions of the Conference, the Director-General had endeavoured to make contact with the Representatives of the 9 Member Nations which on the basis of the criteria laid down in Article III-4 of the Constitution would have no vote in the Conference. In reviewing his report on these endeavours, the Committee bore in mind the need to take into account, where appropriate, the serious economic difficulties, serious drought and other conditions that could have an impact on the non-payment of contributions to FAO."

The General Committee noted that since its first meeting Liberia had paid an amount sufficient to regain its right to vote throughout the remainder of this session of the Conference.

The General Committee was informed that since its first meeting a contribution had been received also from Togo which, however, was somewhat less than the minimum amount required to ensure its vote. The delegation had confirmed that its failure to pay contributions in recent years was due to serious economic and drought conditions which were beyond the control of the Government. The Committee was sympathetic to Togo's well known difficulties and, noting that the delegation had indicated that a further payment to the Organization should be forthcoming in the next months, recommends to the Conference that Togo's right to vote be restored.

In the contacts with the delegation of Comoros, the delegate confirmed that the failure of his country to pay its assessed contributions to the Organization had been beyond the control of the Government, owing to economic difficulties and the lack of foreign exchange, but that the Government intended to make a partial payment and was ready to adopt a phased payment plan. In view of its sympathy with countries suffering from drought and other difficult situations, the Committee recommends for adoption by the Conference the following resolution, which is in accordance with a proposal of the Government of Comoros, and would ensure its voting rights at this session of the Conference."

I will now read the text of the resolution:

"THE CONFERENCE,

Noting that the Government of Comoros had made a proposal that it liquidate its arrears of contributions over a period of ten years commencing in 1983, in addition to paying each current contribution in the calendar year of assessment,

Decides that:

1. Notwithstanding Financial Regulation 5.5, the arrears of contributions of Comoros totalling \$ 70 078.00 shall be settled through the payment of ten equal annual instalments of \$ 7 007.80;
2. The first instalment together with the contribution assessed for 1983 shall be payable in 1983;
3. The annual payment of the instalments referred to above, together with the payment of each current contribution in the calendar year of assessment and any advances to the Working Capital Fund, shall be considered as fulfilment of Comoros' financial obligations to the Organization."

That is the end of the resolution.

"There were no delegations at present attending the Conference from Chad and Democratic Kampuchea. The Committee therefore does not recommend any action to restore their right to vote.

Contact was made with the delegations attending the Conference from Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau and Mauritania. It was recognized that they were faced with serious difficulties, but the representatives indicated that they were not yet in a position to provide information as to the action which the Government was proposing with regard to payment of its contributions. Each agreed to provide information to the Director-General in the near future. Meanwhile, the General Committee decided to defer consideration of a proposal to restore the right to vote of those 3 Member Nations.

A representative of the Permanent Representation of Paraguay who was contacted by telephone advised that he had no instructions from his Government. A letter from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, however, had recently been received by the Director-General, in which the Government indicated that failure to pay its contribution to the Organization was due to recent floods and beyond the control of the Government. It requested that its right to vote be restored. The General Committee took into account the problem created by the recent floods. It also noted, however, that Paraguay had not had a vote in the Conference since 1975, and that its outstanding contributions now, totalled an amount approximately equivalent to 8 calendar years. After considering all of the serious circumstances in Paraguay, the fact that the FAO Conference in 1971 had granted payment relief to Paraguay in the form of a ten year instalment plan, and the Government's payment history since then, the General Committee cannot recommend that the vote of Paraguay be restored at this stage."

That is the end of the first part of the report. The second part of the report deals with statements in Plenary meetings of the Conference by International Non-Governmental Organizations having consultative status.

"The General Committee was appraised of a request from the World Confederation of Labour (WCL), an International Non-Governmental Organization having consultative status, to address the Plenary of the Conference. Having examined the request, the Committee in accordance with Rule X-2 (g) of the General Rules of the Organization, is now reporting it to the Conference, and recommends that the Conference concede speaking time in Plenary to the above-mentioned organization on the understanding that a maximum time limit of 10 minutes will be observed and that in no case will such organization be given priority in speaking over delegates of Member Nations."

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on that? Then the Report is adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATION (continued)

- DECLARATIONS PES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)

- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

T.D. DA COSTA (São Tomé-et-Principe): Monsieur le Président, M. le Directeur général, honorables délégués, mesdames et messieurs, au nom du Gouvernement de la République démocratique de São Tomé-et-Principe ainsi qu'en mon propre nom et au nom de la délégation qui m'accompagne, j'adresse un salut cordial et fraternel à tous ceux qui sont ici présents et en particulier à M. le Directeur général de la FAO, qui joue un rôle dynamique de premier plan dans la lutte en faveur du développement de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation dans le monde.

Permettez-moi M. le Président de vous féliciter de votre élection. Je suis certain que sous votre direction éclairée les travaux de cette conférence auront l'issue la plus fructueuse. Je félicite aussi les vice-présidents de la Conférence et les présidents des commissions.

C'est pour moi une grande satisfaction de pouvoir féliciter Antigua-et-Barbuda, Belize, Vanuatu et Saint-Christophe-et-Nevis qui ont été admis Membres de plein droit de l'Organisation, car leur présence parmi nous et leur participation active nous permettront d'obtenir les travaux les plus fructueux.

C'est pour moi à la fois une joie et une cause de fierté que de participer aux travaux de la Conférence. En effet, les problèmes dont elle s'occupe ont une grande importance pour l'agriculture et l'alimentation mondiales, secteurs dans lesquels il est urgent de trouver des solutions adéquates.

Plusieurs des orateurs qui m'ont précédé ont évoqué l'immense préoccupation que leur inspire la situation alimentaire dans le monde. Je saisis l'occasion de féliciter le Directeur Général de la FAO de l'analyse si éloquente et si claire qu'il a faite de la conjoncture politique, économique et sociale, en particulier du point de vue du monde en développement.

La situation est en effet alarmante pour les pays en développement et surtout pour beaucoup de pays du continent africain. Jamais dans son histoire l'Afrique n'a connu de moments si difficiles.

Seuls quelques pays industrialisés donnent l'impression de pouvoir maîtriser les effets de la crise économique mondiale, alors que la majorité des pays du monde souffre d'un retard économique, qui se fait sentir surtout dans le domaine de la production agricole, et en particulier alimentaire, ce qui ne manque pas d'avoir de graves conséquences sociales.

Les interventions des délégués de plusieurs régions du monde qui nous ont précédés confirment que nous ne devons pas sous-estimer la puissance de l'union. C'est elle en effet qui permettra de résoudre progressivement les problèmes dont souffrent des milliers de nos frères et qui risquent de compromettre irrémédiablement le sort des générations futures. C'est pour cela, M. le Président, que nous en appelons à la conscience de tous les pays ici représentés pour qu'ils cherchent en toute objectivité les moyens de nous aider à résoudre ensemble le problème dramatique qui est le nôtre. M. le Président, nous ne devons pas rêver mais nous fixer des objectifs réalistes. Il faut qu'à l'issue de nos débats nous puissions affirmer que la Conférence a fait un travail utile. Durant les presque trois semaines de la 22ème Session de la Conférence, je suis sûr que nous trouverons le temps de réfléchir sur notre action passée, présente et à venir. Nous devons identifier les causes de tous ces maux, et attaquer le mal à la racine, même si celle-ci est profonde: c'est seulement ainsi que les solutions pourront être efficaces et adaptées à chaque cas. L'heure est grave; elle exige du courage, des actions concrètes et des décisions pratiques.

Personne ici ne s'étonnera que je m'étende particulièrement sur l'Afrique et sur mon pays. La majorité des pays africains, comme nous le savons, connaissent une crise économique si grave qu'elle entraîne une constante diminution, et en quelques cas même une véritable paralysie de l'agriculture et de la production des aliments indispensables aux populations. Divers fléaux, qu'il s'agisse des ennemis des cultures ou de la peste bovine africaine, viennent aggraver les effets de la crise et mettent en danger 100 millions de personnes vivant dans 22 pays dont le mien, Sao Tomé-et-Principe.

C'est dans ce contexte qu'on doit comprendre les efforts que fait notre organisation pour résoudre les problèmes alimentaires au moyen d'actions dynamiques et pratiques. Je vous assure que la FAO joue un rôle irremplaçable pour trouver des solutions aux problèmes qui surgissent continuellement. Permettez-moi d'exprimer ici les sentiments d'admiration et de gratitude de mon pays pour l'action de M. Saouma, Directeur de l'organisation et le travail des fonctionnaires de la FAO et la façon énergique avec laquelle cette dernière a toujours répondu à nos sollicitations.

J'en veux pour preuve la réunion organisée le 19 octobre par la FAO pour alerter la communauté mondiale sur la crise alimentaire et agricole grave qui frappe particulièrement les pays africains; à cette occasion le Directeur général de la FAO s'est exprimé sans ambiguïté et a fait des propositions concrètes à la communauté internationale représentée par des personnalités de très haut niveau. La crise alimentaire du continent africain a pris des proportions gigantesques et ses effets sont incalculables. Il n'est pas exagéré de dire que nous risquons une catastrophe si nous n'agissons pas tout de suite pour sauvegarder l'avenir à moyen et long terme.

Rappelons aussi que nos pays ont hérité du colonialisme des structures économiques inadaptées - et São Tomé-et-Principe ne fait pas exception. Pendant la première année qui a suivi l'indépendance, nous avons étudié en priorité la situation de l'agriculture et de l'élevage; nous avons vu que la monoculture du cacao avait empêché la diversification et le développement de l'agriculture. Nous avons pu corriger les erreurs passées : introduire des cultures industrielles, entreprendre une campagne en faveur des cultures vivrières de base pour assurer notre autosuffisance alimentaire, améliorer la production du cacao. Je dois constater que nous étions trop optimistes car c'est grâce au cacao, qui a enfin atteint des cours raisonnables sur le marché mondial, que nous avons pu faire des investissements agricoles, mais je dois malheureusement avouer que cette conjoncture n'a pas duré. Les prix du cacao sur le marché mondial ont baissé vertigineusement, les pluies ont manqué et nous avons perdu notre capacité d'importer des biens de consommation pour la population, d'investir pour relever la productivité des entreprises agricoles et soutenir la petite agriculture. C'est ainsi que notre économie s'est écroulée et nous nous trouvons aujourd'hui parmi les 22 pays africains les plus affectés par la crise alimentaire. Des mesures plus énergiques encore ont été prises récemment pour créer des conditions intérieures propres à enrayer cette évolution désastreuse; ces mesures, appuyées par une aide extérieure, devraient permettre de trouver des solutions plus réalistes et prometteuses au gigantesque problème de l'alimentation.

Nous sommes heureux de la façon dont plusieurs secteurs de la communauté internationale analysent la conjoncture agricole et alimentaire dans le monde, particulièrement en ce qui concerne les pays en développement du continent africain où, nous l'avons vu, la situation est véritablement critique. Il est fondamental que toutes les bonnes intentions exprimées ici ne restent pas de vains mots, et qu'à l'issue de la présente session de la Conférence, de véritables réalisations viennent aider nos pays à vaincre la pénurie alimentaire. Personne ici ne souhaite voir la situation s'aggraver et devenir catastrophique. Toutes les aides doivent être accrues immédiatement, pour permettre une augmentation soutenue de nos productions agropastorales et industrielles afin d'assurer une amélioration progressive du niveau de vie de notre population. Pour cela, les aides doivent nous permettre d'accroître le nombre et la qualification de nos cadres, afin que nous puissions tirer le meilleur parti des sciences et des techniques modernes, afin de vaincre notre retard économique au moyen d'une stratégie préalablement définie, fondée sur une judicieuse évaluation des priorités.

C'est dans ce contexte qu'au nom de mon gouvernement, en mon nom propre et en celui de ma délégation, je tiens à exprimer mon entière adhésion au Programme de la FAO pour 1984-1985, présenté par M. Edouard Saouma, Directeur général; nous le trouvons réaliste et extrêmement important pour les problèmes d'aujourd'hui. Il nous faut donc appuyer toutes les initiatives de la FAO et de son Directeur général, si nous voulons éviter de perpétuer une situation insoutenable.

Pour terminer, nous remercions très sincèrement toute la communauté internationale, la FAO, et toutes les autres organisations internationales de l'appui et l'assistance technique qu'elles donnent à notre pays et nous souhaitons un très grand succès aux travaux de cette conférence.

AKLU GIRGRE (Ethiopia): Mr Chairman, first of all I would like to congratulate the Chairman and the Vice-Chairmen on their election and for the competence they have demonstrated in leading the Conference. My delegation would also like to express its appreciation to Dr Saouma and his colleagues for providing a dynamic leadership to FAO and for their striking success in creating a great awareness to the international community of the growing world food problem.

My delegation is in full appreciation of the FAO's realistic Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85 and we note our satisfaction in its consistent qualitative improvement over the last few years.

Nearly a decade after the World Food Conference adopted a Universal Declaration on Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition, we still live in an unsafe world where not only more children go to bed hungry but children are born to woe for their future, more families fear for their next day's bread, the individual potential is more restricted by malnutrition and near starvation, and we have many developing countries which are still held bondage to famine.

It is an appalling paradox to note that while there is enough global food for everyone, hundreds of millions of people are starving to death because they cannot afford to pay for what is available in the food markets. To us it is still paradoxical to see that while some countries pay food producers to produce less, others are hard pressed to induce more food production. This indicates how complex the world food problem can be.

The world has not made much progress in coping with its food problems notwithstanding the prominence it accorded to the concept of world food security since it was developed by FAO during the food crisis of the mid-seventies. We are, today, farther away from solutions to food security problems than we had been then. In Africa, particularly in those African countries known as the least developed, the food situation is extremely precarious. There is a number of interrelated reasons for this state of affairs. I would like to mention a few of them.

1. Inability of the world community to come up with genuine solutions to global economic problems. Despite protracted debates, dialogues, lofty declarations that have been taking place over the last three to four decades between the developing and developed countries it is regrettable to note that little has been achieved and the world economy is today full of contradictions. I am by no means alluding that such debates, dialogues, and declarations are not important, they are important provided that they are held and made under an atmosphere of complete understanding and if there prevails a positive attitude on the part of developed countries toward the social and economic problems of developing countries.

2. Declining development assistance: the volume of development assistance to Africa has been decreasing in real terms in recent years and the terms and conditions for development assistance particularly credit have been rendered more stiff. Taking advantage of their level of industrialization, the developed countries continue to relegate the countries of Africa to a secondary position by denying them extension of assistance to process their raw materials at home. As a result, African countries find themselves unable to meet even a part of their debt and obligations.

3. Unfavorable terms of trade: the question of regulating prices, and concluding international grain agreements have been on the agenda of the international community and arduous negotiations have been going on over a long period to bring about an equitable solution to the problems. However, the plight, of the developing countries in general and the African countries in particular has so far gone unheeded.

4. Population growth, urbanization and adverse weather conditions. Most African countries have experienced and are experiencing population growth and urbanization. This and persistently adverse weather conditions which result in severe drought and ecological degradations have made African countries suffer from serious shortage of food production.

5. Inadequate and unsound economic and development policies in most African countries: these nations are often preoccupied with short-term economic and development problems and therefore formulation of policies reflecting this. More attention should have to be given to long-term economic and development problems and devise requisite policies to solve these problems.

6. Insufficient attention given to research in general and agricultural research in particular and to human resources or manpower development in most African countries. If Africa wants to tap her enormous potential for development in terms of her rich human and material resources she has to be more serious in her resource allocation to research and human development.

It is in recognition of the gravity of the situation and the need for urgent action to reverse this dangerous trend towards food self-sufficiency and balanced development that the African countries have committed themselves to undertake radical policy changes in the food and agriculture sector, as evidenced in the Lagos Plan of Action,

Of the development priorities for the 1980s, which emerged from both the Monrovia Strategy and the Lagos Plan of Action, food production has been made the most important priority of all. We in Africa firmly believe that the long-term solution to food security system calls for an increased food production through cultivating the virtue of self—reliance in African countries. External assistance is welcome. In fact, it is a necessary input. However, this assistance should be compatible with Africa's objective of self-reliance and sustained growth.

The problem of food security system confronting the low-income food-deficit developing countries in general, and Africa in particular, demands a resolute action.

Ethiopia, for its part, recognised the need to take drastic steps to alleviate the food problem. The land reform programme has succeeded in providing access to land peasantry, with a greater degree of equity and participation.

Access to food depends on access to productive resources, including land and water, and to services such as agricultural extension, credit facilities, and input supplies.

Ethiopia has been providing such services to the peasant sector through the implementation of intensive area-specific and countrywide agricultural development projects in order to raise food production, increase rural incomes, and improve quality of life of the rural population.

Considerable progress has been achieved in establishing peasant organizations, i.e., peasant associations, services cooperatives, and producers cooperatives, which serve both as production and service organizations as well as instruments for mobilization, participation, and training of the people in agrarian transformation and rural development.

Ethiopia has carried out fundamental structural policy and institutional changes to provide economic access to food for the rural masses. Currently, it is engaged in very serious agricultural development activities giving highest priority to the agricultural sector. The Government is committing the maximum financial and manpower resources at its disposal to the development of this sector with the objective of attaining a sustained self-reliance in the longer term. However, the resources are puny in relation to the problems confronted.

As one of the least developed low-income countries with the lowest official development assistance per capita, and one which is already grappling with the problem of providing relief and rehabilitation to millions of victims of man-made and natural disasters, Ethiopia finds it difficult with its own resources alone to carry out accelerated development of the agricultural problem. It needs international assistance to supplement its development effort.

In spite of the achievement of redistribution of economic, social, and political power, and the establishment of framework for development based on mass participation through peasants' organizations there still are constraints such as limited infrastructure, traditional agricultural practices, erratic climatic conditions and dependence on the tyranny of capricious rainfall, and continuing soil erosion.

However, Ethiopia is now finalizing the mapping out of a strategy for its agricultural development which identified the sector into high potential production areas and deficit areas and according to which it will effectively deal with problems confronting the country.

My Government is also reviewing the issues of marketing, pricing, incentives, and inputs applies in order to provide farmers with the economic returns they need to produce more and to cater for the needs of consumers. Peasant service cooperatives are envisaged to take over more and more responsibility of marketing and distribution of food supplies from parastatal organizations.

Ethiopia has also undertaken to execute a food security project in keeping with the 1979 Plan of Action on World Food Security, proposed by FAO's Director-General to implement the recommendations of the 1974 International Undertaking on World Food Security.

Under the terms of this project, it is proposed to build up a reserve stock of food grains to meet food requirements for emergency situations. The plan is to bring the reserve level to 60,000 tons in the first two years and to raise it to 180 000 tons over the following years. It is expected that initial contribution to the reserve will be secured through an increase in food aid, while the maintenance cost will be borne by the Government. With the increase in national food production, stocks will be contributed from domestic sources as well.

The preparation of an overall food strategy is now underway and my Government is committed to implement the strategy with greater determination. A strong international support would certainly contribute to its successful implementation.

If there is to be a genuine world food security system, it must have a focal point. And that focal point must be FAO. I would like once again to thank FAO for manifold contributions which it is making to food security system, and to a strengthening of Africa's agriculture, fisheries, and forestry in general, and that of Ethiopia in particular.

R. B. SINGH (India): I am happy to be present here and participate in this assembly of nations. For the Member Nations of the FAO this is a unique opportunity when they meet once in two years and deliberate on vital issues concerning food - the basic necessity of life.

We are glad that four new countries have been admitted to the membership of this Organization. I greet them on this occasion. Their membership is yet another testimony to the relevance of FAO to the needs and aspirations of the developing countries.

The world food and agricultural situation was outlined in the address of the Director-General. It is gratifying that there have been significant increases in global production of several food commodities in the opening years of the eighties, which resulted in record level carry-over stocks of cereal grains into 1983. The benefits of these production gains, however, have been unevenly shared. Most of the carry-over stocks are concentrated in a few exporting countries. Per capita consumption of food-grains remains stagnant in Asia and has declined in Africa. Abnormal food shortages haunt as many as 26 countries, most of them in Africa. Financial difficulties have forced many developing countries to reduce the use of fertilizer and inputs. This does not portend well for higher agricultural production in those countries.

We believe that food security is the most important and critical problem before mankind today. We have been actively participating in the deliberations of the Committee on Food Security and we would particularly like to commend the initiative taken by the Director-General in giving a new dimension to the concept of food security in his recent review of the subject. We support the three components of food security with emphasis on production of adequate food, and its availability to those in need of it.

In India we have at hand the problem of food supply for a population of over 700 million which is more than 1/7th of the total human race, and is the second most populous country after your own, Mr Chairman. Since our Independence 36 years ago, we have been waging a relentless struggle for achieving food security for our people. We have succeeded in increasing our irrigated area by 150 percent to the level of 55 million hectares. In fertilizer consumption the level has been raised from 70 000 tonnes annually to 6.6 million tonnes of nutrients. Programme of quality seed production and plant protection are receiving special attention. A vast infrastructure of agricultural research, education and extension has been created for achieving technological advances in our agriculture.

We agree with the distinguished leader of the US Delegation - Mr John Block - that the answer to the world's food problems lies in helping the developing nations strengthen their economies and that sound agricultural policies - national and international - are the key to solving these problems. We endorse the principles he enunciated - namely, remunerative price to the farmers, easy availability of inputs, including credit, and maintenance of food reserves, which, as in India, should constitute the basic charter of national agricultural policy. We expect that these principles would receive the support of the Conference. With regard to availability of agricultural credit, we would like to urge that the international financial institutions should relax the curbs and conditions imposed by them on refinancing facilities for the farm sector. Similarly, we appreciate and share the deep concern so poignantly expressed by the leader of the Canadian delegation regarding the replenishment of IFAD.

In our drive for higher agricultural production, we are now giving special attention to those vast areas in which rain-fed agriculture is practised. These account for nearly 70 percent of total cultivated area and a slight increase in yield per acre would result in a big production jump. The basic approach for the development is in terms of the watersheds which are treated with a total package of practices covering soil and water management, improved agricultural practices including seed and implements, supply of credit and pest control. In these rain-fed areas the proportion of small and marginal farmers is preponderant and they need special assistance. Appropriate programmes have been designed for them as a part of the overall strategy for the development of rain-fed agriculture. Coordinated research projects have been located at strategic places throughout the country which are undertaking adaptive research to answer the local problems.

May I commend the Director-General for yet another initiative he has taken. The call for the World Fisheries Conference in 1984 has not come a day earlier. I have learnt with great satisfaction of the valuable preparatory work done by the Committee on Fisheries recently when 93 member countries and many observers got together and devoted their attention to the problems of fisheries. The new regime of the Law of the Sea constitutes a landmark. About 90 percent of the exploitable fishery resources of the sea fall within the national jurisdictions now. We have to build our fleet of deep sea fishing vessels; construct harbours along a 6500 Km. coast, train the operating crew and develop post-harvest facilities to handle the catch from the deep seas.

Likewise, small-scale fisheries have an importance of its own throughout the world. In India, two-thirds of the marine fish landings come from the traditional sector. The fishermen engaged in this activity are very poor; they do not have viable self-help organisations and they suffer for want of infrastructural support. Greater attention is required to be given to their economic and social uplift.

The world is now talking, as never before, of ecology and conservation. Forests are the most precious gift of nature to mankind and constitute a remarkably efficient ecosystem. Nature has endowed India with rich and varied natural forests. However, human competition for food and habitat have put them under severe stress. This has necessitated a conservation strategy which recognises resource limitations compelling maintenance of the essential ecological processes and life support systems, as well as to preserve genetic diversity. A number of initiatives have been taken by us in this direction. In order to provide effective protection to the forests, a new Forest Conservation Act has been passed to prevent depletion of forest areas and another comprehensive forestry legislation is under preparation.

The health and scientific management of the country's land and soil resources is a matter of crucial importance and has been engaging our serious attention. A National Land Use Board and the National Land Resources Conservation and Development Commission have been set up, the objective being to provide an institutional arrangement at the national level for policy planning, coordination and monitoring the use of our land and soil resources.

We realise Mr Chairman, that the lasting solution to a country's food problem is through the attainment of self-reliance. Individual and collective self-reliance especially amongst the developing countries is the key to this self-sufficiency. While every developing country has problems peculiar to its agricultural economy, it has some unique experience and know-how which can be of benefit to others. This basic realisation is at the root of economic and technical cooperation among the developing countries. We in India have always advocated the need to promote closer linkages amongst the developing countries based on equality, sovereignty and mutuality of interest. Our Government has set apart a portion of UNDP funds for the promotion of TCDC. We have been making available our scientists and experts to other friendly countries on request to assist them in their developmental effort. Facilities in our universities and research centres are open to the candidates from developing countries, and have already been filled up by over 40 000 students and trainees from developing countries. We have also benefited from this kind of cooperation in the areas of our own interest. We offered to host a focal point, in a meeting of developing countries held at New Delhi in February last, which could serve as a clearing house for collection, compilation and dissemination of information among the developing countries. We are glad that FAO has been quite active in this area and the promotion of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries is one of the priority areas in the budget of the next biennium.

The address by His Excellency Bruno Kreisky was very stimulating and refreshing. He spoke as an elder statesman with a vision of international solidarity. I sincerely hope the call he has given for developing the infrastructures and the agricultural sectors of the Third World countries through a new reconstruction programme will be seriously examined in the world capitals.

A decade ago the world community took a solemn pledge to eradicate hunger and malnutrition by 1985 which is just two years away. The world community has not been able to redeem that pledge; hunger and malnutrition still stalk the world. We are today at a very crucial point in human history. It is for us - for all the nations - to decide whether we will foster and strengthen the forces of peace and development or we will continue to be riven by differences and conflicts. We had the privilege of hosting the Seventh Summit of Non-Aligned Nations at New Delhi eight months ago, when more than 100 nations assembled. From this Summit came the New Delhi Message laying stress on

peace, harmony and cooperation, based on the dignity and equality of man. The same message was renewed by our Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi in her address to the Thirty-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly last month. Let us hope that the forces of peace and development will reassert themselves and will lead to a world order where provision of food for every man, woman and child will be the responsibility of the world community.

A.R. TANCO Jr. (Philippines): Ten years ago a worldwide famine reared its frightful head once more and took millions of lives throughout the developing world. Although the threat of mass starvation does not seem as fearsome and as imminent today as it did during the world food crisis ten years ago, the situation we face today, although much less dramatic, is equally disturbing and even more complex since the food problem in many hungry countries has been complicated by problems of recession, mounting debt and widening balance of payments deficits. All of these, of course, in turn contribute further to falling farm incomes and growing food imports in the developing world. It is axiomatic, of course, that problems that are less dramatic are much more difficult to solve because it is much more difficult to raise the necessary measures. Indeed, the overall food situation masks the reality of hunger and poverty. Good harvests all over the world and surplus stocks held by the major food producing countries mask the underlying reality that hunger and poverty become worse for 500 million people in the developing countries.

FAO reports before the Conference indicate that in the last eight years from 1974 to 1982 food production rose in developing countries by a possible 3.2 percent, lower, of course than our desired 4 percent target but still better than the 2.8 percent growth of the previous eight years which preceded the 1973-74 world food crisis. Unfortunately against this 3.2 percent production growth population increased by 2.2 percent and therefore per capita food production increased by only 1 percent in the last eight-year period. Again this favourable growth of developing countries as a whole masks the tragedy that is quietly taking place in Africa. The same figures of FAO indicate that Africa's food production grew by only 2 percent in the last eight years against a 3 percent increase in population. This thus was the reverse of the situation in the developing world as a whole. Africa's per capita food production actually dropped by 1 percent against the developing world's 1 percent increase for this period. Moreover, this is not a temporary drop. This has been a steadily mounting deficit in the last two decades.

Indeed, outside Africa the food production record of other developing countries has also been mixed. The overall picture shows progress, of course, but in many countries in Asia and Latin America food production has lagged far behind population growth and the number of hungry people has continued to swell. By this time next year a decade will have passed since the World Food Conference of 1974. As we approach a decade mark it is time to take stock of the progress we have achieved in fashioning a world where "no child shall go to bed hungry and no man shall fear for his next day's bread". It is obvious that the lofty goal of eradicating hunger by 1984 will not have been attained by next year. But it behoves us to find out actually how far we have gone in the tasks set out by the World Food Conference almost ten years ago, in what areas have we succeeded, where have we fallen short of our goals? Why have we fallen short of our goals? And what yet needs to be done?

As stated earlier to the Conference by the President of the World Food Council, Eugene Whelan, these questions are precisely the issues which will be reviewed by the World Food Council in 1984. It is our fervent hope that this tenth anniversary session of World Food Council Ministers in 1984 can come up with the reforms and a renewed programme for action that will speed up the global effort to eradicate hunger. Such a blueprint would serve to give fresh impetus and new vigour to the battle against hunger, at a time when the whole world seems to have been lulled into complacency. There are those in fact who now say that hunger will be with us well into the Twenty-first century. Surely we must not allow such voices of defeatism to prevail. Surely we must not, we cannot, we will not relent.

The plight of Africa, in particular, as I mentioned earlier, cries for urgent and concerted action by the developed and the developing world together. It has been graphically pointed out here that more than one-third of Africa's 460 million people face immediate starvation unless food production and aid to Africa's hungry nations are increased drastically. Some 16 African countries besieged by abnormal food shortages are in dire need of assistance. In this respect we commend, as the others have, and we give our full support to Director-General Saouma's initiative in calling for immediate assistance. We note, of course, that donor countries which have responded with increased aid are certainly worthy of commendation, in particular the \$US 25 million of food aid which is being given to the beleaguered hungry countries of Africa, and Canada for the assistance that it is extending to Ethiopia.

Certainly food aid is necessary and vital but, as we all know, it is at best only a temporary palliative and the only real solution is therefore increased food production - production, production.' In 24 African countries, as I have said, the growth has been negative and unless fundamental structural changes are undertaken in these countries now this downward trend may become irreversible. As many African leaders have repeatedly underscored, the essence of the food problem in Africa is not distribution, it is not food aid, it is not anything else, but it is underproduction, and the first imperative is to translate technology into increased production.

In his statement to the Committee on Food Security last April, Minister Bortei-Doku focussed on the need to train and equip the African farmer in order to lift him out of subsistence farming. Dr Swaminathan, now Independent Chairman of the Council, spoke to us and reminded us of President Nyerere's statement :hat he is tired of hearing about the production potential of Africa. What he would like to see in Tanzania as well as in other countries of Africa is the speedy conversion "of such production potential into actual production". The Conference, of course, heard the President of Sudan only a few days ago underline the same point.

While it is axiomatic that these specific actions to solve the food shortages in Africa must be decided by the African countries themselves, it might be useful to note that the application of solutions :hat have worked in Asia and Latin America are applicable to Africa as well.

It is essential, of course, first of all to develop locations, specific technology adapted to the needs and conditions of Africa, and here a network of international institutes is present but needs substantia support Once technology is available, the problem then becomes one of extending such technology to countries and from countries to the farmers. Sufficient credit must then be provided to the farmer to enable him to buy his inputs. In this connection I add my voice to that of Colombia and Canada and the world Food Council, raising our voices in great concern that the International Fund for Agricultural Development still has not received the first replenishment it deserves and badly needs. It would be a great loss if IFAD, the only fund devoted solely do food production, were to perish on the tenth anniversary of the World Food Conference for lack of support from donor countries. We urge the United States, the largest OECD donor to the Fund, to provide speedily the replenishments it is committed to at the earliest possible time or else the loan window might be closed as early as anuary of this coming year.

We likewise call on the two OPEC countries which have not yet done so to contribute their share to the fund. Certainl a price support scheme in addition must be put in place to ensure that the Third World of Africa must produce fair returns to farmers and, above all, the political determination of the countries' leadership which has been there in Africa, must be there to serve as the catalyst for action.

These, together with management and with education, to my mind have worked in Latin America and, therefore, must and can work again in Africa.

In my thirteen years as Agricultural Minister of a developing country I have time and time again confirmed that these are the main elements. And in my travels throughout Africa in my four years as President of the World Food Council I have found repeatedly that where these elements are present success followed.

Viewed within this context it seems to me that several priority areas with respect to the food crisis in Africa reed urgent support from the international community. Let us not just talk about generalities, let us talk about specifics.

First of all, research. I will not go into great detail on this, but greater assistance should be given to tie development of new technology adapted specifically for African conditions, which range from the tropical rain forest of the south to the tropical occasional rain conditions of East Africa, and to the livestock oriented desert areas of central and northern Africa. Certainly, IITA, the International Livestock Centre for Africa and WARDA in Liberia, together with ECOSOC's help from India, could go a long way in providing this technology.

I need not mention, secondly, the need for technology transfer, the need to increase the extension services ir Africa, however rudimentary.

Thirdly, tie need for training and managerial development. It would seem to me that the massive effort by the World Bank, the African Development Bank, ADB, as well as the Arab Fund, can mount a special managerial development programme, as well as a farmer education programme.

I have already mentioned credit as a fourth element. May I stress the need for international and regional financing institutions to help in providing funds to support the delivery of credit both to the countries and from countries to their individual farmers. Finally, President Al Nimeri of Sudan has called attention once more to the alarming rate of desert encroachment or desertification of arable land, and he cited a figure of 4-5 kilometres a year. It is our hope that international agencies, including FAO, as well as bilateral donors will respond to President Al Nimeri's appeal for emergency assistance to arrest the desertification.

In concluding, I have chosen to focus on the problems of Africa because the problem of Africa is not a problem of Africa alone but a problem of the developing world. Perhaps it is best that a man from Asia should speak of the region known as Africa. The development of the necessary fundamental institutions there to remove the constraints to increase production in Africa is a process that will require not only vas: resources, it is also a process that will take a lot of time. Ten years hence we must not still be talking about generalities but specifics precisely because it will take some time and we must start now.

When I was a young boy my mother asked me if I would like to plant a mango tree so that I could see it grow to fruition and harvest it. I said I was not eager to do so because it would take too long for the tree to grow and bear fruit. She then said to me words that I still remember, "but that is why you must plant these seeds now". Unless we plant these seeds now which will make food production grow in Africa, our children and our children's children will continue to grow in a world ravaged by hunger and deprivation.

S.M. AL RAKABANI (United Arab Emirates) (original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General of the FAO, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, in my name and on behalf of my country's delegation, it is my pleasure to extend to the United States Secretary of Agriculture our heartfelt congratulations on his election as Chairman of this Conference. I should also like to congratulate the Vice-Chairmen and to wish them every success in their endeavours. I hope that the activities of our Conference will be successful.

This Conference is being held at a time when problems relating to the provision of food in the world are increasing, particularly in the developing countries and among poor people all over the world. Our celebrations of the World Food Day in our country was a good occasion to enlighten young people about the magnitude and dimensions of the problem of hunger. It was also an opportunity for the rich people to reconsider their attitude towards the poor who are suffering from the pain of hunger.

Shall we consider this Conference a point of departure for a new understanding of the necessity for increasing the affluent countries' commitment to help the developing countries through the financial flows necessary for implementing large-scale investments needed by agriculture in these countries? Thus they would be able to secure stable and enduring earnings from their exports, and also to secure their imports of capital goods, and consequently to help the world economy to recover.

What has been said by Chancellor Bruno Kreisky at this Conference deserves consideration by every one of us. Our motto should be the search for solutions, to avoid egoism or talk of ideals - and to seek fulfillment of those ideals. In this context I cannot overlook a saying by our Prophet Mohammed - may peace be upon him - if a man dies from hunger, his compatriots should compensate his family, that is to say, they are all indirectly responsible for his death.

Despite our scarce agricultural resources we in the United Arab Emirates have been endeavouring to encourage our farmers and fishermen to maintain their professions through an intensified programme of support and soft loans. As a result, cultivated land has been doubled. Our production of vegetables and fruit has increased so that we have some surplus during a few months of the year.

We have set up our own infrastructure through the establishment of dams in order to increase water provision, which is the decisive factor in our agricultural expansion. Since we do believe that water is the basic requirement for increasing our agricultural production, we have been applying the most up-to-date irrigation techniques. Despite the great value of technology and funds for the development process, yet the human being remains the essential factor. In this context we do agree with the Director-General when he says that farmers are the real wealth and they are the irreplaceable resource of any country. We feel that the low income incurred by agriculture drove many people to move from rural to urban areas. As a result, our Government shoulders a greater responsibility towards the rural areas. We are endeavouring by all possible means to develop and improve living conditions there. We are trying to turn these areas into centres of demographic attraction by pursuing balanced pricing policies that may provide a reasonable income in proportion to the efforts exerted by those farmers. Thus farmers will be encouraged to continue in their profession and to increase their agricultural production.

In this context we agree with the proposal made by the Director-General for elaborating a large-scale study of agricultural pricing policies, which would be of great benefit in this field. In the United Arab Emirates we are a developing country and an OPEC Member State, we are aware of our dual role. Despite the fact that we depend upon one depletable resource, namely oil, and in spite of the difficulties caused by the fluctuation of prices and foreign exchange, we do take part in all actions at regional and international levels aimed at saving the world economy from the present crisis. I hope that I will not be imposing when I say that under these difficult circumstances the net flow of official financial assistance for development has never been less than 3 percent of our national product though earlier it reached 8 percent. In this regard I should like to indicate that the rate of our contributions is eight times larger than the contributions of the OECD countries whose contributions did not reach the level they pledged, i.e. seven per thousand of gross national product.

I know that I am not adding anything new when I repeat what has been said by distinguished heads of delegations, namely, that there is an urgent need for a renewed international agreement on grains that will secure the minimum level of food security requirements. The quantities covered by the food assistance agreement should be raised to reach 17 million tons instead of the current 8 million tons. Also, I will not be adding anything new when I stress the importance of the Five Point Plan of Action laid down by the FAO as a framework for the policies to be followed by the Third World for food security, nor when I mention tariff measures applied by developed countries against the exports of developing countries, particularly those applied against agricultural products.

Again, I am not adding anything new when I say that there is a growing feeling that this economic order must be restructured through a New International Economic Order which would be more equitable and which could be the right impetus for economic recovery in all countries of the world.

In conclusion, I should like to stress one point. We in this hall are responsible for history and our peoples for working together free from any prejudice for the food of this world; a world that, thanks to great advances in transport and communication, has become smaller and smaller. We should work together since we are aware of the fact that our interests as human beings are interdependent and not contradictory, and that the recovery of the economies of the affluent countries cannot be realized in isolation from the rest of the world.

We fully believe in the saying that God will always be helping us as long as fellow men are helping each other.

Before I conclude I wish to thank the Chairman and his colleagues for the great efforts they have made in preparing for this Conference.

A. B. DIOP (Sénégal): Qu'il me soit permis, tout d'abord, de vous apporter le salut chaleureux ainsi que les vœux fervents de plein succès de son Excellence Monsieur Abdou Diouf, Président de la République du Sénégal.

Je m'y associe avec d'autant plus de plaisir que mon pays a foi en la FAO qui, sous la dynamique impulsion de son Directeur général M. Edouard Saouma, se penche avec une détermination sans cesse croissante sur le sort des peuples du tiers monde, singulièrement sur ceux d'Afrique.

Permettez-moi de rendre un vibrant hommage au Dr Swaminatham, Président sortant, pour sa contribution aux travaux de notre Conseil.

Je voudrais également féliciter l'honorable John Block pour sa brillante élection. Nul doute que son expérience et sa compétence nous seront d'un précieux concours.

Mes félicitations vont aussi aux vice-présidents élus et à M. le Directeur général pour sa déclaration positive à l'ouverture de cette session et au Président indépendant pour son rapport exhaustif.

Je souhaite la bienvenue aux nouveaux Etats Membres dont l'originalité des expériences en matière de développement nous sera, j'en suis sûr, d'un apport fécond.

Le Secrétariat, comme à l'accoutumée, nous a présenté des documents de qualité. Qu'il en soit donc vivement remercié.

Mais, nous devons tous avoir conscience que les résultats auxquels nos travaux aboutiront ne dépendront que de nous-mêmes, de notre volonté d'œuvrer ensemble pour relever le principal défi de cette fin de siècle : fournir à chacun une nourriture convenable, en quantité et en qualité suffisantes.

Les analyses et constatations sur la situation alimentaire des pays en développement, pour objectives et pertinentes qu'elles soient, reflètent peu la réalité dans nos différents pays, car les mots ne sauraient suffire. Il faut, pour s'en convaincre, se rendre sur le terrain même, dans nos régions, dans nos contrées, dans nos localités. Ceux d'entre nos partenaires de développement qui ont eu l'occasion de le faire ces jours et ces mois passés ont constaté, par-ci, par-là, désolations, amertumes, désillusions et découragements devant les paysages tristes qui s'offraient à leurs yeux.

En effet, cette année, dans les pays du Sahel, et mon pays en fait partie, l'hivernage a été, encore une fois, extrêmement mauvais. La production agricole et alimentaire a atteint un niveau très bas, largement en-deçà de la moyenne généralement obtenue pendant ces dix dernières années. Le cheptel se décime ou souffre de maladies et d'un manque endémique de pâturages, d'abreuvement. Cette région de l'Afrique, si déshéritée par la nature, s'est ainsi retrouvée dans la situation des années catastrophiques 1972 et 1973.

Le cas du Sahel, singulier à bien des égards mais similaire, à des degrés et des variantes divers à celui des autres régions de l'Afrique, voire des autres continents sous-développés, montre combien les populations du tiers monde sont au bord de la survie et du désespoir : survie avec un minimum qui se rétrécit d'année en année, comme une peau de chagrin mais aussi désespoir devant une solution définitive et durable qui tarde à venir, pour leur mieux-être et leur prospérité.

Ces populations méritent-elles leur sort ? Nous ne le pensons sincèrement pas. Leur seul tort est peut-être leur appartenance à des régions peu hospitalières, leur pauvreté et leur impuissance face des calamités naturelles mais aussi leur trop grande confiance en la solidarité internationale, pour compléter leurs efforts et ceux des gouvernements de leurs pays, en vue des remèdes attendus.

L'on nous dit qu'il n'y a jamais eu autant à manger car cette année et pour chaque habitant de notre planète ont été produits 10 pour cent de nourriture de plus qu'il y a dix ans. Malgré cette abondance constatée sous certains cioux, la triste réalité nous prouve ailleurs que de nombreuses personnes ne mangent pas à leur faim et qu'aujourd'hui plus de 450 millions de personnes sont gravement sous-alimentées.

Comment en est-on arrivé à cette situation inquiétante ? Et que devons-nous faire pour renverser les tendances actuelles qui, si elles se maintiennent, risquent de rompre l'équilibre déjà fragile du monde dans lequel nous vivons ?

C'est à ces questions que nous voudrions tenter de répondre pour ainsi apporter notre contribution à la solution des problèmes qui nous préoccupent tant.

Au lendemain de nos indépendances, nos pays ont choisi un modèle de développement, sur la base des options politiques de nos Etats, défini une politique et mis en place une stratégie.

Jeunes Etats que nous étions, sans expérience, démunis de ressources importantes et disposant de peu de personnel qualifié, nous nous sommes laissés assister et guider sur la marche vers le progrès. Mais, nous étions aussi enfermés dans un engrenage dû à l'héritage du passé qui ne nous laissait que peu d'alternatives possibles.

Les cultures d'exportation introduites par la métropole pour les besoins d'une évolution vers une économie d'échange, ont été entretenues en raison des revenus monétaires qu'elles procurent aux paysans mais aussi en raison de leur contribution au financement par les recettes obtenues, des opérations de développement et particulièrement des achats des produits vivriers dont nos populations ont besoin et auxquels elles ont été habituées dans leur structure de consommation.

Peu à peu, nos pays se sont orientés vers la diversification, l'extension et l'intensification des cultures possibles sur nos sols, dans le souci de sécuriser la production agricole et de diversifier les sources de revenus. L'accent est de plus en plus mis sur les cultures céréalières et maraîchères à côté des cultures de rente ainsi que sur l'élevage et la pêche également pris en compte dans nos préoccupations de développement du secteur rural.

L'euphorie des premières années d'accession à l'indépendance s'est très vite estompée devant la réalité amère qui s'offrait à nos yeux. En effet, si l'indépendance politique était obtenue, beaucoup restait cependant à faire pour gagner la bataille de l'indépendance économique. Il fallait avant tout disposer des ressources nécessaires au financement du développement. Pour ce faire, nos Etats ne pouvaient que compter sur la communauté internationale mais avant tout sur leurs moyens propres.

L'apport de la communauté internationale n'a pas été négligeable au cours de ces deux décennies de développement. Il faut toutefois reconnaître que les efforts consentis ont été par trop modestes face aux défis que nous devons relever. Nos ressources déjà si limitées se sont amoindries et continuent de baisser considérablement, ce qui met ainsi à rude épreuve la satisfaction de nos besoins, eux, sans cesse croissants.

La détérioration des échanges s'accroît et le protectionnisme s'érige de plus en plus en règle générale. Alors que le sud s'efforce de jouer le jeu de la complémentarité économique auquel il est contraint, le nord, lui, met en place et renforce ses barrières commerciales à l'endroit des produits de ce dernier.

Les recettes d'exportation de la grande majorité des pays du monde sous-développé continuent de s'effondrer pour poser le problème du financement du développement en termes de recours à des emprunts obtenus parfois avec des taux d'intérêt élevés. Ces emprunts sont en plus assortis très souvent de conditions préalables difficiles à remplir au risque de bouleversements politiques et sociaux au sein des pays bénéficiaires. Le fossé entre le monde développé et le monde sous-développé ne pouvait que s'agrandir.

Plutôt que de vouloir rejeter la responsabilité de cette situation sur l'une ou l'autre partie, aujourd'hui il s'agit pour la communauté internationale de reconnaître et de comprendre les erreurs que nous avons ensemble commises au niveau des méthodes employées, des concepts adoptés et des approches suivies jusqu'à présent pour la promotion du développement. Il s'agit de bâtir en commun des économies solides, seul gage d'un nouvel ordre économique international que nous tous appelons de nos vœux.

Les moyens et les capacités d'y parvenir existent à l'échelle mondiale. Il suffit, simplement, de les orienter à des fins de développement. On pourrait, pourquoi pas, imaginer un nouveau "Plan Marshall" qui serait un plan d'urgence pour le développement agricole du tiers-monde plus particulièrement de l'Afrique qui souffre des plus graves pénuries.

De même que les programmes régionaux ou à l'échelon national, le plan d'action de Lagos constitue certainement un cadre approprié. Mais qu'importe le cadre choisi, l'important est de dépasser les déclarations d'intentions et les simples affirmations de volonté politique, pour aller concrètement à l'action, celle de vaincre la faim et de venir à bout des privations qui caractérisent cette décennie du développement.

Ma délégation a noté avec satisfaction la part importante du budget que la FAO attribue à l'Afrique ainsi que la priorité donnée au développement rural. Tout en souhaitant un renforcement des moyens mis à la disposition de cette organisation, elle appuie les propositions de budget 84 et soutient les efforts du Directeur Général pour une gestion rigoureuse.

Elle soutient également les différents programmes notamment le PCT - dont elle souhaite le renforcement - et ceux qui ont une incidence directe sur la vie de nos pasteurs, pêcheurs et paysans.

Elle partage le concept élargi de la sécurité alimentaire tel que l'a défini Monsieur le Directeur Général.

C'est sur cette voie que mon pays voudrait vous appeler à vous engager, cette voie qui, à nos yeux, est la seule qui mérite d'être suivie, pour le bonheur de l'humanité tout entière.

Le Sénégal, pour sa part, s'y est résolument engagé. En procédant à des profondes réformes de structure, en réorientant nos méthodes et nos approches, nous avons tiré leçon des expériences passées. Nous avons ainsi voulu compter d'abord sur nos propres efforts pour créer les conditions les meilleures à la borne mise en oeuvre de notre stratégie alimentaire qui se veut d'être une approche globale, non plus sectorielle, et qui a pour objectif la réalisation de l'autosuffisance de notre pays en produits vivriers et en protéines d'origine animale. Comme nous, la plupart des autres pays en développement ont adopté cette nouvelle démarche, celle-là même qui, çà et là, semble faire l'objet d'un consensus de la part de la communauté internationale.

Il est donc nécessaire de coordonner et de concentrer les actions vers ce but. Il faudra éviter de nouvelles déceptions car nous devons tous, enfin, comprendre que nos pays sont interdépendants les uns vis-à-vis des autres et que des déséquilibres ne peuvent perpétuellement subsister dans une partie du monde sans affecter, à terme, l'autre partie, dans ses structures politiques, économiques et sociales.

La communauté internationale doit aujourd'hui plus que jamais, prendre conscience de cette réalité que nous rappellent tous les faits quotidiens. Nous devons être désormais prêts aux rendez-vous de demain, aux rendez-vous du progrès pour chaque homme et pour l'humanité, dans son ensemble.

Voilà l'appel que nous voudrions lancer à la communauté internationale, pour une meilleure coopération au développement, pour une solidarité agissante, dans le sens bien compris de nos intérêts.

Ce que nous attendons, c'est un engagement politique ferme de la part de la communauté internationale, sur le combat, mené à nos côtés, pour le développement agricole et alimentaire de nos états.

M.J.D. SOARES DA COSTA (Portugal) : Mr Chairman, in addressing this important Conference on behalf of my country, I should like to express my confidence that it will help to promote peace among nations, increase food production and lead towards greater progress for all those who work for peace, welcome it and who benefit from it.

We all wish that such results be most fruitful and that is why I feel that I should greet all the representatives of the countries that together with us share this campaign of building a more worthy world in which to live. A world where solidarity is not just a word but a shared concern in the search for a better balance among all nations, not a mere figure of speech but the clear feeling of a stated and deeply lived reality.

I should like to greet Mr Chairman of the Conference, whose appointment was so significantly supported, which testifies simultaneously to the personal prestige that your Excellency has merited and the respect that your country deserves in its indefatigable struggle for peace through dialogue between blocs of countries that, although very different, give priority to the fundamental principles of human dignity.

I should also like to present my greetings to the Director-General of the FAO, Dr Edouard Saouma and through him to all the officials who work in this prestigious international Organization, everything they have fought for, to improve, food production. I share with him the same worries and suffering in the face of the peoples who lack the basic requirements for survival, about which we have not, up to now, been able to do anything, even in this century of scientific and technological progress.

We should like also to express our support for the new direction that the Director-General has introduced in ensuring food security, stressing the need for promoting integrated rural development. I should like to congratulate the four new member countries of our Organization, Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Saint Christopher and Nevis and Vanuatu.

I should like to address a very friendly and special word to the countries that, with us, form a spiritual community based on the Portuguese language and that through our common experiences of living throughout the centuries have influenced and learned to understand each other and to feel mutual esteem.

This Conference is going to approach problems that are crucially important for the whole international community: to guarantee the peace and not to promote war, to work towards the hope of in ever-increasing solidarity and fewer divisions.

What is difficult is to choose among so many items of our extensive agenda, one or any of them that specially calls for our attention, and on which we may develop our opinion in the short period of time we have been granted.

Centuries of contact with the countries of the tropical world, without ignoring our European identity have made us, the Portuguese people, a link between different peoples located in various parts of the world.

This is why my country takes to heart the serious problems of development and food shortages which nowadays affect a large number of the developing countries due to ecological conditions which are not always favourable because of insufficient technological progress, leading to the calamities that assail them, from floods to prolonged drought, plant diseases and political instability.

It is a great pleasure for me to address a word to many countries which have given great help to the development of people and have saved thousands of human beings from death and from the effects of undernourishment.

I should also like to mention the special role which is being played by the World Food Programme; bringing in the help of so many contributing countries, it has succeeded in accomplishing joint action on behalf of immense areas that suffer from food shortages through the quantity and quality of resources it has managed to collect.

When we think how the food situation in developing countries has worsened, where the amount of food production *per capita* has fallen, it is our opinion that all those who have surplus resources should answer this call to universal solidarity so that the inalienable right to food may be fulfilled all over the world.

This is why we particularly share the concerns of the Director-General of FAO, who has always, and recently very persistently, been drawing the international community's attention to the particularly precarious situation which affects the people of many regions in figures which have never before been attained.

My country is not self-sufficient in food and it has to import about 50 percent of what it consumes. It buys this in foreign currency to an extent which threatens the stability of its balance of payments, and this is a worrying situation for us. But in view of the difficulties for survival, our problems of increasing our agricultural production, undoubtedly decisive for us, cannot be compared with situations as serious and extensive as that of generalized famine in many countries.

Emergency food aid to areas of the globe affected by calamities must continue. We think that it should be reinforced by increased contributions from countries with food surpluses or who are wealthy enough to purchase food where it is abundant.

I should like to stress once again the undeniable and extraordinary generosity that most of the countries have been showing in this sector and ask for even greater help.

These support measures should continue in order to decrease the gap between developed and developing countries particularly the highly developed countries who may help to contribute to international stability.

I should like to express my deep support for the orientation that determined the elaboration of the FAO budget for the next few years. Many developing countries do not lack either the land or adequate ecological characteristics for certain types of agriculture, but they are short of technological development as well as essential material to develop their own resources. It is only by reducing economic differences between countries and making the poor ones less so, that we will be able to achieve a minimum of inequality among nations, and universal peace about which we are all concerned and hope for.

In "Populorum Progressio" Pope Paul VI reminded us that "Development is a new designation for Peace". But in order to achieve it we must persist in our aid to less developed countries, those with fewer resources, based on the principle of equality among nations and the preservation of universal peace for which we all hope. These countries must themselves choose the most suitable way to decide on their own development.

My country faces material difficulties, as is well known, and therefore our contribution in this field can only be a token one. However, we are rich in technicians and other professionals at all levels with enormous experience of the tropical world which our Organization has not taken the full advantage of, in spite of offers of cooperation that my country has put forward and will continue to do.

We believe that though the material means are indeed important, we must not forget that human resources are a greater priority. That is why once again we renew our offer and stress Portugal's interest that a greater number of competent technicians with experience be integrated in FAO programmes or in other programmes sponsored by this Organization.

Portugal was not a country gifted with particularly favourable conditions for agriculture. These circumstances justify, at least partially, the average fairly low per capita income we have in agriculture and the fact that we have not been able to achieve self-sufficiency.

In agriculture we are trying to encourage corrective measures that will lead to better use of our soil resources and ensure that a faulty agrarian structure should not be a stumbling block. Therefore, we follow with great interest the work of FAO in the agrarian reform field in order to solve our problems which are mainly of a social nature as soon as possible through technical and scientific ideas, but without forgetting the general political component of the world of which we are a part.

We believe that the increase of production and the improvement of productivity are essential factors in raising farmers' incomes and obtaining greater social justice for those who work on the land. We are therefore engaged in reinforcing farming productivity through cooperative systems and rural extension. That is the reason why we are making great efforts to improve the quality of the people in agriculture by means of professional training and we are also increasing the productive efficiency of our farms and of our enterprises applying technological innovations.

Taking into account that a large part of our lands is better exploited under forestry, we are developing a diversified programme of forest improvement including the yearly planting of 50 000 hectares and protection of forestry resources and wildlife.

We are paying particular attention to our exclusive economic zone because we have plenty of islands where we can find fishery resources which perhaps other nations would like to possess or perhaps other nations are interested in sharing.

I should like to express my gratitude for the aid that the FAO has provided to my country in technical support which recently has been seen in the granting of two Technical Cooperation Programmes, and I should like to express my faith in the results of the World Fisheries Development Conference which was held in Rome last October. This gave us an opportunity of studying the conclusions carefully in order to be able to use them constructively in order to take part positively in the forthcoming Conference on the political level.

Per capita fish consumption in Portugal is amongst the highest in the world and we hope that by increased efforts through our fisheries programme we shall at least partially be able to compensate for protein resources which we have to import or produce with imported inputs.

We live in a world disturbed by international tensions, constant conflicts and catastrophies. If by some chance mankind does not destroy itself through some act of madness, food will become the great strategic weapon in the future. Therefore, raising food production is the task to which we must commit ourselves at this Conference whether we be rich, less rich or poor. However, it is not just necessary to produce foods, it is also essential to manage them correctly, so as to put an end to the very distressing situation we are witnessing now.

In my country we have grouped together agriculture and food production under the same ministry, precisely with this in mind, and this shows how clearly we share the concerns of FAO. We very much hope that the men of today will be laying down the basis for the survival of the population at the beginning of the next century without forgetting the serious responsibility towards the future, and whether that is good or bad will always be in our own hands.

B. TANTHIEN (Thailand): On behalf of the Thai delegation, I would like to join the previous speakers in congratulating you, Mr Chairman, on your election to the high office of the twenty-second session of the FAO Conference. I wish also to congratulate the three elected Vice-Chairmen.

My delegation extends a warm welcome to the new members of our Organization, namely Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Saint Christopher and Nevis, and Vanuatu. We sincerely hope that their membership will be of mutual benefit to their respective countries as well as to this Organization.

Mr Chairman, Thailand is as concerned about hunger and malnutrition in the world community as all other members of this organization, even though we have always been able to produce enough food to feed our people and have significant amounts left over for export. We could produce even more food for others, if markets at fair prices were available. We continue to believe that too little attention is being given to the impact of trade barriers and the protectionism on the world hunger and malnutrition.

My delegation would like to stress that in the face of economic recession, we can fully understand why protectionist pressures in agriculture tend to be extremely strong. Thailand always endeavours to collaborate with developed exporting countries. One example of our willingness to cooperate, even in times of economic difficulties, is the present "voluntary export restraint agreement" concluded between Thailand and the EEC. Under this agreement we limited the volume of tapioca exports to the EEC on a voluntary basis. But against a background of an economic recovery, there should be ample opportunity for reconciliation between national interests.

At this juncture, my delegation would like to refer specifically to the "Guideline 7 of Revision and Updating of Guidelines and Targets for International Agricultural Adjustment" which has rightly stated that all countries, particularly developed countries, should display the necessary political will to refrain from imposing any new tariff or non-tariff barriers to the imports of agricultural and agrobased products, especially those from developing countries. My delegation fully agrees with this and other guidelines. We hope, that this Conference will unanimously adopt the Revision and Updating of Guidelines and Targets for International Agricultural Adjustment.

The overall world food situation at present is not as critical as it was in the early 1970's. But it is a fact that many developing countries are facing serious problems of food shortage and malnutrition, particularly in Africa. We in Thailand are well aware of this problem and share our food with thousands of refugees and displaced persons who stream into our borders. This sharing is a heavy burden. Thailand, nonetheless, has done its share in the task of feeding the hungry. We do not merely serve as a conduit for food aid. We have, first of all, ensured a capacity to feed our own people.

Our agriculture has been one of the most dynamic in the South-East Asian region. Between 1960 and 1981, Thai agriculture grew annually at over five percent. This growth enabled us to reduce rural poverty substantially. We have also contributed to food security as one of the few food exporting developing countries in our region.

In this connection, my delegation has supported FAO's food security work. Perhaps, the most far-reaching initiative of this work has been the recent establishment of the Regional Commission on Food Security for Asia and the Pacific. We appreciate the speedy and competent manner in which this Commission has been established. Today we have a permanent body, with its initial membership of 16 countries, to monitor the food security situation and promote technical cooperation in this vital field.

My delegation believes that FAO's capacity to respond to the needs of the Member Nations is well reflected in the FAO's budget proposal for 1984-85 biennium. We, therefore, agree to the 3.6 percent increase in technical and economic programmes in the proposed budget. In addition, the establishment of the new Research and Technology Development Division is a necessity. Its work, in our opinion, should emphasize, among other things, research into high weather risks, low-fertility soils, limited availability of capital as well as the transfer of new technology and modern farm management techniques especially in rainfed areas. Furthermore, this new Division would work closely with the proposed establishment of International Centre for Genetic-Engineering and Biotechnology, the site of which has been offered also by Thailand.

Turning to the item on food and population, there is no doubt that we invariably underestimate the impact of population increases on food supplies and the strain on our agricultural capacity. For too long, many developing countries have been unable to expand their food production to keep pace with the high rate of population growth. This growth will continue to contribute to the imbalance between the food and population for many years to come. We believe that the main aspect of the food and population problem is likely to become the actual numbers of people in relation to the land and other resources available for feeding them.

We are pleased to Inform the Conference that Thailand has a highly successful population control programme. We have reduced our population growth rate from a high 3.2 percent in 1972 to 1.8 percent in 1983 and expect a fall to 1.5 percent in 1986, the last year of the Fifth Five-Year National Economic and Social Development Plan.

Discussions on food and population may be reasonably linked with forestry. Experience in Thailand shows that the conservation of this valuable resource will be ensured only when its benefits are equitably shared by the people who live and work in these forests. Before we came to realize the problems, a significant area of land was stripped of forest cover in less than five years. Today, we involve the people as active partners in conservation, development and use of this resource. In cooperation with the FAO, our diversified forest rehabilitation project in Northeast Thailand seeks to reforest within the existing farming systems, so that local rural dwellers are at the centre of economic activity. This project is setting the pace for national forest policy.

It is also significant to note that the ASEAN countries initiated last month a move to define a common forest policy for our sub-region, along the approaches of FAO's programme.

The Thai Government attaches great importance to fisheries development as a means of providing protein supply for our population and for maintaining food security. Hence fisheries development is an integral part of Thailand's overall economic and social development plan. With the changes in the regime of the oceans, we have reoriented our policies and strategies for the development of fisheries with increased emphasis on the development of inland fisheries and aquaculture. Our major thrust will also be the improvement of small-scale fishing and farming communities engaged both in coastal areas and inland areas.

My delegation is gratified with the outcome of the technical phase of the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development and is looking forward to participating in the policy phase of this Conference which, undoubtedly, will have an important bearing on the acceleration of self-reliance of developing countries in fisheries planning, management and development.

The crucial role of people's participation was perhaps most strikingly underscored in the World Conference of Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. Thailand recognizes the key role agrarian reform plays in agricultural development and alleviation of rural poverty. We therefore welcome the useful special report on WCARRD follow-up.

My delegation attaches great importance to FAO's policy of decentralization. We recognized the positive and constructive role played by the Regional Office in carrying out our programme of work.

The last two years have seen the Regional Office expand its useful service to the Region. Its seven technical commissions serve to promote projects and programmes in fisheries, forestry, plant protection, animal production, farm management, agricultural statistics and food security. It backstops 38 regional projects as well as country level programmes effectively.

In conclusion, my delegation appreciates major improvement in FAO services to Thailand. A country office has recently been opened within the Regional Office itself, without any significant increase in personnel and without any extra financial contribution from my, country. My delegation welcomes this move and reiterates our policy of supporting the strengthening of activities of Regional Offices in their respective regions.

F. NZAMUIRAMBAHO (Rwanda): Depuis l'époque coloniale jusqu'à l'Indépendance de mon Pays, le 1 Juillet: 1962, le Rwandais a toujours recherché et recherche encore la satisfaction de ses besoins alimentaires. Cette satisfaction quoique partiellement atteinte au vu du faible volume des importations en produits alimentaires de base, a connu dans le temps et dans l'espace des hauts et des bas. C'est ainsi que l'histoire atteste de longues disettes et famines qui ont causé de nombreuses victimes humaines. Si l'on peut estimer à 75 pour cent le degré de satisfaction des besoins alimentaires de la population, dont le taux de croissance démographique annuel est de 3 pour cent, il y a cependant lieu de dire que l'ombre de pénurie alimentaire plane sur notre pays. Aussi comprendra-t-on l'importance à attacher au développement du secteur alimentaire au Rwanda, surtout s: l'on sait que la population rwandaise en l'an 2000 sera d'environ 9 500 000 personnes; et que la superficie agro-pastorale utile qui est actuellement de 1 250 000 Ha ne va pas augmenter.

C'est donc Monsieur le Président dans le cadre de la recherche de l'autosuffisance alimentaire pour la population nationale que les hautes autorités de mon pays ont clairement défini une politique alimentaire axée sur l'intensification agricole et sur le renforcement des structures d'échanges régionaux des produits alimentaires. Les réalisations les plus récentes (1981) sont de 4 700 000 tonnes de productions vivrières et de 50 000 tonnes de production animale avec pour la production vivrière un taux d'accroissement annuel moyen de 3,9 pour cent. Ce taux a pu être atteint grâce à la conjugaison de certaines actions qu'il est nécessaire de développer à ce niveau. Un effort tout particulier fut soutenu pour la mise en place de Projets de développement rural intégré. A travers ces projets qui visent le développement global et intégré des zones rurales, nous avons entrepris un vaste programme de protection et de conservation des sols, de récupération de nouvelles terres non encore peuplées et d'amélioration des techniques culturales et d'élevage. En matière de développement rural, mon pays reste convaincu que le développement doit venir de la base, donc de la population elle-même. Aussi, avons-nous mis en place le Système National de Vulgarisation en matière agricole et pastoral qui se base notamment sur la formation, la sensibilisation, la conscientisation et la stimulation. Un système de crédit agricole, pastoral et rural qui par ailleurs fonctionne déjà à travers certains projets dont il est question plus haut, vient d'être renforcé et s'opérera par le canal des institutions bancaires de développement notamment par les Banques populaires qui d'ici cinq ans couvriront tout le pays. Un réseau de distribution d'intrants et de matériels agricoles a été renforcé notamment par l'organisation annuelle du concours agricole et du concours bétail. Un réseau de commercialisation et de stockage des produits vivriers et des productions animales a été également mis au point à travers les actions de l'Office National pour la Promotion et la Commercialisation des Produits Vivriers et Animaux (OPROVIA).

Le programme d'association de l'agriculture et de l'élevage a également reçu dans mon pays une attention toute particulière, ceci dans le cadre de l'amélioration de notre patrimoine foncier par la production et l'utilisation de la fumure organique, intrant à la portée de chaque exploitant. Ainsi nous préconisons la transformation progressive des exploitations traditionnelles en fermettes avec la mise en place des compostières à fumure. Ce programme connaît déjà des résultats, car fin 1981, on dénombrait 766.000 compostières pour un nombre d'exploitations familiales de l'ordre de 1.070.000. Toujours en matière de sécurité alimentaire, mon pays n'a pas oublié le facteur démographique. Aussi, a-t-il mis en place l'Office National de la Population (ONAPO) qui a pour objectif principal l'étude des problèmes relatifs à l'accroissement de la population et ses effets sur le développement global de la nation. L'un des thèmes développés par cet "Office auprès de la population est: "Avoir un nombre d'enfants, que l'on sera soi-même capable de nourrir et d'éduquer suffisamment".

Monsieur le Président, l'arbre, source d'énergie et de matériaux de construction de toutes sortes constitue également un excellent facteur de protection et de conservation des sols, de même qu'une source nutritionnelle appréciable. Aussi dès les années 1920, avons-nous privilégié l'aspect reboisement et actuellement le rythme moyen annuel est de l'ordre de 7.000 ha de boisement. Cet effort a pu être fourni grâce à la mise en place des projets de reboisement typiques et des projets de développement rural intégré. Depuis 1976, mon pays a institutionnalisé une journée nationale de l'arbre, le dernier samedi du mois d'octobre de chaque année. Un programme de développement d'arbres fruitiers fut également développé avec comme espèces principales: l'avocatier, le goyavier, le manguier, etc... Nous comptons dans un proche avenir diffuser dans les régions d'altitude le pommier et systématiser la diffusion de l'avocatier greffé.

L'agro-foresterie a de tout temps caractérisé l'exploitation agricole nationale. Aussi somme-nous en train de mener des recherches en cette matière afin de mettre à la disposition de l'agriculteur l'association la plus judicieuse possible.

Monsieur le Président, si le secteur alimentaire de mon Pays ne parvient pas à couvrir tous les besoins nutritionnels de la population, ce n'est pas qu'il nous manque de ressources à valoriser, c'est plutôt un certain nombre de contraintes qui agissent négativement, certaines isolément et d'autres par interaction à nos efforts de développement. Ces contraintes sont notamment d'ordre social et démographique, d'ordre technique, d'ordre financier et d'ordre écoclimatique. C'est compte tenu de cet état de chose et conscient du fait que la base du développement global et intégré de notre Pays est l'agriculture, que mon Gouvernement s'est engagé avec une ferme détermination d'accorder dans le IIIème Plan Quinquennal de Développement 1982-86, une haute priorité au développement de l'agriculture vivrière qui se traduira par une affectation privilégiée à ce secteur des ressources financières tant nationales qu'extérieures, du personnel d'encadrement, des intrants agricoles de production et par la mise en valeur de quelques nouvelles terres encore disponibles; l'augmentation de la production vivrière devant passer par l'accroissement des rendements par unité de surface. L'élevage et la pêche, ayant également un rôle important à jouer pour améliorer la qualité de l'alimentation, recevront un accent tout particulier. La stratégie nouvellement renforcée prévoit toujours le passage progressif d'une agriculture traditionnelle conçue pour l'autosubsistance à une agriculture plus intensive et intégrée dans des courants d'échange et vise l'autosuffisance alimentaire de la population.

Les actions à mettre en oeuvre à court terme en vue de la réussite de cette stratégie sont notamment:

- la fourniture d'un appui financier et technique à l'Office National pour la Promotion et la Commercialisation des Produits Vivriers et Animaux (OPROVIA) accompagnée de l'adoption d'une politique de fixation et de contrôle des prix et de stockage et du développement des agro-industries capables en même temps de donner une plus-value à la production agricole et animale et à fournir un grand nombre d'emplois aux masses rurales afin d'en accroître le revenu pouvant servir d'investissement dans le secteur alimentaire;
- la fourniture d'intrants agricoles; semences sélectionnées, fumure organique et minérale, crédit agricole, matériel végétal et animal amélioré et adapté, etc.
- l'appui des structures nationales de la vulgarisation et de la recherche agronomique;
- la mise en place d'un système de protection des cultures et des produits agricoles après récoltes.

Toutes ces actions viendront renforcer celles des projets et autres activités en cours de réalisation et permettront d'atteindre à court terme (1986) une production vivrière de 5.240.000 tonnes et une production animale de 68.800 tonnes. A l'horizon 2000, elles permettront d'atteindre une production vivrière de 8.416.200 tonnes et de 177.300 tonnes pour la production animale. Ainsi les besoins nutritionnels de la population rwandaise estimée à 6.400.000 personnes en 1986 et à 9.500.000 en l'an 2000 seront largement couverts.

Monsieur le Président, la base de tout développement équilibré est avant tout une sécurité alimentaire pour tous les peuples. Cependant, les perspectives d'avenir sont très inquiétantes. En effet, la situation démographique est très critique dans la plupart des pays du tiers monde et spécialement ceux du continent africain. L'écart entre les besoins alimentaires et l'offre s'accroît, de même que celui entre les besoins en ressources financières et techniques et l'assistance consentie en cette matière, alors que l'accroissement démographique s'accélère dans ces mêmes pays. Aussi, reconnaissons-nous l'efficacité des activités de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture non seulement sur le continent africain, mais dans d'autres régions telles que l'Asie et l'Amérique Latine, même si lesdites activités ne constituent qu'un minimum acceptable. C'est dans cet esprit que ma délégation appuie le plan de travail ainsi que le budget pour la période biennale 1984-1985 de notre organisation.

Avant de terminer mon intervention, Monsieur le Président, je voudrais vous adresser à vous personnellement, ainsi qu'aux autres membres du bureau, pour votre brillante élection et pour la compétence avec laquelle vous assurez la présidence de nos débats, les sincères félicitations de ma délégation. Nos félicitations sont également adressées au Directeur général de notre organisation, Monsieur Edouard Saouma, de même qu'à tous ses collaborateurs pour la sagesse avec laquelle ils s'acquittent de leur lourde tâche qui leur est confiée, à savoir la participation à l'effort international visant l'élimination de la faim et de la malnutrition dans le monde. Enfin, Monsieur le Président, c'est avec une grande satisfaction que nous saluons l'entrée dans notre organisation des nouveaux membres. Qu'ils soient donc les bienvenus parmi nous.

J. HELGASON (Iceland): Mr Chairman this is my first participation in an FAO Conference and I would therefore like at the outset to express my profound support for the objectives, goals and activities of the Organization. Being a farmer myself I sense the central responsibility this Organization bears towards farmers and peasants, fishermen and other food producers throughout the world. On the other side of the coin the Organization symbolizes the worldwide concern for the consumers of food, and especially those whose food consumption is below minimum bodily requirements, and recognizes the need for ensuring continuous and increasing supplies of nutritious food.

My country, Iceland, is no stranger to food shortages and famines. The generation of my parents experienced the hunger pains. All Icelanders dreaded the coming of winter when nothing grows and then suffered through the meagre months before the sun again rose in the sky when often the winter stores of food and fodder dried up.

Catching fish in the icy arctic waters using small open boats was not a choice occupation and the toll taken was often staggering.

Natural calamities of climate and volcanic catastrophies reduced the population of Iceland to below 40,000 exactly 200 years ago.

To gain better control of one's surroundings, to harness the fertility of the soil, to exploit the potential productivity of plants and animals, and to enhance their resistance to adverse climatic conditions, one must combine a strong research effort with sound and effective transfer to the farmer and fisherman of the knowledge gained.

The advance from a state of want to a situation of plenty calls for hard, diligent work and sound economic and marketing policies.

Iceland is not an easy country to habitate and to cultivate. Often nature seems to work against us. Yet in one generation we have moved from food shortages and hardship to a situation of food surpluses to the extent that we have had to take steps to regulate and dampen food production to avoid the build-up of unmanageable surpluses.

It is difficult to explain to our children that there is still widespread hunger in the world and that there are millions upon millions of children who go to sleep every night hungry and that every morning there are thousands of children who never wake up again - victims of that unpardonable paradox in our times of plenty amidst deaths of millions from want.

It is our duty, as inhabitants of countries with plenty, to come to the aid of our less fortunate brethren. The deteriorating situation in Africa is especially a cause for great concern and I fully endorse the Director-General's policy in his proposed programme to emphasize food and agriculture projects on that continent.

The parallel emphasis now being put on agriculture research is also gratifying, and I especially welcome the creation of a new programme element and a new Division in this area. I would like to express my full support of the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget for the coming bienium.

In our economy, the harvesting of fish from the rich ocean banks around Iceland constitutes the basis on which we have been able to build up an affluent modern society. We have crusaded against over-exploitation of the ocean and championed effective conservation measures and a rational management of the ocean resources. We are especially happy about the conclusive outcome of the Law of the Sea Conference and look forward to participating in the upcoming World Fisheries Conference next year.

In the field of fisheries, many Icelanders have served FAO as marine and fisheries experts, as well as master seamen. One of those, Mr Hilmar Kristjonsson, a pioneer in the development of effective fishing gear and a leader of FAO's programme in this field for over thirty years, passed away prematurely last month. He will long be remembered for the contribution he made to the development of this important aspect of ocean fishing and for his devotion to helping the developing countries in mastering the handling of modern fishing methods.

Next year, 1984, marks a milestone in the participation of Iceland in FAO's activities. We are very happy to have been given the opportunity to host the Fourteenth FAO Regional Conference for Europe in 1984. We hope to be able to demonstrate how a nation living in a harsh and often hostile environment is able to draw upon its mental and physical capabilities to carve out of this environment an attractive existence. We would like to demonstrate how, with hard work and knowledge, we have been able to harness some of the forces of this environment in order to produce energy and food and industrial goods from our land and ocean resources.

It gives me great pleasure on this occasion to extend to my colleagues, Ministers of Agriculture in the European region, my most hearty and personal invitation to visit Iceland in September, 1984, on the occasion of the FAO Regional Conference. My most sincere invitation is also extend to other members of European delegations and other representatives wishing to attend the Conference in Reykjavik.

P.N. PEETE (Lesotho):Mr Chairman, Director-General, Honourable Ministers, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, my delegation wishes first of all to add its voice to those who have congratulated the Chairman Mr Block, and his three Vice-Chairmen upon their unanimous election to the office that will guide us through the deliberations. It is our firm belief that under your guidance this Conference will be a success, with a clear direction in the conclusions reached.

The occasion of this Twenty-second session of the FAO Conference affords my delegation the singular pleasure and opportunity to express to you, Mr Director-General, happy wishes for your good health. In the same breath we express our appreciation for the way you have retained the esteem of your high office. You and your staff have selflessly served the course of mankind. You have directed all your efforts against hunger, disease and malnutrition. You have fought for improved conditions for all. Lesotho therefore finds it fitting to assure you of its continued support.

It is an honour and pleasure to welcome the new members to the Organisation and we hope they will help sharpen the conscience of the international community on the plight of the rural poor. Once again our Conference is called to address itself to the inability of man to feed himself. He is invited to take stock of rapid population growth in most of the developing countries. But above all our attention is drawn to the dangerous effects of hunger and malnutrition which are so rampant in the third World today, particularly in Africa. We are aware that FAO is taking action on the matter. In this regard we recall the special meeting called by the Director-General a couple of weeks ago on the exceptional international assistance required in food supplies, agriculture and animal husbandry for African countries. The general effects of the drought on human beings and livestock were adequately addressed at that meeting and I can only at this point underline the need for positive action. It is fitting at this hour to mention our appreciation for drought relief aid in the form of fertilizer and food aid that we received from numerous countries and international organizations, including FAO.

The emphasis on world food security remains appropriate and the revised framework by the Committee on Food Security gives a welcome redefinition of objectives, those of increasing food production, stabilizing the supply of food and ensuring greater economic access. We need at this point to clearly identify the instruments that will facilitate the achievement of the objectives. These instruments must reflect a unified and consolidated effort. I would wish to submit to the Conference that there must be a universal change of agricultural policy. Emphasis should be on activities that are directly related to food production. Recipients of food aid should use it as a stimulant towards producing more food. National budgets should reflect a positive bias towards food producing projects and programmes.

Turning to the instruments of food security I would like to refer to some of the provisions made in the Programme of Work and Budget for the coming biennium. Particularly, I wish to refer to two that we regard as important for drawing us nearer to achieving the objectives of food security, and these are training and irrigation. Talking about irrigation, I might begin to sound too much like a man harassed by drought, which, of course, I am. The other side to it though is that we must emerge from the drought wiser and more prepared for times like this by enhancing our capability to harness all our water resources, a factor that will become useful in times of future droughts. Here one sees possibilities of technical cooperation with our fellow developing countries of Asia that have a lot of experience in this area. These countries could assist in establishing nation-wide irrigation programmes with emphasis being placed on assistance to smaller farmers. We would thus appeal to the donor countries to fund this TCDC proposal. As regards training, we want to ensure that we have the capacity to design projects ourselves. This gives more of an opportunity to conduct more meaningful consultations with the people concerned. Equally, the implementation of these projects and programmes becomes more meaningful when it draws heavily from local experience. We recall the Resolution of the Regional Conference for Africa and note with gratitude the positive response of the Director-General on the issue of high level manpower training. By the same token we wish to stress the need to devote more funds to irrigation.

As food shortfalls persist, the dependence on imports increases, thus causing a strain in the foreign exchange holdings of individual importing countries and possible deficits if there is no export revenue to restore the balance. As some countries cannot, given their land resources, produce adequate supplies of their food requirements, such countries have a necessity to depend on food imports. For such countries clearly strengthening their foreign earnings is an essential part of their food security. The duty of the international community is to ensure trade liberalization to assure a greater flow of goods and commodities at fair prices. Indeed, we know that most of the indebtedness of the developing world is a result of artificially low prices realised by their export products, particularly raw materials. In our discussion of the food problem, let us therefore not forget that adjustments in international trade are equally an important aspect in stabilizing food supplies. While on the question of foreign exchange earnings for stabilizing food supplies, I cannot overlook the contribution of livestock and livestock products in this regard. Worthy of particular mention here are exports of meat, milk and other dairy products, hides, skins, wool and mohair. There is a need to strengthen this sector in terms of providing well organized market outlets to these products, to train manpower in the development and management of our stocks and in the processing of the produce.

Another area that deserves special mention is the WCARRD Programme of Action. As we know, our food is produced by the rural people who need to be actively supported and whose commitment must be secured. It is again these rural dwellers who form major sections of the population in the developing countries who have the most problems of economic access to food. They therefore require urgent attention if their purchasing power is to be improved. It is satisfying to see that FAO has allowed itself to be influenced by the WCARRD Programme of Action, as reflected in these documents before us. My Government is impressed by the activities shown in these documents, particularly assistance in the establishment of the regional centres and follow-up missions to individual countries. An area that still needs to be managed with greater efficiency is the support that is given to women who are in any event the major food producers in the developing countries.

My delegation considers that strengthening of regional offices, especially in Africa, is the surest way to deal with the many peculiar regional problems. Let me hasten to say that this can be achieved by shifting of resources other than budgetary increases, as so ably demonstrated in the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget.

We register our support for progress in the working of mechanisms to improve access to plant genetic resources. This, we believe, can be achieved without disturbing existing structures.

A judicious use of the Technical Cooperation Programme should be made and followed up closely with objective valuations.

My delegation, in addition, urges that the Conference unanimously adopts the proposed Programme of Work and Budget, as the hungry whom this Organization seeks to serve are unanimous in their demand for food and better living conditions.

All I have said today has been aimed at requesting all of us to show in a purposeful manner our determination to ensure greater harvests in all our areas, to ask those with the resources to help us interpret our desires into effective work programmes. In this regard one cannot but observe that, when looking at the contribution made to FAO and UNDP budgets, and the huge military expenditures of the developed countries, our commitment to the peaceful survival of mankind as opposed to mass destruction becomes doubtful. I therefore wish to end my statement with an appeal to all member governments to unreservedly take measures to facilitate the aims of this Conference.

U YE YOUNG (Burma): It gives me great pleasure to extend to you, Mr Chairman, the warm congratulations of the delegation of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma on your election as Chairman of the Twenty-second session of FAO Conference, We also congratulate the three Vice-chairmen on their election. We are most fortunate in having the advantage of your wisdom and experience, and are confident that you will guide the deliberations of the Conference with tenacity and resourcefulness, in the numerous tasks which lie ahead.

My delegation would also like to extend a warm welcome to the newly admitted member countries of Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Saint Christopher and Nevis and Vanuatu to the Organization.

I need not stress that the FAO has been assuming greater responsibilities year by year and has contributed significantly towards the advancement of agriculture development. The biennial conferences have fostered better understanding and cooperation among member countries, and at the same time have led to the initiation of new development strategies. We have noted with interest that the agenda for the current Session includes a wide variety of significant topics.

In this regard, I would like to express my appreciation of the efforts made by the Contact Group, which was appointed by the FAO Council at its Eighty-second session, in preparing the draft guidelines for International Agricultural Adjustment for consideration at this Conference.

At its Thirty-seventh session in 1982, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 37/202 on review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and reaffirmed its decision to carry out the first overall review and appraisal in 1984. There will therefore be review and appraisal of International Development Strategy by the FAO governing bodies. However, the fulfilment of these long-term objectives may take time due to the complexities and financial constraints in the implementation of agricultural development plans of the developing countries.

I would like now to outline in brief the situation of agricultural development in our country. Agriculture is still accorded the highest priority in our country. The economic targets of the State set forth in the Twenty-year long-term Plan are being implemented, and we are now in the second year, of the fourth four-year plan period. The performance of the economic plan in the preceding year is very satisfactory. The achievement in terms of GDP growth rate in the agriculture sector is 6.8 percent increase over the base year of the Fourth Four-Year Plan. The GDP growth rate of 5.9 percent in the Livestock and Fisheries Sector and 9.1 percent in the Forestry Sector have also been achieved.

In the Agriculture Sector, priority was given to crops essential for domestic consumption, export-oriented and industrial crops. Governmental support in the form of increased inputs, such as wider measures of irrigation facilities, provision for substantial agriculture loans, review and revision of pricing policies, an inducement towards adoption of scientific methods, and close guidance with prompt attention to the needs of the farmers were the strategies adopted.

In the production of paddy, the most significant achievements have been in the launching of the Whole Township High Yielding programme which started on an experimental basis in 1977-78. The success of the programme is remarkable, and eventually this programme has been increased gradually to more townships from year to year, to the extent of 82 townships last year. The national average yield of paddy per acre has now increased to 61.1 baskets (1275 Kgs.) in 1982-83 against 36.80 baskets (768 Kgs.) in the year 1976-77. In this programme, high yielding varieties were used with transplantation of the correct seedling age, closer planting in rows, application of proper dose of fertilizers combined with organic manures, integrated pest and disease control and harvesting at the appropriate time to prevent grain losses. In the light of these successes, high yielding programmes for other crops such as oilseeds, cereals, peas and beans, potatoes and industrial crops were also introduced in several townships. The dramatic success of this programme was due to the acceptance of the new technology by the Burmese peasants and active mass participation.

As an agricultural country, the Livestock, Fisheries and Forestry Sectors also form an integral part of the rural economy. In the Livestock Sector, due attention has been paid to veterinary care and animal husbandry. Similarly, appropriate measures have been initiated to increase qualitatively and quantitatively the drought power as well as the production of meat and dairy produce.

In the Fisheries Sector, apart from expansion and development of inland fisheries, emphasis has been placed on development of marine fisheries, which have immense potential for foreign exchange earnings and also for domestic consumption.

We have now established an Institute of Fisheries Technology for upgrading the skills of personnel in the fishing fleet of the People's Pearl and Fisheries Corporation with the different types of fishing vessels and fishing gear and also to operate the fish-processing plants. Training for promoting the proficiency of the artisanal fisheries is essential in order to increase fish production. In the meantime, marine fisheries resources surveys have been carried out to detect and identify potential fishing grounds by hydro-acoustic survey methods. Experimental fishing was also conducted using several fishing techniques to identify the best fishing resources. However, we are still in the process of setting up a sea Fishery Survey and Research Unit which would give us the basis for planning of our fishing operations.

In the Forestry Sector, we are still endowed with natural tropical forests with great potential for foreign exchange earnings. With multilateral and bilateral assistance we are intensifying the loggings of large areas of teak and hardwood forests all over the country hand-in-hand with the undaunted effort of the implementation of plantation and reforestation. Furthermore, with a view to the overall information on our forestry resources being as accurate as possible for planning and better decision making, we are implementing a National Forest Survey and Inventory Project.

I have briefly described the various sectors of my country, and it is apparent that much investment is needed in practically all the sectors for advancement in production activities of our country's economy. It may be noted that the inflationary costs for equipment and inputs is always on the rise and as a result the production activities are reduced, and consequently retarding to some extent the progress in implementation to achieve our planned targets. On the other hand, the international prices of agricultural commodities still remains low and unstable, thereby affecting the income and living standards of the farmers in the developing countries.

International relations as a whole are exacerbated as a result of prolonged crisis in the world economy. The consequences of the disarray in the world economy is being felt in all sectors of international economic life. No country is immune from these disruptive effects.

All of this indicates that there is a complex interplay of economic forces influencing both the developed and the developing countries. Clearly the situation calls for untiring efforts to work out a basis of cooperation. Reconciling the conflicting needs and desires of the developed countries and the developing countries will also call for much tolerance and goodwill. As we see it, there is no other way. In the contemporary world, economic development has become a matter for international cooperation and this requires a meeting of minds between countries in all stages of development.

Mr Chairman, the Food and Agriculture Organization has been called upon to assume greater responsibilities year after year, and with its assistance member countries have geared their efforts towards accelerated food production. In conclusion, may I be permitted to urge all Member Nations present here today, to mobilize all our resources and work together for a new area of cooperation and sharing, that would lead to a more equitable and advanced world society.

J.L.ZAPATA (Venezuela): Señor Presidente, gracias por concederme la palabra para saludar en nombre de Venezuela a los Señores Ministros y Delegaciones de países amigos, al Señor Director General y a los Representantes de organismos y entidades participantes en esta 22ª Conferencia de la FAO.

En primer término deseo felicitarlo por su elección para presidir los destinos de esta Conferencia, al igual que a los tres Vicepresidentes. Asimismo queremos hacerle un reconocimiento al Sr. Swaminathan quien ha desempeñado en estos dos años la Presidencia Independiente del Consejo de la FAO, ejercicio durante el cual ha demostrado sus extraordinarias dotes de dirigente inteligente, persuasivo, prudente y firme.

Nos reunimos en un momento histórico lleno de grandes contradicciones. Como todos sabemos, y se ha repetido en los distintos foros internacionales, nunca antes en los últimos años fueron mayores las reservas de alimentos y quizás nunca antes hubo tanta hambre; contrasentido que clama a la justicia social internacional y testimonia al mismo tiempo el fracaso de las Instituciones Internacionales, el fracaso de las políticas nacionales, el fracaso de los hombres en esta hora aciaga.

Ahora bien, el hambre que sufren tantos pueblos es sólo una consecuencia del atraso y la ignorancia que han conducido también a las desigualdades sociales, a la dominación colonial, a la discriminación racial, al apartheid, al neocolonialismo político y económico, a la pobreza, y a la guerra.

Todos estos elementos han originado, a su vez, una falta de igualdad a la hora de establecer un diálogo entre las naciones, creando una situación de ventaja a favor de algunos países, en la cual éstos fijan las reglas del juego; y los resultados no son siempre positivos cuando se establece un diálogo entre desiguales, porque no es diálogo, sino monólogo. Estas consideraciones nos indican que ahora más que nunca y con urgencia, el problema del hambre y el desarrollo de la agricultura deben estar entre las prioridades de cada nación.

Los problemas del subdesarrollo se retardan en su solución a causa de la ignorancia de nuestros pueblos, que viven en un mundo periférico dentro de un contexto de dominación bipolar, sometidos a la interacción de fuerzas e intereses diversos, que agotan muchas veces sus escasos recursos en gastos supérfluos, en guerras intestinas-, y en otras formas de despilfarro de sus recursos humanos y económicos.

El porvenir está condicionado a que se le garantice a todos los hombres el derecho que tienen a recibir una alimentación cónsona con su dignidad, y a vivir en una sociedad más justa y feliz. A la luz de la realidad actual, que muy inteligentemente ha sido expuesta por todos los que han intervenido en este foro, debemos encontrar nuevos caminos.

Estamos persuadidos de que es fundamental la integración y la cooperación entre los países en desarrollo para su fortalecimiento, para mejorar su posición negociadora y para hacer que el diálogo con los países desarrollados sea equilibrado y llegue a ser fructífero.

Pensamos que dicha cooperación debe basarse en el más amplio aprovechamiento de los recursos y experiencias ya existentes a nivel nacional, subregional, regional y mundial.

Debemos reforzar los organismos subregionales y regionales ya creados, como por ejemplo, en el caso de América Latina, el B.I.D., el SELA con su Comité de Acción sobre Seguridad Alimentaria Regional (CASAR), recientemente creado; el Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura (IICA), el Convenio José Celestino Mutis sobre Agricultura, Seguridad Alimentaria y Conservación de Ambiente, firmado en Caracas en julio de este año e integrado por los países del Grupo Andino.

Por otra parte queremos reafirmar lo que dijo en la IX Reunión Ministerial del Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación, celebrado en junio de este año en Nueva York, la Ministro de Agricultura de Venezuela, Nydia Villegas: "que no estamos al borde del caos, que existen los caminos, allí están los recursos, contamos con el talento del recurso humano, es cuestión de que apartemos lo que nos separa y aprovechemos lo que nos une."

Para finalizar y como lo expuso el Dr. Rafael Caldera al presidir la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, celebrada en Roma en 1979, nos queda señalar que "la justicia social internacional está esperando su recepción plena e inmediata en las relaciones entre los países que integran la comunidad internacional para realizar el bien común universal."

The meeting rose at 12.45 hours

La séance est levée a 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

C

C 83/PV/12

Twenty-secondy Session
PLENARY

Vingt-deuxième session
PLENIERE

22° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

TWELFTH PLENARY MEETING
DOUZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
12ª SESION PLENARIA

(11 November 1983)

The Twelfth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.40 hours
He Kang, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La douzième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 40, sous la
présidence de He Kang, Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 12a Sesión Plenaria a las 14.40 horas, bajo la
presidencia de He Kang, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATION (continued)
- DECLARATIONS PES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)
- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

A.M.A. CARPENTER (Nigeria): We are here once again to discuss the issues surrounding the seemingly intractable problem of hunger and malnutrition that afflicts more than half of the world population and to review strategies that will eradicate them in the quickest possible time.

The next biennium which is the main focus of this Conference, coincides interestingly with the target period set by the United Nations 1974 World Food Conference, to eliminate hunger and malnutrition. No doubt the questions in the minds of many people today are: How have we fared? What are the chances of attaining the World Food Conference goal in the near future? The end of the decade is virtually with us and even with the greatest sense of optimism one has to admit that in spite of the strides made through the activities of the FAO, IFAD, the World Food Council, Development Banks, developed as well as developing countries themselves, the problem of hunger still plagues us almost as severely as it did in 1974. Indeed in some countries - particularly in my own continent of Africa - the situation has grown more desperate. This state of affairs clearly calls for a critical evaluation of our strategies, a much greater financial support by the International Community and an unwavering political will on all sides. It will not suffice for us simply to meet every two years and show the great flags of our own countries. The serious point is there, thrust into our faces and into our eyes; and I pray that this Conference will really press itself to deal with the control of the real problems.

A situation in which some nations of the world have built up enormous grain stocks while half a billion people wallow in hunger and poverty is untenable and should not be allowed to continue any longer by the international community. It is most amazing that here in Rome - the city of FAO - we see calamities relating to hunger and disease every day on the television and, as I mentioned earlier, those who suffer most are the Africans. I pray that this Conference will remember that while there are big countries which produce surplus food, there are people dying daily in Africa. To me it has a particular sentiment, a particular relation, as an African delegate from the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

From all indications we have very little time left to prevent a world catastrophe and human misery on an unprecedented scale. All nations of the world therefore must rise to meet this enormous challenge.

In my country, Nigeria, the battle against hunger is the number one preoccupation of the Government. The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Alhaji Shehu Shagari, has demonstrated this, indeed, time without number and the Federal Government has continued to reflect this great concern through a variety of well-thought-out agricultural programmes. For example, between 1979 and 1983, the level of resources devoted to the development of agriculture was increased from 6 percent to 15 percent. I wish other great world countries could emulate us. It was increased from 6 percent to 15 percent of the national capital budget. This has made it possible to increase the supply of a wide range of inputs significantly and to create additional rural infrastructures such as rural roads, agro-service centres, dams and boreholes. Concurrently improvements were also carried out in the area of marketing, storage and pricing policies. As expected, the farmers' response has been overwhelming. Thus, again I would interpose, that whatever we do, if we do not carry the peasant with us, everything that we are arranging here will be almost valueless. We must find a way of carrying the farmer with us. The result is a dramatic increase in agricultural production, making it possible for the first time for the Nigerian Grains Board to buy possible surpluses of grains from farmers. In the past the Nigerian Grains Board was hardly able to get anything to buy. Farming was subsistence but through the great programmes of the new administration under our President, Alahji Shehu Shagari, this year our problem is in fact that of storage.

Notable increases in the production of guinea corn, millet, rice, yams, fish, eggs and poultry meat were recorded, while the importation of maize and rice was drastically reduced. In this regard I would like to thank the FAO - and I hope the Director-General is listening to me - for all the assistance they gave us as far as the technological aspects of constructing silos and storage warehouses were concerned.

This dramatic boost in agricultural production has unfortunately suffered a temporary setback this year as a result of widespread droughts in Nigeria. I am sure a few words have been said about the drought in Africa. Nigeria is to some extent affected by whatever climatic conditions exist in the Sahel and we have not been free from the drought that the Sahelian regions themselves have

been crying out about, as is well known to this Conference. The situation calls for a much greater level of assistance to the African continent such as has been shown by the substantial financial assistance promised by the United States Government. We are very grateful in that respect to the Government of the United States of America, and we hope that other industrialized and developed countries will follow suit in helping our brethren, not only those affected in Nigeria but in the entire African continent. We should like to appeal to other countries to emulate this fine example and save millions who would otherwise have died from starvation. In this respect we are very grateful to the Honourable Minister from our sister country of the Philippines for his very clear statement on the plight of Africa. I think he deserves to be applauded by all African delegates at this Conference.

Another natural disaster I wish to refer to is the animal disease of rinderpest. In 1983 the livestock sector suffered great losses as a result of unprecedented outbreaks of rinderpests in Nigeria and other parts of Africa. As a result of a joint international project called Project 15, Nigeria was free from rinderpest until 1982, when a few other locations of infection were detected and promptly controlled by effective veterinary measures. However, in 1983 over 350 other locations of, the outbreak of the disease were detected all over the country and in the end we lost not less than 0.5 million head of livestock, particularly cattle, leaving thousands of herdsmen, whose livelihood depends on these animals, without a means of livelihood. In Europe they talk of unemployment, but here is a case of something curable. That in fact is throwing the backbone of our economy - the peasants and the farmers - into unemployment, thereby throwing us into the same plight with industrialized countries. This disease has now been controlled at great cost. We are grateful to the FAO for its assistance in improving vaccine production in Nigeria. The delegation of Nigeria also supports the proposal to launch a coordinated continental campaign against the disease of rinderpest. This campaign is long overdue. It is my hope that the international community will give material support to the campaign and I wish to suggest that a commission for rinderpest be established to provide the necessary guidance for the planning, implementation and monitoring of the rinderpest campaign.

I now wish to dwell on the specific issues before this Conference. My delegation has studied the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget for the 1984-85 biennium and we are quite satisfied that it is designed to attain the objectives for which the Organization is established. The greatly improved style of presentation of the Programme of Work and Budget has facilitated a thorough examination of the main features of the budget. The continued focus on Africa is very much appreciated by us.

The strategies and priorities set for 1984-85 have been found to be in consonance with our aspirations, particularly those relating to the promotion of food production, increased food security and the enhancement of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries. We endorse the Director-General's enlarged concept of food security and would use it to improve our national strategy on food production and supply.

The proposal to strengthen the research and development activities of FAO with a view to improving the research capabilities of the national institutions is most welcome, particularly in Africa.

Please allow me to say a few words on the level of the budget. We in Nigeria have examined the budget and we say with no reservation that we support it as proposed by the Director-General.

My last word is to say to this august and honourable Conference that we are very happy to congratulate the Chairman on his appointment. We in Nigeria know the value of the contribution that the United States of America is making towards the World Food Programme and world agriculture, and the amount of money it is spending in that respect. We only hope that they will continue to be liberal in that contribution.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate the Director-General, Dr Saouma, for the able way he has been able to run this complex Organization. It is very easy to criticize from outside when one has such a world body to run. I assure delegates that the headaches are more than those people outside observe. So with these few remarks, we hope that the FAO will brace itself - and that its member countries will support it - to deal with the world food situation both in terms of population and in terms of world food security.

M. J. BELGRAVE (New Zealand): Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, distinguished delegates. Firstly, on behalf of the New Zealand delegation I would like to extend to Secretary Block our warmest congratulations on his appointment as Chairman of the Twenty-second session of the FAO Conference. Could I also, Sir, extend New Zealand's congratulations to you and the other Vice-Chairmen on their election. A week ago it was New Zealand's privilege and honour on behalf of our grouping to welcome our new members. But I would like today on behalf of the New Zealand delegation specifically to join other delegations in welcoming our four new members, Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Saint Christopher and Nevis and Vanuatu, our Pacific neighbour. New Zealand looks forward to working with them in the future. Also, all of us concerned with the success of FAO's work, owe a lot to the inspiration and continuing dedication of the Director-General and his staff.

As Secretary Block said when he opened our Conference last Saturday, some forty years have gone by since the Hot Springs Conference, when a group of farsighted and committed people met to plan the establishment of a Food and Agriculture Organization. Their immediate task at that time was to help world agriculture recover from the devastation caused by war. Their longer-term aim however, which New Zealand and others supported fully, was the development of a prosperous world agriculture, an agriculture that could raise worldwide nutritional standards to meaningful levels.

Some might have believed that the achievement of this task was impossible. Few would have been aware of its full extent. Indeed, our distinguished Council Chairman, Dr Swaminathan, made reference to this historical concern about the size of the problem in relation to certain regions of the world when he spoke at a welcome for the Minister of Agriculture for India here in Rome only last Sunday.

Perhaps by the 1980s we can feel some sense of achievement regarding progress that FAO has made in some regions of the world. But, equally, New Zealand shares the feeling of deep concern expressed by many delegations already that a large proportion of the world's population continues to be inadequately fed, inadequately clothed and inadequately housed.

Indeed, certain regions, Africa in particular, still face severe problems. New Zealand supports fully FAO's emphasis on Africa to try and alleviate the particular tragedies caused by drought and animal disease which are being faced by countries in that region. Perhaps we can take a little satisfaction that areas of greatest need are being narrowed down.

In New Zealand's view one of the greatest contributions to FAO's goals has been made through the provision of technical assistance. This has been achieved directly through FAO's programme and indirectly by promoting amongst member governments an awareness of the need for technical assistance on a massive scale.

In its support of FAO New Zealand has accepted the provision of technical assistance as one of New Zealand's principal contributions to FAO activities. We believe that in the course of this aspect of FAO's work a great deal has been learned. For example, few people thirty years ago would have understood the complexity of the task of transferring agricultural development strategy to a wide range of developing countries. There have been many successes and some failures, I guess, in the programmes commenced by FAO, while the benefits from others perhaps have been slower in coming to fruition than originally planned.

We have a number of questions about programme evaluation and assessment which we have raised in more detail in Commission II. But the point I want to make is that despite increasing environmental constraints, FAO's success rate, as it were, is improving all the time. It is a fact that increasing populations in many parts of the world are being nourished.

I would like to record also that New Zealand remains a firm believer in the principle that economic agricultural development in developing countries is to be preferred to assistance which ignores a country's development objectives. We feel that to encourage growth in agriculture farmers must be able to see economic returns for their efforts; they need stable input prices, and they need a feeling of government commitment that will encourage them to invest for long-term growth and development. Certainly this approach has been confirmed by New Zealand's own experience, both in New Zealand and in other countries.

Over the years a growing proportion of New Zealand's bilateral assistance has been directed to the South Pacific. In a microcosm, the problems facing New Zealand's neighbours in this area typify those confronting the developing world. Many of our close neighbours have limited natural resources compounded by population pressures, high transport costs and difficult communications. The island nations of the region also face balance of payments difficulties, and like many other developing countries, have various obstacles placed in the way of expanding their exports.

These are some of the reasons behind New Zealand's Overseas Development Assistance Programme being concentrated in this part of the world. As an illustration, of the total amount of financial resources allocated by my country to overseas development assistance, 80 percent is disbursed on a bilateral basis, the remainder being directed into international development organizations. But 80 percent of the total bilateral component is allocated to the South Pacific island countries. The reports on the FAO Field Programmes before this Conference identify some of the factors which inhibit development on an international scale. These factors have we feel a disproportionate impact on small countries. Indeed, sometimes the absolute magnitude of the problem facing some larger continental countries can seem to overwhelm the relative significance of the developmental needs of smaller island developing countries. Development is about people and we need to ensure that the individual needs of small nations are not overshadowed by the needs of larger countries.

I would now like to focus on one or two of the other major issues which are recorded in the base documents and preparatory work for this Conference. The Report of the Committee on Commodity Problems, which was discussed at the Council last week, identified the problem of agricultural protectionism as a major inhibition to the potential success of agricultural development.

New Zealand, as a major producer and international trader of agricultural products, recognizes the deficiencies that exist in international trade in these products. We share the views of many countries here that the economic future of some members of FAO is influenced adversely by the effects of protectionist policies in relation to agricultural trade, which all too frequently exist in a number of developed countries.

New Zealand believes that structural adjustment aimed at the removal of these constraints to trade in agricultural products would not only create an improved favourable general economic climate, but would also provide a real stimulus to agricultural output in many developing countries. We believe also that the capacity to expand exports and increase agricultural development is often dependent on adequate access to markets.

Over the last thirty years there has been a great increase in the volume of world trade in agricultural products, although recently there was a reversal of this trend. The benefits of this increase in trade have been unevenly spread. Products which compete directly or indirectly, with domestic agriculture of some developed countries face a discouraging range of trade barriers.

Of course, problems arising from protectionism are compounded by the situation where debt servicing charges and the cost of essential imports to developing countries sometimes absorb all their export receipts leaving little for capital development or the improvement of national infrastructures.

In this context, the recent OECD trade study is, we think, relevant. One of the most important conclusions emerging from that exercise was, in effect, the degree of meaningful trade liberalization that could be achieved without requiring any radical changes in importing countries. In other words, a worthwhile scaling down of protection would probably have limited effects on domestic agriculture in the countries concerned. Required adjustments would be likely to produce fewer problems than anticipated. In this context New Zealand supports fully the work of the Committee on Trade and Agriculture of the GATT set up after last year's GATT ministerial meeting.

Turning to the question of development expansion, New Zealand believes that the ability of countries to cope with the increasing infrastructural and institutional burden of development varies according to the stages of development of individual countries. Something else which needs to be recognized is the profound effect that development demands place on any developing country which is small in size. There is a danger that the sort of skills needed for good husbandry and management, for example, and for associated extension and research needs can get overlooked under the constant pressure of planning and administration involved in handling assistance inputs. The establishment of a basic core of professional and technical personnel is also we feel a basic ingredient in development, an ingredient which must not be forgotten.

Before I close I would like to turn briefly to the Programme of Work and Budget for the 1984-85 biennium. New Zealand was one of the members of the Council which last week was able to recommend the Programme of Work and Budget to this Conference for adoption, including of course the Programme of Work in the Fisheries and Forestry Sectors. Indeed, we commend FAO's initiative in setting up the preparatory intensive work for the World Conference on Fisheries which is very important for our region. New Zealand said at the Council last week that we proposed at this session of the Conference to discuss in more detail a number of aspects of the Programme of Work and Budget which are of interest to my delegation. We welcome also the Director-General's initiative in the important area of food security, which is also on our Conference agenda. I think it is being discussed in Commission I today.

In conclusion, New Zealand reaffirms its strong support for FAO. We think the changes being made to the thrust of FAO's programmes are in the right direction. We feel that the increasing attention to programme evaluation by some member nations including my own is a manifestation of a healthy and searching concern for the work of our Organization. We feel that this must be in the interests of us all. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

A.M. KHALID (Yemen, People's Democratic Republic of)(original language Arabic): On behalf of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and its delegation, I am particularly happy to be able to participate in the work of this Conference, and to thank FAO, as represented by the Director-General, Edouard Saouma and his staff, for the excellent preparation for this Conference.

I should like to take this opportunity to express on my own behalf and also on behalf of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen my most fervent wishes that the work taking place at this Conference and the subsequent resolutions may help find efficacious solutions to the many complex problems that are faced by populations suffering from malnutrition and who are living under particularly difficult circumstances today.

From the very first year after the birth of our Democratic Republic our Government has methods for planning agricultural development, fisheries and integrated rural development to overcome the disastrous effects of over a hundred years of colonization. We have had to improve our productivity and the standard of living of the rural populations and make agriculture play a predominant role. We have brought all effort to bear in the agricultural and in the fisheries sector, where large resources were allocated i.e. 22 percent of the Five Year Plan's budget for investment.

The most important task carried out during the last 5 years has been to improve food production and the output of raw materials. Thus we have been able to curb food imports and also improve our industry, using local raw materials. In turn, that has made it possible for us also to increase the acreage under plough and focus more on agricultural production, stock breeding and fisheries through the use of more efficient modern techniques.

The Government has paid great attention to state farms and cooperatives, and has provided many financial facilities improve productivity in this sector. The second five-year plan, from 1981 to 1985, is still following this basic trend i.e. development; benefiting from achievements of the previous five year Plan to improve and broaden the agricultural groundwork, so to speak, to arrive at greater agricultural production and to cover the major needs of the population, not forgetting agricultural exports, of course.

All this is to be done by way of modern technology and those measures aimed at raising farmers' standards of living, increasing yield per acre and developing the cooperative agricultural system. In this five-year plan we aim at greater productivity in agriculture, which increased in value from 31 million dinars in 1980 to 47,2 million by 1985. This represents a 52,3 percent increase for the period and an annual growth rate of approximately 8,8 percent. The share of agriculture in the increase of social output was evaluated at 11,2 percent in 1980 and 10,2 for 1985. The 5 years Plan also aims to develop agricultural and animal production.

This is set within a much greater form of organization of social ownership . To reach this aim considerable investments have been allocated amounting to 60,2 million dinars i.e. 8,11 percent of total plan allocations shared out between agricultural activity and stock breeding. Our Party and our Government are mobilizing every available potential to implement the five-year plan and to achieve success in what has already been undertaken. This is being done with our sister countries and also with the help of funds and international organizations.

There have been adverse weather conditions. The enormous amount of rain that fell during the years 1981 and 1982 have had negative effects causing unusual floods covering a large part of the country, thus destroying many acres of land. This land has now become fallow whereas in the past it was highly suitable for agriculture. As a result of this, not only has the progress of our plan been adversely affected but also other difficulties have emerged. There was a need to deploy new efforts in the agrarian reform sector, which will be necessary, for many years will have to pass before we can again achieve the targets which had been attained in the past.

Since the time of the floods, the Democratic Republic of Yemen has made every effort to improve the situation with the means available and now we are trying to deal with all these problems so that the five-year plan of the future will make it possible for us to overcome the problem Here we are grateful for the aid which organizations and many countries have given us in our plight.

FAO played an important role in the implementation of fishery and agricultural products in the Democratic Republic of Yemen, for over a decade. Last year Yemen was able to benefit from the guidelines, the know-how and the expertise that were supplied, and we feel that the TCP, despite some shortcomings, will supply us with a nucleus which will enable us to put projects into effect. We are now looking for multisource funding in order to get these projects off the ground. We feel it is indispensable to broaden this programme because the spin off would be most positive in all developing countries. In our country Trust Fund projects are being implemented through FAO.

Here we should like to express our appreciation of the aid given to us by the World Food Programme. This aid enabled us to develop certain areas such as agriculture, road building, to build schools and hospitals, and to develop other sectors. We greatly appreciate the aid given by the World Food Programme to the flood victims in 1982.

Here I should like to emphasize that the development project funded by WFP in our country should be seen as symbolic of the vital aid between our country and the World Food Programme. We feel that the World Food Programme leadership in the field or at headquarters, thanks to its expertise, its know-how and all its efforts, is an important factor in the success of this project. Therefore, speaking on behalf of my country my delegation would like to launch an appeal to all donor countries intending to provide further aid to increase their support for WFP activities, so that it may fulfil its humanitarian task in bringing to an end poverty throughout the world.

We must also welcome the Director-General's initiatives made in the area of food security programme. I would like to seize this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to FAO leadership, namely the Director-General, Dr Edouard Saouma, who persistently directs FAO's activities towards increased and more efficient aid to developing countries, so that development may become a reality.

J. SCHWARZ (Czechoslovakia): Mr Chairman, every General Conference evaluates the past two-year period and imposes tasks for the years to come. This Conference is held in an aggravated international political climate and the discussions of all member delegations reflect the complicated economic situation in the world. The world farming and food production sector is one of the most stricken.

We fully share the concerns expressed in the Director-General's statement and support all the priority targets of this Organization for the next biennium and in the medium term as set out in the documents to be discussed by the Commissions and the Plenary Session. We believe that the main general target should be to achieve, by all means and international cooperation, the increase of food production in developing countries at the level needed for the Third Development Decade, as planned by the optimal scenario of the FAO document "Agriculture: Toward 2000".

My delegation appreciates and fully supports the efforts and practical approaches of FAO in solving the problems of world agriculture. We believe that the priority orientation of our Organization's activities in favour of developing countries is fully justified and, at the same time, we agree with the intensification of development assistance mainly in Africa. We stress again the importance of further involvement and, particularly, implementation of the conclusions of the United Nations World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. I would like to lay special emphasis on the need for structural changes in agriculture and for solving the acute socio-economic problems in many member countries.

As we have stressed several times at previous sessions, we see the main causes of world agriculture not being able to reach the required level and an adequate position within the economies of some countries in the fact that these acute problems are not solved or that the approaches to them are inconsistent or hesitant. Such requirements were clearly stated at the World Food Conference and today, after nearly ten years, we have to admit that many conclusions of this important conference still remain a mere postulate.

We support, in particular, FAO's work on most urgent projects such as the minimization of harvest and post-harvest losses, use of high-yielding variety seeds, systems of plant nutrition, prevention of animal diseases and others. We are glad to state that besides the technical aspects, emphasis is laid on the human factor.

Not only the Director-General of FAO but also the heads of other agencies and the United Nations bodies have emphasized that training and education at all levels are and remain the most important contribution to development. We regret that the training possibilities in my country for FAO are not fully used despite the fact that we have, for instance, the oldest veterinary university with very extensive studies in tropical veterinary medicine, high-level forest tropical research institutions and many others. Together with other countries we have several times suggested, proposed and insisted that at least a part of our voluntary contribution to the UNDP programmes should be used by agencies for professional training. I would reiterate that Czechoslovakia is ready to contribute to the activity of the Organization in the field of training and education, exchange of information and experience. We have gained ample experience with the organization of training seminars and I believe that a number of specialists, mainly from developing countries, have had the chance in practice to see the quality of the training events in Czechoslovakia.

I would like, Mr Chairman, to add some remarks on FAO's plan of work in the European region. Here the dominant role is played by the Cooperative Research Programme of European countries, involving more than 350 scientific institutions. These efforts are highly helpful and beneficial and we consider such cooperation as effective. At present, Czechoslovakia is involved in four joint tasks and for the future we intend to extend our participation in this Programme.

I would like to mention with appreciation two other cooperative programmes of our Organization, jointly involving also the United Nations Development Programme. What I have in mind are the new and renewable sources of energy in agriculture and the exchange and conservation of crop genetic sources. Czechoslovakia has recently participated in both these programmes and is developing its activity on these subjects. As to the energy programme, we apply our experience of large agricultural enterprises within integrated energy systems of central Europe. In our opinion, within the genetic programme it will be important to unify the methodologies and to take other measures. At present we are preparing to build a genebank in Czechoslovakia, in continuity with the establishment of the International Genebank. One of our highly qualified experts has recently taken part in an expert mission on research and development of crop production in selected countries of western Africa.

We support the thesis of FAO that science and technology should be one of the highest priorities of this Organization. Through cooperation and research and transfer of technology to developing countries, the Member Nations will strengthen their confidence and thus help to strengthen the peaceful relations and economic cooperation among countries with different social and economic systems. At this point I would like to refer to Resolution 6/77 of the FAO Conference held in 1977 which confirmed the interest of all member countries in using European cooperation as a means for transferring additional technical and scientific assistance to other regions. We hope and support the idea that the next Fourteenth FAO Regional Conference for Europe will have the theme of "Science and technology as an instrument of agricultural policy and rural development" as the main topic. We would like to invite FAO to think about the possibility of proposing one important topic for the networks of the European Cooperative system of hundreds of scientific institutions - a topic which would be a priority interest, some difficult research tasks, the solution of which would represent a valuable scientific contribution to development. I think that other delegations of European countries would agree with me on this idea.

My Government is fully satisfied with the cooperative programmes organized by the Regional Office for Europe in the European region and appreciates very much the spirit of close cooperation, as well as the services of the Joint ECE/FAO Agriculture and Timber Division in Geneva. We cannot share the hesitation of some delegations expressed in Commission II as far as the work of the Regional Office is concerned. On the contrary, we think that regional cooperation, not only in the European region but in all FAO regions, should be much more strengthened, stimulated and improved.

I would also like to make some remarks on the proposed budget for the 1984-1985 period. We are aware that the Director-General was in a difficult situation when preparing the budget, mainly with respect to the growth of its material part, i.e. provision of the technical and economic activities as such, in relation with the increase of costs owing to inflation. We welcome and support the Director-General's action aimed at rationalization and economy and we assume that these efforts will be continued. Of course, the budget as well as the Czechoslovak contribution to the Organization will increase. I should like to emphasize that my country considers our basic FAO membership fee as our actual contribution (which is by no means small) to the material part of the budget, intended to be used within the efforts of the Food and Agriculture Organization in its struggle against starvation, malnutrition and poverty in a number of developing countries.

Now let me inform the Conference at least briefly on the results of Czechoslovak agriculture in the last period.

Despite some problems we can consider the year 1982 and the results obtained this year as, in general, another step forward of the agriculture-food-industry complex in fulfilling the imposed strategic task - to achieve gradually self-sufficiency in grain production and to continue in increasing overall self-sufficiency in food; this is fully in keeping with the objectives of the Food and Agriculture Organization. Emphasis has been laid on the resumption of proportional development of crop and animal production, priority being given to the development of cattle breeding with a thorough implementation of scientific and technological progress.

In 1982, as in 1981, the climatic conditions for agricultural production in Czechoslovakia were not favourable; nevertheless, gross output increased by 1.1 percent. The output of cereals increased by 9.3 percent.

The climatic conditions have also not been favourable this year, with its prolonged high temperatures and lack of rain. Drought affected most severely the crops with a longer growing season; on the other hand, the shorter vegetation crops had a comparatively good yield. This year the total output of cereals including maize in Czechoslovakia is expected to be higher than 11 million tons, the average per-hectare yield being 4.35 tons which is the highest yield-level ever achieved in our country.

Considering our results we have to bear in mind that, while keeping the trend of intensification of agricultural production and thorough utilization of all internal resources, we have had to reduce the rates of further inputs in agriculture, mainly fuel, concentrate feeds and commercial fertilizers. An improved system of planned management has been in use in our agriculture for two years. This system is a set of interconnected measures based on an analysis of long-term development of our agriculture.

In conclusion, I would like to confirm the full support of the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic to the noble and humane policy and practical work of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

Despite all the serious problems we are fully convinced that mankind has plenty of good will and every possibility to remove, at national, regional and global levels, those phenomena in the nutrition of the human race which were referred to as the shame of our century at the World Food Conference in 1974.

Socialist Czechoslovakia is fully devoted to the ideas of broad international cooperation which can be pursued only under conditions of peaceful co-existence, alleviation of international tension, and reduction of the arms race. This was also the spirit that dominated this year's World Food Day celebrations in my country.

On this occasion I would like to stress the world-wide importance of the continuous peaceful efforts of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and all socialist countries, including Czechoslovakia, based, among other things, on the idea that it is only in peace that sufficient bread can be produced. Thus peace in the world is one of the basic prerequisites for a broad international cooperation. Czechoslovakia is always ready to take on and carry an adequate share of these efforts.

G.N. GOLUBEV (United Nations Environment Programme): It is my privilege and great pleasure to address the Twenty-second session of the FAO Conference on behalf of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and to convey to you all his best wishes for a successful meeting. In bringing his best wishes, I would like to assure you how much Dr Tolba regrets being unable to be here personally not only to participate in this important conference, but also to renew his pledge to this meeting and to his colleague and friend Dr Saouma for continued cooperation between FAO and UNEP in a number of areas, some of which I shall mention during the course of this statement. Suffice to say at this early stage that since the inception of UNEP at Stockholm just over a decade ago, relations with FAO have grown stronger year after year and we have continuously developed a common understanding on different issues which is firmly established in our joint Memorandum of Understanding. As UNEP enters its second decade of existence, we can only anticipate this co-operation further in the coming years as both organizations strive to serve member countries.

The 1983 Conference takes place at a time when the world food situation continues to deteriorate.

Many guesses exist of what the situation regarding the world population and food and fibre supply will be like by the year 2000.

According to the International Development Strategy a standard of nutrition necessary to ensure a firm basis for valuable economic and industrial growth in the developing world would only be achieved through an expansion of agricultural production at an average of at least four percent during the third development decade. Seen against the background of increasing erosion, deforestation, desertification and other truly menacing problems that face mankind today, a growth rate of four percent might even appear optimistic. What is certain, however, is the fact that in trying to meet these requirements for food as for other basic human needs such as fibre, the fundamental question of sustaining the resource base, the ecological base, in other words the environment from which those needs must indeed be met, will have to be posed more often in the future than has been the case up till now. It therefore follows that efforts to increase production on a sustained basis must in future also take into account the complementarity of environment and development.

During the eleven years of its existence, UNEP has endeavoured to play a positive role alongside the other organizations of the United Nations system. I will, with your permission, cite a few areas of concern, interest or achievement common to FAO and UNEP and describe how both organizations have together approached them for solutions, and how cooperation can be strengthened in order to ensure that conservation and protection of the world's living resources - plants, animals, soil, water, forests, genetic resources - are provided.

UNEP maintains that in all avenues through which environmentally sound management of the natural resources is to be achieved, enlightened conservation policies are the cornerstone, the key strategy. Conservation is, in this connection, to be seen as a dynamic process through which the use and management of man's existing and potential natural heritage including its insurance against exhaustion or depletion is assured. As such it needs not to be justified before action is taken. I am happy to report that the World Conservation Strategy, the result of five years of hard work by UNEP, IUCN and WWF in association with FAO and Unesco, which lays down inter alia the principal requirements for the achievement of conservation objectives and sets up ways for meeting the requirements, has been well received. Since the World Conservation Strategy was launched in 1980, some 31 countries have begun work on their own national conservation strategies. It is only through assistance to national governments in translating the principles of World Conservation Strategy into positive development that we of UNEP can see a meaningful follow-up to the Strategy.

As we all know, breeding programmes necessary for the protection and improvement of domesticated animals and cultivated plants depend on the preservation of genetic diversity. The accessibility to stored plant genetic resources and the issue of the earth's seeds as an economic resource are important problems for the future conservation and indeed agriculture if developing countries are not to be seriously affected by lack of genetic diversity in their food supply base. In this connection we share the sentiments of a majority number of countries which seek a legal instrument that would assure unrestricted access to stored genetic materials. We believe that the basis for this agreement exists in the document which has been laid before you by the Secretariat to respond to the views so clearly illustrated in various international fora particularly during 1983, in response to the requirements of Conference Resolution 6/81 on the preparation of a draft international convention, that conserved plant genetic resources are made available for the benefit of all human beings. Our work on the World Soils Policy as a central part of the World Conservation Strategy continues. By early 1984, it is expected that guidelines for the control of soil degradation currently being prepared by FAO and UNEP will have been available to governments. We have appreciated the co-operation and support we have received not only from FAO but also from Unesco, the International Soil Science Society and the international community of soil scientists in this important area of our activities. When fully implemented, the World Soil Policy will give practical meaning to the principles of the World Soils Charter which this Conference adopted at its Twenty-first session. We expect policy guidance from the Conference in order to guide future initiative on the matter on which UNEP is deeply interested.

Let me now turn to forests. Although environmental problems are associated with the utilization and/or exploitation of forest land in all areas of the world, the most pressing problems appear to be associated with tropical lands. In recognition of this fact, UNEP, FAO and Unesco' are cooperating very closely to improve the development, management and conservation of tropical forests. Our basic objective is to develop ecologically-sound management schemes which will provide tropical forest nations with the social and economic benefits of forest resources exploitation. In this respect I express the appreciation of the Executive Director of UNEP to your Director-General acceding to the request of our Governing Council to broaden the mandate of your Committee on Forest Development in the Tropics to assume a greater role in coordinating all aspects related to international tropical forest activities.

The problem of desertification is a serious threat to the welfare of mankind, yet the efforts to combat desertification at the international level have dragged on at a painfully slow rate, mainly because when the solutions specific to desertification have been developed especially in the context of the Consultative Group to Combat Desertification and UNSO, matching financial support to implement these solutions has not always been realized; therefore it can only be hoped that sufficient donor support will be made available by those in a position to provide it as national governments affected by desertification individually and in unison continue to prepare themselves to assume the responsibility of safeguarding agricultural land from encroachment. The important role of FAO in the Inter-Agency Working Group on Desertification as a technical backstopping to our efforts to combat desertification is much appreciated.

With your permission, Mr Chairman, I would like to turn to the all-important question of pesticides.

Pests and disease vectors continue to cause significant losses to crops and livestock worldwide with the ensuing result that a tendency has now grown whereby control is sought through continued and even increased use of pesticides. Through the process of natural selection and evolution, new strains of pests and vectors which generally turn out to be more vicious and more immune to chemicals have appeared and proliferated. At the same time the impact of effects on the environment as a result of pesticides falling on non-targets has increased thus creating totally unnecessary ecological hazards. These and other reasons have led FAO and UNEP to realize the need to promote the development and application of effective new methods of integrated pest management as an ecological approach to pest control. Integrated pest management does not preclude the use of pesticides, rather it encourages simultaneous utilization of all compatible methods including chemical ones in a single management system.

Recent estimates have indicated that a steady increase of 4.5 percent a year in the world-wide use of pesticides will occur in spite of these and planned efforts to intensify the promotion of the integrated pest control concept around the world. It therefore follows that something more needs to be done, must be done, if the flow of pesticides and their increased applications with their familiar implications are to be checked. It is with this in mind that UNEP would like to express its support in principle for the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides currently being prepared by FAO in collaboration with WHO, UNIDO, UNEP and others. A code of conduct for pesticides, the adoption of which is voluntary by nature, must however be strong and should indeed appear to create a pathway for something like an international convention on the distribution and use of pesticides. Finally, on this topic, we would like to mention the work of the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals and the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS) in the field of preparation and dissemination of health risk evaluations of chemicals including pesticides and stress the need to encourage FAO to associate itself more closely with IPCS, the former in its own field of competence.

With respect to marine living resources our joint activities have concentrated on the development of a global plan of action for the Conservation of Marine Mammals.

The FAO initiative to convene a World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development has also drawn the interest of UNEP. This conference will stress the importance of self-reliance of developing countries of proper management of their fisheries resources in economic exclusive zones, a policy supported by UNEP which mandate it is to promote environmentally sound development.

Mr Chairman, FAO and UNEP have co-operated well within the framework of the Regional Seas Programme and currently a number of activities are underway, essentially aimed at improving the knowledge and research on the levels and biological effects of pollutants in the protection of the living aquatic resources in the marine environment as well as produce the information necessary for scientifically justified intervention against pollution. We are also aware, that FAO has formulated a global programme for the development and management of fisheries within the economic exclusive zones. We would like to urge that during the development and implementation of this programme, introduction of aspects of environmental management are taken into consideration and that the effects on marine communities of environmental deterioration are carefully analysed.

I began by saying how much co-operation between FAO and UNEP has grown in recent years. Let me finish on the same note. One of the most worthy forms of co-operation has been the development of the UNEP System-wide Medium-Term Environment Programme - SWMTEP which culminated in a closely negotiated package of programmes with a six-year span, 1984-1989. Following the conclusion of this event, UNEP, along with her sister organizations then embarked on the preparation of a programme with budgetary detail for the first of the three biennia of SWMTEP. I am pleased to acknowledge once again the considerable contribution of FAO in the preparation of SWMTEP as well as the UNEP programme for 1984-1985.

We also cherish the fact that FAO has always participated at the highest level and contributed technically and scientifically in both the DOEM discussions and during thematic joint programming exercises to which Rome has been host to many - this enabling us to benefit from a wide range of expertise available at its headquarters. We hope we can continue to count on the full support and understanding of FAO not only in the programming process, but in the implementation of the UNEP programme.

P.A. BLANDON (Nicaragua): Sr. Presidente, Señor Director General, Señores delegados y observadores, señoras y señores, constituye un doble honor para nuestra delegación traer a esta XXII Conferencia de la FAO un saludo fraterno del pueblo y Gobierno de Nicaragua, y a la vez comunicar los logros y esfuerzos de la Revolución Popular Sandinista en el marco de la agricultura y la alimentación, dentro de las limitaciones económicas impuestas desde afuera por las barreras incomprensibles de quienes utilizan medidas de carácter coercitivo contra países en desarrollo.

Queremos testimoniar a través de un breve, pero significativo balance, lo que significa el peso de la agresión que actualmente vivimos, y cómo repercute en los programas de producción primaria y desarrollo agroalimentario que nuestro Gobierno de Reconstrucción Nacional ha definido para el corto y mediano plazo.

Como ustedes recordarán, recibimos un país en la completa bancarrota, saqueado y semidestruido en su infraestructura productiva, con apenas tres millones de dólares en las arcas del Banco Central. El Gobierno Revolucionario se propuso un plan de reactivación económica y un programa de despegue hacia un modelo que quebrara las estructuras de opresión y dependencia del pasado. Teníamos que reconstruir la economía, cuya base principal es la agricultura, y nos propusimos hacerlo cuando se vislumbraba una acelerada recesión económica en un mundo convulsionado por las grandes diferencias entre los países ricos y los países pobres.

Afortunadamente, contamos con el esfuerzo heroico de nuestro pueblo, y con la solidaridad de organismos internacionales y de países amigos de la región y del resto del mundo.

A pesar de que tempranamente se iniciaron los bloqueos de muchos préstamos de la banca multilateral y se nos cortaron financiamientos bilaterales convenidos para el financiamiento de trigo, pudimos tener un período agrícola de relativa normalidad en 1981/82, incrementando sustancialmente la producción de arroz, frijoles, sorgo, algodón, café y caña de azúcar, gracias a la capacidad innovadora y a la iniciativa de nuestros campesinos y técnicos.

En 1982, fuimos azotados por desastres naturales que significaron pérdidas para nuestra agricultura y ganadería en el orden de los 70 millones de dólares, según un estimado de la Comisión Económica para América Latina (CEPAL). De acuerdo con un informe oficial de la FAO, nuestras pérdidas en alimentos significaron unos 30 millones de dólares.

A lo anterior agregamos la escalada guerrillera de grupos contrarrevolucionarios, agrediéndonos desde países vecinos, y apoyados ampliamente por la administración del país económicamente más poderoso del mundo, dentro de la así llamada "ayuda para acciones encubiertas en Nicaragua", todo lo cual ha creado un "conflicto artificial" entre los países de la región. El balance en Nicaragua de esta aventura filibustera en términos de pérdidas materiales, en infraestructura agropecuaria, social y de servicios es del orden de los 300 millones de dólares.

Debemos mencionar especialmente las pérdidas en vidas humanas, de campesinos, obreros agrícolas, técnicos extensionistas, agrónomos, maestros populares, médicos, entre los que podemos destacar técnicos voluntarios de Francia y de Alemania Federal.

Todo lo referido en el anterior balance, aunque altamente preocupante, no nos amedrenta, porque estamos preparados para hacerle frente; sin embargo, atrasa seriamente el programa de reconstrucción nacional, y desvirtúa el concepto de coexistencia pacífica y de seguridad para la región centroamericana, donde Nicaragua ha demostrado con hechos concretos nuestra voluntad de paz y convivencia, al ratificar los objetivos del Grupo de Contadora para alcanzar la paz en Centroamérica. Hacemos eco en esta Conferencia al pronunciamiento de nuestro Canciller ante la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas durante la presente semana, que culminó con el señalamiento que Nicaragua no desea ser considerada como enemigo de nadie, y que se propicie de inmediato una salida política a la crisis centroamericana que dé seguridad a nuestros países.

Estamos plenamente de acuerdo con los principios de que se eliminen barreras políticas y económicas que permitan una mayor solidaridad internacional, poniendo como base el respeto a la soberanía y a la autodeterminación de los pueblos, de tal manera que respaldemos la solidaridad entre los países dentro de un Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional.

La búsqueda de una auténtica seguridad alimentaria mundial no puede encontrarse sin que sean corregidas las injustas y prevalecientes relaciones económicas. No existen bases para que la mesa del hombre rico resuelva los problemas del hambriento pobre. Es necesario por lo tanto actualizar algunos de los conceptos definidos en la Conferencia de Hot Springs, de 1943, en el sentido de que debe existir una acción coordinada entre los países para resolver el problema del hambre en el mundo. Esto nos lleva necesariamente a realizar un enfoque global del desarrollo agrícola y rural, tal como lo ha propuesto el Director General de la FAO, portándonos a reiterar nuestro voto para que esta Conferencia apruebe la nueva concepción de seguridad alimentaria.

Sin embargo, es difícil para nuestra delegación adelantar si los objetivos y propuestas del nuevo concepto de seguridad alimentaria, traerán también como resultado inmediato paz y seguridad para nuestra región y para el resto del mundo; pero bien vale la pena el esfuerzo en comprometerse al cumplimiento de esas medidas, porque definitivamente favorecen a nuestros pueblos. La comunidad internacional y esta Conferencia en particular deben demostrar un genuino interés en que el concepto de la paz no quede aislado del concepto de la seguridad alimentaria.

Nicaragua considera que la Seguridad Alimentaria Regional es una meta alcanzable. La vemos con optimismo, pero si nos dejan producir en paz y desarrollar el potencial productivo de nuestros recursos naturales.

Consecuentemente, hacemos un llamado a la comunidad internacional y financiera a fortalecer los programas agrícolas regionales, en base al esfuerzo interno de nuestros países, apoyados en sus pueblos y en estructuras económicas y sociales que deben ser justas.

Dentro del contexto de las acciones regionales, tenemos un excelente despegue al conformarse el Comité de Acción para la Seguridad Alimentaria Regional (CASAR), dentro del marco del Sistema Económico Latinoamericano. Hace dos años nuestra delegación mencionó, en la XXI Conferencia de la FAO, la necesidad urgente de crear un organismo regional alrededor del cual los países de América Latina y el Caribe aunaran esfuerzos para lograr su seguridad alimentaria. Hoy en día, estamos satisfechos de participar activamente en este Comité, y mencionaremos su importancia, y gestionaremos su apoyo en la Reunión del Grupo de los 77 sobre Cooperación Económica entre los Países en Desarrollo en el Campo de la Agricultura y la Alimentación, que se realizará en Bucarest próximamente.

Latinoamérica debe asumir con toda responsabilidad la solución del problema alimentario. De otra manera, vislumbramos una América Latina que, despojada de su capacidad de ser autosuficiente, y después de haber sido privada, y además saqueada, de sus materias primas y recursos naturales, tenderá inevitablemente a convertirse, según el caso, en un nuevo territorio de seres hambrientos, que para sobrevivir tendrá que dedicarse dramáticamente a extraer su petróleo, o a vender su tabaco, o su café, y aun vender sus bosques, hasta su previsible destrucción.

Dentro del contexto centroamericano, es importante mencionar que hemos asistido en el mes de septiembre, en Bruselas, a una reunión patrocinada por el Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo con la comunidad financiera internacional, para proponer una estrategia de ayuda financiera adicional a la Región Centroamericana, independientemente de la cooperación bilateral con cada país, que sin discriminaciones de ninguna especie se solidarice con los esfuerzos económicos de nuestra región. En este sentido, Nicaragua propondrá dentro del marco de una reunión de Ministros de Agricultura de Centroamérica, Panamá y República Dominicana, a llevarse a cabo en el próximo mes de diciembre, en Tegucigalpa, un Anteproyecto de Seguridad Alimentaria Subregional para los países centroamericanos que, una vez aprobado, esperamos pueda gozar del financiamiento internacional.

A nivel nacional, la estructura económica heredada no nos ha permitido generar los niveles adecuados de producción y productividad, derivada también de una subutilización de nuestras tierras y del bajo nivel tecnológico aplicado en la mayor parte de los procesos productivos, con algunas excepciones en nuestros productos de agroexportación.

Los mecanismos que hemos considerado promover para aplicar la estrategia de desarrollo agropecuario se resumen así: profundizar la reforma agraria, combinando paralelamente la aplicación de nuestra cultura agrícola campesina, con el desarrollo tecnológico de nuestras principales actividades productivas; dinamizar el uso de la infraestructura económica y servicios existentes, utilizando racionalmente nuestros recursos naturales y fuerza de trabajo; desarrollar acciones que tiendan a la autosuficiencia energética; fortalecer y ampliar la investigación aplicada a la producción, al igual que los programas de capacitación técnica.

En resumen, nuestra estrategia de desarrollo agropecuario se propone alcanzar la seguridad alimentaria y la maximización de la generación de divisas a través de un conjunto integrado de metas productivas formuladas para los períodos 1984-1990 y 1991-2000.

Para satisfacer las necesidades alimentarias, será necesaria la coexistencia de varios niveles tecnológicos para cada uno de los cultivos básicos, en la perspectiva de una transición tecnológica gradual, que sin violentar los patrones de producción tradicional, los oriente hacia formas superiores de desarrollo tecnológico de acuerdo a las características particulares de cada cultivo y su zonificación agroecológica.

Dentro de las acciones presentadas a consideración de la Conferencia por el Director General, nuestra delegación apoya el programa de labores y presupuestos de la FAO para el próximo bienio, aunque reconocemos que el insignificante aumento presupuestario no permitirá estar a la altura de las necesidades reales de los países en vías de desarrollo, por lo cual esperamos que los países receptores demos prioridad a proyectos con el objeto de multiplicar el alcance de los programas de cooperación técnica, y lograr así una mejor redistribución de esa cooperación.

Nuestra delegación también apoya el proyecto de resolución presentado por el Director General sobre recursos fitogenéticos, porque se trata de preservar para la humanidad entera lo que es un patrimonio de ella misma.

No queremos pasar por alto nuestra insistente y constante réplica en diferentes foros internacionales acerca de la condena que todos los países conscientes debemos hacer sobre el uso de los alimentos como arma de presión política. Nicaragua es una víctima de ello; esperamos la solidaridad del mundo y nos solidarizamos además con otras víctimas de semejante injusticia.

Por último, deseamos felicitar a los nuevos Miembros de esta Organización y quisiéramos que este foro reflexionara sobre lo mencionado por nuestra delegación durante la XXI Conferencia de la FAO, cuando nos hacíamos estas preguntas, que hoy cobran mayor actualidad: ¿Es posible o no sin la agresión extranjera o la amenaza de una invasión, luchar contra todos los males que se predicen en todos los foros de las Naciones Unidas? ¿Es posible o no para un país soberano luchar por resolver sus propios problemas sin la amenaza de ser destruido por una nación extraña?

La comunidad internacional no debe, ni puede, conformarse con repudiar los hechos consumados que detesta y aborrece la humanidad, sino tratar exhaustivamente de impedir tales hechos señalando honesta y valientemente los medios pacíficos y la aplicación de los mismos, para evitar el desencadenamiento de un conflicto abierto que termine con todas las esperanzas de paz y se infrinja la soberanía de los pueblos, como sucedió con el noble pueblo de Granada.

A.G. LAKANWAL (Afghanistan): Mr Chairman, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen: It is a matter of great privilege for me to have this opportunity to address the Twenty-second session of the FAO Conference. On behalf of the Afghan delegation let me congratulate the Chairman and the other members of the bureau on their election. We are confident that under their able guidance and the active participation of the distinguished delegates the Conference will achieve its objectives and find proper solutions to the problems of food and agriculture throughout the world.

In the name of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan I wish to associate my delegation with the spirit and content of the Director-General's speech of 11 November as delivered to the FAO Conference. My delegation wishes to express its full support for his valuable and constructive statement. In his speech the Director-General explained with clarity the present situation of food and agriculture in the world, and especially in the developing world, the forecasts, strategies, and policies which are needed to overcome the prevailing constraints of the problems of food and agriculture on a global scale.

My delegation is convinced that by the eradication of the constraints and other social and economic factors, the problem of hunger, poverty and malnutrition will disappear from the nations of this globe and the people of the world will achieve the prosperity that they are fully entitled to.

I wish to stress the point that food is the first element of human survival. The people of the world possess the right to adequate and healthy food. Based on the social and economic structure of the developing countries, including my country, the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, agriculture plays a major role in the development of their national economies.

Because of the prevailing relationship in the structure of agricultural production in developing countries there are difficulties in the transition from traditional to modern agriculture, including the use of mechanization, for raising productivity. Such difficulties keep the productivity per unit of land low and thereby reduce the total volume of production.

The food and agricultural situation in the developing countries will improve substantially if first the agricultural policies of the developed countries could be modified so as not to limit food and agriculture production and, secondly those countries would reduce the level of expenditure on armaments and therefore release the savings for assistance in the developing countries.

In order for the developing countries to achieve self-reliance in the production of food and agricultural commodities and to realize their resources fruitfully and economically, the importance of assistance from FAO and other international organizations is most crucial. My country has initiated major policies and programmes for increasing the production and productivity of the agricultural sector.

Before the victory of the National and Democratic April Revolution, Afghanistan was a backward country with feudalistic relations which hindered the social and economic development and prevented the increase in agricultural production. Now, we are happy that the People's Democratic Party and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, among their other targets for the economic and social development, have formulated and implemented agricultural development targets, such as implementation of democratic land reform for the benefit of the peasants, establishment of agricultural cooperatives and mechanized stations, improved seeds and fertilizers companies, provided veterinary services, and credit facilities with easy terms. Thus, the level of the food and agricultural production in the country has increased considerably during this year as compared to last year.

About 85 percent of the population is engaged either directly or indirectly in the agricultural and livestock sectors. The gross domestic product from agriculture, livestock and forestry was 62.6 percent of gross national product and the share of this sector to the national income was 67 percent last year.

Due to favourable climatic conditions, as well as the hard work of the farmers under the wise guidance of the People's Democratic Party and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, especially after the evolutionary phase of the April Revolution, the overall production of food and agriculture is considered normal and satisfactory. The total production of cereals is 4 598 000 tons this year, of which wheat alone is 2 927 000 tons. These figures indicate an increase of 0.9 percent and 1.1 percent respectively over the targets of this year, and an increase of 2 percent and 2.3 percent over that of last year. Production of other crops, vegetables, fruits, also showed considerable increase this year as compared to the target, as well as to that of last year.

In the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, 1.9 million hectares are forests and this forms a meagre 3 percent of the land area of the country. Besides forest area, nearly 30 million hectares are range lands. Livestock production is one of the most important elements in the economy of the country, but due to some mishandling and mismanagement the environment is suffering and the forests, pastures and watersheds are not exploited properly. Livestock depends entirely on natural pastures. The use of crop residues, harvested forage and processing of by-products is negligible and concentrates are seldom fed sheep and cattle. The forests, watersheds and pastures of the country have been over-grazed for centuries. We are aware of the problem of soil erosion and desertification, and we are very keen for adoption of meaningful measures to fight the inimical factors. Thus, we are facing firewood scarcity, degraded range lands, soil erosion and depleted wild life resources.

To improve the situation, it is necessary to have a comprehensive development programme comprising forests, farm lands, range related to forestry such as reforestation, watershed management, restoration of range lands, development of agro-forestry, prevention of desertification, soil conservation, wildlife and national parks management. We realize that it is a gigantic task and needs considerable trained manpower and expertise. To tackle the above problems, we have proposed a revision to the existing FAO/UNDP project, and I stress that in addition to the new element proposed, the objectives, activities, and inputs of the revised project will be implemented.

In the past, we had the benefit of the World Food Programme in our development programmes. This aid was very useful and a great incentive to our workers. The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is one of the least developed countries and would, therefore, request this august body to start the WFP donations once again. My delegation promises that it will be our endeavour to make use of the WFP aid in a very objective and useful manner.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan greatly appreciates all the assistance we have received from friendly countries such as the Soviet Union, and the international organizations such as the UNDP and the FAO, which have taken an active part in the economic development of the country. We hope such assistance is continued for the ongoing projects and would be pleased if the pipeline projects are approved and financed for the future. The assistance needed for the agricultural development is felt in the fields of training local technicians, advisory services, and supply of equipment and materials. The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has been and still will be a loyal and active member of the FAO and the United Nations. The resolutions and the decisions of the FAO and the United Nations have always been honoured by my country and are put into action.

It is worth mentioning that the friendly assistance of the Soviet Union to the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan to strengthen the infrastructure, especially to develop the agricultural and livestock sectors, plays a very important role in increasing the agricultural and livestock productions.

The World Food Day was celebrated all over the country on October 17 instead of October 16, which coincided with a religious holiday, with somewhat similar functions and activities as that of last year. Among the activities on the occasion of that day as well as the programmes in advance, were the radio-T.V. messages from high ranking people, issue of essays through the mass media, issue of special stamps, film shows, which helped the public to know the importance of food, its production, distribution and proper consumption.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan had already requested the establishment of an FAO independent office in the country. On behalf of the Government, my delegation would like to extend sincere thanks to the Director-General of FAO that our proposal was accepted and that the FAO independent office will be established in the country soon.

In the Eighty-fourth session of the Council the delegation of Afghanistan announced its support of the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget 1984-85. Once again I wish to reiterate that his proposed Programme of Work and Budget is well prepared and it will play a major role in the improvement of agriculture throughout the world.

Finally, my delegation is very pleased to attend this Conference and, in the meanwhile, to exchange the views and goodwill of our people and Government with the delegations of other FAO member countries. We love peace and friendship and wish to have peace, food, security and stability all over the world. We hope that the deliberations of the Conference and the implementation of our decisions will result in achieving greater agricultural development which would ensure a higher standard of living for the people.

Javier Gazzo Fernández-Dávila, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, took the chair.

Javier Gazzo Fernández-Dávila, Vice-President de la Conferencia, assume la présidence.

Javier Gazzo Fernández-Dávila, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia, ocupa la presidencia.

S.J, REGENVANU (Vanuatu): My delegation associates itself fully with the congratulatory remarks made by previous speakers to the Chairman and the three Vice-Chairmen on their election to preside over this Conference.

At the outset I would like to acknowledge with thanks the kind words of welcome which Vanuatu has received from many delegates in this Conference following our admission into the Food and Agriculture Organization.

We are proud to have become members of the FAO which has done so much, and which is doing so much to assist many countries like my own in the development and conservation of their agriculture, forestry and fisheries resources.

Indeed, I would like to express my country's gratitude for the generous assistance in the formulation and implementation of our development programmes which we have already received from FAO and also from several of the other multilateral and bilateral aid agencies represented here today.

It is our earnest wish to take part fully in the deliberations of this and all future FAO Conferences.

I would firstly like to make a few general points before focussing in particular upon the food and agriculture situation in my own country.

I noted that the Director-General in his address to the Conference and many of the delegates who have spoken during the past few days have referred to the rapidly increasing expenditure on weapons of destruction by both developed and developing countries. This is indeed a sad feature of the times in which we are living and is a terrible legacy to bequeath to our children. I would like to echo the pleas of the earlier speakers for an immediate reduction in the level of such expenditure and for a reallocation of the resources thus released to the fight for the elimination of world poverty and hunger. Indeed, my country has since independence consistently urged worldwide disarmament and more specifically Vanuatu has been in the forefront of the campaign for a "nuclear-free Pacific". We urge other countries to support us in this cause.

Secondly, whilst not wishing to play down the seriousness of the food production difficulties presently being experienced by the Sahelian and Southern African States which is causing considerable suffering amongst their rural communities, I would nevertheless urge the Conference in its discussions not to lose sight of the problems which are peculiar to the small-island developing countries and to recognize our continuing development needs. We too require our fair share of the technical and financial resources of the FAO and other agencies. We would not wish to see aid donors reducing the levels of such assistance which they have earmarked for the small-island developing states in order to use it to combat the spectre of famine in sub-Saharan Africa; rather, we would urge donors to increase their overall levels of official development assistance.

Being a new member of the Organization, I should like to present a brief description of Vanuatu's history, geography and economy as a background against which our development strategies may be placed and understood.

Vanuatu achieved independence in July 1980 following a period of condominium rule by Britain and France, and in so doing inherited two different languages, and three different legal, administrative (and to some extent economic) systems - an unenviable inheritance, as you can imagine. Since then, however, considerable progress has been made to unify these systems although much remains to be done.

The country itself is an archipelago comprising 80 islands stretching 800 kilometers from north to south and is located in the South-West Pacific. With only 125 000 inhabitants, less than 17 per cent of the total land area is currently exploited for agricultural purposes, despite the fact that in much of the country both the soil and the climate are conducive to the development of arable and livestock farming. Furthermore, much of the area that has a limited agricultural potential is suitable for forestry plantations. The territorial waters cover approximately 450 000 square kilometers and constitute an important potential resource; little is known, as yet, of the ocean-bed mineral resources, whereas fisheries appear to have a good development potential.

Agriculture plays a pivotal role in the Vanuatu economy, and the bulk of the population is directly dependent on agriculture for its livelihood.

Over one-half of the cultivated area is devoted to subsistence cropping - principally taro, yams and kumala - while the keeping of pigs is also important. With the growing intrusion of the money economy into the subsistence sector, some traditional subsistence crops are being marketed, but the bulk of production is still for own-consumption and customary exchange.

The cash cropping sub-sector is dominated by the production of copra for export which provides more than 70 per cent of Vanuatu's visible export earnings. The other important export crops are cocoa, coffee, timber and rapidly increasing quantities of beef.

This fact of single crop dependence makes the trade sector extremely vulnerable to market and climatic variations. For example, in 1975 total export earnings fell to only 33 per cent of their 1974 value, largely as a result of depressed world prices. The difficulties caused by such a volatility in export earnings are accentuated by the long-term decline in the real value of copra. The need for export diversification is obvious, although we recognize the problems inherent in such a diversification strategy in that extension and marketing efforts may become too thinly-spread to be effective. Furthermore, it appears that the range of agricultural export crops in which Vanuatu enjoys a comparative advantage is limited.

It is against this background that the present plans for the economic development of the country as embodied in the first national development plan were drawn up. The development plan covers the first period known as the transition and reconstruction phase in a 15 year programme aimed at achieving the goal of economic self-reliance by which Vanuatu will be able to meet import requirements from foreign exchange earnings and fiscal requirements from domestic revenues.

The main objectives of the development plan are: the increased utilization of the country's natural resources, balanced regional and rural growth, encouragement of the development of the private sector and the preservation of our cultural and environmental heritage.

The development plan envisages a structural shift away from the concentration on urban social infrastructure which prevailed prior to independence, to a greater emphasis on investment in the productive sectors of the economy.

The importance of food and agriculture in the economy is explicitly recognized in the development plan which further emphasizes that their development is the means by which national incomes are to be raised, thus increasing the standard of living of all of the population. Moreover, food and agricultural development is seen as the means by which several of the other national objectives - such as balanced regional and rural growth - will be realised. It should be noted, however, that we are mindful of the fact that the development of the rural areas will not come about solely through the development of agriculture; the provision and improvement of such basic services as water supplies, roads, airfields, and health posts is also essential if all of our rural population are to benefit from the "fruits of development". For this reason, we have among other things also planned for the systematic development of physical infrastructure throughout the country and for the implementation of a nationwide rural water supplies programme.

In order to attain the overall objectives, we have identified a broad range of programmes and projects to be implemented in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors. Not surprisingly, given the strained financial position inherited at independence. The government is looking to overseas aid agencies to meet a large portion of the associated financial burden.

We have, for example, begun a coconut replanting programme in order to halt the decline in our coconut resources; we have established a large number of small forestry plantations which will provide sufficient cheap and uniform sawn timber to meet domestic requirements throughout the islands from 1995 onwards; and we have set up a programme to assist village groups in deep-bottom drop-line fishing. This latter programme has proved so successful that fish surplus to village requirements are now regularly being flown to the two urban markets.

At the same time we are seeking to encourage private investors, with the appropriate background and experience, to re-develop many of the previously-alienated ranches and plantations.

In conclusion, I would like to say that although by conventionally accepted criteria Vanuatu may be judged poor and underdeveloped, we have inherited the rich gifts of fertile and largely unexploited land and the largely untapped resources of the sea. What our country needs is the technical assistance and development finance to help unwrap these gifts, and the training of our own people to care for them and to exploit them to better the lives of our people now and in the future.

E. BORTEI-DOKU (Ghana): My delegation, on behalf of the Government and people of Ghana, and on my own behalf, warmly congratulate the Chairman on his unanimous election to chair this Twenty-second session of the Conference of our august Organization. May I also congratulate his able Vice-Chairmen on their election; and I am confident, that under your proven leadership qualities and unquestionable competence of your Vice-Chairmen, the proceedings of this Conference will be steered to a successful and memorable conclusion.

I wish also to take this opportunity to welcome to the Organization, the governments and people of the four new nations recently admitted to join forces with us in our struggle to combat hunger, malnutrition, and poverty. We look forward to fruitful cooperation with them in this exercise.

The Twenty-second session of the FAO Conference is in many ways very unique. It is unique because, among other things, it is being held against: the background of world-wide economic crisis, precarious food deficit and emergency situations, particularly in developing countries, caused by floods, drought, bush fires and refugee problems, and drop in aid to low income and food deficit countries, due to a combination of economic and socio-political problems that have afflicted the richer nations.

I can go on to enumerate a catalogue of factors, but time will not permit me.

May I now briefly touch on the food deficit situation in my country. Our present problems are manifold. We have suffered from drought, bush fires, refugee problems, shortage of agricultural inputs especially planting materials, tools and machinery. I will, in this connection, however, place on record the pioneering role the Director-General of FAO has played and continues to play in securing food aid and technical assistance for Ghana in order at least to alleviate the severity of the unpardonable situation in which that country has found itself. My Government is also grateful to all other well-meaning organizations, both domestic and international, and friendly nations who responded to our call for assistance. Our closest English-speaking neighbour, Nigeria for example, was only too willing to offer us, at very short notice, enough planting material that we needed. Time will not permit me to pay tribute to all the nations who came to our aid during the time of our greatest need.

Now, having critically re-examined our food and agriculture production policies over the past decades, the Government of Ghana has instituted measures to arrest the unacceptable food deficit situation: there is now a remarkable emphasis being placed on the development of small-scale irrigation projects; increased mechanized farm practices; agricultural credit; re-direction and deployment of our human as well as material resources; and adequate supply of inputs.

These modest efforts, needless to say, require substantial material and financial allocations and we trust that the international community will provide the much-needed support. Indeed, agricultural production faces its greatest challenge in the developing countries particularly in Africa, and it is our belief that this Conference will provide measurable hope for the millions of hungry people who despair in these dire circumstances.

Permit me to mention briefly that there is now the need for a strong emphasis to be placed on research as a means of combating the food shortage problem, particularly the African food situation which has been deteriorating year by year. We are in full agreement with the emphasis the Director-General has placed on research and technology development, and we, therefore, welcome the proposal to provide additional resources for strengthening the Organization's support to the development of national research activities.

The changing weather conditions characterized by persistent drought have brought into sharp focus the vital need to intensify our search for new varieties to match the new growing periods dictated by the erratic rains. It is in this regard that my delegation lends its support to the call by the Director-General for increased attention to be paid to the ready availability, conservation and judicious exploitation of plant genetic resources.

Studies have indicated that the developing world has enough cultivable land to feed far more than the maximum population it is ever likely to have to support. But the developing countries, apart from the political will, need technical and financial assistance to ensure adequate national food security. We strongly support the appeals in favour of all countries affected by acute food shortages and urge the international community to respond generously to these appeals.

My delegation has studied the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85. The food crisis situation in many parts of the world, particularly in Africa, clearly underscores the fact that international action in support of efforts of the developing countries to increase their food production has not been enough. That is why we fully appreciate the thrust of the Director-General's proposed strategies and priorities, particularly the effectiveness of TCP as one of the major means of action during the ensuing biennium. In spite of the greatly diminished increase in overall resources, we are convinced that considerable progress can be achieved and thus, we fully support the level of the budget for the 1984-85 biennium.

We are seriously concerned about the progressively decreasing extra-budgetary resources available to FAO. These decreases are largely conditioned by the financial crisis of the UNDP. My delegation will, therefore, like to reiterate the call for this Conference to urge all donor countries to increase their contributions so as to attain the level of resources for the third programme cycle. Furthermore, the International Fund for Agricultural Development has been forced, for lack of resources, to cut down the number of projects necessary for agricultural and rural development. We view this situation with serious forebodings and will join in the appeal for member governments to fulfil their obligations under the first replenishment and complete negotiations for the second replenishment. The need for increased resources to stem the widening food shortage in many parts of the world demand the support of all nations to fulfil the targets set by the World Food Programme.

My Government has the pride and privilege of hosting the FAO Regional Office for Africa. In view of the huge problems facing food production in the developing countries, we feel that there is now a greater need to strengthen the regional offices to provide the needed backstopping to, and effectively coordinate the activities of the FAO country offices.

In conclusion, may I express my sincere gratitude to the Director-General of the FAO, his dedicated and efficient deputies, assistants and staff members for the magnificent manner in which this Conference has been visualized, planned and organized. To them, we say a big 'thank you'.

S. RISTA (Albanie) : Permettez-moi de vous adresser tout d'abord mes félicitations pour votre élection au poste de direction de cette Conférence, au nom du gouvernement de la République socialiste d'Albanie et de saluer l'admission des nouveaux membres, Antigua-et-Barbuda, Belize, Saint-Christophe-et-Nevis et Vanuatu.

La crise profonde économique, politique et financière déclenchée dans le monde entier à la suite de la politique d'oppression et de diktat des superpuissances et des autres puissances impérialistes et révisionnistes a entraîné dans beaucoup de pays une baisse sévère de la production agricole. Par conséquent, la situation agro-alimentaire en est d'autant plus aggravée.

Les conséquences de cette crise économique générale et destructive pèsent de plus en plus sur les millions de travailleurs et de personnes affamées dans le monde.

A côté de cela, la course aux armements des impérialistes américains et social-impérialistes soviétiques ainsi que leur politique d'agression et de guerre engagent de grandes valeurs pour des moyens mortels.

La baisse continue du rythme des productions agricoles, l'exode rural, la destruction des terres agricoles et leur exploitation à titre de profit ont approfondi la crise alimentaire.

Les soi-disant aides et les crédits colossaux réclamés par les monopoles et les gouvernements des grandes puissances impérialistes comme des voies de salut pour sortir de la crise sont transformés en nouvelles chaînes sur les peuples et les divers Etats. Dans bien des cas, ils ont servi à la domination politique, à l'oppression et à l'exploitation des masses travailleuses des nations et des pays les moins développés.

La militarisation de l'économie dans beaucoup de pays capitalistes et révisionnistes a freiné ou interrompu le développement agricole. En conséquence, les phénomènes négatifs de la ville tels que le chômage et la vie pesante socio-économique deviennent de plus en plus importants et ceci même à la campagne. Les efforts qui sont faits pour surmonter la crise agricole en élevant le prix des aliments, en changeant les structures de produits agricoles et de l'élevage selon la conjoncture du marché et non pas selon les intérêts des masses laborieuses, ne débouchent pas sur une solution juste et globale.

La fourniture des produits agro-alimentaires est utilisée par les superpuissances et les pays industrialisés comme une arme politique. Derrière les soi-disant aides qu'elles accordent, se cachent l'intervention, l'exploitation et la subordination politique et économique des peuples. La délégation albanaise pense que les problèmes qui existent dans de nombreux pays pour la fourniture des produits alimentaires comme partie intégrante de la politique agricole et du développement économique en général peuvent être résolus en décidant la souveraineté intégrale sur les ressources nationales en les mettant au service des masses travailleuses.

Les peuples et les pays progressistes deviennent de plus en plus conscients de la lutte à mener contre l'oppression et le pillage néo-colonialistes, contre les charités de l'exploitation. Ils font des efforts pour accroître le niveau de développement pour parvenir à une agriculture avancée afin qu'elle assure les besoins les plus indispensables et qu'elle devienne un facteur de base pour l'indépendance économique et politique.

Malgré les efforts et quelques aboutissements dans le programme et les activités de notre Organisation pour améliorer la situation agro-alimentaire dans le monde, celle-ci continue d'être très grave, des millions de personnes meurent de faim ou manquent des moyens les plus élémentaires de survie.

La cause principale réside dans la politique d'oppression et d'exploitation, la politique néocoloniale des puissances impérialistes. Nous pensons que les efforts pour la solution des problèmes de l'alimentation ne peuvent être dissociés de la lutte décisive que doivent mener les peuples et les pays épris de liberté contre l'exploitation et la politique de guerre des superpuissances impérialistes.

Au cours des quatre décennies de sa vie libre, l'Albanie socialiste a fait de nombreuses transformations révolutionnaires dans le domaine de l'économie, de la culture, de l'idéologie, etc. Notre économie et notre agriculture se développent à des rythmes soutenus, progressent de manière indépendante et sûre, ne connaissent ni le désordre, ni les crises, ni le chômage, ni l'inflation, elles ne connaissent pas non plus les dettes ou l'élévation du coût de la vie.

Le bien-être des masses laborieuses s'accroît continuellement et elles voient l'avenir avec confiance parce qu'il n'existe pas de phénomènes négatifs comme ceux que l'on rencontre dans le système capita-liste et révisionniste et qui commence par des crises sociopolitiques, économiques pour aller jusqu'à la narcotisation et autres blessures.

La politique agro-alimentaire est considérée dans notre pays comme une partie de la stratégie générale pour la garantie de la liberté, de l'indépendance et de la souveraineté, pour le développement harmonieux, multibranches, de toute l'économie populaire, pour l'accroissement du bien-être efficace des masses travailleuses et de la perspective des générations futures. Nous avons considéré le problème agro-alimentaire comme un problème vital et de base pour le développement de l'économie nationale, jamais comme un problème de conjoncture et temporaire.

L'agriculture en Albanie est entrée dans un processus d'intensification intégrale par des voies originales et avec des rythmes accélérés. Elle est caractéristique de l'organisation socialiste du travail et de la grande production concentrée et spécialisée où les rotations agricoles sont devenues une réalité fructueuse.

Les grandes transformations du milieu écologique agricole en accroissant de plus de deux fois la superficie de la terre cultivable et des arbres fruitiers grâce à une politique très favorable des investissements pour l'agriculture qui représentent environ 28 pour cent des investissements totaux, ont abouti à accroître de plus de cinq fois la production agricole par rapport à 1938. La politique de justice agraire suivie par le Parti du travail d'Albanie a fait que ce pays, autrefois le plus arriéré d'Europe, avec un terrain surtout montagneux et accidenté où chaque habitant ne possédait que 0,2 hectare de sol arable, a développé une agriculture avancée capable de satisfaire les besoins du peuple en denrées alimentaires et de l'industrie en matières premières, tout en augmentant les produits d'exportation.

Le rendement moyen des céréales atteint environ 35 q/ha tandis que dans la zone de plaine il atteint environ 50 q/ha. Cette intensification continue de la production agricole a accompagné le doublement de la population en Albanie socialiste et l'élévation sensible du niveau de vie. Le rythme annuel de l'augmentation de la production globale agricole est deux fois plus élevé que l'augmentation de la population.

Au cours du septième plan quinquennal 1981-1985, on a attaché une attention particulière à l'accroissement des rendements des produits agricoles et de l'élevage. Maintenant le problème se pose pour l'intensification ultérieure de la production grâce à l'accroissement de la superficie irriguée, de l'emploi des engrais, de la mécanisation et d'autres investissements, élevage industriel, etc.

Notre politique agro-alimentaire est basée sur quelques principes fondamentaux et dans le développement de l'agriculture on distingue des phénomènes à contenu social et progressiste.

Cette politique devenue réalité est liée au renforcement des rapports socialistes sur le plan de la production et du développement harmonieux des forces de production dans toutes les zones du pays.

En conservant la priorité du rythme de développement des zones montagneuses on est en train d'intensifier le développement des zones de plaines en accroissant sensiblement les investissements et en utilisant d'une façon plus rationnelle les moyens matériels et techniques ainsi que les réalisations scientifiques. On voit ainsi se réduire les disparités entre les villes et les campagnes. Ces dernières sont entièrement électrifiées et possèdent tout un système de télécommunications, l'enseignement et les services sanitaires y sont gratuits. Par ailleurs, l'Etat couvre toutes les dépenses nécessitées par l'application des mesures socio-culturelles (pensions de retraite, etc.) dans les campagnes comme dans les villes. Significatif à cet égard, est le fait

que les conséquences des tremblements de terre de ces dix dernières années ont été éliminées en l'espace de quelques mois aux frais de l'Etat et grâce à la contribution de toute la population. C'est ainsi que des centres administratifs et socio-culturels ont été reconstruits alors que les paysans sinistrés ont été logés, à titre gratuit dans des logements nouvellement construits.

L'Agriculture est devenue une branche fondamentale et d'une importance vitale pour notre économie nationale. Dans ce cadre, notre Etat suit une politique encourageant le développement de l'agriculture qui se fonde sur les lois de l'interaction harmonieuse des facteurs objectifs et subjectifs.

L'idée traduite dans les faits que l'agriculture est l'affaire de notre peuple tout entier a contribué à un développement économique plus harmonieux du pays, à un engagement plus profond des forces productives et à l'essor de nos villes et de nos campagnes socialistes sans contradiction entre elles.

Le fait que nous comptons exclusivement sur nos forces se reflète dans chacune de nos unités de production, de recherche et de direction. Dans notre pays qui ne contracte pas de dettes et ne reçoit des crédits d'aucun pays étranger, qui va de l'avant grâce à notre travail et à nos ressources financières, l'agriculture se développe en se fondant sur ces critères. Elle assure sur place ses ressources énergétiques, ses engrais chimiques, ses principales machines, ses semences et autres matériaux biogénétiques d'une grande valeur. Environ les deux tiers de notre peuple vivent et travaillent dans nos campagnes, s'épanouissent et progressent sans cesse. La plupart des travailleurs agricoles de chez nous reçoivent une instruction secondaire professionnelle; il y a dans nos campagnes un spécialiste technicien supérieur pour 250 hectares de terres cultivées ou 210 têtes de bétail. C'est cela qui a assuré l'accélération de l'intensification de l'agriculture.

D'un pays où jadis dominaient les rapports de production semi-féodaux, où faisaient rage la famine, la misère et la féroce exploitation des masses laborieuses par des classes possédantes locales et les puissances impérialistes, l'Albanie est devenue aujourd'hui un pays socialiste agraire et industriel avancé, la patrie d'un peuple libre de toute oppression sociale et spirituelle, le pays d'un bien-être croissant pour tous. "Les transformations révolutionnaires et les progrès qui ont été accomplis dans l'agriculture" - ainsi que l'a souligné le camarade Enver Hoxha, le dirigeant du parti de notre peuple - représentent une des plus grandes victoires de la ligne et de la politique du parti, de la construction du socialisme".

L'Albanie socialiste, bien qu'un petit pays, fait face avec courage aux complots ourdis contre elle par les impérialistes et les social-impérialistes ; elle ne s'écarte jamais de la juste voie socialiste.

Notre peuple poursuit résolument cette voie car c'est la seule qui ait pu lui assurer le progrès, le développement harmonieux et la vraie indépendance. Ne perdant pas de vue dans notre analyse des choses notre point de départ, et voyant bien où nous en sommes arrivés dans la construction du socialisme et la réalisation de notre politique agro-alimentaire, nous faisons toujours la synthèse de notre travail, et éclairons ainsi, encore mieux, notre perspective. La pensée théorique du parti du travail d'Albanie se trouve matérialisée dans le système social de notre pays et dans l'idéologie de son peuple. Cette pensée avancée a aussi servi de fondement à notre politique économique et agroalimentaire visant à satisfaire toujours mieux les besoins du peuple.

La délégation de la République populaire socialiste d'Albanie conjuguera ses forces et ses efforts avec ceux des délégations des Etats qui luttent pour un développement économique et politique indépendant apportant ainsi notre contribution à la solution des importants problèmes auxquels est confrontée cette Conférence de notre organisation.

H.P.M. AliNOOR (Somalia): Allow me first of all, on behalf of the Somali delegates, to thank the Secretariat and the other staff of FAO who have assisted in organizing this Conference. Also, I wish to extend to the Chairman of the Twenty-second FAO Conference my warmest congratulations.

I would like also to take this opportunity of congratulating the Director-General of FAO, Dr Edouard Saouma, for his encouraging message on the occasion of the third annual observance of World Food Day. We assure him of our continued and full support in concentrating on strengthening our agricultural sector so that the application of effective policies in alleviating human suffering such as hunger and malnutrition becomes easier.

To show how Somalia supports the appeal of the Director-General of FAO, for the needy people of the world, I quote here part of the speech of the President of Somalia on the third World Food Day:

"Our policy emphasises production-oriented activities and our development strategy assigns priority to agriculture. Our immediate goal is to achieve self-sufficiency in food staples, curtail food imports and enhance food exports. Hence we have been progressively allocating an increasing share of our limited development funds from 22% in our 1971/73 plan to 25% in the second plan, to 35% in the third plan and now to 60% in our fourth, 1982/86 National Development Plan."

"In spite of tremendous adversaries, an aggressive war and the biggest refugee problem in Africa, the world economic and fuel crises, repeated natural disasters of droughts and floods and the usual difficulties associated with development, we remain committed to the implementation of our socio-economic policies for realisation of the just aspiration of our people for food security, rapid transformation of Somalia into a developed, self-sufficient country and a productive partner in the international community."

I have no doubt that this Conference will produce good resolutions that will be very useful for mankind. My delegation and I are delighted to see that this Conference elected the Minister of Agriculture of the United States as Chairman of this Twenty-second FAO Conference and I am confident that this will be a sign and an indication that the rest of us are ready to learn from and adopt the advance of agricultural technology that makes the United States of America the biggest food-producing country in the world.

The timing of this Conference coincides with a period in which there is a lot of concern about the shortage of food in the world, a period in which many people suffer from shortage of food, especially in Africa and Asia.

In spite of the fact that 10 years ago it was agreed by all of us that food and agriculture were to be earmarked as a top priority area for mankind, yet still the situation is much worse today than it was 10 years ago, especially in Africa. Here, I would like to quote part of the speech by the Director-General at the celebration of the World Food Day: "The promise that by 1984 no child shall go to bed hungry" - that has not been achieved.

How then can we explain this short-coming, and make understandable to the poor some of the contradictions and uncertainties of our time?

"- That, for example, the military expenditures of Member Governments of the United Nations - at \$700 billion annually - represent about 30 times all the official development assistance allocated to the relief of social and economic problems in the Third World;

- that the military budgets of the developing countries themselves, by 1980, amounted to almost \$115 billion, causing one to wonder what comparative priority is being accorded to food and agriculture or agrarian reform and rural development;

" - that developed food-exporting countries who have curtailed their development assistance and food aid allocations because of economic stringencies, are at the same time spending increasing amounts either to limit their own agricultural production or to subsidize their own farm exports."

Apart from the economic and environmental problems that the world as a whole is facing today, I feel that there is a need for all of us united to stop the destructive aspect of man and the world and make an effort for useful objectives, especially the production of food.

As regards the shortage of food, the case of Somalia is the same as that of many countries in Africa. Somalia, as all are aware, is a host country for many thousands of refugees who, apart from the aspects of feeding, are now proving to be a social problem.

My delegation feels that increased production in rural areas can be achieved by improving the working output/input of the farmer, in providing better social services, better agricultural technology and improving agricultural research and directing it at farm level outwards, and giving the integrated rural programme top priority.

Somalia has undertaken an improved programme of credits for farmers, encouraging the use of animals for crop farming, and increasing animal health through vaccination and control and eventually eradicating trypanosomiasis and the tsetse fly, improving and increasing farmers' extension services, stopping the growing and eating of qat in Somalia. Qat is a plant, the leaves of which contain a stimulating drug of the narcotic type. The plant had, before the ban, utilized many hectares of good farmland. Furthermore, the country was diverting a large amount of its meagre hard currency for that use. It has been undertaking a programme against desertification which has been threatening the better farming area of the country. It has undertaken a massive campaign of literacy in the rural areas which involves both writing and reading of the Somali and Arabic languages.

Because of the improved programme and the good rainfall in 1982 in Somalia, agricultural production was a little more than average level. However, this year, 1983, the rainfall has been late. Therefore, so far the trend of our agricultural output does not seem very encouraging.

Also Somalia has faced serious economic setbacks in some areas which had been our traditional markets for livestock plus a temporary ban on our cattle because of the rinderpest in some African countries. This disease does not exist in Somalia.

There is an immense fishery potential in Somalia in view of the fact that the country has the longest sea coast in Africa. In order to exploit the country's fishery resources there is a need for technical knowhow and financial investment. It is our belief that greater exploitation of our fisheries will greatly contribute to the international fisheries needs in general and our country's need in particular and Somalia has a fisheries policy. As a result of this, we welcome any potential investigation whether on a joint venture basis or privately in developing countries' fishery resources.

My delegation fully supports the Programme of Work and Budget proposed by the Director-General of FAO for 1984-85 in its totality but we see there is a need for comment in the realization of various technical divisions in terms of their Programme of Work and Budget.

My delegation underlines and endorses the need for inter-agency cooperation to bring about fully the integrated programmes for rural development especially in the area of health, both for humans and for livestock. Therefore my delegation wishes to propose the creation of a programme of primary veterinary care as well as primary health care for humans.

Last but not least, my delegation welcomes to membership the newly elected members to this Organization, hoping that their active participation in FAO activities will contribute to our desired goals of global agricultural development.

NGUYEN DANG (Viet Nam): Je me réjouis d'avoir l'honneur de prendre la parole encore une nouvelle fois à cette tribune importante de la FAO.

Je ne voudrais pas m'étendre sur les situations alarmantes de l'alimentation dans le monde, que le Directeur général de la FAO et plusieurs orateurs éminents ont déjà décrites avec émotion et éloquence.

Je voudrais souligner seulement quelques questions qui nous intéressent particulièrement:

1. Nous avons suivi les travaux du Conseil de la FAO et nous avons examiné avec soin le Programme de travail et le projet de budget préparés par le secrétariat pour notre Conférence. Nous voudrions féliciter le Directeur général de la FAO et son Etat major qui ont su, dans une situation mondiale aux multiples difficultés, maintenir l'efficacité de la FAO. Nous appuyons les priorités qu'il a choisies, qui englobent les problèmes cruciaux du développement agricole. En particulier, nous louons l'accent qu'il a mis sur les recherches et les activités sur le terrain et l'effort qu'il a fait pour une petite augmentation du fonds TCP dont le dynamisme et l'efficacité sont déjà bien prouvés. Nous regrettons néanmoins que l'augmentation du budget de la FAO ait été minime par rapport à l'envergure de ses travaux et à son rôle de chef de file dans la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition dans le monde. 2. Nous nous félicitons de l'effort fait par plusieurs pays développés qui ont généreusement contribué à l'aide au développement sur le plan multilatéral comme bilatéral. • Mais nous sommes préoccupés par la situation contradictoire suivante: dans beaucoup de régions handicapées par un long passé de domination étrangère et défavorisées au point de vue climatique, les paysans du tiers monde après de longs mois de labeur se voient réduits à la famine et la malnutrition. Pendant ce temps, les producteurs des pays développés se voient imposer une limitation systématique sur leurs emblavures aux excellentes conditions naturelles et desservies par une technique impeccable. Ces mesures contribuent à faire baisser la production et les stocks mondiaux de céréales, éléments décisifs pour la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

3. Nous louons chaleureusement l'élan que le Directeur général de la FAO et le Directeur exécutif du PAM ont donné à l'aide alimentaire pour les cas d'urgence comme pour les projets de développement. Néanmoins, nous pensons qu'il est temps que les responsables de cette organisation étudient l'établissement d'un certain système de critères dans la répartition de l'aide pour que celle-ci soit plus équitable et pour que l'organisation maintienne réellement son caractère multilatéral.

4. Notre délégation voudrait manifester sa préoccupation quant aux situations de menace et d'intervention militaire ou de pression et de sabotage prolongé qui empêchent les pays pauvres

de concentrer les forces vives de leur nation sur la production. Nous soutenons tout effort pour un règlement pacifique des litiges et pour mettre un frein à la course aux armements.

Monsieur le Président, puisque la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition restent toujours le centre de notre débat, je voudrais vous apporter quelques témoignages vécus du Viet Nam sur cette lutte.

Avec une pression démographique importante sur une terre très exposée aux intempéries et jonchée de séquelles de guerre, le Viet Nam a décidé de relever le défi de l'autosuffisance alimentaire. Une impulsion énergique dans la production agricole a été déclenchée, accompagnée d'un vaste mouvement de mobilisation et de sensibilisation de la population pour le planning familial. Nous étions partis en 1976 de 13,5 millions de tonnes de paddy pour 49,160 millions d'habitants, s'accroissant avec le rythme annuel de 3,2%. Jusqu'en 1982, nous avons dû importer annuellement une grande quantité de céréales, soit par achat, soit par une aide bilatérale ou multilatérale. Le point culminant se trouve en 1979 où, par suite de graves catastrophes naturelles, les importations arrivaient à plus de deux millions de tonnes de céréales. Mais depuis cette date nous avons pu

progressivement diminuer l'importation grâce à une croissance de la production et une diminution graduelle de l'accroissement démographique. En 1982, nous avons produit 16,6 millions de tonnes de paddy pour une population de 56,2 millions, avec une croissance annuelle de 2,2% (soit un abaissement de 1% par rapport à 1976). Le bilan positif de 1976 à 1982 est le suivant: croissance des besoins 2,4%, croissance de la production céréalière 3,5%. Ce décalage nous a aidés à alléger le déficit et nous permet d'espérer d'atteindre l'autosuffisance en besoin minimum de céréales et un commencement de réserve en 1985.

Je voudrais souligner que nous avons encore beaucoup à faire pour une réelle autosuffisance alimentaire: la ration alimentaire de notre peuple est encore trop pauvre en protéines, le lait reste encore un produit de luxe pour nos enfants.

Nous comprenons profondément l'urgence du problème démographique dans l'amélioration du niveau alimentaire. Un simple calcul nous montre l'âpreté de cette lutte. Pour assurer à chaque Vietnamiens une moyenne de 2 250 à 2 400 calories par jour, il lui faut une production annuelle de 420 à 450 kg de paddy pour l'alimentation, l'élevage, l'industrie et pour une certaine réserve d'urgence. Même si nous arrivons à maintenir la croissance de production au niveau annuel de 3,5%, suivi d'un accroissement aux environs de 2% de la population, il nous faudrait travailler, bon an mal an, jusqu'à l'an 2000 pour atteindre cette norme de besoin énergétique. Nous considérons ce délai inacceptable car d'ici là les besoins alimentaires de la population comme les besoins de l'industrie se seront multipliés. Si ces besoins ne sont pas satisfaits, le développement économique s'en ressentira. Force nous est de devoir à la fois impulser la croissance de la production et diminuer encore plus fortement l'accroissement démographique.

Sur la question démographique, avec les premiers succès déjà atteints dans ce domaine (abaissement de 1% du taux de croissance en six ans), nous sommes confiants que de nouveaux résultats seront atteints quand notre population comprendra profondément l'importance du problème pour l'avenir de la nation et pour l'intérêt immédiat de chaque famille.

Sur la question de la production, nous continuons pour une longue période à donner la priorité à l'agriculture, en premier lieu aux cultures vivrières. Les mesures concrètes sont multiples, parmi lesquelles nous mettons l'accent sur l'amélioration continue de la gestion dans le but d'une exploitation plus rationnelle des terres, d'une répartition plus adéquate du gain obtenu, dans le but d'encourager les bons producteurs et de réserver une partie au nouvel investissement créant ainsi une base plus solide à l'accroissement de la production.

En même temps, nous nous ouvrons à la coopération avec tous les pays et toutes les organisations internationales, en particulier avec la FAO, pour impulser une coopération internationale fructueuse.

R. TSAGAANKHU (Mongolia) (original language Mongolian): Taking this opportunity on behalf of the Mongolian delegation, I would like to congratulate you on your election to the high office of Chairman of this session and express our confidence that under your leadership the present session of the FAO will make a valuable contribution towards intensification of the FAO efforts in overcoming the food shortage facing the world, and in particular the developing countries.

Our delegation also extends the warmest congratulations to the four new member countries, Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Saint Christopher and Nevis and Vanuatu, which have joined the FAO.

It is well known that there are enormous possibilities for providing mankind with enough food if all countries of the world dedicate their scientific and technological progress and economic resources for the wellbeing of all people.

However, the imperialist reactionary forces fanned unprecedented arms race in order to achieve military superiority and disrupt the existing military strategic balance of power in the world. These are the main reasons for the hunger experienced by thousands of people in the world. Therefore, prevention of a nuclear threat and salvation of the mankind from the holocaust is the task of vital importance today.

The initiatives put forward by the socialist countries, in particular the statement made by Yuri Andropov, General Secretary of the Communist Party Central Committee, President of the Presidium of the USSR are of great importance. His statement was made on September 28 for the positive solution of the vital problems facing the mankind today. In this statement a profound analysis was made of the present world situation and once again the conviction of the Soviet Union to further strengthen universal peace and security of nations has been confirmed.

The MPR consistently pursues the policy of strengthening international peace and security, curbing the arms race.

As an Asian country, Mongolia is anxious about the situation on this continent which has become more tense over the last period. Existence of hotbeds of tensions and conflicts on the Asian continent show the growing importance of the observance of the principle of non-use of force in the relations on the continent. Here lies the significance of the initiative put forward by the Mongolian People's Republic on concluding a convention on mutual non-aggression and non-use of force in relations among the countries of Asia and the Pacific Ocean.

According to FAO official data, nearly 500 million people are seriously undernourished. The consequences are human misery, various chronic diseases and death. Therefore, the food problem, which is the most acute one among the crucial economic problems facing the international community, demands great efforts by all countries. Curbing the arms race and reduction of military expenditure would promote the solution of these important tasks.

The food problem is closely associated with all other problems of socio-economic development. The successful solution of this problem and the elimination of hunger and poverty require the introduction of far-reaching socio-economic transformations within the given countries.

In this respect, I would like to emphasize the great importance of progressive land reform, distribution of national income, introduction of nationwide planning methods and the involvement of a wide range of the population into the management of the state and the economy.

In this connection I would like to briefly refer to the experience of agricultural production development in my own country.

In over 60 years of popular power, the working people of Mongolia have carried out truly historic transformations in all spheres of society. The practical implementation of profound socialist transformations in our country occurred in the past four decades.

The first important measures directed to the development of agriculture after the establishment of the people's power was land reform sponsored by the Government, and as a result the land was proclaimed as State property.

The second factor in the successful development of agriculture in my country was the cooperation of individual cattle breeders which had been successfully carried out by the end of the 1950's. Only this has made it possible for us to change the system of management of agricultural production on the basis of strengthening its material and technical basis and applying modern techniques and technology.

The decision of our Government to bring virgin land under cultivation, which was successfully carried out in 1957-1959, played an important role in the further development of agriculture and in the improvement of food supplies, as well as resulting in the considerable expansion of cultivation.

An important factor in the further growth of the Mongolian economy as a whole and of the agriculture in particular is the successful development of the economic, scientific and technical all round cooperation with the member countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance and, first of all, with the Soviet Union.

At present agricultural work is completely mechanized in our country and mechanization of labour consuming work in animal husbandry is successfully being introduced. The new five-year plan calls for developing 250-300,000 hectares of virgin land and is being successfully accomplished. As a result of all this, our country not only has met its requirements in agricultural products, but is able to export considerable amounts.

The main task of the new five-year plan, 1981-1985, is to secure further growth of the country's economic potential, and on this basis to achieve a steady growth of the material wellbeing and cultural level of the people. Among other things, capital investment in agriculture will surpass that of the previous five-year period by about 40 percent. As a result of this, the average annual volume of agricultural production is to rise by 26 percent.

At present the main tendency of agricultural development in our country is closely linked with the real needs of rapidly growing big cities and populated areas and newly created scientific and cultural centres. The content and goal of present day agricultural development are acquiring a new form.

It is necessary to coordinate the question of raising agriculture to a new stage and its solution with other branches of the national economy and culture, in particular with the improvement of everyday services for the rural population, and the improvement of management on the basis of scientific and technological achievements.

A number of problems such as to intensify the country's agriculture, in particular processing industry of production of animal origin for its rational organization and location according to industrial and agricultural complexes, and efficiently solving the transportation of agricultural products on the vast territory of our country. All of these problems will be comprehensively tackled.

In solving the above problems, according to the plan we shall rely on our country's economic potential, as well as on socialist labour distribution that functions among the CMEA member states. In implementing the task of the comprehensive agricultural development, we will also decide parallelly the social problems of the rural people.

The Mongolian delegation greatly appreciates the activities carried out by the Food and Agriculture Organization and its technical assistance programmes and projects directed at increasing the agricultural production in the member countries.

For the last ten years the FAO has rendered to our country assistance in strengthening the basis of the vocational schools, in establishing the Gobi wildlife preserve area, several laboratories at the research institute for animal husbandry and veterinary science, and in training personnel. In 1983-1984 we are going to cooperate with the FAO on three new projects.

On behalf of the Mongolian Government I would like to express our deep gratitude to the FAO, namely, to His Excellency Mr Edouard Saouma, Director-General of the FAO, for the assistance provided by the FAO in developing agricultural research establishments and training personnel. My delegation supports the targets of the FAO to increase the average annual growth rate of the developing countries at least by 4 percent.

My delegation is in favour of the Programme of Work and Budget of the FAO for 1984-1985.

The Mongolian delegation welcomes the new policy conducted by FAO from 1976 of austerity in administrative expenditure, paring down unnecessary spending and other related measures.

My delegation is confident that the experiences of countries with different socio-economic systems, which they gained in promoting development and increasing food supplies for the people, will be reflected in the FAO activity.

In conclusion, I would like to express my confidence that the present Session of the FAO Conference will give a new impetus to the promotion of the efforts by developing countries in the field of the economy as a whole and of agricultural development in particular.

S. H. TABATABAI (Iran) (original language Farsi): I speak in the name of God the Merciful, the Compassionate - Peace be upon the great leader of the Islamic revolution and hail to the soldiers of the front of belief against disbelief and hail to the innocent souls of the martyrs of the Islamic revolution.

Let me start my statement with a phrase of Imam Khomeini, the leader of the revolution and the founder of Islamic Republic of Iran : "In Islam agriculture is one of the most important affairs, and farmers are the best creatures of God".

I come from a country whose agriculture has unfortunately been destroyed by super-powers and their agents.

Meanwhile, our agriculture has been subject to various experiments of colonialists. Before the Islamic revolution, our agriculture was considered as a laboratory for the colonialists to test their agrochemicals and political purposes, which consequently resulted in dependency of our agriculture on their products and reduction of land potential.

While Iran used to be an exporting country, as a result of a change in the land tenure, she gradually became a food importing one.

After the Islamic revolution the hands of the plunderers were cut off from our country. However, the plot reappeared in the form of a war imposed upon us. During that war our forests, farms, villages, cities and natural resources were severely damaged or destroyed by weapons such as ground-to-ground and air-to-ground missiles, chemical and napalm bombs.

At the present time as I speak, innocent children and women, slaughtered by the destructive weapons of the superpowers are being pulled out from the ruined houses and buildings of the cities and villages.

Our nation, after the Islamic revolution has faced difficulties which are common in any revolution. However, by following Islamic principles and the Imam's guidelines and by relying on our heroic nation, always ready to descend into the political arena, we overcame these difficulties.

We are making good progress in all fields, but the superpowers who could not tolerate our independence, by using the ignorance, selfishness and egoism of their agent, have imposed a war upon us.

We thank God that our great nation can bravely resist East and West powers and their agents in the region.

We hope that in the next session we will be able with honour to declare to dominated nations the good news of salvation and victory.

In the field of planning for the improvement of agriculture in our country, we have been able to make outstanding progress. Though, facing grave difficulties, our specialists have prepared a national five year plan for the improvement of agriculture, its main points following; I should just say that the major objective of preparing this plan is to increase agricultural production, leading eventually to self-sufficiency.

This objective arises from our belief that dependency on agricultural products has been one of the major weapons of the new colonialism in recent decades.

The main points are:

Forestry

Preparation and implementation of national integrated plans for the identification of forest zones and at the same time reforestation and production of plants, construction of forest roads, buildings for the accommodation of foresters, the identification of forest products and the accurate utilization of forests.

Pasture Reclamation & Development

Improvement and reclamation of 3.5 million ha. by transplanting, cultivation of forage and fodder crops in 115 thousand ha. of infertile areas, growing of fodder crops in 1185 thousand ha. of impoverished pasture, and finally the establishment of seed and plant improvement stations.

Soil Conservation & Sand Dune Fixation

In the field of soil conservation we are preparing an integrated programme of watershed management to be implemented in an area equal to 8 681 000 hectares. In the field of sand dune fixation by seeding, planting and mulching and plantation wind breaks, the necessary actions will be taken.

Agronomy

Considering the main objective, that is self-sufficiency, projects designated to increase major crops such as, wheat, barley, maize, oil seeds, sugar, beet, cotton, jute, others have been implemented.

For these purposes, during the five-year plan one million ha. of irrigated land will be added to the area under cultivation.

Supplying pesticides and fertilizers

An integrated plan to supply pesticides and fertilizers has been prepared which consists of:

- Control of pest and plant diseases.
- Preparation of a generic chemical plan.
- Production of different kinds of pesticides and herbicides by installing laboratories and plants within the country which should lead us to self-sufficiency in this field.
- Preparation, production and distribution of suitable fertilizers and their proper application on the farm.

Establishment of plant protection units

In order to identify pests and plant diseases and harmful weeds and to avoid losses, 106 clinical units will be established in addition to existing units throughout the five-year plan.

Pest-control

Programmes will be implemented by our Government to control and eradicate insect pests during the five year plan and farmers will be trained in these techniques.

Livestock and poultry problems

To increase animal products, efforts will be made in animal breeding and distribution of improved breeds to livestock producers. For this purpose various artificial insemination centres, livestock breeding and distribution centres will be established and added to the present centres.

Animals Health Control

Production of vaccines and vaccination of animals to control and eradicate animal diseases all over the country are also other programmes of the five-year plan. For implementation of these projects 960 operation groups will be added to the existing groups during the five-year planning period. To ensure public health, efforts will be made to control diseases common to human beings and animals such as tuberculosis, brucellosis, etc...

Development and improvement of the general situation and welfare of rural livestock producers

This programme will involve the construction, completion and development of installations for animal husbandry, improved veterinary services and improving the sanitation of water wells and watering troughs.

The next point in the plan is fisheries

The projects to be implemented in this field are to increase catches, to increase the capacity for the preservation of fish and fish products in the Persian Gulf and also in the Caspian Sea and other inland waters.

Machinery and mechanization

This programme involves the manufacturing of the required heavy and light machinery in the country, distribution of machinery and equipment and technical services to the farmers and installation of workshops all over the country with follow-up service for machinery to the farmers. These are considered to be regular components of, in fact, the regular programme of agricultural developments.

Research, Training and Agricultural extension

We are laying considerable stress on research, training and agricultural extension, which we consider to be the basis of progress in agriculture, for which purposes 25 centres, 68 stations and 162 research sub-stations will be established during the next 5 years. The most important single development is to establish single-crop research centres where the production of certain agricultural commodities can be raised to a maximum level which we consider to be one of the best ways of achieving progress in agricultural production as a whole.

Regarding training programmes, we have plans for pre-service and in-service training of technicians and experts in different fields of agriculture.

In the field of agricultural extension, efforts and activities to guide and to advise farmers and livestock producers from the poorest classes of society will be specifically made. During the five-year plan 37 891 test farms and demonstration farms will be established and 112 428 persons will be trained under those programmes.

Related agricultural activities include the construction of warehouses for some 1.3 million tons of agricultural commodities and inputs like seeds, fertilisers and pesticides; the establishment of 4 500 rural cooperatives; and the preparation of transport facilities for deprived and remote agricultural zones in the country.

Reconstruction of War Zones

Different parts of our country have been damaged by the weapons and arms of imperialists through their agents, farms and forests have been burned, but are now being reconstructed by volunteers based upon the cooperation of the people. This task is, of course, a priority. We plant ten trees for each one fallen, we set up 10 farms for each farm destroyed.

Dear sisters and brothers, thank you for your attention. I would like to turn your attention to the importance of our work and our activities in our attempt to develop agriculture. I also hope that with respect to our situation you will turn your eyes to the major parts of the world where hunger and poverty prevail due to a few powers who exploit us; turn your attention to the fact that we under the fire of guns and bullets, napalm and chemical bombs, under great missiles, are yet struggling against all these problems in the hope that the nations of the world will wake up from this sleep in which they seem to be plunged by the Eastern and Western superpowers and hand-in-hand with us we will walk forward to benefit from the fruits and gifts which God has given us.

We wish for all oppressed and deprived nations of the world victory, and we are convinced it is not far away. I thank you for your attention.

P. O. ETIANG (Organization of African Unity): Mr Chairman, I would like to join other delegations in congratulating you and your Colleagues in the Bureau, on your election. I would like to express my delegation's confidence that under your guidance, this Conference will make appropriate recommendations and decisions that will speed up the attainment of our required targets in food production and security in particular and agricultural development generally.

I should also like to express my sincere thanks to the FAO Director-General for the kind invitation extended to the Secretary-General of the OAU to attend this Conference. Dr Peter Onu would have personally fulfilled the invitation but for other more pressing matters demanding his attention. He, however, instructed me to wish all participants in this Conference fruitful discussions.

As has been acknowledged by virtually every speaker before me on this rostrum, the centre of the global food problem is in Africa. The twin negative characteristics of the situation in Africa are food inadequacies and insecurity. The Director-General has very eloquently and aptly sensitised the international community to the plight of up to 150 million Africans being threatened with hunger. According to our own estimates, seventy million Africans, 1 in every 7, are living close to starvation. The number of hungry people will significantly increase by the end of this century. The high mortality rate, which is one of the consequences of such a situation, is already frightening at 15.3 percent compared with 12 percent in Asia and 8.5 percent in Latin America.

The causes of our present dramatic food situation are, of course, complex, as was very elaborately expressed on this rostrum yesterday by the executive secretary of the ECA. They must have been building up slowly during the fifties and sixties to produce the catastrophic effects we have been witnessing since the seventies.

Domestic problems have been revolving around inadequate planning, managerial and technical capacity in food and agriculture, grossly inadequate physical infrastructure and a generally weak framework of production and marketing incentives. These problems are being compounded by the vagaries of nature and pests such as drought, floods and locust; the legacy of the colonial past, with its urban based development; population pressure; frequent involuntary civil commotions; the general backward state of the rural areas which are the sources of food and the lack of determined integration of the agricultural programmes in the general economic development strategy of Member States.

As has been acknowledged by virtually every speaker before me on this rostrum, the centre of global food problem is in Africa. The twin negative characteristics of the situation in Africa are food inadequacy and insecurity. Seventy million people, thus one African in about seven, are living close to starvation. The number of hungry people will significantly increase by the end of this century. The high mortality rate., which is one of the consequences of such a situation, is already frightening at 15.3 percent compared with 12 percent in Asia and 8.5 percent in Latin America.

The causes of our present dramatic food situation are, of course, complex. They must have been building up slowly during the fifties and sixties to produce the catastrophic effects we have been witnessing since the seventies.

Domestic problems have been revolving around inadequate planning, managerial and technical capacity in food and agriculture, grossly inadequate physical infrastructure and a generally weak framework of production and marketing incentives. These problems are being compounded by the vagaries of nature and pests such as drought, floods and locust; the legacy of the colonial past, with its urban based development; population pressure; frequent involuntary civil commotions; the general backward state of the rural areas which are the sources of food and the lack of determined integration of the agricultural programmes in the general economic development strategy of Member States.

It is in the full cognizance of this compounded and threatening situation that all African Governments are agreed severally and collectively as to the top priority in their development effort - the issue of food, NOT merely agriculture in its generality. Accordingly, the Lagos Plan of Action, which is the collective expression of the OAU Assembly of African Heads of State and Government recommends that over the period 1980-85, the objective should be to bring about immediate improvement in the food situation and to lay the foundation for the achievement of self-sufficiency in cereals, livestock and fish products.

In order to deal with the situation, priority areas have been singled out by the Plan for securing substantial reduction in food wastage and post-harvest losses, attaining a higher degree of food security and increasing production of food with emphasis on agricultural diversification. The bulk of these measures have to be undertaken by Member States themselves on the basis of national and state-collective-self reliance. This approach, for the present, needless to say, is woefully inadequate to meet the enormity of the problem. This is the point at which international assistance has to come in.

This distinguished Conference has been kept fully informed by the Director-General of FAO and many African delegations of foreign food aid to Africa. In response, African governments have never failed to express their individual and collective appreciation to all foreign donors of food from both bilateral and multilateral resources. Given the generosity and effect of such assistance, which is continuing, it would not be superfluous for me to add on behalf of OAU to that appreciation. But given the generally acknowledged fact that far from getting better, the food situation in Africa is getting worse, it is tempting to assume that either the problem has not been correctly diagnosed or if it has, no right prescription for it has been applied.

It is the view of the OAU that the problem has indeed been fairly well identified by FAO and other interested Organizations, but it has belied solution partly because of the ever-changing nature of the global economic situation which is, for the most part, outside the ability of African countries to control. This situation which, among many things, includes inflation, indebtedness, drop in commodity prices, sluggish demand for exports leading to balance of payments problems, will continue to run ahead of any remedies that are tailor-made for the food situation and to not take into account the totality of world economic situation. It is in recognition of this that the African countries, together with the rest of the Third World, have been calling for global negotiations on all economic issues, (not only food) - much as that is a priority - which have got us to the present state of economic anxiety.

The realities in international community being what they are, we have no alternative but patiently to wait for the North and the South to agree on the modalities for discussing the economic rises they both have acknowledged. But what cannot wait, is the provision of food for the hungry.

From the African experience, the traditional food donor as well as the recipient are agreed that food aid should not become a permanent substitute for the local efforts as a source of supply, although a few donors would not mind its perpetuation if, along with it, other remunerative trade deals in their favour can be obtained. The most worrying prospect in the indefinite perpetuation of food aid is not only the undermining of local economic effort, or the political subservience of African States to the donors, but the risk is now a looming possibility that the African's life style and culture will be permanently changed by his addiction to the food he cannot produce in the tropical environment.

Pending a satisfactory solution - if such solution will ever be found - it is incumbent on the present day food-aid donor as well as the recipient, in the supreme interest of world peace, to act responsibly, conscious of the interdependence of world economies.

The OAU, in cooperation with FAO and other UN and international organizations, is increasingly becoming seized with the problem of food production in Africa, thanks to the comradely understanding among the leaders of these organizations. FAO, ECA and OAU cooperate very closely in meetings of FAO Regional Conferences in Africa. Under these series of Conferences, the African Ministers of Agriculture, as far back as six years ago, adopted a Food plan for the Continent whose abridged recommendations appear as chapter one of the Lagos Plan of Action. Last year, OAU and FAO published a pamphlet titled "FAMINE IN AFRICA" with the aim of sensitizing all concerned to the extent of the worsening situation and its causes and suggesting preventive and control measures. This document, among so many others, is available for those interested in detail.

As we look to the uncertain future, OAU, WFC, FAO, ECA and UNDP are presently cooperating in preparing the WFC Tenth Anniversary celebration next year to be appropriately marked in Africa, the Continent of the greatest needs, thanks to the generosity of the Government of Socialist Ethiopia which has offered to host it.

Conferences alone, however, will not solve the problem. Individual state and international efforts coupled with mutual understanding between food-surplus and food-deficit countries as to the indivisibility of the problem, need to be galvanised together and maintained in an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect before the world can breathe with ease on hunger. We, in Africa, believe that our present adverse food situation is only temporary for, in the words of the President of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, Mr Areri, "Africa is the poor rich man". Enormously rich in potential but presently too poor to exploit that potential.

The meeting rose at 18.20 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 20

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.20 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 83/PV/13

C

Twenty-Second-session
PLENARY

Vingt-deuxième-session
PLENIERE

22° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

THIRTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
TREIZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
13ª SESION PLENARIA

(14 November 1983)

The Thirteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.45 hours,
He Kang, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La treizième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45, sous la
présidence de He Kang, Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 13ª Sesión Plenaria a las 09.45 horas, bajo la
presidencia de He Kang, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

-STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATION (continued)

-DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)

-MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

I.I. AZZAWI (Iraq) (original language Arabic): Allow me first of all, Mr Chairman, to congratulate you on the full confidence that has been placed in you by the Conference in electing you to preside over its work. We are convinced, that thanks to the earnest efforts of the various participating delegations, this Conference will be able to reach positive results under your wise guidance.

We would like to seize this opportunity to express our deep appreciation and kind wishes to Mr Edouard Saouma, the Director-General of this Organization, for the fruitful efforts and the extraordinary energy he has put in to provide aid and expertise for the development of agriculture in the world, and to draw the attention of the various countries of the world to the problems of food in the world. We wish him and his collaborators full success in their work.

The Iraqi delegation is pleased to attend this present session of the Conference and to participate in discussing its programme. We are fully convinced that the recommendations that will be agreed will participate effectively in establishing a sound basis for agricultural development in the world.

The main features of the present food and agricultural situation in the world are still a source of dissatisfaction in general. So far, no effective system has been found to achieve food security. The present world economic situation is still suffering from stagnation, inflation and widespread unemployment. The target for food aid has not been achieved and remains at a modest level. Malnutrition is still the bitter severe lot of millions of people. The spread of hunger will increase before the end of this century unless effective measures are taken to set a limit to it. The state of food and agriculture in the Near East, the region we belong to, indicates that average agricultural output is below world averages and that it is not in proportion with the average increase of population. This unsatisfactory situation has led most countries of the region to import their grain needs from abroad. This has had a negative effect on trade balances. The food crisis will remain a burden on the economies of the countries of the region and impede their development policies. I would like to commend the cooperative programmes between the Organization and the Near East Region to implement regional and national agricultural projects. These are an excellent example of serious and fruitful cooperation between member countries and this Organization. The World Food Day celebrated last month must be a reminder that our target is to liberate humanity from hunger and malnutrition, that we have to depend on our own capabilities to provide food for ourselves and that we should give greater importance to the implementation of development projects for this purpose.

We wish to declare our support for the programme of work of the Organization for the next two years as it is the acceptable minimum to fulfil our legitimate ambitions to develop the agricultural sector and achieve food security. We hope that FAO with the necessary financial requirements and the effective use of the expertise and potential available to it will succeed in implementing its programme. We are amongst those countries that participated in the foundation of this Organization in 1945. We have consistently attended all its meetings and participate actively in all its work and in drawing up agricultural policies on a national, regional and global level. We have effectively attended all meetings, seminars and studies undertaken by the Organization to set up plans and find solutions to solve problems of food and agriculture in the world. Our delegation appreciates the efforts undertaken by the Organization to provide improved seeds and to develop such species, to avoid food losses as well as its efficiency in combatting agricultural pests especially desert locust.

We also appreciate FAO's aid in national agricultural research activities, the attention given to the role of women in rural development, its aid in fisheries activities and in the implementation of forestry development projects. We are equally appreciative of FAO's work in strengthening training activities and in the field of technical cooperation.

The various activities for regional and subregional development in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme in our region have been completed. One project dealing with Regional Animal Health and Production is to be completed in 1986, the Regional Project for training in fisheries will be completed by 1984, as well as the new regional project for rural development. We welcome the progress achieved by the Organization in the follow-up in the work of WCARRD and all that has been achieved so far to set up a regional centre for integrated rural development in Amman, Jordan.

My country's delegation supports the overall targets and aims of the world Conference on Fisheries Administration and Management which will be held under the auspices of this Organization. We hope that the Conference will succeed in drawing up strategies and programmes which will help to fully exploit fishery resources. This will enable us to benefit fully from the economic and social food potential of fisheries in our region and increase developing countries' self-sufficiency in this field. The Conference will be an appropriate forum to exchange information and expertise on this matter. We wish, furthermore, to support all proposals to increase the acreage under harvest and to increase output of food grains and animal production in developing countries. We also wish to express our support for the aim to increase production by 4 percent in developing countries to avoid the negative effects on food and trade in agricultural output, arising out of growth in populations and increased demand for food.

We wish to express our support for the Organization's opinion, i.e. the need to provide advanced forms of agricultural research and to increase efforts, especially in developing countries, to support research possibilities and potentials.

Furthermore, we believe that a closer relationship must be established between researchers and those responsible for agricultural extension, farmers, fishermen and consumers. Agricultural research is an important factor in increasing agricultural production, in processing the output, and in marketing and distribution. What is noted, however, is that research in developing countries suffers from a lack of investment, financial support, researchers and expertise. Workers in this field are in need of greater incentives and improved work opportunities at all levels. This sector also requires improved planning, organization, administration and evaluation. We support the implementation of programmes which are aimed at rationalizing the use of land in order to avoid soil erosion. The very existence of humanity and its prosperity depend on the continued productivity of land and the increase of its output. We wish, furthermore, to point out that lack of administrators in the countries concerned is an obstacle that prevents developing countries, especially recently independent ones, from overcoming all forms of backwardness.

My country's delegation wishes to reaffirm the importance of concluding an international agreement to ensure the safeguarding of important world plant genetic resources and the need to set up an international gene bank. We wish to draw your attention to the importance of safeguarding natural resources, be they on the land, sea or of plant or animal nature.

We wish to express our concern for the lack of progress, as reported by the Organization, in combating hunger and malnutrition over the past two years, especially in the low income food deficit countries - the per capita share of food production in Africa and Near East has dropped. There are twenty-six countries in the world suffering from severe food shortages. The spread of rinderpest in Africa is, of course, of concern as there is a danger that this disease will spread to other parts of the continent. International cooperation in this field is important. Serious attention must be given to actions to combat and control rinderpest. We support efforts to achieve food security: we support food policy programmes and the priority allocated to them in sectoral planning. Aid programmes and food supplies are temporary measures to overcome emergency food shortages. In countries suffering from such problems, phased development plans for agriculture must be established. These must take into account financial facilities available and must not rely completely and solely on international food aid. Self reliance and national efforts are undoubtedly the basis for the solution of the problem of food shortages.

We support all measures to increase public awareness of the state of food and agriculture - food is life - but if despite the availability of the means to purchase food, little is available - then hunger and death are inevitable. Thus all countries have placed food production as a top priority in their national development plans.

It is difficult for the benefits of agricultural and food development to reach all rural dwellers in countries with limited human and material potential. This is the case for many developing countries unless necessary funds for the building of infrastructure, appropriate housing or electricity networks are provided. Health and veterinary services must be provided, roads need to be built - agricultural credit must be provided as well as the necessary production, storage and marketing facilities. Failure to provide the inputs for rural development lead to rural migration, thus affecting agricultural production and the provision of food supplies.

We believe that we must give great importance to providing trained administrators and manpower to enable us to implement the strategies of food development through sound exploitation of land, water and other resources and efficient management of development projects. These should help us to administer agricultural projects ably. If one takes a look at the distribution of land and property in Iraq before the implementation of the land reclamation and reform laws, one clearly sees the uneven distribution of land and the imbalances in the interrelationship of the means of production due to feudal control, and one would note that 1.7 percent of the inhabitants owned 63.1 percent of the land. This, in fact, was a great injustice to the farmers. However, since the revolution of 17-30 July 1968 under the leadership of the Baath Socialist Party, radical changes have been introduced thanks to the Agrarian Reform Law of 1970, and another law passed in 1975. These laws organised

the distribution and ownership of land in the interest of the poor farmers and the smallholders. Social policies were also applied in the field of animal production. Animal products meet a large part of local requirements. Chicken farms and batteries have been built. Private investment in this activity has effectively helped to meet local demand. Loans of millions of dinars have been provided to build chicken farms, hatcheries, feed plants and modern slaughterhouses all over the country.

Plant Protection has been given a high priority as plant pests and diseases cause serious losses that affect our economy. Plant Protection services cover more than 2.5 million hectares. We have a fleet of aircraft for plant protection activities.

Animal health services have also been given due importance. We have 18 veterinary hospitals and 243 clinics. Artificial insemination centers have been increased with 19 main centers and 149 subsidiary ones. The number of veterinarians and assistants has increased three-fold as compared to pre-1968 figures - especially if we take into account our livestock population and its diversification.

The leadership of the Party and Revolution in Iraq under the Presidency of Saddam Hussain, has given all the necessary attention to the problems of the liberation of woman, and to her participation in all social, political and cultural rights, as well as all other human rights which were guaranteed by international labour laws. Despite the war our exceptional efforts to implement development projects in our country have not stopped, but have increased. We now defend our land and freedom with one hand and continue to reconstruct our country with the other. We are not warmongers, we are peace-seekers. However, we are fully ready to cooperate with all responsible efforts to achieve peace in cooperation with the United Nations, the Islamic Organization and neutral countries. We wish to declare here that we aspire for peace and wish to live in peace and security and to work to develop our own country and achieve prosperity for our people. We have no expansionist aims in any country or any desire to intervene in the internal affairs of any other country, yet others insist on pursuing war and aggression against our borders and on intervening in our war, yet still our aspiration is to achieve peace.

The policies set up by the leadership of the Party and the Revolution in order to reconstruct the agricultural sector were drawn up according to objective scientific principles. These have been instrumental in fulfilling our major achievements such as establishing infrastructures for agricultural development in the form of projects for irrigation, the construction of dams and reservoirs, land reclamation, the building of agricultural roads, and the setting up of agricultural installations. Our achievements include the construction of animal husbandry stations, strategically situated warehouses including refrigerators and deep freezers. We have succeeded in expanding the use of machinery in agriculture and in setting up experimental farms in addition to laboratories and centers for animal health. We have also increased the size of agricultural loans being granted and have eased the terms for providing them.

One month ago we inaugurated the Saddam Irrigation Project which has transferred more than a quarter of a million hectares from rain-fed to irrigated area. This major achievement is due to the implementation of the targets laid down in the working paper on development contained in the five-year plan for the agricultural sector which called for the construction of a modern agricultural sector on sound foundations. These would allow for the drawing up of practical plans to achieve the general goals of the ambitions of the Party and Revolution leadership. They also aim to raise the standard of living of the Iraqi citizen.

In the field of agricultural activity Iraq has increased its relations with other Arab countries. This has covered both collective and bilateral projects. Proof of this is Iraq's continued support for the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development as well as Iraqi agriculture experts' participation in the agricultural activities of the various Arab countries.

We have exerted exceptional efforts to achieve a balance in agricultural and animal production. We believe that work in this direction has yielded satisfactory results as a number of large dairy centers were established. We have also supplied private farmers with high-yield cows and have set up special enterprises for the production of chickens, eggs and fish.

An important step is the improvement of the abilities of the rural population and the increase of their productivity. This has been achieved through their organization into farmer's cooperatives and their effective participation in the construction of modern villages and the building of surfaced roads throughout the countryside.

Finally I wish this Conference success hoping that it will adopt constructive proposals and recommendations in the interests of production and agriculture and to eradicate malnutrition and hunger in the world.

S. HAYATOU (Cameroun): Monsieur le Président, la délégation de la République-Unie du Cameroun s'associe aux autres délégations pour vous féliciter de votre brillante élection à la présidence de la 22ème session de la Conférence générale de la FAO; elle présente également ses félicitations aux vice-présidents et membres du bureau qui ont mérité de la confiance de toutes les délégations ici présentes pour vous aider à mener à bien votre lourde tâche.

Je saisis également cette occasion pour féliciter le Directeur général de la FAO, le Dr Edouard Saouma, pour sa claire analyse de la situation alimentaire des pays en développement et pour son inlassable effort en faveur des pays les plus démunis notamment ceux du continent africain.

Ma délégation profite de l'occasion qui lui est offerte devant cette auguste assemblée pour vous transmettre, à vous même et à toutes les délégations à cette session, le salut cordial du peuple camerounais et les vifs souhaits que le Président de la République-Unie du Cameroun, Son Excellence Paul Biya, formule pour que nos travaux atteignent leur plein succès, espérant ainsi que nos conclusions déboucheront sur les actions concrètes et donneront une impulsion nouvelle susceptible de permettre une plus grande prise de conscience de la situation alimentaire plus que jamais préoccupante dans les pays pauvres.

La situation alimentaire dans beaucoup de pays en développement se dégrade de façon continue: les travaux de la 22ème session de notre Conférence se tiennent donc sous un climat d'incertitude bien que globalement le niveau des stocks dans certains pays soit relativement élevé.

Cette réalité d'un monde de l'abondance, d'une part, et d'un monde de la pénurie, d'autre part, n'est certes pas un fait nouveau, mais sa persistance traduit le mauvais fonctionnement du système des relations Nord-Sud, car il ne s'agit ni de l'insuffisance globale des disponibilités alimentaires, ni du manque de ressources matérielles pour mettre en exploitation d'immenses richesses que recèlent encore les pays pauvres, mais plutôt d'une question de stratégies en matière de développement.

Les efforts consentis par la communauté internationale au cours des deux dernières décennies dans le domaine de la lutte contre la faim, la malnutrition dans les pays en développement, n'ont pas donné les résultats escomptés.

En effet, depuis bientôt quarante ans, que de recommandations! que de résolutions! que de prises de positions de nos Etats vis-à-vis de cet ennemi commun!... A quand donc la fin de la faim dans le monde puisque 700 millions de personnes croupissent encore en dessous du seuil de la pauvreté.

La sécurité alimentaire mondiale a été retenue cette année comme thème de la troisième journée mondiale de l'alimentation.

Pour la délégation camerounaise, le choix de ce thème n'est que d'actualité en raison de la situation alimentaire précaire qui prévaut dans beaucoup de pays africains au sud du Sahara. Point n'est besoin de rappeler que, dans ces pays, comme plusieurs orateurs l'ont souligné avant moi, le problème de la production agricole de cette région est des plus préoccupants.

A cette situation déjà critique se sont ajoutées les calamités naturelles, notamment la sécheresse qui a sévi avec rigueur dans bon nombre d'entre eux accentuant la baisse des productions végétales et animales.

En même temps, le programme d'action de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural, préparé à l'intention de notre conférence, souligne sans détours qu'en Afrique sud-saharienne actuellement 60% de la population rurale vivent au-dessous du seuil de la pauvreté absolue et le montant des ressources de développement allouées par habitant à l'agriculture, qui reste d'ailleurs parmi les plus faibles du monde en développement, est encore en diminution.

Dans ces conditions, les perspectives d'avenir de la région restent forcément sombres.

Tout ceci souligne, Monsieur le Président, que la situation de la production agricole et alimentaire en Afrique s'est détériorée de façon particulièrement inquiétante; de ce fait, elle requiert de la part de la communauté internationale une attention spéciale.

Ce tableau sombre plaide donc pour une prise de conscience plus effective des gouvernements qui, avec le concours de toute la communauté internationale et la FAO, doivent s'attaquer de façon plus décisive et plus coordonnée à toutes ces contraintes qui bloquent l'expansion du secteur agricole et du développement du monde rural.

Les gouvernements africains connaissent et vivent les réalités de la crise alimentaire de la région. Leur réaction concrète a été l'adoption successive en juillet 1979 de la stratégie de Monrovia pour le développement économique du continent et, en avril 1980, du plan d'action de Lagos qui dégage sans ambiguïté que la responsabilité première dans le processus de la transformation de l'agriculture africaine en une source d'alimentation fiable pour le développement de la région incombe avant tout à chaque gouvernement.

Pour le Cameroun, l'agriculture reste le secteur clé de l'économie; employant plus de 70 pour cent de la population active, elle contribue pour près de 30 pour cent au produit intérieur brut; secteur stratégique par excellence, l'agriculture permet actuellement à notre pays de fournir à sa population une alimentation suffisante tout en lui assurant environ 70 pour cent de ses recettes en devises, abstraction faite des ressources pétrolières.

Notre agriculture fait l'objet d'une préoccupation constante du Chef de l'Etat, Son Excellence Paul BIYA, qui a retenu que la relance de ce secteur, en vue d'accroître sa contribution au développement du pays et de consolider notre autosuffisance alimentaire, reste pour le gouvernement un objectif prioritaire.

C'est donc pour cette raison que, dans la masse des crédits dégagés au budget de cette année au profit des secteurs productifs, l'agriculture dispose de la plus grande enveloppe.

Sur cette base, le secteur agricole doit donc continuer à jouer son rôle de moteur de notre développement. Pour ce faire, notre action s'appuie sur la rationalisation de l'utilisation des facteurs de production essentiels, à savoir: la terre, les eaux, et autres intrants, ainsi que sur la conception et la mise en application d'une stratégie efficiente de production, de collecte, de commercialisation et de distribution des produits agricoles.

Dans cette approche, l'homme tient une place de choix tant il est considéré comme l'élément capital dans le processus de développement.

Le gouvernement camerounais entend donc procurer à la population rurale un cadre de vie plus conforme à ses aspirations: c'est un vaste programme d'aménagement et de développement rural qui intègre la formation des agriculteurs, éleveurs et pêcheurs, la création et l'amélioration en zone rurale des infrastructures économiques et sociales indispensables.

Cette politique, Monsieur le Président, se fonde sur notre concept de développement autocentré. Elle requiert absolument l'insertion massive des jeunes générations d'exploitants ouverts et réceptifs aux innovations dans les circuits de production.

La fixation des jeunes en milieu rural apparaît ainsi comme un impératif qui permet de soutenir le niveau actuel de la production et de relancer la productivité en stagnation. Le transfert du savoir-faire nécessaire en vue de l'exploitation rationnelle et optimale de nos immenses potentialités agricoles, pastorales et piscicoles se fait au niveau des Centres de formation rurale et des structures de l'Office National de Participation au Développement.

La mise en place de ce programme de modernisation du secteur rural visant avant tout l'accroissement des capacités productives nationales s'appuie sur un cadre institutionnel qui intègre:

- l'organisation des producteurs;
- la recherche, la formation et la vulgarisation;
- le financement de production impliquant un crédit agricole adapté;
- les infrastructures d'appui.

Nous savons qu'en Afrique les disponibilités alimentaires depuis plus d'une décennie ne cessent de s'amenuiser et qu'une importante partie de la population souffre d'une malnutrition grave.

Nous savons que la sécheresse qui a sévi dans le Sahel au cours de ces dix dernières années et qui a laissé après elle la faim, la maladie et la pauvreté n'a épargné aucun pays de la région en 1982-1983.

La consultation des Ministres africains de l'agriculture par le Conseil Mondial de l'Alimentation a relevé que, pour la prochaine décennie, les perspectives globales de la région étaient nettement plus défavorables que celles de toute autre région du monde. Dans ce contexte, les perspectives alimentaires sont encore plus déprimantes.

Il apparaît donc clairement qu'à ce niveau il est illusoire de parler globalement de la sécurité alimentaire dans les pays africains au sud du Sahara car devant les pénuries alimentaires généralisées et l'importance de la masse vivant au-dessous du seuil de la pauvreté, il n'est pratiquement pas possible:

- d'assurer des approvisionnements alimentaires suffisants;
- de stabiliser le flux de ces approvisionnements ou d'assurer aux populations qui en ont besoin l'accès aux produits disponibles conformément au concept élargi de la sécurité alimentaire adopté par la FAO que le Gouvernement camerounais partage entièrement.

Face à cette situation et à celle de balances de paiement très défavorables pour beaucoup de pays en développement, l'aide alimentaire reste, devant toutes ces réalités, la première alternative qui puisse permettre de soulager dans l'immédiat les populations éprouvées.

Monsieur le Président, la délégation du Cameroun se félicite de toute la sollicitude que certains donateurs traditionnels ont déjà manifestée pour venir en aide aux pays africains affectés: nous souhaitons que cet exemple soit suivi par d'autres.

Monsieur le Président, ma délégation souscrit à l'orientation actuelle donnée aux interventions du Programme Alimentaire Mondial dans les pays en développement, orientation selon laquelle l'aide alimentaire doit être considérée comme faisant partie intégrante de l'aide au développement.

Le Gouvernement camerounais estime que, pour asseoir une véritable sécurité alimentaire dans le pays, l'exécution de projets spécifiques d'accroissement de la production reste un préalable.

Mais compte tenu de l'importance des ressources financières, des moyens matériels et des technologies disponibles au niveau national pour soutenir une telle stratégie, la nécessité de l'assistance des pays riches et celle des organismes appropriés du système des Nations Unies apparaît dans toute sa dimension.

Dans cette optique et au regard du rôle que joue actuellement le Fond International de Développement Agricole (FIDA) dans le domaine du Financement de l'Agriculture des pays en développement, la délégation camerounaise souhaite vivement, Monsieur le Président, que le problème de la seconde reconstitution des ressources de cette institution retienne l'attention de notre conférence.

Nous pensons, Monsieur le Président, que c'est là le rôle primordial de la coopération internationale et c'est ce qui justifie la nécessaire solidarité entre tous les peuples.

F.E. VREDEN (Suriname): First of all, let me congratulate you, Mr Chairman, and the three Vice-Chairmen on their election. If the effectiveness demonstrated in guiding the discussions of the delegates attending this Twenty-second Conference is a good sign, then the implementation of all the conclusions we arrive at during this session can be faced hopefully.

On behalf of the Government and the people of the Republic of Suriname, allow me to welcome the new members of our Organization. I am convinced that Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Saint Christopher and Nevis, and Vanuatu will contribute appropriately to fulfil the objectives of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

For the twenty-second time the FAO members have come together in order to identify, consider and discuss world food problems that are a serious threat to mankind and the role of the Organization is contributing to the solution. We must confess that since the last session of the Conference in 1981 there has hardly been achievement in the battle against hunger and malnutrition, particularly in the low-income food-deficit countries. My Government on the occasion of the World Food Day in 1983 expressed grave concern about the present situation, that an unacceptable part of mankind is still struggling for survival in spite of all technical and technological development.

The present economic world crisis, declining international solidarity, and the alarming food situation must bring us to realize that those of us present here today have an immense task to fulfil if we pretend to contribute earnestly to the realization of the brave new world.

Document C 83/2 clearly informs us that although on a global level significant increases in food production of several food commodities were realized in 1981-82, the food and agriculture outlook for many developing nations remains bleak. Export prices for agricultural products from developing countries decreased, while as a consequence of the deteriorating balance of payments and lack of foreign exchange, imports of necessary agricultural inputs, such as fertilizers, pesticides, etc., were seriously hampered. Added hereto is the set-back in aid to the agriculture of the low-income food-deficit countries. More reasons for grave concern are the difficulties in replenishing the International Development Association and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the shortfall in UNDP resources, the inadequate funding of FAO's action programmes and decreasing bilateral aid. Given this situation, it is clear that most developing nations are confronted with a difficult mission to feed their own people. It is therefore logical that based upon the principles of the Hot Springs Conference in 1943, the responsibility of each nation to see that its own people have the food needed for life and health must be regarded in connection with concerted actions on a national, regional and global level.

Fighting hunger and malnutrition requires us to realize an increase in agricultural production and productivity, to identify the areas of increase and decrease in production and to identify why and how progress in technology has not contributed significantly hereto.

The Director-General's proposals regarding the 1984-85 Programme of Work and Budget indicate only a modest growth. Given the need to economize, this is a realistic exercise. My delegation is happy with the increase in technical and economic activities on the account of the Administrative Support Services. The emphasis given to programme monitoring, the greater orientation of the activities to the country level, particularly in the field of training, as well as the expansion of the Technical Cooperation Programme activities, are welcome to my delegation.

We fully underline the urgent need for broadening the work on farm management in order to arrive at small farm development systems based on integrated development schemes. But unless determinants, such as credit facilities, input supplies, agro-based industries and markets are included, programmes to improve the income and life of the rural peasants are bound to result in marginal success, if any at all. My delegation, therefore, fully supports the increase in resources to rural development.

My Government adheres to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which includes the basic right to eat. It is tragic to state that adequate food is beyond the reach of far too many human beings. The Government and the people of the Republic of Suriname are committed to contribute in all possible ways to fight global hunger and malnutrition. It should, however, be realized that the fulfilment of this mission towards mankind requires technical actions within a socio-economic framework. And even though we might have concluded the socio-economic and political determinants several times before as the main cause of hunger, we should never fail to state that many countries succeeded in fighting hunger and malnutrition by introducing new political systems. Without mentioning any country, I am pretty sure all understand me very well.

Since the progressive forces came to power in Suriname in 1980, a political system has been introduced paying maximum attention to the actual interests of all the people, especially to the rural and low-income groups. Identification of the need for maximum development of the agricultural sector resulted in the allocation of substantially more funds than in the past for mainly small scale agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries and forestry projects and programmes in order to start in the short-term with a structural tackling of the employment problem; to build up a truly national economy in order to replace the still now existing colonially - oriented economy based practically only on the mining sector, which is bauxite, alumina and aluminum. The projects and programmes to achieve these objectives are based on an increase in agricultural production in view of either a substitution of the imports and/or an increase in exports.

The most important activities were a total additional acreage of 24 thousand hectares to be brought under rice cultivation by mainly small farmers; an increase in banana production to 60 000 tons; an expansion of the present acreage under oil palm cultivation with, additionally, some thousand hectares for the production of palm oil and fat for export markets; a programme for expansion and improvement of the artisanal fishing fleet, which would result in an increase of the export of fishery products.

These and other projects would, if completed, have created more than five thousand peasant employment opportunities, that is about 35 percent of the present unemployment. As a consequence, success would be real in the struggle against poverty and in the accomplishment of a structural solution of the problems with which we are confronted.

This projected agricultural development was, however, severely hit when the Netherlands disregarded their 1975 treaty obligations on development cooperation with Suriname. Since 1980 the Netherlands hampered the transfer of development funds, and since 1982 the Netherlands officially suspended unilaterally, without previous notice, the development cooperation for political reasons. Never before in history was it so clearly demonstrated to us how development assistance from some industrialized countries may function as a political weapon against developing countries. Never before in history has it become so evident to us that hunger, malnutrition and poverty are at will limited or stimulated as a consequence of the political whims of some developed countries. Therefore, my conclusion is that poverty in the world is to a great extent created, or at least maintained, by some rich industrialized nations.

Suriname could have become a country with great poverty and hunger had not my Government, under the inspiring leadership of Commander Bouterse, Head of the Suriname Policy Centre, carefully used our scarce means, and even more carefully taken measures to save foreign exchange, only permitting the import of necessary capital goods and prohibiting the imports of foodstuffs for which substitutes are produced locally. In spite of these and more efforts aimed at creating the conditions for undiminished progress in the execution of projects, there is a danger of stagnation. Indeed, we are now looking for alternative financing in order to prevent a drastic decrease in our development activities.

We have been told by some delegates of the developing countries of the kind and positive reactions from some industrialized nations to their requests for bilateral development assistance.

I must seriously ask our brother nations to carefully allocate funds for adequate and useful developments aimed at self-supply and food production, and at the same time to be aware that self-reliance as the objective is the only way to effectively fight hunger and malnutrition.

I believe that the role of FAO in the fight against hunger can also be enhanced. Given a suitable political and economic system which every nation has to realize on its own with its own resources, FAO, irrespective of political systems, will have to contribute as much as possible to the availability of food and agricultural products, and the accessibility thereof for the population of the world.

Everywhere, but especially where self-supply is not possible, regional cooperation is essential. The regional bodies of FAO should have no difficulty in generating that cooperation, although we have to be aware that much improvement had to be achieved in the field of regional integration and consistency in approach.

As one of the nations in the Caribbean with the most potential, we notice a lack of aggressiveness by FAO. We do hope that other meetings of this Twenty-second session of this Conference possibly will bring clarity and solutions.

As has already been stated, the speeches thus far have barely brought any solutions to our problems, although they have challenged the speaker and the listening delegates to stay awake. Let us try to make this Twenty-second session a turning point. In this respect it is hoped that we can arrive at the view that on a global level we have enough food to stay alive, all of us, but that apparently it is one of the characteristics of mankind to want to maintain tensions between people, between nations and between political and economic systems, making use of all available techniques and means, including food distribution. We shall never be able to solve the food problem without fighting these characteristics of mankind, but at the most we will be able to mitigate that way of thinking.

M. MAHMOUD DESSOUKY (Egypt) (original language Arabic): Distinguished Ministers and Heads of delegations, Mr Director-General, Ladies and Gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate the President of the Conference on his election, and I would like to congratulate the other Members of the bureau on their election. I am confident that this session, which takes place against a deteriorating economic situation and the problems of food shortage and malnutrition, as well as a decrease in agricultural investment and constraints on commodity trade, will reach constructive resolutions to help in overcoming such problems.

I should also like to congratulate Mr Eduoard Saouma, the Director-General of the FAO. We have observed his activities and his ever-increasing action in the development of the Organization's activities in the field of agriculture aimed at combatting poverty and reducing hunger and malnutrition.

Allow me also to welcome the four newly admitted members of our Organization.

A quick look at international developments will reveal clearly the direction of our world today, particularly that of the developing countries. These developments represent pressures on the international economic system and its imbalance. Therefore, we are called upon to continue dialogue with a view to creating a New International Economic Order. My country, within the framework of these developments, would call upon FAO to increase its positive role in the field of economic and technical cooperation, and to support the developing countries in fostering cooperation among themselves, together with confronting developed countries with their responsibilities to assist the developing countries to implement programmes in food and agriculture.

The Arab Republic of Egypt has endorsed the Programme of Work and Budget for the coming biennium, and this approval was based on the fact that the Programme would realize the requirements of the developing countries within reasonable levels of the budget. My country attaches great importance to some of the programmes undertaken by the Organization, in particular the TCP and technical cooperation among developing countries, the Plan of Action for Food Security, and the efforts exerted for the consolidation and support of the Investment Centre for Agriculture Development.

The increase of agricultural production depends on three components: firstly, self-reliance and the necessity for planning in order to reduce dependence on others; secondly, assistance to developing countries for cooperation among themselves in order to face food shortages; thirdly, the industrially developed countries should give high priority to cooperation with developing countries in food and agricultural development.

We, in the Arab Republic of Egypt, had the first area ever to be planted by man and cradled the first idea of food stocks, and have done so since the days of the Prophet Joseph, in line with the expanded concept of food security given by the Director-General, which rests on three components, namely, sufficient food supplies and the creation of greater stability in the flow of such supplies, together with the guarantee of food supplies for the needy. The interest shown

by my country in agriculture and food security is crystallized in the preparation of a new strategy for agricultural development which aims at achieving self-sufficiency in the main food grains by the end of the 1980s, the increase of exports of cash crops such as vegetables and fruits, and the provision of sufficient white meats and fish through the use of modern technology in agriculture, fertilization and pest control, the increase of agricultural mechanization, the use of high-yielding seeds and the rationalization of the use of water. We rely in this respect on modern scientific theories and our past experience. We are guided also by the achievements of other developed countries which have an environment similar to ours in rural areas, in addition to the economic and technical assistance we have had from friendly countries and from international organizations such as FAO, the World Food Programme and the IFAD.

The Arab Republic of Egypt with its long history in agriculture and its age-old ties with the African and Arab countries in the region has assumed a positive role in technical cooperation among developing countries by providing the experience and technical expertise of national institutions in research and training within the framework of international and bilateral cooperation. The Arab Republic of Egypt is still ready for more expansion in this respect. We commend the efforts of FAO in Africa which aim at increasing agricultural and food production. Our country has made a modest contribution there and we have hosted in the last few weeks the third regional session of the Commission on Food and Nutrition in Africa.

The FAO has assumed a pioneering and leading role since its inception in meeting the requirements of countries within the framework of a comprehensive scenario for agricultural development, and we should like to express our appreciation for its great efforts to relieve the burden shouldered by developing countries. It is an excellent model for eliminating imbalances and the gap in the production of food. We call upon the developed countries to continue to provide the necessary resources which will enable the Organization to realize its mission.

In conclusion, allow me to call upon all the assembled delegates to pool their efforts to create a world where peace and prosperity will reign supreme, and where adequate food will be available to all. May God the Almighty guide your steps and crown with success your efforts for the benefit of all mankind. Thank you.

A. DEASY (Ireland): Mr Chairman, Director-General, distinguished delegates and observers, coming from one of the nations that has supported the FAO since 1947 I am very pleased to have this opportunity to address the Twenty-second session of the Conference and to wish it well.

In his address of acceptance, the Chairman invited us to reflect on how we have fared in the fight against hunger and starvation in the 40 years that have elapsed since that meeting took place in Hot Springs, Virginia, in 1943, which led to the foundation of the FAO. He reminded us that while many things have changed in the meantime, we are still confronted today with the spectres of malnutrition and starvation in many parts of the world. At first reading it would seem that we have failed and failed badly in our efforts to eliminate hunger. On closer reflection, however, we must note that the world's population has almost doubled over those 40 years. In the light of that massive increase in the numbers to be fed, the progress made through the dedicated work of this great Organization, is commendable.

We view, too, with satisfaction the phenomenal progress made by several of the developing nations of the world in the production of food, not alone to meet their own demands, but in some cases also to provide buffer stocks against bad harvests and even to export surpluses. These represent real and very substantial results, particularly in a world that has been all too often confronted throughout that 40 years by both man-made and natural disasters.

More recently, we have had the added problem of the acute economic recession which has put an enormous strain on the economies of so many nations. We are well aware, that for the least developed countries which are unable to produce sufficient food to meet their own needs, the effects of this recession - seen especially in high levels of inflation, the funding of international debt and shrinking international trade - have meant that those countries are unable to purchase the supplies of food that are needed.

The Director-General has recently redefined the concept of World Food Security in clear and stark terms. His new definition has found general acceptance and we in Ireland would subscribe fully to it. His definition is also very timely and obliges us all to focus more clearly on what World Food Security should really imply.

The existence of large food surpluses in some areas of the world, side by side with the dire want of food in other regions, merely underlines how necessary it was to re-appraise what we mean by food security.

It is perhaps ironic that the general economic recession which is responsible for accentuating the food crisis in the world is itself also one of the factors that is curtailing the financial resources which might otherwise be made available to help overcome the crisis. In their battle to defeat the recession and to get the world economy moving again, many governments have had to adopt austerity measures aimed at eliminating deficits in public expenditure and at redressing domestic economic imbalances. I regret that my own country has been among those which has been forced to adopt unpleasant measures of that kind. I was, therefore, gratified to see that in his approach to the Budget for the 1984/85 biennium the Director-General has himself also shown a very clear consciousness of the problems that have to be faced. Bearing in mind the variety of conflicting demands with which he was confronted, he has earned our congratulations for his efforts to make the Budget more cost effective particularly by devoting scarce resources to those areas where they are most needed. Because of his efforts in this direction the Organization's Budget is, in my opinion, now soundly based and calculated to utilise the resources available to the best advantage. I find it particularly appropriate that a major share of those resources is now going to be devoted to some of the very critical and pressing situations that are already facing us. I am very much aware of the particularly fearsome food crisis in Africa, and I should like to confirm that my country will advance its actions for the coming year as quickly as possible so as to be able to have supplies available for delivery to that area very early in 1984. I shall also be reporting to my Government on the Director-General's urgent appeal on behalf of the African States with a view to seeing whether we might find it possible to offer further help.

I realise that the African situation itself, coupled with the frightening prospect of some 500 million of our' fellow humans throughout the world facing grave malnutrition and possibly starvation, forces us to concentrate our minds just now to a great extent on the immediate problems. It is right that our first concern must be to arrest the threatened worsening of the crises that are already before us. However we must not allow that concern to divert us from the strategy that is in the best long-term interests of the developing countries. No effort must be spared in striving to overcome the basic weakness of food production in those countries. It is only when food production in all the developing countries is maximised that we can contemplate a future without the need for continuing emergency relief on a substantial scale. Therefore, the work of those international agencies which are endeavouring to increase production in those countries demands urgent support. In this connection the early replenishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development would be particularly appropriate.

Of course, in seeking to concentrate our minds on the need for increased production we are liable to overlook the continuing drain on food resource due to post-harvest losses. This is an aspect of food supply where continued positive action can produce results quickly.

It is, of course, abundantly clear that for some considerable time to come, food aid both for emergency relief and for regular development programme purposes must remain a feature of assistance for many underdeveloped countries. It is disappointing to learn that aid in this form is still considerably short of what can usefully be absorbed. While on this topic of aid, it is appropriate that I should congratulate the World Food Programme on the occasion of the twentieth year of its existence. In Ireland, we have been consistently impressed with both the dedication and efficiency with which the staff of this organization discharges the heavy onus placed on them. It has always been reassuring for a small country like ours to know that our food aid, which is channelled entirely through the World Food Programme, will find its way to where it is most needed.

I want to turn briefly to the topic of plant genetic resources. The value of these resources for the development of agriculture is well recognised, and the importance of protecting them from the danger of erosion and loss is not the subject of argument. What is open to question is the methods by which this protection is maintained. We in Ireland have some hesitation about subscribing to an over-rigid legalised international system for the conservation of these genetic resources. Apart from questions of cost and technical feasibility, we would be concerned that such a system would run counter to legislation governing the rights of private plant breeders. The many achievements of these plant breeders is deserving of recognition and we would consider it prudent especially to avoid a system which could inhibit the work of those breeders in the future. A great deal of progress has already been made in the conservation of plant genetic resources by the establishment of national gene banks and otherwise. Our preference would be to see this work being extended and built upon with a view to the greatest possible level of international exchange of information and resources to a voluntary basis.

The nature and scale of the problems that will be the subject of discussion at this Conference can be quite intimidating. The apparent failures to solve the food shortages of so many countries should not blind us to what has been achieved. It is understandable, perhaps, that the enormity of crisis situations such as that now facing us in Africa could lead us to be excessively pessimistic about the long term prospects for feeding the world's population. However, agriculture and food production are not at a standstill. Technology is still developing rapidly and many difficulties that loomed large 40 years ago have long since been overcome. Pessimism could induce an attitude of defeatism and helplessness about the way ahead. Of course, we cannot afford to be in any way complacent lest

we should relax our efforts to guarantee all of the world's population and adequate supply of food. For my part, I find encouragement in the findings of FAO's study on Land, Food and Population (C 83/18). The global results of the study confirm that "the world as a whole should have enough cultivable land to feed far more than the maximum population it is ever likely to have to support". That surely gives us every hope for the future and must encourage us to strive even more urgently to ensure that the potential for food production that exists will be exploited.

We cannot sit and wait for things to happen. We must stimulate action and give impetus to what will otherwise be a slow process. The Director-General in his own address to the Conference emphasized that if the poorer countries are to be enabled to utilize their own land resources to feed themselves, priority must be given in many cases to the establishment of vigorous rural development programmes. The programme of action which emerged from the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development highlights the particular need for more widespread agricultural training and education and for the provision of extension advice to speed up the transfer of technology, in order to increase production. The experience of those countries which have succeeded in developing and modernising their farming industries would fully support the value of action on those lines. There is no better policy than to seek to develop the ability of people themselves to participate in their own advancement. I feel sure therefore that the Conference will give the Programme of Action the extra boost the Director-General has asked of it. In terms of cost-effectiveness I can visualise no better long term investment than the improvement of the technical and practical competence of producers so that they can become increasingly self-reliant.

Before I conclude, I would like to convey to the Chairman and his Vice-Chairmen my felicitations and best wishes. I would also like to extend a very warm welcome to the four new Member Nations on their admission to the Organization.

H.A. KASSIM (Bahrain)(original language Arabic): At the outset, please allow me, Mr Chairman, most sincerely to congratulate the Chairman of the Conference on his election to guide the work of the Twenty-second session of this Conference. This is evidence of the participating countries' confidence in his ability to assume such a responsibility.

I should also like sincerely to welcome the new member countries on the occasion of their entry to FAO. I hope that this new membership will help to strengthen international relations and help especially in the development of food production.

I wish to express my pleasure in attending this session. I hope that this gathering will represent a new initiative in our efforts aimed at creating the appropriate circumstances to alleviate the serious food crisis which affects many countries. The world food situation still reflects a sombre outlook, despite the fact that there has been a slight improvement. This has meant that many countries have been unable to overcome the problem of food shortages.

Many of our societies are weighed down by the problems of hunger and poverty. These are further compounded by unfavourable natural conditions, which have led to the further spread of hunger in the world. In the light of such circumstances, it is unfortunate that some smaller countries have been forced to increase their spending on armaments and defence to the detriment of development and production. This has led to increasingly severe problems of food supply in such countries, and agriculture has now been relegated to a lower priority in those countries.

It is equally regrettable that no progress has been made in international meetings to bridge the gap between developed and developing countries. I cite as examples those international meetings and negotiations on international economic cooperation for development, the North-South dialogue and

UNCTAD VI. It is regrettable to note that the gap is wider now than it has ever been and that it represents a real danger to world stability.

The economies of developing countries are characterized by a number of interrelated economic problems, the most salient ones being those related to slow economic growth, especially in agriculture and food production. The low prices of some primary products which are the main source of foreign earnings for some of these developing countries has also increased their problems. This has led to a deterioration in those countries' terms of trade. These countries have come increasingly to depend on meeting their requirements and needs, including those for technical know-how, on the export and the import of such commodities. The developing countries' ability to step up their development, and more specifically agricultural development, has thus been affected. On the other hand, I note that those measures and policies adopted by industrialized countries to tackle their economic problems, represented by the structural deficiencies of their budgets and the inflationary stagnation in their economies have led to the appearance of certain indications of economic revival in industrialized countries. Yet those countries have failed to take into account the related economic interests of other countries, more specifically the developing ones. The developed countries' intensified protectionist policies have left in their wake a critical situation and have weakened the economies of other countries. Developing countries have thus become unable to meet their domestic needs or to meet their foreign and domestic commitments.

What is also regrettable is that an increased number of developing countries have now had to resort to imports to meet their food requirements especially from industrialized countries with surpluses. At the same time these developing countries have increased their efforts to achieve those aims and goals they are striving for, such as collective self-reliance. They have been unable to establish such a principle as a cornerstone in international economic relations. Such collective self-reliance cannot be achieved in the light of present circumstances.

As a result of this, and in order that developing countries may succeed in developing their economy and exploiting their natural resources, they have been forced to resort to borrowing from various sources, national and international institutions. The problem of the external indebtedness of developing countries is a very serious one, it has become one of their main concerns. The burden of foreign debts has increased. Debt servicing has reached an astronomical figure, while the ability of developing countries to reimburse such a debt has weakened, thus forcing them to resort to more loans in order, in fact, simply to pay the annual interest on their loans. They have also had to resort repeatedly to negotiations to reschedule their debts.

The problem was further complicated by the fact that the developing oil-producing countries, which provided a large share of GNPs in the form of soft loans, have been unable to maintain the size or level of such an aid due to a drop in their own income from oil exports.

The efforts undertaken by developing countries to solve their problems of indebtedness within the lending countries on an individual basis will never enable them to solve their problems in a radical manner. The Food and Agriculture Organization is one of the most effective agencies in the United Nations system, and must play an active role in the search for a collective solution to this question in a manner that would guarantee a fair solution to all countries suffering from such a problem. I hope that the Food and Agriculture Organization will be able to coordinate action and cooperate with other sister organizations within the UN system to coordinate efforts in this field.

The tragic situation of many societies in the world requires FAO to intensify its activities and programmes aimed at eradicating food and hunger. I do not believe I need to stress the important role that FAO can play in this field or the need to increase its efforts to improve living conditions for all, and to set up constructive programmes to improve the quality of life in rural areas.

In reviewing the various documents prepared by the Organization for discussion during this session of the Conference, we note the intensity of effort exerted by the Director-General and his collaborators in preparing the documents. They reflect a serious attempt to prepare carefully the work of this Conference. I would like, therefore, to seize this opportunity to commend the role played by this Organization and the Director-General in the wise policies they adopted in preparing the Budget for 1984-1985, as they have sought to reconcile between their ambition to expand the activities of the Organization and the need to rationalize spending, taking into account the difficult situation in the world economy.

We also support the expanded concept of food security which was proposed by the Director-General to achieve three goals, namely, adequate food production, the achievement of a greater degree of stability in the flow of resources and the need to facilitate the provision of food to the needy.

Allow me now to refer to a worthy example of international cooperation, that of six Arab countries in the Arabian Gulf which have joined together to form the Gulf Cooperation Council, collectively to dedicate their capabilities and efforts to achieve a greater degree of prosperity and progress in their part of the world. The creation of this Council represents the embodiment of an ambition to realize the hopes and expectations of the peoples of the Region. The Council though recently established has so far, in fact, succeeded in achieving a great deal thanks to the wise policy followed by the leadership of these countries, and their guidance; they seek to provide all the necessary inputs that would guarantee success for this noble institution, and which is a unique experiment of its kind in the world. The joint economic agreement that the member countries started implementing at the beginning of this year is an important turning point in favour of cooperation. The agreement between these countries to join their efforts to set up a strategic reserve of food, and their decision to undertake joint food projects, as well as their efforts in achieving food security on a collective level, represent an important step in the right direction and will have positive effects on world food security.

Finally I hope that the results of this Conference will be up to our expectations to alleviate the suffering of humanity. May the Lord God guide our hands and help us to make logic and reason prevail in our attempts to achieve our noble aims and ideals.

KHAMSING SAYAKONE (Laos): Monsieur le Président, Messieurs les Délégués, Mesdames et Messieurs, C'est pour moi un honneur et un grand plaisir de reconduire officiellement une fois de plus la délégation de la RDPL à cette 22e session de la Conférence grâce à l'aimable invitation de la FAO.

Je voudrais, pour commencer, transmettre les remerciements sincères, la coopération étroite et les félicitations chaleureuses du gouvernement et du peuple lao de différentes ethnies à Monsieur le Directeur général de la FAO, le Dr. Saouma, ainsi qu'à tous ses collaborateurs, d'avoir pris des dispositions nécessaires permettant à cette 22e session de notre Conférence de se tenir solennellement.

Qu'il me soit permis d'exprimer mes salutations et félicitations particulières aux nouveaux membres de la FAO. J'ai l'assurance que leur admission au sein de la FAO contribuera au développement et au renforcement de notre "grande famille".

Notre délégation présente enfin nos remerciements au gouvernement et au peuple italiens pour nous avoir réservé des facilités nécessaires afin de nous permettre de venir au rendez-vous de la 22e session de cette Conférence.

Notre 22e Conférence s'est déroulée à l'heure où la Conjoncture mondiale est on ne peut plus tendue car les peuples de par le monde en nombre toujours croissant entreprennent une lutte décisive contre la guerre pour la sauvegarde de la paix.

Quel que soit l'acharnement de cette lutte, nous avons la ferme conviction que ceux qui luttent pour la paix mondiale ayant successivement remporté des victoires, en remporteront d'autres encore plus importantes, car l'époque actuelle est, comme chacun le sait bien, une époque de l'indépendance nationale, de la démocratie, de la coopération équitable pour la sauvegarde de la paix mondiale.

La RDPL, qui a vécu plus de 30 ans de guerre dévastatrice, mesure à sa juste valeur le danger et les conséquences énormes de la guerre, connaît le prix de la paix laquelle est indispensable aux pansements de blessures de guerre et à la reconstruction du pays. C'est pour cette raison que notre Gouvernement a soutenu, soutient et soutiendra le mouvement de lutte pour la sauvegarde de la paix, l'indépendance nationale des pays de par le monde.

Nous continuerons aussi à appuyer les propositions réclamant la réduction des dépenses dans la course aux armements et celles des militaires de 10 pour cent environ afin d'utiliser une part de cette somme pour le développement économique et social.

Aussi réduisons-nous d'une part la possibilité éventuelle de la guerre qui n'apporte que malheur aux peuples, et d'autre part aurons-nous des fonds plus importants pour donner des possibilités, à des millions d'hommes qui affrontent actuellement la faim, d'améliorer progressivement leurs conditions de vie et de contribuer à construire un monde paisible, prospère et heureux.

L'agriculture et la sylviculture constituent l'une et l'autre des ressources importantes parmi les autres potentialités de la nation. C'est pour cela qu'après la libération définitive du pays notre gouvernement a élaboré le programme l'agriculture et la sylviculture comme base du développement industriel.

Pour mettre en oeuvre cette politique en vue de réduire rapidement la faim et arriver à s'autosuffire progressivement en produits alimentaires, notre gouvernement a défini clairement les directives de la manière suivante :

"... s'efforcer de promouvoir la production agricole, l'artisanat, les industries légères et certains autres secteurs industriels sur une base d'une réorganisation de production, d'une nouvelle division de travail afin de résoudre les besoins fondamentaux du peuple et dès 1985, l'Etat doit produire chaque année un surplus agricole pour constituer une réserve au moins de 6 mois de consommation..."

Dans l'exécution de ces directives, durant les années écoulées, malgré diverses difficultés provoquées par la sécheresse, l'inondation et les agissements de sabotage des ennemis, nous sommes à même de les surmonter et avons obtenu un résultat record en 1981 et cela grâce à la juste ligne et programme politiques de notre Parti et de notre gouvernement, à la lumière de différentes résolutions, à la persévérance du peuple de différentes ethnies et à l'aide efficace des pays socialistes frères, des pays amis, des organisations internationales en particulier la FAO. Ce qui nous a permis dès lors de créer des conditions favorables à la réalisation des objectifs d'autosuffisance alimentaire. Cette réalisation a apporté une certaine contribution dans la solution au problème de la pénurie alimentaire posé au pays. Le peuple lao la considère non sans fierté car elle est sans précédente dans l'histoire de la nation.

Toutefois, il est alors à remarquer qu'il reste bon nombre de pays dans cette partie du monde et dans d'autres continents qui ne parviennent pas encore à réduire le problème de la faim. La cause n'est nullement la pauvreté mais en réside dans le fait que dans ces pays, les paysans et fermiers ne sont pas propriétaires collectifs des moyens principaux de production, souffrent de l'injustice sociale, de l'insécurité intérieure, et du manque de l'indépendance nationale. Telles sont là les causes principales de la faim. A ce propos, notre délégation approuve pleinement la déclaration de Monsieur le Directeur général de la FAO, Dr Saouma, à l'occasion de la Journée mondiale de l'Alimentation, le 16 octobre 1983, dans laquelle il dit, je cite "... Les meilleurs terres ont

souvent été accaparées pour produire des cultures d'exportation lucrative. Les petits exploitants et les paysans qui vivent en économie de subsistance ont dû se contenter des restes. Ils ont été obligé de racourcir les jachères pourtant indispensables pour restaurer la fertilité des sols tropicaux", car ses points de vue reflètent parfaitement la réalité actuelle dans bon nombre de pays de Dar le monde.

La RDPL, à travers les différents projets et programmes d'aide, a reçu une assistance importante de la FAO. Cette assistance a apporté une contribution efficace dans la transformation progressive de l'ancienne mode de production en une nouvelle mode plus scientifique par la pratique de la culture intensive; le nombre de techniciens et spécialistes agricoles s'est vu augmenter en effectif; les semences à haut rendement commencent à être diffusées; l'entretien des cultures s'est vu doter d'une base par la création des centres de Protection de végétaux dans différentes régions du pays; les propriétés des sols sont analysées, les pertes après récolte et les remèdes à y apporter commencent à être discutés.

Le gouvernement de la RDPL et le peuple lao de différentes ethnies expriment leur satisfaction quant aux réalisations et c'est en leur nom que nous nous permettons d'exprimer notre gratitude et nos remerciements sincères à la FAO pour nous avoir accordé une aide si précieuse. Toutefois, si les bons résultats ont été ainsi obtenus, ils ne sont que précaires, d'autres plus importants restent à réaliser car la production agricole de notre pays dépend encore trop des conditions climatiques trop souvent capricieuses.

Si celles-ci étaient bonnes, comme celles en 1981, la production atteignait son niveau record. Si, au contraire, elles ne le sont pas, tel est le cas de cette année, elles posent alors de sérieuses difficultés à nos paysans pour réaliser leurs travaux agricoles. Cette année, dans plusieurs régions qui sont touchées par la sécheresse, les paysans se sont obligés de répéter plusieurs fois les semailles, de ne transplanter que tardivement leur riz, ou, pis encore, de laisser incultes leurs rizières. Cette situation n'est que peu propice à une bonne récolte.

Pour pallier cette déficience et pour réaliser les objectifs d'autosuffisance alimentaire, notre Parti et notre gouvernement se préparent activement en mettant tous les moyens disponibles à l'intensification des cultures irriguées et pluviales afin de faire de l'année 1984 une année plus abondante. Pour faire ceci, notre Parti et notre gouvernement comptent beaucoup sur la FAO, les organisations internationales et sur les pays frères et amis et formulent l'espoir qu'ils continueront à nous assister davantage, tant dans le domaine de la technique, de l'équipement que sous forme d'aides substantielles.

Monsieur le Président, notre délégation a examiné attentivement et avec intérêt le Programme de travail et budget pour le prochain exercice biennal 1984-85 ainsi que d'autres documents importants présentés par Monsieur le Directeur général.

Nous sommes satisfaits de constater que la réduction des coûts administratifs et des services communs et l'augmentation de ceux des programmes techniques et économiques sont des mesures justes et correspondent bien aux besoins actuels car ils donnent aux pays en développement la possibilité d'élargir la production agricole et de résoudre progressivement le problème de la faim et de la malnutrition.

Notre Délégation exprime une fois de plus nos compliments à Monsieur le Directeur général pour ses efforts inlassables dans la préparation de ces documents, et lui apporte pleinement son soutien pour le programme de travail et budget qui nous a été présenté.

Pour terminer, nous souhaitons les meilleurs voeux pour le plein succès de notre Conférence.

Bonne santé à Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Mesdames et Messieurs, ainsi qu'aux invités participants à cette vingt-deuxième Session de la Conférence.

D.S. BROWN (IFAD): I am pleased to have this opportunity to address the Twenty-second session of the FAO Conference on behalf of the International Fund for Agricultural Development and its President, Dr Abdelmuhsin M. Al-Sudeary, who regrets he could not be here with you.

President Al-Sudeary has also asked me to express to the newly elected Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of this important Conference his strongest congratulations. He wishes to extend his best wishes for the success of your deliberations here. We in IFAD are following closely the proceedings of this Conference which comes at a time when the world agricultural situation is complex and difficult.

As FAO was born forty years ago and WFP celebrates its twentieth anniversary, it is less than six years ago that IFAD came into being, largely as a result of ideas which flowed from the World Food Conference.

The World Food Conference and the world community as a whole have seen major problems in our present agricultural systems:

- to relate adequately food production with population growth;
- an inability to avoid famine in all cases even when global food availability is adequate;
- an inability to stabilize grain markets sufficiently to protect interests of both producers and consumers and to avoid unreasonable price fluctuations;
- a failure by all of us to understand and respond adequately to the special problems of Africa.

From this complex of problems, IFAD came into being with the particular purpose of more forcefully addressing issues of agricultural production activities by small farmers and on dealing directly with the problems of the rural landless.

In its first six years, IFAD has had an opportunity only to make a modest beginning to address some of the problems I have mentioned above. Its 138 projects launched with a total cost of US\$ 7.8 billion, including amounts provided by the Fund, by recipient governments and by other institutions, have focussed exclusively on increasing food production by small farmers and on raising the purchasing power of those who have limited or no access to means of producing their own food.

We are very conscious of the fact that even if a fully adequate global food production and stocks situation can be achieved, individual and family access to food resources still depends on each person being able to produce or to buy what they need to eat. This is why IFAD devotes its resources to meeting the needs of the poorest people in the poorest areas, to give them the wherewithal to produce or buy adequate food. Our efforts in the field, if all goes well, should boost agricultural production in poor areas by 20 million tons in terms of wheat equivalent. In just six years, IFAD's projects have brought new hopes to about 40 million people in 77 countries. This is done at a cost of less than US\$ 1 000 per beneficiary family. We have tried to pay special attention to remote and inaccessible regions of low income, food deficit countries. We are pleased that we are seeing our member governments devoting increasing resources, financial and manpower, to support similar activities for small farmers, landless labourers and other disadvantaged groups in rural society.

In carrying out our mandate, we have worked in close cooperation with other international financial and technical organizations. We have a very special relationship with FAO which I want particularly to acknowledge here in these Conference proceedings. Cooperation between our two organizations has steadily increased with the growing size of the Fund's operations.

This, Mr Chairman, brings me to the question of resource flows. Growth of production and poverty alleviation are not without cost. We must be prepared to devote more resources than we have in the past. In order to carry out our mandate effectively, IFAD's resources must be replenished periodically at an adequate level. Negotiations for IFAD's second replenishment have just been started and we hope they can be completed by mid-1984. I am sure you will all agree with me that as a new institution, any delay in replenishing these resources could harm IFAD's effectiveness in augmenting food production and easing rural poverty in member developing countries. We have been most appreciative of the many statements made by delegates here who have recognized the importance of this replenishment process.

The subject of IFAD's financial position, and the status of negotiations of the second replenishment, will be an important agenda item at the Fund's Governing Council meeting taking place from 6 to 9 December here in Rome. President Al-Sudeary has asked me to express his personal strong feelings on the importance he gives to the fact that all member countries of IFAD be represented at the December Governing Council meeting at the highest possible level so that these financial concerns can be discussed and overcome. He has asked me to urge delegates in the FAO Conference, who are members of IFAD, to assure that their governments participate actively in all fora devoted to the discussion of IFAD's future.

R. LIEBERS BALDIVIESO (Bolivia): Señor Presidente, señor Director General, señores delegados y observadores.

Deseo comenzar dando una cálida bienvenida a los nuevos miembros de esta Organización, naciones nuevas que se suman a los esfuerzos para responder al desafío cada vez más fuerte del hambre y el desarrollo.

También deseo expresar que los bolivianos abrigamos esperanzas de que este debate se traduzca en iniciativas concretas para superar problemas, que dado el avance científico, tecnológico, y en algunos casos económico, que ha alcanzado la humanidad, debían haber sido erradicados hace mucho tiempo.

El empeño del Director General de la Organización merece nuestro decidido apoyo porque con su tenaz defensa de la seguridad alimentaria mundial alienta esperanzas de un futuro mejor. Nos reunimos en momentos en que las grandes tensiones internacionales y los no poco fundados temores de una guerra parecen haber eclipsado el drama de millones de seres humanos. El hambre, como la expresión más deshumanizada de la creciente brecha que separa a países ricos y pobres, continúa poniendo a prueba nuestros compromisos de solidaridad y asistencia.

Lo que es verdaderamente alarmante, señor Presidente, es que políticas e intereses injustos están desviando la atención sobre este problema y sofocando los trabajosos esfuerzos de países en vías de desarrollo de satisfacer sus necesidades y ampliar sus perspectivas económicas. Los precios de la mayoría de los productos de los países del tercer mundo han caído a los niveles más bajos de la posguerra, mientras medidas proteccionistas del mundo industrializado no cesan de levantar barreras a nuestras exportaciones. La inestabilidad de los precios mantiene en ascuas a economías enteras, ensombreciendo las perspectivas de un desarrollo saludable de las instituciones llamadas a garantizar un orden social en el cual el individuo pueda gozar de sus libertades y derechos.

Con el trasfondo de un gigantesco despilfarro mundial en armamentos, vemos el crecimiento paralelo del endeudamiento externo de nuestros países, cada vez más empeñados a atender compromisos muchas veces contraídos por políticas erróneas que luego toca corregir.

Es el caso de mi país, Bolivia, que ha retornado luego de casi dos décadas de gobiernos dictatoriales, a la senda cada vez más amplia de la democracia en América Latina, se encuentra atravesando una de las peores crisis económicas de su historia-. El Gobierno constitucional ha heredado problemas que gravitan cada vez más sobre nuestra sociedad. Estamos empeñados en lograr un reordenamiento de nuestra economía para dar una respuesta adecuada a cuestiones que han sido por mucho tiempo postergadas.

Una de nuestras prioridades es precisamente consolidar la reforma agraria, una de las conquistas pioneras que Bolivia orguilosamente defiende y promueve. Somos un país de campesinos y concebimos nuestro desarrollo a partir de la generosidad de nuestras tierras. Por ello estamos llevando a cabo con decisión la segunda etapa de este proceso, con renovado espíritu revolucionario y con las mismas fuerzas que lo inspiraron hace 30 años.

Señor Presidente, las dificultades que distraen nuestros esfuerzos no son pocas. La crisis económica nos coloca cada vez más lejos de la infraestructura necesaria para desarrollar eficientemente nuestros recursos. Paralelamente, las disminuciones de nuestras exportaciones, la inestabilidad de los precios de nuestras materias primas y los mercados cada vez menos accesibles, han agudizado nuestros problemas. En los momentos más críticos nos hemos visto frente a desastres naturales que han destruido gran parte de nuestras cosechas. Sequías e inundaciones se han abatido sobre mi país afectando a más de 1,6 millones de habitantes; es decir al 25 por ciento de nuestra población. Las pérdidas ocasionadas suman aproximadamente 900 millones de dólares que equivalen a nuestras exportaciones anuales.

En una suerte de oscuro fatalismo la democracia boliviana pasa por una durísima prueba, la ayuda de la comunidad internacional, unida a la entereza de un pueblo que aprendió a sobreponerse a las adversidades y comprende bien lo que significa elegir su propio destino, permitirán que el Gobierno constitucional democrático de Bolivia encare la crisis con un sólido respaldo. A estos problemas, se añaden las limitaciones que nos impone un injusto enclaustramiento geográfico. Consideramos que este factor retrasa nuestro desarrollo y nos margina del aprovechamiento de los recursos del mar.

Valoramos los pronunciamientos de apoyo a nuestra irrenunciable demanda de salida soberana al Océano Pacífico, como la expresión más elocuente de la solidaridad internacional.

Señor Presidente, no quisiera dejar pasar esta oportunidad para expresar el reconocimiento del Gobierno de Bolivia a la FAO, al PMA, a aquellas naciones y organismos internacionales que están manifestando diligentemente su solidaridad con la situación de las familias afectadas por los desastres naturales.

Señor Presidente, mi país cree que es posible una nueva concepción del desarrollo, que las relaciones de cooperación e intercambio entre naciones bien llevadas y justamente definidas, pueden conjurar el gran desequilibrio económico que nos abruma y desterrar no sólo el hambre, sino la abominable idea de usar los alimentos con fines políticos.

Para terminar, la delegación de Bolivia desea expresar su conformidad y pleno apoyo al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto presentado por el Sr. Director General a la consideración de esta Conferencia.

S.G. DEMBA (Malawi): It is my honour and privilege to address this Twenty-second session of the FAO Conference on behalf of the Malawi delegation and the Government of the Republic of Malawi.

Before I proceed any further, permit me, Mr Chairman, to convey to the Conference the best wishes for the success of this Conference of my Head of State and Government, His Excellency the Life President, Ngwazi Dr H. Kamuzu Banda, who is also Minister of Agriculture.

Malawi is an agricultural country like so many other countries in the Third World in general and Africa in particular. Agriculture, including forestry and fisheries, is the backbone of the economy of Malawi which was not endowed by nature with any precious minerals.

In addition to providing us with food and fibre, agriculture also serves as the only source of livelihood for over 90 percent of our people, the smallholder farmers who account for up to 85 percent of all agricultural production. Over 90 percent of our export earnings are also derived from agriculture.

It is against this background that the Malawi Government attaches great importance to the development of this sector and to the work of FAO in assisting its Member Nations in this task. Our Government wishes to reaffirm its support for FAO and the activities it undertakes for the development of the agricultural sector.

It is also for this reason that the Malawi delegation congratulates the Director-General of FAO for the brilliant manner in which he presented his address to this Conference and, in particular, the new strategies and approaches which he has highlighted in his budget as priorities for combatting the world-wide food problem which has now reached crisis proportions particularly in the African region.

There is ample evidence that Africa is endowed with adequate resources whose exploitation can easily provide enough food to feed three times the continent's present population even at current levels of input availability.

I believe that all the relevant questions have already been asked in this Conference as to why the African region continues to be confronted with this serious food crisis which is characterized by declining per capita food production, hunger, malnutrition and widespread poverty, and why Africa is unable to exploit fully its vast agricultural potential and thus rid itself of poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

Several useful answers to these very important questions have also been provided, including the devastating droughts and epidemics which have ravaged the African continent for a decade. While fully endorsing the validity of these answers, the Malawi delegation also believes that some of the main causes of this food crisis are to be found in some of our policies and institutions which might have been adopted and pursued in good faith but have hindered rather than promoted agricultural development in general and food production in particular.

The Malawi delegation further believes that the problem of poverty, hunger and malnutrition is-a long-term one. Its solution therefore lies in long-term investments in several key areas: include training aimed at the development of indigenous manpower resources: research aimed at the development of suitable crop varieties and related packages, particularly, but not exclusively, for the drier and marginal areas; irrigation development to free our farmers from the vagaries of the weather and to fully exploit our vast and hitherto untapped potential; and provision of the necessary infrastructure.

As pointed out by the Director-General and other speakers, we agree that world food security can be achieved only by ensuring the security of the individual farmer, which in turn facilitates national and regional food security. This we consider to be of particular relevance to the food problem in our region.

We believe that our people, including the many small-scale farmers who dominate the agricultural sector in the African region, are among the most hard-working people in the world. All they require in order to achieve the desired level of food production is security in the form of remunerative prices for their crops relative to input costs, and equitable land tenure system and protection from the ravages of crop and animal diseases and post-harvest losses.

Moreover, my delegation believes that it will take greater commitment by all concerned in order to resolve the food crisis in our region. Greater commitment is required from funding agencies in providing adequate financial resources and other forms of assistance. Greater commitment and support for the agricultural sector is also required from the region itself and should be reflected in our national development policies and budget allocations. Our commitment to the agricultural sector should also include better management of our natural resource base, particularly our soil, rivers, lakes and forests, all of which are essential for sustainable agricultural production. FAO's initiatives in these areas are therefore particularly welcomed by the Malawi delegation.

The Malawi Government is convinced that viable and lasting solutions to the food crisis must ultimately come from our individual countries. It is for this reason that the Malawi Government attaches great importance to training programmes for the development of local manpower resources and the need to reflect this aspect in all technical assistance programmes.

In addition to human capital formation, external aid will continue to play a vital role in many key areas in furthering our agricultural and rural development. These areas include resource mobilization and technology transfer as well as food aid for emergencies and other short-term, stop-gap measures.

In this connection, the Malawi delegation joins previous speakers in congratulating the Director-General of FAO on his comprehensive and realistic Programme of Work and Budget for the years 1984 and 1985, including the three newly proposed strategies for food security, which we fully support.

The Malawi delegation also wishes to register its concern at the decline in resources available to the International Fund for Agricultural Development, IFAD, and at the worsening terms of trade for our agricultural commodities on the international market. We wish to associate ourselves fully with previous speakers who have urged and pleaded for positive and concerted action in these important areas of our concern.

Permit me now to make one or two remarks about the food and agriculture situation in Malawi. Our food and agriculture policy in Malawi is embodied in the words of the Head of State and Government, who frequently and publicly proclaims that whatever else Malawians may not have, they must have three things: food, clothing and housing.

These three basic needs are to be provided by the people themselves through their own hard work in various agricultural activities including forestry and fisheries. The prime object of our agricultural production is to provide enough food for self-sufficiency and to generate farmers' incomes through the sale of cash crops and surplus food crops.

This policy has now been translated into an integrated, country-wide National Rural Development Programme which focuses almost exclusively on small-scale farmers, including women, who are fully integrated into this important national development effort. Agriculture, encompassing food and cash crops and including livestock, is the main thrust of the programme. Diversification of smallholder crops is a major object of the programme, which is backed by appropriate training facilities for staff and farmers and multidisciplinary teams of research and extension workers. Provision of short- and medium-term credit and marketing infrastructure are other key features of the Programme under which some roads, water supplies and health facilities are also provided.

Recognizing the importance of sound environmental management to substantiate agricultural production, the National Rural Development Programme also includes a forestry component. Under this component the Government has a unique opportunity to better manage its forest resources, thus safeguarding both the soil and water resources and ensuring the present and future populations an adequate supply of fuelwood and other forest produce.

Notwithstanding the serious droughts which have affected many parts of Africa in recent years, Malawi has remained reasonably self-sufficient in food production. During this year, for example, Malawi's maize harvest yielded not only enough grain for food self-sufficiency, including a modest strategic reserve, but also realized a sizeable surplus for export.

Malawi is therefore able to join the fortunate few who can say in these very difficult times that what we need is not food aid but aid to grow food.

The Malawi Government wishes to thank all donor agencies, including FAO, for the very valuable assistance which they have rendered and continue to render to us. We wish to assure them that on our part we shall continue to use such aid productively.

Last but not least, Mr Chairman, the Malawi delegation wishes to congratulate you on your unanimous election and for the able manner in which you and your deputies have conducted the business of this Conference. We also congratulate and welcome the four new States of Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Saint Christopher and Nevis, and Vanuatu which have just been admitted to the membership of FAO.

W.R. MESWELE (Botswana): Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, Ladies and gentlemen, I am greatly honoured to have this opportunity to address this Twenty-second session of the FAO Conference and also to confer with fellow delegates and colleagues on the many important issues that are reflected in the agenda before us. It is my sincere hope that our deliberations on the major issues on the agenda will be both constructive and fruitful.

Mr Chairman, my delegation congratulates you and your Vice-Chairmen on your election. You can count on our support in your demanding assignment. We also warmly welcome our Commonwealth sisters of Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Saint Christopher and Nevis, and Vanuatu to this family of Nations.

We are meeting here at a time when the world food situation is very unsatisfactory. There is therefore, I believe, an urgent need for those of us gathered here to re-examine our responsibilities as members of the world community in the fight to eliminate hunger and malnutrition. The resources to accomplish this, both human and natural, are there in abundance. What is required is the will and commitment on our part to find ways in which these resources can be exploited to the fullest in order to eliminate existing food shortages.

Despite favourable reports of large surpluses of food grains in some of the developed countries of the West, the continued decline in food production in most of the developing countries, especially those in Africa, should be of great concern to the world at large. This decline in food production, coupled with severe drought conditions and destructive floods in parts of the world, does not bode well for future food production prospects.

The persistent drought that is gripping most of the African continent has greatly hampered the implementation of national food plans and rural development programmes. In my country, Botswana, the drought, which is now in the second year, has meant the diversion of millions of Pula from important development projects to providing drought relief to the affected rural population. Our plight has been ably communicated to the international community by the Director-General and we are grateful to the World Food Programme and other donor organisations and countries which have come to our assistance during the past two years.

The diversion of scarce financial resources for use on short-term drought relief measures, coupled with the continued depression in the world economy, will seriously affect the ability strategies aimed at reducing food deficits. Unless we make an effort to break this vicious circle the problem of hunger and malnutrition will remain with us for a long time.

It should be noted that improved agricultural production relies very much on costly inputs such as agricultural machinery, fertilizers, seeds, pesticides and irrigation. There is also the need to provide adequate extension, research, marketing facilities and transportation. All these things require a great deal of financial investment which many developing countries cannot afford. It is imperative therefore, if we are to assist the developing countries to produce more and thus close the global food gap, to commit ourselves to increasing the flow of financial resources to these countries.

We view with increasing concern the increase in political tensions throughout the world in recent years. To us this has only one result, and that is the continued diversion of scarce financial and human resources into the acquisition and development of military equipment. It is indeed a very sad state of affairs to see the genius of mankind applied to efforts of self destruction when it could be honourably used on improving his welfare.

The problems of world food production and food security have been thoroughly discussed at many fora in the past, including the FAO Council meetings, the World Food Council, the FAO Conference and many others. Solutions have been put forward and agreed disappointing. I think we who are gathered here as Ministers of Agriculture are much aware of the problems related to food production. We should therefore take this opportunity to call strongly for a renewed world commitment to an increased flow of resources towards the improvement of food production in the developing countries.

As we approach the end of this century we can ask ourselves whether we will at that time be able to adequately feed the growing millions of starving people throughout the world. We know that the world production of cereals and pulses at this time is sufficient to feed adequately the world population. The main problem therefore is not that of production but that of distribution. This is a problem of our own creation which is a result of our social, political and economic systems. It is this failure to readjust or modify these systems that has led us to where we are at present, that is, with large surpluses in some parts of the world and huge deficits in others.

I am aware that I have painted a rather gloomy picture of the problems of the world food situation. I am aware that some progress has been made in the past few years by countries that are implementing food strategy programmes. I am aware of and would like to commend the FAO and the World Food Council on the tremendous efforts they have made to mobilize resources towards the improvement of agriculture and efforts they are making in raising the political will of the nations of the world to tackle this problem. We thereby strongly support the programme of work and the modest budget which has been prepared by the Director-General.

I would like to point out that millions of hungry people throughout the world are looking to us for relief. They will not be satisfied by elaborate speeches and discussions. What is needed are bold actions to overcome the world food gap. Unless we decide to restore peace throughout the world, unless we decide to settle our differences and remove the tensions that exist in the world, it will remain impossible for us to get on with the important task of producing sufficient food to ensure that every man, woman and child throughout the world has a fair share.

May I now turn to our regional effort in Africa, especially since WCCARD follow-up action is an agenda item for this Conference. In our endeavour to galvanise the efforts and resources of the African continent towards concerted action in the crucial area of rural development in general and food production in particular, we jointly decided at the Tenth FAO Regional Conference for Africa to establish the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Africa (CIRDAFRICA). This Centre, whose major role is to promote cooperation between the African governments in the field of integrated rural development, began operations in January 1982, at Arusha in Tanzania.

As the current Chairman of its Governing Council, I should like to use this opportunity to invite all the member governments of FAO and indeed non-governmental international agencies to see in CIRDAFRICA a genuine effort by Africa to create conditions for the sharing of resources and experiences for the sustained development of the continent through rural development. We shall be most grateful, therefore, if those present here will give us a sympathetic ear and help this young Centre in fulfilling its obligations in Africa for Africa.

In this connection, I should like to use this opportunity to pay special tribute to the Director-General of FAO and all his staff for the invaluable help he, personally, and FAO have given to the Centre since its inception. Special tributes also go to the Governments of Norway and the People's Republic of China for opening the gate of international governmental support for CIRDAFRICA. We sincerely hope that the support of FAO and that of these two Governments will be continued in the future.

M.P. CRACKNELL (Observer for International Federation of Agricultural Producers): First of all, I should like to apologize for the President of IFAP, Mr Heereman, who was hoping to come and address you today. Yesterday evening he telephoned and told me that unfortunately he had to cancel, and so asked me to make the address on his behalf.

In his opening statement to this Conference, the Director-General said that the FAO Conference is the only international forum where the world's farmers are symbolically represented. We would concede this, and it is therefore a particular pleasure for me, as Secretary-General of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, to address you, because IFAP is, in fact, the only international forum where farmers are directly represented through their national organizations.

The documentation of this Conference paints a rather sombre picture of world agriculture; the problems, and there are many; the concerns, which are grave; and some of the solutions. We hope your recommendations will be more specific than most of the discussions last week. Our concern is that these recommendations should have practical application.

As you discuss these matters, I hope you will remember that they are first and foremost the problems and the concerns of the farmers of the world, and I hope you will also remember that you depend on farmers to implement the solutions. As the only one here, if I may say so, with a specific mandate to speak on behalf of the world farmers, I admit to sharing Mr. Whelan's disappointment at the very small number of national delegations which include farmers' representatives. In fact, if you look back to the Conference in 1974, you will find that there were more farmers there then than there are here today. This is all the more surprising as the need for workable solutions to the problems of your Conference becomes more urgent every year. We in IFAP believe that farmers could contribute much more to your search for solutions if you called more often on the knowledge and practical sense of the farmers.

IFAP develops policy and guidance which, since 1946 when we were created, has often proved useful to governments. This is done at our general Conference, and it is also done in commodity groups which discuss specific problems of grains, of meats, of dairy products and of sugar, as well as in committees on agricultural cooperation in developing countries.

Farmers the world over have served the other sectors of the population well, and they continue to do so. We believe that sometimes this is not sufficiently recognized. Global world food production has increased in line with population growth, and today stocks of cereal are very close to FAO's security level. In this sense, the Malthusian fears about population rising beyond production capacity have not been justified, but Malthus could not predict that problems of income, and inappropriate policies in many countries, would lead to starvation, co-existing with the appearance of food surpluses in such a dramatic way at the end of the 20th century. The farmers who produce the food are very conscious of the enormous suffering which persists in so many regions of the world, and which is hidden by the aggregate figures to which I refer.

The abundance in the OECD countries, in the industrialized countries, has not come about by chance. It is largely due to the initiative and hard work of farmers and to the very substantial investments in agriculture and supporting services. This abundance owes a lot to the successful partnership between governments, research establishments and farmers, as well as to effective marketing arrangements. Yet even this abundance, which seems to come regularly year after year, is very fragile, as the devastating droughts which affected major food-producing regions of the industrial world in 1981 and 1982 have recently illustrated.

In most developing countries, on the other hand, the farmer/government partnership has not yet developed nor has the importance of farmers yet been adequately recognized, even though we have heard a great deal about that today and over the last week.

It is a matter of great concern to farmers in countries able to produce beyond their needs or their country's needs that no satisfactory solution has yet been found to get the results of their efforts to hungry people, or to transfer what is appropriate in their knowledge and capacities to farmers in food-deficit countries.

IFAP includes organizations representing farmers basically on family farms from both the developed and the developing countries. For many years, we have been putting forward proposals to solve some of the most pressing problems of world agriculture. In IFAP we have long seen the dangers of massive rural exodus, and have understood the reasons for it. We have viewed with consternation the decline in food self-sufficiency in many developing countries due largely to inadequate agricultural pricing policies and insufficient investment in the rural sector. It is therefore a matter of some satisfaction to us to note the growing awareness in international circles, and at national level, of the need for a change in policy orientations.

IFAP and its member organizations are ready to increase their support to FAO, to its sister organizations, and to national governments in their efforts to improve the world food situation, but this effort must begin by improving the situation of farmers in the food deficit countries.

A very stimulating discussion took place with the Director-General when he participated in IFAP's Twenty-fifth General Conference in June last year. His words to us then show the extent of our shared concerns. He told us:

"FAO and IFAP together share a mission to confront governments with their responsibilities to agricultural producers and to the hungry people of the world. We must endeavour to create effective channels of communication in order to give rural people, particularly food producers, a say in national policies. We must act to ensure access for the rural poor to land and other resources that they need to generate employment and income."

In IFAP we believe that the food security and the food strategy approach is a good means of focusing attention on agriculture and food production. However, planning and political priority will not be enough for farmers to increase production and reduce wastage. Farmers will require the necessary resources if they are to satisfy expectations, and providing them with the necessary resources will demand sustained efforts by governments and donor countries as well as international organizations.

In making that effort, which will be a great one, it is especially important for everyone to recognize that farmers are the instruments and the main actors in a collective effort which will benefit each country as a whole.

It is very important that it should be fully appreciated that policies to improve agriculture are clearly seen in the light of farmers contributing to the country's development and to solving the food problem, and they should not be seen as some sort of concessions made to farmers for the benefit of farmers alone. Although we often see this in the industrialized and the developing countries, there is resistance to policies to improve agriculture as if somehow farmers alone would benefit from them.

Because of the size of the effort required and the life-and-death importance of success, governments cannot afford to make mistakes. The best way to ensure success is to involve the farmers directly, not just symbolically as is so often the case, through their truly representative organizations, in the planning and implementation of policies for food and agriculture.

We are glad to note here again that there is some progress in such farmer-government collaboration involving some of IFAP's member organizations in several countries, especially in Africa.

IFAP is today also trying not only to put forward policy proposals to governments but also to undertake some more direct action whereby solutions might be found on a farmer-to-farmer basis. For example, we are fully aware of the difficulties for farmers, especially under developing-country conditions, to establish their own organizations, to gain access to their governments, and to be listened to by their governments. Therefore we are drawing on the experience of farmers with strong representative organizations and efficient commercial structures, to encourage and assist farmers in developing countries to become better organized, so that their production potential can be developed. In this, we are working in tandem with FAO's people's participation programme.

In June 1982 farm leaders from 25 developing countries took part in an IFAP seminar on national agricultural and food policies seen from the farmer's point of view, where a set of guidelines for action was established. These guidelines have met with considerable success and interest in many quarters. They have been very widely distributed, for example within this house, and they will undoubtedly help farmer's organizations to become more effective representatives of their members and responsible partners of their governments in the fight for better conditions for the development of agriculture.

An important area of collaboration between IFAP and FAO is the major study FAO is undertaking on agricultural and food production and pricing policies. We have proposed our collaboration in the identification of the main components of effective pricing policies, in the examination of the factors used in formulating price policies, and in making recommendations. In relation to this, in 1983 we began a new initiative of collecting from our farm organization members in Africa, in Asia and in Latin-America data on prices received and prices paid by farmers as seen by the farmers, which are not always the same as prices paid and received as seen by governments. Although this exercise is new and is only partial in coverage, it has already proved very revealing. We intend to continue it in the future and of course we will make the results available to FAO.

In conclusion, IFAP is the only worldwide organization of farmers where farmers are directly and not symbolically represented. It has among its members representatives of agricultural producers, large and small, mainly family farms, working in all latitudes and producing most types of crops. IFAP itself, and more especially its national member organizations, wishes to develop the partnership with governments in seeking an improvement in the world farm and food situation. Without such a partnership, no lasting improvement in that situation is possible.

CHAIRMAN: Netherlands has asked for the floor in exercise of its right of reply to Suriname. Normally, this should take place at the end of the day after all the speakers on the list have spoken, but if it is the wish of the Conference I will give the floor to the Netherlands now.

RIGHT OF REPLY

DROIT DE REPOSE

DERECHO DE REPLICA

J. SONNEVELD (Netherlands): Thank you, Mr Chairman. I should like to reply very briefly to that which was stated earlier this morning by the Minister of Agriculture of Suriname concerning Dutch development assistance to Suriname. In the framework of its policy with regard to human rights, the Dutch Government condemns the infringement of human rights whenever and wherever they occur. A decision to suspend our development assistance to Suriname is a consequence of this policy, following incidents in Suriname in December 1982.

The meeting rose at 12.15 hours

La seance est levée à 12 h 15

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.15 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 83/PV/14

Twenty-second Session
PLENARY

Vingt-deuxième session
PLENIERE

22° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

FOURTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
QUATORZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
14ª SESION PLENARIA
(14 November 1983)

The Fourteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours,
Demetrios Christodoulou, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La quatorzième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45, sous la
présidence de Demetrios Christodoulou, Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 14ª Sesión Plenaria a las 14.45 horas, bajo la
presidencia de Demetrios Christodoulou, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATION (continued)
- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)
- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

Y. BENSLIMANE (Maroc) (interprétation de l'arabe): C'est un plaisir pour moi que de m'adresser à cette Conférence de la FAO en sa 22ème session, au nom de la délégation marocaine; cette Organisation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture qui n'a cessé au cours des ans d'assumer ses hautes et nobles responsabilités en matière de développement et d'alimentation pour le bénéfice de l'humanité dans son ensemble.

Je voudrais tout d'abord féliciter M. Block pour son élection à la présidence de cette session et féliciter également ses deux vice-présidents.

Il m'est aussi agréable d'exprimer à M. Saouma, Directeur général de notre Organisation, toute notre gratitude pour les efforts louables que fournit notre Organisation sous sa direction pour le développement économique, agricole et pour l'élimination de la malnutrition répandue de par le monde.

Je saisis cette occasion pour exprimer l'entière satisfaction du Maroc de la coopération fructueuse qu'il entretient avec cette institution.

La 22ème session de notre Conférence se tient en un moment où le monde dans son ensemble connaît, et particulièrement les pays en développement, une crise économique sans précédent. Ce qui donne à nos travaux un caractère particulier et incite les délégations participant à cette Conférence à saisir cette opportunité pour proposer des solutions audacieuses pouvant constituer un tournant dans le processus actuel du développement et un point de départ pour une nouvelle étape vers la réalisation de la sécurité alimentaire au niveau mondial.

Certes nous avons enregistré une augmentation sensible de la production globale des produits vivriers au début des années 80 et le report des stocks en céréales pour 1983 a également atteint un chiffre record. On s'attendait donc à ce que cette augmentation ait un effet bénéfique sur la situation alimentaire mondiale, mais la mauvaise répartition géographique de cette augmentation et la récession que traverse l'économie mondiale ont rendu plus difficile les conditions d'importation pour les pays à déficit alimentaire et ne leur ont pas permis de profiter de cette amélioration de la production alimentaire.

La situation économique mondiale a donné lieu à une réduction sensible du commerce des produits agricoles en 1982, malgré l'augmentation des besoins alimentaires dans le monde. La même tendance n'a pas été enregistrée en 1981.

La réduction du commerce des produits agricoles passe d'ailleurs par un tournant dangereux dont pourrait résulter une augmentation de la faim et de la malnutrition dans le monde.

Cette détérioration s'explique essentiellement par les raisons suivantes:

1) Chute de la demande sur les produits agricoles, parallèle à la diminution de la demande en général due à la stagnation que connaît le commerce extérieur. En effet, la demande globale n'a enregistré qu'une augmentation de 1,8 pour cent au cours de l'année 82 par comparaison avec le 19 pour cent d'augmentation qu'elle a enregistré en moyenne dans les années 70.

Cette réduction s'explique également par le ralentissement du développement économique dans tous les pays du globe. Pour faire face à cette réduction de la demande, les pays industrialisés enregistrant un excédent de production ont dû recourir au stockage et à des politiques visant à réduire dans de grandes proportions les superficies cultivables, ce qui aura sans doute des implications dangereuses pour la sécurité alimentaire mondiale dans les années à venir.

2) La chute sensible du volume des produits exportés par les pays en voie de développement et de leurs prix. Cela a davantage détérioré les termes de l'échange, notamment en matière de troc. Ainsi, les pays exportateurs de produits agricoles étaient désavantagés par rapport aux exportateurs de biens industriels et de pétrole.

D'une façon générale, les échanges commerciaux au niveau mondial se sont caractérisés par un protectionnisme douanier de plus en plus dur de la part des pays développés, ce qui a réduit beaucoup les possibilités d'importation des pays en voie de développement.

3) L'endettement record des pays en développement au moment où les balances commerciales des pays développés enregistrent une nette amélioration. Le taux d'endettement est devenu donc exceptionnel et les services de ces dettes représentent pour les pays en développement, pour 1982, une part importante des revenus de ces pays.

Ajoutons à tout cela la sécheresse qui sévit dans nombre de pays en développement, plus particulièrement en Afrique - ce continent est effectivement le plus touché - et où la moyenne de la production vivrière par tête d'habitant a même baissé. D'où l'augmentation des importations alimentaires au moment même où la moyenne de la production alimentaire par habitant s'est améliorée au niveau mondial. En outre, le volume de l'aide à l'agriculture au cours des années 80 a sensiblement diminué en comparaison avec l'évolution positive enregistrée dans les années 70. Ceci s'explique plus particulièrement par la baisse du volume de l'aide bilatérale.

Toutes ces observations confirment que la situation alimentaire mondiale continue de se détériorer. Cette détérioration ne s'explique plus, comme par le passé, par la rareté des disponibilités alimentaires au niveau mondial, mais plus spécialement par la baisse de la production alimentaire par habitant dans les pays en développement et par la baisse du pouvoir d'achat de l'ensemble de ces pays.

Partant, le problème de l'alimentation n'est donc plus uniquement celui d'un groupe de pays ou de quelques communautés au revenu limité, mais risque d'être le problème de tous les pays en développement, et notamment les pays pauvres. Si ces pays pauvres se trouvent être les mêmes qui souffrent de la malnutrition, qui connaissent une croissance économique lente, il faudrait accorder davantage d'attention pour rechercher rapidement une nouvelle approche visant à améliorer leur niveau nutritionnel. Il est évident que la solution des problèmes alimentaires dans le monde repose sur l'augmentation des rendements et de la production agricoles dans les pays en développement et sur la solution à apporter au problème de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Ceci ne peut se réaliser qu'à travers un plan de développement intégral, susceptible d'améliorer la production, de créer des emplois stables et suffisants pour augmenter le revenu des couches pauvres de la population et leur permettre ainsi de se procurer leur pain quotidien.

Mon pays n'a pas été à l'écart de ces difficultés que connaît le monde en développement dans le secteur de la production alimentaire, au contraire ces difficultés se sont même aggravées au cours des dernières années à cause de la sécheresse qui sévit au Maroc depuis trois ans.

Je voudrais, à cet égard, mentionner que ces conditions climatiques difficiles ont fait échouer les efforts visant à améliorer la production agricole. En effet, la production des céréales qui couvrent les trois-quarts des superficies cultivables au Maroc et sur laquelle repose la sécurité alimentaire chez nous, a connu une baisse de 27 pour cent par rapport à l'année précédente. Le bétail est également touché par ces conditions difficiles et surtout dans les zones qui ont été atteinte par la sécheresse.

Tout cela a eu un effet direct sur le revenu des agriculteurs, l'emploi, les prix, l'approvisionnement et la balance commerciale. Le Gouvernement marocain a déployé d'énormes efforts pour assurer l'approvisionnement de tout le pays et pour maintenir un niveau satisfaisant d'emploi surtout en milieu rural et pour protéger le pouvoir d'achat de la population et, partant, freiner l'exode rural.

M. le Président, la Conférence à laquelle nous participons aujourd'hui est une nouvelle occasion pour traiter la situation alimentaire actuelle qui affecte tous les pays en voie de développement et que la récession économique mondiale actuelle aggrave encore.

Si les négociations, actuellement en cours, pour réviser les relations économiques Nord-Sud, ou pour consolider la coopération économique Sud-Sud, ou enfin pour réviser l'ordre économique et monétaire international, tendent en définitive à freiner la grave détérioration qui affecte les pays en voie de développement, des mesures spécifiques doivent être prises pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire et garantir le droit de tous les peuples et de tous les individus à la nourriture indépendamment des circonstances économiques.

Pour faire face à cette situation, il est nécessaire de consolider la capacité de production alimentaire dans le cadre d'une stratégie de développement. Cette stratégie devra accorder une réelle priorité au secteur agricole, assurer une distribution équitable des produits alimentaires disponibles à l'échelle mondiale, garantir la poursuite des efforts pour réaliser l'auto-suffisance alimentaire des pays en voie de développement et créer les circonstances adéquates pour développer les échanges commerciaux des produits agricoles.

La libéralisation des échanges commerciaux constituera un des plus importants facteurs de la stabilité économique mondiale et de son développement. Ils seront aussi un élément efficace pour le rapprochement entre les peuples. Mon pays appuie les efforts tendant à mettre fin aux mesures protectionnistes mises en place pour réduire l'importation des produits agricoles en provenance des pays en voie de développement. Le démantèlement de ces mesures qui entravent les échanges commerciaux, assurera la stabilité des exportations des pays en voie de développement. Bien plus, il contribuera à les valoriser permettant ainsi à ces pays d'obtenir davantage de biens d'équipement nécessaires à leurs programmes de développement.

Si l'un des éléments essentiels pour réaliser la sécurité alimentaire mondiale relève de l'effort continu des pays en voie de développement en matière de production alimentaire, et si ces pays mobilisent pour ce faire tout leur potentiel matériel et humain, il n'en est pas moins vrai que cet effort doit être soutenu par une aide bilatérale ou multilatérale pour exécuter les projets alimentaires dans ces pays.

Le Maroc soutient toutes les initiatives tendant à mobiliser toutes les ressources financières internes dans les pays en voie de développement qui cherchent à assurer leur sécurité alimentaire. Le Maroc soutient également toute initiative pour augmenter l'assistance financière et technique fournie par les pays développés aux pays en voie de développement.

Mon pays estime qu'il est plus que jamais nécessaire d'augmenter l'aide alimentaire qui jusqu'à maintenant n'a pas atteint un niveau satisfaisant.

Nous appuyons les efforts de la FAO pour promouvoir le concept de coopération internationale dans ce domaine et pour le rendre plus adapté à la situation.

Nous saluons également les efforts déployés pour trouver une solution au problème de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, solution qui ne peut être partielle ou par étapes. Bien au contraire, nous estimons que seule l'approche globale est susceptible de garantir les chances nécessaires pour atteindre cet objectif.

M. le Président, nous souhaitons que cette Conférence sera un pas courageux vers la réalisation des aspirations de tous les participants. Nous souhaitons également qu'elle soit le point de départ pour réaliser les objectifs communs auxquels nous aspirons tous afin d'améliorer les conditions de vie de nos peuples et pour garantir leur bien-être.

E. HERAZO DE VITI (Panama): Sr. Presidente, Sr. Director General y señores Delegados; con seria preocupación, pero con optimismo hacia el futuro, la Delegación de Panamá formula su mensaje ante esta Vigésima Segunda Conferencia de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación (FAO). Con preocupación, por la grave crisis económica que nos azota a nivel mundial. Con optimismo, porque creemos en el ser humano y tenemos fe en que podremos superar la actual situación, especialmente en el campo de la agricultura y la alimentación, que es especialidad de esta Conferencia Mundial.

Con la sabia franqueza que le caracteriza, el Sr. Director General de esta Organización - Dr. Edouard Saouma - ha manifestado que "los problemas más urgentes del mundo pueden resumirse en tres palabras: misiles, dinero y alimentos. Agregando que la excesiva abundancia de armamentos, la inestabilidad del sistema monetario y la fragilidad de los suministros de alimentos, especialmente para los países y sectores más pobres de la población, son los problemas más importantes que se plantean a mediados de los años ochenta". Destacamos la validez de esta afirmación y consideramos que en torno a estas tres cuestiones fundamentales bien podrían girar las deliberaciones de esta Vigésima Segunda Conferencia de la FAO.

La República de Panamá es un país pacífico y pacifista por tradición, vocación y convicción.

Panamá - Señor Presidente - cree firmemente en la solución negociada de los conflictos y con este espíritu forma parte y es sede del GRUPO DE CONTADORA que busca una solución política de la actual situación centroamericana. Es dentro de este contexto que nuestro Canciller el Licenciado Oydén Ortega manifestó "que como estado soberano y amante de la paz, no podemos ver con agrado el uso de la fuerza para dirimir los problemas".

En las distintas reuniones de los órganos rectores de esta Organización - como en ningún otro Organismo Internacional - se debaten los problemas de la agricultura y la alimentación en forma amplia y profunda. Estas deliberaciones dejan claramente establecidos hechos que merecen profunda preocupación como lo es la contracción del comercio de muchos productos básicos agrícolas debido al impacto de la recesión mundial y la persistencia de la inestabilidad de los mercados de productos básicos. Así como a la disminución de los ingresos de exportación de productos agrícolas, pesqueros y forestales de los países en vías de desarrollo. Aparejado todo esto, por el nuevo deterioro de la relación de intercambio agrícola registrado y por el agravamiento del déficit de las balanzas comerciales agrícolas de los países en desarrollo. Viniendo a constituirse este hecho en una situación particularmente grave debido a la necesidad que tenemos de obtener más ingresos de exportación para poder aliviar la pesada carga de la amortización de nuestras deudas exteriores.

Panamá, se encuentra - Señor Presidente - actualmente frente a la necesidad de aumentar su producción agropecuaria en un trece por ciento en los próximos cinco años para cubrir su demanda alimentaria y en torno a este objetivo estamos centrando nuestros esfuerzos. El sector agropecuario panameño registro en 1982 una tasa de crecimiento del 4,4 por ciento, que es ligeramente superior a la tasa de crecimiento de la producción agrícola señalada en la Estrategia Internacional del Desarrollo para el Segundo Decenio de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo, así como del objetivo establecido de la FAO. Esta tasa de crecimiento del sector agropecuario panameño se ha debido a un incremento de las actividades de ganadería y pesca; por el hecho que los subsectores de agricultura y silvicultura mostraron un lento crecimiento como resultado de los problemas de su sistema productivo como a las condiciones climatológicas adversas, consistente en una prolongada sequía, así como a los efectos de la aun no superada crisis económica internacional. Durante estas últimas dos décadas este crecimiento ha estado vinculado estrechamente al incremento de un grupo de productos primarios como lo son el banano, camarones, azúcar, café, harina de pescado y durante este último año, la carne.

Sobre uno de los temas medulares que debe tratar esta Conferencia como es el del PROGRAMA DE LABORES Y PRESUPUESTO PARA 1984-85, nuestra Delegación apoya dicho Programa presentado por el Director General, como lo mínimo que se puede aceptar dentro de las circunstancias actuales y le reconoce gran mérito en lo referente a la racionalización de gastos. Sabemos que ha tomado muy en cuenta los problemas económicos por los que actualmente atraviesan los Estados Miembros. Pero, tal como lo ha hecho en anteriores oportunidades, esta Delegación se expresa en el sentido de que un incremento presupuestario simbólico del orden del 0,5 por ciento para el próximo bienio no guarda relación con las necesidades crecientes y demandas insatisfechas de una seguridad alimentaria que todos hemos aceptado en fortalecer y ampliar. Por otra parte, somos de la opinión que resulta inaceptable la denominada teoría del "crecimiento cero" porque consideramos que la racionalización de los gastos, con el cual todos estamos de acuerdo, tiene un límite, que, superado, significará regreso en las actividades de una Organización como la FAO, en la cual hay puestas muchas esperanzas y depositada mucha confianza.

Reiteramos ante esta plenaria nuestro pleno apoyo al Programa de Cooperación Técnica (PCT) y lo hacemos convencidos de la agilidad y pronta respuesta que el mismo da a las solicitudes que plantean nuestros gobiernos. Igualmente reconocemos la efectividad y operatividad tanto de las Oficinas Regionales de la FAO como de los Representantes en los países.

Sobre otra de las cuestiones importantes que debe decidir esta Conferencia, como lo es lo concerniente a los recursos fitogenéticos, Panamá se ratifica en lo expresado primero en el Séptimo Período de Sesiones del Comité de Agricultura (COAG) y posteriormente en el Consejo de esta Organización, en el sentido de que los recursos genéticos de los cultivos son un patrimonio de la humanidad, y deben ser objeto de libre intercambio entre los países y sus respectivas instituciones para fines científicos y para su utilización en programas nacionales de mejoramiento genético de los cultivos. Panamá apoya la propuesta del Director General para el establecimiento de un compromiso Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos que deberá examinar en detalle la Comisión II de esta Conferencia.

Respaldamos la realización de dos eventos de trascendental importancia que se celebrarán el próximo bienio, como lo es la Conferencia Mundial Sobre Ordenación y Desarrollo Pesquero y el Noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial, ambos organizados por la FAO y al respaldarlos lo hacemos confiados en que los acuerdos y programas de acción que de ellos deriven contribuirán a acelerar el desarrollo de nuestros pueblos.

Finalmente, Señor Presidente, damos nuestra calurosa bienvenida a los cuatro nuevos estados miembros de nuestra Organización: Antigua y Barbuda, Belice, San Cristóbal y Nieves, por la Región de América Latina y el Caribe, y Vanuatu por la Región del Sudoeste del Pacífico. Constituyéndonos así en 156 Estados Miembros de los cuales la quinta parte está formada por la Región de América Latina y el Caribe. A los cuatro nuevos Estados Miembros les ofrecemos nuestra más amplia colaboración para luchar unidos contra el hambre y el subdesarrollo en nuestra región, en particular, y en el mundo en general.

E.B. SIMELANE (Swaziland): On behalf of my delegation, I am pleased and honoured to join with those who have gone before me in congratulating the Chairman on his election to this high post, and I am confident that under his enlightened leadership this Conference will come to a successful and rewarding conclusion.

It is indeed a great honour and privilege to welcome on behalf of my Government the four new sister members to this august body of the FAO. It is our conviction that their joining in this world body will be to the benefit of all mankind, for we believe that every man and every nation has a worthwhile experience and lesson to share with all the others, especially in the noble goal of freeing all mankind from ignorance, malnutrition and hunger.

We in Swaziland are deeply concerned about the future of agricultural development, especially the production of food crops with which to feed our growing population. We are indeed concerned with our high rate of population growth which, like the African continent's as a whole, is increasingly outpacing our production of food crops. It is for this reason that Swaziland has supported World Food Day ever since it started.

We are also concerned that the distribution of our increased production in all sectors should be on a more equitable basis so that all social and economic strata in our small Kingdom of slightly more than a half million souls are able to benefit. Like most countries in Southern Africa, Swaziland has suffered greatly from the present drought. Such a drought has tended to worsen the adverse economic conditions prevailing in the country.

On average, Swaziland produces about 75 to 80 percent of its consumption demand of maize. The rest is made up of imports from the neighbouring countries. However, due to the drought during the last two seasons, maize production has dropped to around 50 percent of our normal production, while cotton production has also drastically dropped.

Swaziland's rivers have experienced the lowest flows in many years because of the drought. All the major rivers in the country are flowing at less than 50 percent of their normal capacity, while most of the perennial springs have dried up. Obviously, this drought has a very serious adverse effect on the irrigation capacity of the country. The small farmers as well as the big sugar and citrus estates have been affected by the low river flows for irrigation purposes. Rationing of water has had to be introduced. Some of the small irrigation reservoirs have dried up thereby resulting in big shortages of vegetables in some parts of the country. The current drought has also had an impact on the livestock industry in the country. Grazing lands, especially in the low veld, are deteriorating by the day.

The serious drought during the last two years has prompted Government to seek food aid from international sources such as the World Food Programme and others. I am pleased that FAO has assisted my country with food aid through the World Food Programme.

The Kingdom of Swaziland is the second smallest country in Africa with less than 17.4 thousand square kilometres and a population of over half a million of which approximately 80 percent live in the rural areas on land belonging to the Swazi nation. However, because of its diversity, Swaziland is indeed in a more fortunate position than some of its larger sister nations with all of their problems.

We, too, have an unfortunate legacy from our colonial past, with all that implies. Nowhere is this more so than in the agricultural or rural sector. Indeed, we find ourselves with large capital-intensive estate farms or plantations on title deed farms existing alongside small-scale mainly subsistence farms on Swazi nation land. Thus, as you might well expect, the vast bulk of our rural population has been hardly affected or benefitted from the progress taking place on the capital-intensive agricultural enterprises, while in the rural areas the effect on the small farmers producing for subsistence has been less than ideal. As might be expected, there has been a growing stream of migration from the rural to urban areas to the extent that our urban areas have been growing at a rate approaching 10 percent signifying a rapid depopulation of our rural areas. Thus, our country has the problem of dealing with the expanding population for which there are not adequate employment opportunities.

In an attempt to turn back this trend and to develop a more balanced economy, the Swaziland Government has embarked on its Rural Development Area Programme, started immediately after independence. Although we started on a relatively modest scale covering only 7 percent of Swazi nation land, over the years the programme has gained momentum to the extent that it now covers 50 percent of Swazi nation land, and about 200 000 rural farm families are benefitting.

Swaziland's programme of rural development has as its primary objective - this is clearly spelled out in our National Development Plan - the enhancement of rural wellbeing thus closing the widening gap between urban and rural life. We want to make our rural area more attractive socially and economically in order that our youth can find there a pleasant place to live and raise a family.

We recognise that promoting increased agricultural production is but one important element of rural development. Consequently, in addition to a planned programme of increasing extension services and improving the availability of such basic inputs and services as a ready supply of fertilizers, seeds, irrigation, credit, marketing and introduction of soil and water conservation and controlled grazing practices in order to improve the quality of our national herd and use our land resources more efficiently, we are also attempting to make a profound contribution to the introduction and upgrading of basic social services and urban-type amenities.

Thus, the 18 individual Rural Development Areas, primary and secondary schools are now operational. Health services are being made available through building rural clinics and in some areas rural hospitals have been built. As determined by the people living in the areas in their role as participants and decision-makers, there is an on-going programme of resettlement of scattered dwellings into more compact settlements for the purposes of rationalizing land use, thus freeing the best lands for more intensive agriculture, while simultaneously making it feasible to install systems of potable water, electricity and a network of feeder roads and other amenities. While presently concentrating on but 50 percent of all Swazi nation land, the goal of Government is to eventually bring all such land into the programme.

Although it is yet too early to make a definite evaluation of the merits and demerits of our programme, based on preliminary evidence it is quite obvious that the programme is exercising a positive impact and slowly but surely achieving its planned objectives.

Of course we have made mistakes, but to the extent possible we have attempted to learn from our mistakes to the benefit of the programme. We in Swaziland do not claim to have found a remedy for rural development that can be universally applied because we are fully aware that each country must find its own way in accordance with its customs, needs and aspirations. However, we are confident that we are on the right footing.

To return to my opening remarks, we are quite cognisant of the fact that what the future will look like in our agricultural and rural areas depends much more on what we do now rather than what we do tomorrow.

I would like to express the conviction of my country and my delegation that the plight of Africa's food shortage will be remedied by increased food production by each and every small farming unit, the peasant farmer. We view food aid as a temporary phenomenon caused by the temporary inadequacy or unavailability of the appropriate incentives for our farmers and because of the severe drought, whose devastations have been a major and important subject of this Conference. We choose to term this gap as temporary because we are optimistic of the future.

In conclusion, I would be remiss if I did not mention the most significant role FAO has played in assisting us in implementing our programmes. Through you, Mr Chairman, I wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our Director-General, Dr Edouard Saouma, for the timely and beneficial assistance we have been receiving through FAO's Technical Assistance Programme - assistance ranging from providing us with experts in seed multiplication technology to experts who have strengthened the Government's services for the benefit of the small farmers and the nation as a whole.

The people and the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland wish to convey their sincere gratitude and wishes for the continued progress of the Organization under the enlightened leadership of our Director-General.

A.E. GASSOU (Togo) : Monsieur le Président, Honorables délégués, nous sommes encore réunis à Rome pour la 22ème fois dans le cadre de notre Organisation en vue de débattre des sujets d'importance vitale pour le monde, au moment où le spectre de la faim, au lieu de s'éloigner sous les coups de boutoir timides des nantis, s'étend au cours de ces dernières années.

La faim et la misère qui sévissent sur notre planète touchent, à quelques exceptions près, presque exclusivement les populations des pays en développement.

En ce dernier quart du 20ème siècle et plus singulièrement au cours de cette décennie, notre monde vit une situation particulièrement angoissante. La loi du plus fort qui s'applique çà et là et l'égoïsme propre à l'homme contribuent à entretenir deux catégories d'hommes de conditions sociales profondément opposées : l'une rassemblant les riches, l'autre les pauvres. Et pourtant, l'on a continué à décrier du haut des tribunes internationales, que ce soit ici ou ailleurs, cette situation qui affecte surtout les pays pauvres.

Tout semble vouloir montrer que la capacité créatrice de l'homme se fixe, à dessein, le but de satisfaire les seules aspirations des nantis. Cette vue de la situation actuelle n'est pas erronée si l'on pénètre dans les détails les conclusions du bilan des biens produits par l'humanité et leur répartition entre les hommes.

En effet, au moment où la famine menace de vastes populations en Afrique et en Asie, les stocks de report de céréales et autres produits vivriers restent énormément élevés et thésaurisés dans d'autres régions du globe. Vous convenez avec nous que ce paradoxe souligne une fois de plus les imperfections du système économique mondial actuel.

La délégation togolaise, par ces propos, entend une fois de plus attirer l'attention de nos assises sur cette évidence que les inégalités dont souffre l'humanité sont le fait de l'homme lui-même et de lui seul.

Selon les rapports établis par d'éminents experts, les préoccupations actuelles du monde et plus particulièrement en Afrique sont de trois ordres :

- la dégradation persistante de la situation alimentaire
- la baisse possible de la production alimentaire en 1983 et les répercussions à long terme de la récession économique mondiale sur les efforts de développement.

Nous remémorant les travaux de la 12^{ème} Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique tenue à Alger en septembre 1982, nous nous souvenons encore, s'agissant de la situation alimentaire en Afrique, de notre inquiétude commune.

Au cours de la décennie écoulée, la production alimentaire par habitant en Afrique a fléchi de plus de 10 pour cent et l'apport énergétique moyen du régime alimentaire a diminué jusqu'à 6 ou 7 pour cent au-dessous des besoins nutritionnels. En Afrique de l'Est, la situation alimentaire s'est davantage aggravée au cours de ces dernières années par suite de la venue de millions de réfugiés dans cette partie de la région. Cette situation inconfortable contraint les pays africains à utiliser d'année en année des proportions de plus en plus élevées de leurs devises pour importer des vivres. Et nous assistons, dans une attitude complice, à cette situation qui tend à se perpétuer malgré l'abondance des ressources en terre, en eau, ainsi qu'en ressources humaines. S'il est vrai que la croissance rapide des populations par rapport aux performances de la production agricole y est pour quelque chose, il est aussi vrai que les inégalités auxquelles nous avons fait allusion tout à l'heure, contribuent non seulement à la maintenir, mais aussi, à amplifier ses tendances fâcheuses.

Dans un contexte économique aussi difficile, dominé par une inflation grandissante, aucun pays ne pouvait à lui seul mener la lutte et les pays africains en sont parfaitement conscients. Voilà pourquoi l'Afrique, à partir des déclarations d'engagement de Monrovia en 1979, a fini par adopter le plan d'actions de Lagos en 1980, ce en vue de réduire l'acuité du problème alimentaire au niveau du continent.

Mais les actions menées au niveau de nos pays ne seront que de piètre efficacité, si, face aux efforts sans cesse accrus demandés aux populations laborieuses, il leur est imposé, en raison d'une loi de marché, des prix dérisoires à leurs produits d'exportation.

Or si les prix offerts sur le marché international sont justes et équitables, nos populations pourront investir leurs masses d'argent dans l'amélioration de leurs productions. Nous ferons donc un pas vers la résolution d'une des difficultés les plus graves auxquelles font face nos pays, à savoir l'accroissement de notre déficit alimentaire si les tendances actuelles se poursuivent et s'amplifient. La solution à ces problèmes doit être recherchée avant tout par la voie du développement de nos productions nationales en vue d'atteindre l'autosuffisance alimentaire. Il faut remarquer que la réussite de cet objectif dépend de la productivité des terres mais repose également sur la mise en oeuvre d'un certain nombre de mesures et politiques.

La délégation togolaise voudrait une fois encore insister sur l'accent particulier qui doit être mis sur les aménagements hydro-agricoles devant nous permettre de passer du stade de cultures sèches à un nouveau système d'agriculture irriguée pour aider nos paysans à corriger, lorsque cela est nécessaire, les méfaits de la sécheresse. La maîtrise de l'eau par la mise en oeuvre d'une politique internationale d'irrigation toute dimension, comme mentionné dans le programme de travail, retient toute notre attention.

En effet, si la formule des grands barrages hydro-agricoles a ses avantages, elle comporte également ses inconvénients. Si ces barrages sont coûteux et difficiles à gérer, ils sont à même de se rentabiliser à plus ou moins long terme. Ils mettent en jeu un plus grand nombre de familles paysannes.

Les petits aménagements, à l'opposé sont généralement à rentabilité marginale mais ils présentent l'avantage d'être plus à la portée du petit exploitant tout en étant faciles à réaliser. Un accent doit donc être mis sur ce programme en incitant les agriculteurs à développer cette irrigation d'appoint pour remédier au déficit pluviométrique fréquent en fin de saison. Nos productions seront ainsi sécurisées. L'aide internationale en la matière devra permettre de mettre en place une politique cohérente comme il est indiqué dans le programme de travail pour l'année 1984.

Le Togo, pour sa part, s'est engagé depuis huit ans dans une bataille qui devrait le conduire définitivement à son autosuffisance alimentaire dans cette conjoncture extrêmement difficile. L'exécution progressive des mesures agraires en vigueur et l'assistance adéquate accordée aux petits agriculteurs témoignent des efforts qui s'y font dans l'application des recommandations de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural.

La politique de la révolution verte connue et appliquée à partir de 1977 sous l'autorité clairvoyante du Chef de l'Etat, le Général Gnassingbé EYADEMA, constitue la stratégie de développement de mon pays.

Le plan quinquennal de développement économique et social qui a démarré en 1976 fixait déjà une priorité, celle qui vise non seulement à couvrir les besoins alimentaires immédiats des populations mais aussi à s'assurer des réserves destinées à préserver le pays contre les pénuries conjoncturelles. Ces actions ont pu se réaliser grâce à un ensemble de mesures d'incitation de la masse paysanne conduisant à exempter le cultivateur d'impôt direct, à subventionner les moyens de production, à fixer des prix rémunérateurs pour les produits agricoles, à assurer l'acquisition aisée des facteurs de production et à aménager des infrastructures de stockage. Toutes ces facilités qu'elles soient d'ordre législatif ou institutionnel ont permis de faire dans le domaine vivrier, dans une période climatique assez défavorable, des progrès considérables.

Mais force est de constater que le salut de nos productions agricoles repose, en dehors de la maîtrise de l'eau, sur la productivité des terres qui passe par l'utilisation des engrais et des semences sélectionnées. Le Togo s'efforce de solutionner tous ces problèmes tout en mettant l'accent sur la nécessité d'améliorer la qualité nutritionnelle du régime alimentaire de sa population. Dans ce sens, de nouvelles impulsions sont imprimées à la production animale afin d'atteindre l'autosuffisance en alimentation carnée.

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames, Messieurs,

La situation telle qu'elle se présentait avant 1982 n'est plus la même; vous vous en doutez.

En effet, les retombées de la conjoncture économique internationale auxquelles s'ajoutent les effets de la sécheresse de ces dernières années ont fortement influencé notre agriculture dont les résultats sont des plus aléatoires. Face cette situation critique, nos pays ont pris de multiples dispositions pour assurer une plus grande sécurité alimentaire à leurs populations. Grâce à cette volonté et à l'aide de la Communauté internationale, nos pays ont réussi dans une large mesure à éviter le pire, mais de l'avis général, la situation reste précaire. .

Nos pays et la Communauté internationale doivent donc inscrire leurs efforts dans le cadre de politiques cohérentes qui doivent éviter que maints efforts méritoires ne soient annihilés par des initiatives et des décisions mal coordonnées. Une concertation accrue s'impose dans la fourniture de l'aide en général et de l'aide alimentaire en particulier.

L'aide alimentaire est une nécessité dans la situation climatique que traverse malheureusement la plupart des pays de tiers monde; s'il est vrai que cette aide apporte un concours appréciable pour soulager les populations affectées par ces fléaux, nous devons repenser son orientation qui en fait devra porter sur la satisfaction d'un besoin ponctuel et momentané. Elle devra être à l'origine de la création de conditions permettant aux populations secourues de produire pour s'autosuffire et progressivement se passer de cette aide.

L'aide alimentaire dans sa philosophie actuelle doit évoluer vers la fourniture de vivres aux Gouvernements des pays à aider en vue de constituer des stocks de sécurité alimentaire combinés à des stocks régulateurs de marché. Cette formule, qui peut faire l'objet de réflexions et de mises au point, permettrait de maintenir les vivres à un prix modique à la portée des couches les plus déshéritées.

Elle constituerait une réponse à la critique qui affirme que la fourniture de la nourriture sous forme gratuite à la population crée chez celle-ci une mentalité d'assisté et la conduit progressivement au désœuvrement aggravant ainsi la situation socio-économique des pays aidés. Le fait que les populations secourues paient, ne serait-ce qu'un prix modique les vivres qu'on leur fournit leur donnera le sentiment de participer activement à la résolution de leurs propres problèmes.

La délégation togolaise croit qu'une telle pratique aiderait à éduquer et à préparer la fraction de la population bénéficiaire de l'aide à un effort de s'aider elle-même.

Dans le même temps, le gain tiré de la vente de l'aide alimentaire contribuerait à grossir le stock régulateur afin de jouer plus efficacement sur les fluctuations excessives des prix et par là, soutenir également les prix rémunérateurs aux producteurs.

Nous ne sommes pas contre la distribution gratuite des vivres qui ne doit se faire que dans les situations critiques et par conséquent limitée dans le temps.

La Communauté Internationale devra pendant ce temps se pencher sur les moyens les plus appropriés à fournir pour que ces populations redeviennent des producteurs de biens devant servir à satisfaire leurs besoins propres.

Monsieur le Président, Honorables délégués, Mesdames, Messieurs, si nous nous réunissons encore ici au siège de notre Organisation pendant plusieurs semaines, c'est pour débattre de problèmes d'importance pour nos populations et de leur trouver des solutions concrètes. L'objectif à atteindre en premier est d'aider nos pays à s'autosuffire par le développement en premier lieu, de nos productions nationales. Cela sera possible par la maîtrise d'un certain nombre de facteurs dont le principal est l'eau au moyen de la mise en oeuvre d'une politique internationale d'irrigation toutes dimensions. Nos productions seront ainsi sécurisées et l'aide alimentaire qui est une nécessité d'ailleurs, permettra également dans sa nouvelle orientation que nous proposons, de participer aussi à l'amélioration de nos productions.

Ceci est possible dans la mesure où nos pays et la Communauté Internationale qui ont accepté d'organiser une vie commune joindront leurs forces et leurs bonnes volontés dans la mise en oeuvre de politiques et programmes cohérents. Car, la vie commune, la solidarité, doit s'affirmer surtout lorsqu'il faut ensemble traiter des problèmes de peuples les plus défavorisés, lorsqu'il faut, sans délai, venir au secours de ceux que, soudain, frappent la sécheresse, les inondations, la guerre, l'épidémie etc.. Il faut continuer à défier ces fléaux qui, le plus souvent, s'abattent sur ceux qui étaient déjà les plus malheureux.

Que l'on me permette, dans' cette assise de solidarité qui durera quelques jours encore, d'affirmer que l'objectif que nous recherchons ne sera atteint que si nous respectons la nécessaire cohérence entre les diverses composantes de nos politiques.

Des efforts cohérents et la concertation entre nos pays et les institutions internationales doivent nous permettre de réussir ce développement intégral que nous souhaitons pour toute l'humanité.

A ce propos, ma délégation voudrait manifester son appui pour le budget et le programme d'activité présentés par le Directeur Général pour 1984-1985.

Elle apprécie particulièrement le programme de coopération technique qui a permis, en moins de cinq ans, d'obtenir des résultats aussi tangibles sur le terrain.

Ces résultats ne sont pas sans rapport avec l'installation des Représentants de notre Organisation dans un plus grand nombre des Etats Membres du tiers monde et plus particulièrement en Afrique.

Ces représentations sont venues compléter et renforcer l'action des Bureaux Régionaux; ces derniers se consacrant désormais aux tâches de coordination régionales en étroite collaboration avec d'autres institutions régionales.

Monsieur le Président, permettez à la délégation togolaise, avant de terminer son propos, de porter son appréciation sur la nouvelle approche de la sécurité alimentaire. Ma délégation se réjouit de cette évolution dans la conception du problème de sécurité alimentaire. Le Togo avait, au cours des dernières années, acquis cette même conviction et, les thèmes développés dans le document CFS:83/4 présenté par le Directeur Général rejoint en tous points les vues de mon gouvernement à savoir qu'une réelle sécurité alimentaire passe par l'autosuffisance alimentaire au niveau de chaque état et comporte les trois composantes essentielles: 1) Productions agricoles abondantes; 2) Maintien de ces productions en stocks suffisants pour faire face, à tout moment, aux besoins du peuple; 3) Accès des couches les plus pauvres à ces vivres grâce à une politique de prix modérés.

Monsieur le Président, l'humanité, prise globalement, ne manque pas de nourriture et les générations futures n'en manqueront pas si nous savons mettre en oeuvre les moyens scientifiques, techniques et humains dont disposent ensemble les Etats riches et pauvres.

H. SEOUD (Syrie) (interprétation de l'arabe): Je suis heureux de pouvoir vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président, de votre élection à la présidence de cette session. Nous vous souhaitons plein succès dans votre tâche et je voudrais saisir cette occasion pour souhaiter la bienvenue aux pays qui, récemment, se sont joints à nous.

La 22ème session de la Conférence de la FAO se tient à un moment difficile dans l'histoire de l'humanité. La crise alimentaire mondiale empire et le fossé entre les riches et les pauvres s'approfondit encore, ce qui prouve bien la gravité de la situation surtout pour les pays les moins développés où les aliments manquent. Je ne vais pas insister sur les détails et les statistiques car le Dr. Saouma dans sa déclaration a déjà tout dit. Sa déclaration est un cri d'alarme et invite les Etats Membres à vraiment faire un effort extraordinaire. C'est un défi! Un défi tout à fait urgent et qui atteint toute notre planète et qui peut se résumer en trois mots: armement, argent et aliment.

Les dépenses en matière d'armement augmentent toujours et ne sont pas utilisées par conséquent pour le développement. Les problèmes financiers deviennent plus complexes tous les jours et amènent une véritable paralysie économique dans certains pays parce que les prix des matières premières baissent. La crise économique est plus aiguë que jamais; ses répercussions se manifestent partout, surtout dans les pays en voie de développement où elles sont la cause de nombreux problèmes: moyens de production agricole, diminution de l'assistance qui rend plus difficile l'approvisionnement en aliments, compte tenu de l'augmentation de la population, et en fait, les résultats agricoles ne sont pas améliorés.

Travailler pour éviter que quiconque ait à se coucher affamé est un droit de chaque être humain comme le droit à la vie. Des sommes astronomiques sont attribuées aux armements destinés à l'agression, destinés à la dévastation, alors qu'elles pourraient être utilisées pour aider à l'éradication de la faim, de la maladie et de l'ignorance dans le monde, à condition que ces sommes soient vraiment dépensées pour les projets de développement, et si les Etats Membres voulaient bien observer les principes et les objectifs des Nations Unies cherchant à désarmer et à intensifier la coopération internationale, les pays riches et développés pourraient renoncer à être les seuls à disposer du savoir-faire international et ainsi les pays en développement pourraient utiliser pleinement leur potentiel.

La République arabe syrienne, comme pays arabe et comme membre de la communauté internationale, n'est pas inconsciente certes de la dépendance mondiale des pays arabes. Nous sommes influencés par les développements de l'extérieur et, en fait, nous aussi nous pouvons les influencer et nous sommes heureux de dire que nous sommes parfaitement d'accord avec la politique de la FAO tendant à accroître la production agricole et qui est tout à fait conforme à la politique de mon gouvernement.

En Syrie, nous avons accordé une grande importance au développement agricole et rural. Ceci d'ailleurs ressort clairement des résolutions et décisions prises par mon gouvernement et mon parti sous l'égide du Secrétaire général du Parti baassiste arabe. Le Président de la République M. Hassaad, les a incorporées dans le plan quinquennal actuel qui comprend des programmes très importants de développement des zones rurales, tendant à accroître la productivité de la terre pour augmenter la production des aliments.

L'objectif principal du plan de développement économique du secteur agricole dans notre pays comprend les points suivants: accroître la production agricole locale de 7,6 % par an; réaliser et obtenir l'autosuffisance dans les produits agricoles de base pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire; garantir les matières premières pour les industries principales de transformation; produire un excédent de production de 2 600 millions de livres syriennes; accroître la productivité agricole; chercher à éliminer les trois grandes divergences de revenu; éviter que les gens des régions et des campagnes cherchent à migrer vers les villes. Plus de 7 milliards de livres syriennes sont prévues pour atteindre ces objectifs dans le plan quinquennal actuel 1985.

Malgré les résultats positifs déjà obtenus dans ce domaine, les investissements auraient été supérieurs au niveau actuel, s'il n'y avait eu l'agression subite des terres arabes dont la férocité s'est encore accrue ces deux dernières décennies, sous l'égide de l'impérialisme mondial allié aux régimes sionistes et racistes. Nous sommes obligés d'attribuer une grande partie de notre budget national à la défense de notre peuple et de nos terres. Nous sommes obligés de résister à cette agression que l'impérialisme mondial a entrepris en utilisant ses armes les plus mortelles et les plus modernes.

Notre délégation a bien écouté la déclaration du Directeur général, déclaration courageuse, et nous sommes heureux de pouvoir donner notre appui au programme du Directeur général, programme 1984-85, qui dessine une tendance nouvelle, une concentration sur des programmes techniques et la diminution de tous les frais administratifs dans toute la mesure possible, permettant une petite augmentation budgétaire qui ne dépasserait pas le 5 pour 1000, ce qui permettra d'accroître l'aptitude de la FAO à faire face aux besoins des Etats Membres et surtout des plus pauvres.

Pour ce qui est des priorités fixées par la FAO et les liens entre ces priorités et la politique générale d'agriculture et d'alimentation dans le monde, mon gouvernement estime que le protectionnisme et ses effets négatifs ne pourront guère résoudre les problèmes de sous-emploi dans le Nord, ni le problème du déséquilibre commercial, mais que les pays pauvres deviendront les victimes des forces extérieures et sans merci.

Le concept de la sécurité alimentaire, dans son sens large, c'est-à-dire offrir l'accès aux aliments de base à tous, en permettant de fixer des objectifs clairs dans la sécurité alimentaire, aura d'excellents résultats.

Il faut que les ressources du programme alimentaire mondial puissent être augmentées pour 1985-86. Nous estimons également qu'il faut mettre en oeuvre les recommandations prises par la Conférence régionale du Proche-Orient, surtout pour ce qui est des deux nouveaux organismes; le Conseil régional et le Conseil des politiques du Proche-Orient.

Nous sommes entièrement d'accord avec la politique de la FAO qui a permis de donner un essor à ces organismes, et les pays de la région sont conscients de la présence de ces organismes qui sont d'un bon contact et permettent d'octroyer une assistance rapide.

Je voudrais ici aussi dire que le Bureau de la FAO nous offre, à la République arabe syrienne, une excellente collaboration ce qui nous permet de nous rapprocher des objectifs de notre programme agricole. Je dois mentionner ici le Programme d'assistance technique. Je puis vous assurer notre pleine collaboration. Ceci est caractéristique de l'effort général de la FAO sur le terrain, mais la réalisation de ces programmes nécessite des ressources additionnelles et c'est la raison pour laquelle nous lançons un appel pour que ces ressources soient accrues.

Un effort de développement doit se poursuivre sans cesse. On ne peut ni l'arrêter, ni le limiter dans le temps. En outre, nous sommes d'accord avec ce qu'a dit le Directeur général en termes généraux, car il comprend bien l'interdépendance de tous les éléments de l'économie mondiale.

Ces problèmes sont insolubles à moins que nous comprenions les liens que ces problèmes ont avec l'agriculture mondiale, les échanges commerciaux et d'autres politiques en général.

Nous sommes tout à fait d'accord pour donner la priorité à l'attribution de la majeure partie des ressources additionnelles aux activités de la conférence mondiale sur le développement rural et agricole et je suis heureux d'avoir à déclarer que la République arabe syrienne met ce programme en oeuvre à l'heure actuelle. D'ailleurs cela est traduit par les résultats de la Mission FAO qui a précisément examiné dans quelles mesures les résolutions de la CMRADR étaient misés en oeuvre.

Je voudrais faire allusion aux initiatives très constructives sur la constitution de la Banque de gènes agricoles et concernant la proposition de convoquer la Conférence mondiale des pêches compte tenu de l'importance des protéines animales dans notre régime alimentaire. Nous sommes également heureux de la convocation de la Neuvième Conférence de sylviculture qui se tiendra au Mexique en 1985. Je souhaite un plein succès à cette session de la FAO.

J. OLIVEIRA (Guinée-Bissau) (langue originale: portugais): Permettez que mes premières paroles soient pour féliciter Mr John Block pour sa brillante élection comme Président de la XXII^e Conférence générale de la FAO, élection qui témoigne la confiance que l'auguste assemblée met dans sa compétence et dans son sens de justice et d'égalité, qualités nécessaires pour le succès de cette Conférence.

J'aimerais aussi réitérer à M. Edouard Saouma, Directeur général de cette Organisation, notre ferme appui pour la façon dont il a conduit les destins de la FAO et pour le nouveau dynamisme qu'il a imprégné à cette organisation au cours de ces dernières années.

Aux nouveaux pays Antigua, Barbuda, Belize, Vanuatu, Saint-Christophe-et-Névis, qui à partir de cette Conférence feront partie de notre organisation, je souhaite que leur présence contribue à l'élargissement de la Conférence.

L'un des principaux thèmes de notre Conférence est l'analyse de la situation alimentaire et agricole mondiale, qui, jour après jour, tend à s'aggraver au lieu d'enregistrer des progrès.

En approuvant le plan du document "Agriculture: Horizon 2000", nos espoirs étaient en effet optimistes. Pourtant l'existence de 500 millions de personnes qui n'ont aucune garantie pour leur nourriture quotidienne nous amène à penser que seul un changement radical dans l'attitude des pays développés, des principaux organismes financiers mondiaux et une ferme volonté des pays les moins développés pour promouvoir leur développement endogène, pourront éviter les risques d'une augmentation substantielle du nombre de gens qui ont faim et dont la déclaration de Rome prévoit qu'il passera à 650 millions si la tendance actuelle se maintient.

C'est la raison pour laquelle nous lançons un appel aux pays développés, pour qu'ils prennent leur part de responsabilité en vue d'éliminer cette situation de crise économique mondiale, de telle façon que nous puissions atteindre les prévisions de production pour l'an 2000.

Nous appuyons toutes les solutions et mesures préconisées par la FAO pour arrêter la course aux armements en vue de renforcer les relations internationales et pour la consolidation de la coopération sur le plan mondial.

Quant au programme de travail et au budget pour l'année 1984-1985, nous aimerions féliciter le Secrétariat de la FAO et son Directeur général pour l'excellent document qu'ils ont mis à notre disposition, réitérant à notre organisation tout l'appui dans les efforts qui ont été entrepris en vue de donner une plus grande importance aux aspects alimentation et nutrition sur le plan mondial, unique moyen pour atteindre l'équilibre et la satisfaction des nécessités de base de la grande majorité de l'espèce humaine qui est menacée par la faim.

Nous devons réunir tous les efforts pour la concrétisation du programme, tenant compte du fait qu'il pourra servir à améliorer la situation alimentaire dans les deux ans à venir.

Nous aimerions réitérer encore une fois au Directeur général notre appui total au budget présenté pour le biennium 1984-1985 qui, à notre avis, pourrait s'avérer insuffisant pour les nécessités croissantes de nos pays.

Parlant de l'alimentation, nous ne pouvons que nous référer à la Sécurité alimentaire, programme auquel nous attachons une importance particulière en vue d'organiser les stocks et les prévisions de production et au Programme alimentaire mondial qui a joué un rôle important dans les projets de développement rural dans nos pays, servant d'élément catalyseur à de nombreuses réalisations dans divers domaines de la production alimentaire. Nous aimerions apporter un appui ferme à ces programmes pour les deux ans à venir et en plus, nous comptons sur leur continuation.

Année après année, la commémoration de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation a pris la forme d'une véritable mobilisation face aux problèmes de la crise alimentaire que le monde traverse. Ainsi, dans notre pays, cette année nous avons réalisé diverses manifestations et actions qui ont trouvé leur point culminant dans la remise des prix aux meilleurs producteurs agricoles, avec une allocution de notre Président du Conseil de la Révolution, en vue d'inciter les paysans à produire davantage et à obtenir l'autosuffisance alimentaire.

C'est avec une grande joie que nous réaffirmons encore une fois au Directeur général nos félicitations pour l'instauration de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation.

En Guinée-Bissau l'agriculture est la base fondamentale de l'économie.

C'est pourquoi, dans notre stratégie de développement économique et global, nous avons tenu compte des orientations idéologiques de notre glorieux parti qui trace les grandes lignes à suivre dans le développement économique et social conduisant à l'économie nationale indépendante et à la place prioritaire du secteur agro-pastoral.

Nous réaffirmons explicitement:

La priorité de l'agriculture comme activité de base et primordiale du peuple, capable de contribuer rapidement à l'accumulation de la richesse nationale;

La nécessité d'articulation agriculture/industrie dans le développement équilibré où l'agriculture est la base et l'industrie agissant comme moteur de sa croissance.

La nécessité du développement intégré de l'agriculture, de l'industrie et des services, en considérant dans cette articulation le rôle capital du commerce.

Notre premier plan quadriennal de développement économique et social 1983/1986 reflète cette option quand nous considérons, dans le "Groupe prioritaire", le développement agricole, les forêts et la pêche, en lui consacrant la priorité des priorités, en vue d'en faire bénéficier surtout la population paysanne et de rompre le cercle vicieux de l'autosubsistance, en créant des moyens de financement du marché interne et en provoquant le rééquilibre économique.

Il a été également conçu, pour appuyer les activités prioritaires, un "Groupe d'appui principal" constitué par les secteurs commerce, transport, postes et télécommunications et services financiers qui devront concourir au succès du groupe prioritaire.

Par ailleurs les secteurs fondamentaux à long terme n'ont pas été négligés : construction nationale, éducation, santé et culture, infrastructure de l'industrie lourde, ressources minérales et les différents aspects de participation du peuple.

Ceci nous amène à conclure que le développement rural n'est pas une catégorie spéciale distincte du développement national. Ils favorisent les mêmes objectifs, vu que le développement est un processus où l'être humain est acteur et bénéficiaire comme individu et être social.

Par conséquent, notre politique de développement rural s'accroît dans la transformation du milieu rural, visant à l'amélioration des conditions de vie de notre population, à l'élimination des disparités entre la vie urbaine et la vie rurale et entre les différents groupes du secteur rural.

Son principe est que le développement doit être réalisé par et pour la population rurale, c'est-à-dire dans son propre intérêt et avec sa participation active, soit dans le processus de prise de décisions soit dans l'application de celles-ci.

Nous souhaitons le développement intègre, harmonieux de notre communauté et ceci n'est possible qu'à travers le développement rural où les objectifs multiples seront atteints, tels que l'augmentation de la production, l'amélioration des conditions d'hygiène et de santé, l'approvisionnement en eau des populations, la distribution plus équitable du rendement et, ainsi, de la production, en lui assurant les bénéfices du développement.

L'intégration des divers secteurs de l'économie dans la lutte contre la pauvreté et pour l'amélioration de la vie rurale apparaît ainsi comme une nécessité impérieuse.

Les objectifs à poursuivre sont les suivants:

- lutter contre la pauvreté et l'ignorance,
- combattre la faim et la malnutrition,
- améliorer l'état hygiénico
- sanitaire de la population,
- élever le niveau de vie de la population.

Pour réaliser ces objectifs, il s'avère nécessaire de poursuivre les politiques sectorielles et de définir les objectifs spécifiques et prioritaires à suivre, tels que:

- l'autosuffisance alimentaire et l'équilibre nutritionnel
- l'amélioration du régime alimentaire
- l'approvisionnement en eau aux populations
- l'accroissement du produit intérieur brut
- la juste distribution des richesses produites.

Face aux structures socio-économiques du pays, notre stratégie de développement s'accroît dans:

- la mobilisation des couches sociales, en vue de l'utilisation intégrale de la superficie cultivable. A peine 8,3 pour cent du territoire est cultivé, alors qu'on estime à 30 pour cent la surface susceptible d'être cultivée;
- la promotion de la capacité de travail des populations rurales et leur augmentation de productivité;
- l'utilisation rationnelle des facteurs de production pour l'obtention de grand rendement;
- l'implantation des points d'approvisionnement en eau;
- et la création de centres de santé de base.

Malgré tous ces efforts, le niveau des investissements dans le secteur agricole est encore soumis aux caprices des conditions climatiques. C'est ainsi que dans notre zone divers pays ont été atteints par la sécheresse et par l'irrégularité des pluies.

Notre pays n'ayant pas été à l'abri de ces facteurs a connu au cours de cette année des pluies très irrégulières, ce qui nous amène à prévoir une grande baisse de l'ensemble de la production agricole, particulièrement la production du riz qui est la base de l'alimentation du peuple.

Par conséquent, notre pays, touché par ces calamités naturelles, doit être considéré comme l'un des pays africains atteints gravement par la sécheresse et, comme tel, mérite une attention spéciale dans la politique des aides d'urgence.

Nous ne voudrions pas terminer sans rendre hommage au gigantesque travail que la FAO développe dans le cadre de la coopération entre tous les Etats Membres et surtout pour l'aide fournie à notre pays durant ces dernières années.

Nous voudrions lancer un appel à tous les Etats Membres pour la création d'une base solide pour le rétablissement d'une véritable paix internationale, pour l'élimination de la faim et de la malnutrition du monde.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): La délégation de la République populaire du Congo souhaite associer sa voix à celles qui se sont déjà exprimées pour présenter ses chaleureuses félicitations à M. Block pour son élection à la présidence de cette Conférence. Je me réjouis de l'unanimité qui a caractérisé ce choix et espère sincèrement que sous la direction du représentant d'un Etat Membre qui a grandement œuvré à la création et au développement des activités de la FAO, les travaux de cette 22ème session connaissent un réel succès et permettent à l'Organisation de continuer à jouer son rôle de chef de file dans le combat que l'humanité mène contre la faim et la malnutrition à travers le monde en développement. Nous sommes certains que les Vice-Présidents vous seront d'un concours précieux dans la conduite des travaux, c'est pourquoi nous les félicitons également.

Nos félicitations s'adressent également au Directeur général M. Edouard Saouma dont les compétences et le dévouement à servir l'Organisation et les peuples en développement n'ont d'égale que sa foi dans les objectifs poursuivis par la FAO; nous voudrions ici lui renouveler notre reconnaissance et notre confiance et l'assurer du concours actif de notre Gouvernement.

La République populaire du Congo par ma voix voudrait saluer l'admission au sein de l'Organisation de Antigua-et-Barbuda, Belize, Vanuatu et Saint-Christophe-et-Nevis qui ont récemment recouvré leur souveraineté internationale. Nous sommes heureux de les voir ainsi venir grossir les rangs du front de lutte contre la faim, la malnutrition et la misère des peuples en développement.

Nous espérons qu'ils bénéficieront auprès de l'Organisation du concours qu'ils sont en droit d'en attendre.

On s'accorde aujourd'hui à dire que la situation alimentaire mondiale reste préoccupante malgré les stocks alimentaires suffisants. L'on reconnaît également que la répartition de ces mêmes stocks alimentaires est inégale et fortement déséquilibrée; elle serait même en partie à l'origine de nombre des graves distorsions dans l'approvisionnement des pays en développement.

En effet, les effets pernicioeux de la crise n'ont pas permis aux pays à faible revenu et à déficit alimentaire confrontés à des situations de balances de paiement déficitaires d'importer les denrées alimentaires dont ils ont besoin et ce malgré une baisse sensible des prix.

A cet égard, faut-il souligner que les espoirs nés au lendemain des mesures prises à Libreville il y a plus de deux ans par le Fonds monétaire international, ces espoirs dis-je, n'ont pas résisté aux dures réalités auxquelles ont été confrontés certains de ces pays: très peu d'entre eux ont pu bénéficier de ces facilités en raison des mécanismes complexes mis en place; il importe en conséquence que cette institution étudie des mesures plus énergiques mettant en oeuvre des mécanismes mieux adaptés à la situation; il sera ainsi possible de faire face aux graves pénuries alimentaires qui sévissent dans certains pays à faible revenu et à déficit alimentaire et qui menacent des centaines de millions de vies humaines, notamment en Afrique où nombre de calamités viennent compliquer une situation déjà complexe.

Nous sommes conscients qu'une telle politique ne sera possible que dans le cadre d'une prise de conscience générale de nos gouvernements et surtout de ceux des pays nantis, sur la nécessité de mettre fin au désordre économique actuel et d'asseoir les fondements d'un nouvel ordre économique international fondé sur l'interdépendance des pays; la dynamique de la reprise économique au niveau mondial en dépend pour une large part.

Toutes les rencontres internationales de ces deux dernières années ont pu réaffirmer ces nécessités sans qu'il nous soit possible à présent de constater qu'un progrès fondamental dans le dialogue Nord-Sud ait été réalisé ou que les négociations sur le nouvel Accord international sur les céréales suscitent le moindre intérêt auprès des pays exportateurs.

Devant cet immobilisme coupable les gouvernements des pays en développement se doivent de réaliser que la seule solution susceptible de faire face aux pénuries alimentaires dont sont victimes leurs populations réside dans l'accroissement de la production agricole et alimentaire nationale.

A cet égard la République populaire du Congo dont l'agriculture constitue le secteur prioritaire a arrêté sa stratégie d'autosuffisance alimentaire à la définition de laquelle la FAO a largement contribué dans le cadre de son programme de coopération technique qui de ce fait reçoit une nouvelle fois le plein appui de ma délégation.

Cette stratégie d'autosuffisance alimentaire définie avec la participation de l'ensemble des populations rurales de notre pays est actuellement mise en oeuvre; elle exige de la part de notre Gouvernement et de l'ensemble de notre peuple des efforts accrus d'investissement et de mobilisation de toutes nos ressources nationales disponibles au centre desquelles se situe l'homme.

Il va de soi que celles-ci restent limitées et un apport extérieur paraît indispensable pour réaliser ces objectifs. A ce sujet nous sommes sensibles aux efforts faits par le Directeur général pour accroître les ressources destinées à renforcer les aspects de formation dans ses différents programmes. Cet effort devra être poursuivi et amplifié à l'avenir comme nous l'avions demandé à la deuxième Conférence de la FAO pour l'Afrique.

L'examen minutieux du Programme de travail et budget présenté par le Directeur général au cours de cette session de la Conférence n'a certes pas entièrement répondu à notre attente puisque nous estimons qu'il se situe en-deçà des besoins et ne constitue pas une réponse suffisante aux graves problèmes qui secouent le monde rural en développement.

En effet l'augmentation symbolique de 0,5 pour cent du budget constitue un sujet de préoccupation au regard de la situation alimentaire dans les pays à faible revenu et à déficit alimentaire et pourrait être interprétée comme une adhésion dangereuse de l'Organisation à la théorie de la croissance zéro que nous avons rejetée à la précédente session et qu'aucun prétexte ne semble justifier en ce moment de reprise économique.

Cependant nous osons espérer que ceci est conjoncturel et saura être corrigé dès le prochain budget; voilà pourquoi tout en renouvelant notre appui aux stratégies, programmes et priorités définis par le Directeur général nous appuierons le niveau de budget proposé.

Tous ceux qui se sont exprimés au sujet de la situation alimentaire mondiale ont reconnu que la situation en Afrique est alarmante, dans de nombreux pays à faible revenu et à déficit alimentaire de cette région, que celle-ci appelle des solutions urgentes pour permettre à ces pays d'acquiescer l'infrastructure nécessaire pour mieux résister aux calamités naturelles qui les frappent trop souvent.

La communauté internationale ici réunie doit donc lancer un appel pour mobiliser les volontés politiques pour un accroissement massif de l'assistance envers ces pays. Dans ce contexte l'on peut espérer que des fléaux comme la peste bovine seront éradiqués grâce à l'assistance de tous en même temps que des mesures concrètes devront être prises pour accroître la production agricole qui a plutôt tendance à décliner dans cette région trop souvent éprouvée.

Cette assistance devra bien sûr venir compléter les ressources nationales affectées à ce secteur que chaque gouvernement devrait considérer comme fondamental au détriment d'autres secteurs moins vitaux et cela conformément au Plan d'action de Lagos.

Dans moins d'un an nous allons célébrer le 10^{ème} anniversaire de la Conférence mondiale sur l'alimentation à Addis-Abeba. Il importe de rappeler que les engagements pris par tous les gouvernements en 1974 d'œuvrer pour qu'à cette échéance aucun enfant n'aille plus se coucher en ayant faim n'ont pas été tenus puisque les perspectives nous paraissent presque aussi sombres qu'il y a dix ans.

Mieux, la crise économique mondiale a exacerbé les égoïsmes des pays développés qui n'ont plus voulu payer le prix de cet engagement solennel. La quasi-totalité de's pays développés n'ont même pas pu faire le minimum exigé, à savoir consacrer 0,7 pour cent de leur PNB à l'Aide publique au développement. De même que l'objectif des 10 millions de tonnes de céréales à affecter à l'aide alimentaire n'a pu être approché.

Il convient de rapprocher cela des difficultés que connaît le Fonds international pour le développement agricole qui a toutes les peines du monde à recouvrer les ressources de la première reconstitution et qui de ce fait a gravement réduit ses engagements en faveur des projets destinés aux populations rurales les plus pauvres. Pire, les négociations en vue de la deuxième reconstitution sont menacées en raison du manque de volonté politique manifeste de certains gouvernements actuellement tentés de tourner le dos au multilatéralisme au profit du bilatéralisme avec tout ce que cela comporte de contraignant et d'assujettissement.

Cependant au même moment l'on assiste à une course effrénée au surarmement et par conséquent à un détournement funeste des ressources susceptibles de soulager les souffrances humaines vers des objectifs de destruction massive. Il est indiqué de rappeler à la conscience de l'humanité comme l'a fait le Directeur général lors de la célébration de la troisième Journée mondiale de l'alimentation le montant annuel de 700 milliards de dollars consacrés à l'armement, chiffre qui, ironie du sort, équivaut à celui de l'endettement des pays en développement.

A cet égard, faut-il relever que l'Afrique actuellement sinistrée n'a besoin chaque année que du centième de ce chiffre pour lui permettre de créer l'infrastructure nécessaire à son autosuffisance alimentaire?

Nous voudrions choisir ce moment pour souligner une nouvelle fois l'adhésion totale de mon pays au nouveau concept de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale tel qu'il a été défini dans le rapport du Directeur général au dernier Comité sur la sécurité alimentaire mondiale; nous nous réjouissons de ce que ce nouveau concept ait été approuvé par le Conseil de la FAO et ait reçu le soutien du Conseil économique et social des Nations Unies ainsi que du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation lors de leur dernière session.

Il reste à la communauté internationale de le mettre en oeuvre comme le préconise le rapport du Directeur général. Dans ce cadre ma délégation voudrait indiquer qu'il est moralement indécent que l'aide alimentaire en raison de son caractère humanitaire soit utilisée comme instrument de pression politique et, à l'image d'autres instances, la Conférence devrait réaffirmer ce caractère humanitaire de cette assistance pour la soustraire définitivement des considérations politiques dont elle fait parfois l'objet.

C'est avec un esprit ouvert que la délégation congolaise participe aux travaux de la Conférence dans les différentes commissions. Cependant nous tenons à marquer tout notre intérêt à l'examen de la Convention sur les ressources phytogénétiques et la création de la banque de gènes qui, de notre point de vue, se doivent de demeurer patrimoine de l'humanité entière. Leur libre accès devra donc être garanti.

Enfin la délégation de mon pays ne ménagera aucun effort pour contribuer tant soit peu au succès de cette 22^{ème} session de la Conférence car le succès de cette Conférence marque à coup sûr un petit pas vers la création des conditions réelles de paix à laquelle tous les peuples du monde aspirent.

A. NICULESCU (Namibia): May I, first of all, extend to the Chairman and to his colleagues of the bureau congratulations on their election to these important posts. We are confident that under his wise guidance the FAO Conference will be a success.

On behalf of the United Nations Council for Namibia, my delegation would like to extend its warmest welcome to our newest member countries, Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Saint Christopher and Nevis and Vanuatu.

On behalf of the United Nations Council for Namibia, in its capacity as the legal administering authority for Namibia, I would also like to express the appreciation and support of the Council for Namibia for the activities undertaken by FAO with a view to achieving the major goals of alleviating hunger and malnutrition and the eradication of poverty.

The present session of the FAO Conference takes place under the circumstances of complex and contradictory problems of international life which have aggravated the world situation. All peoples of the world are deeply concerned with the escalation of the arms race, and primarily of the nuclear arms race with the perpetuation of conflicts and hotbeds of tension, and the emergence of new ones with a deepening of the gap between rich and poor countries.

It is more than ever necessary to act with increasing determination against the policy of force and dictat for the establishment among states of new relations based on the full equality of rights, strict observance by all states in all circumstances of national independence and sovereignty, noninterference in internal affairs and the right of each people to decide independently their destiny.

A factor which aggravates this state of affairs and which represents a serious threat to international peace and security is the illegal and colonial occupation of the territory of Namibia by South Africa, which constitutes an act of aggression against the Namibian people, and a challenge to the United Nations which has direct responsibility for Namibia until its independence. The facts prove that in defiance of repeated General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on Namibia, the racist regime of South Africa is continuing its illegal occupation of Namibia by intensifying its military build up in Namibia, its brutal repression of the Namibian people, ruthless exploitation of the people and resources of Namibia, as well as its attempts to destroy the national unity and territorial integrity of Namibia.

The overwhelming majority of the international community condemns this colonial policy of the Pretoria authorities, its persistent acts of aggression launched from bases in Namibia against independent African States, and resolutely rejects its manovres and fraudulent schemes aimed at perpetuating its brutal domination and exploitation of the Namibian people as manifested in the course of the consultations for the implementation of the United Nations plan for independence of Namibia.

The international community, all member states and international organizations associated with the United Nations must take all possible measures in support of the Namibian people in their liberation struggle under the leadership of their sole and authentic representative, the South West Africa Peoples Organization (SWAPO), to achieve without any further delay self-determination, freedom and national independence in a united Namibia based on the United Nations relevant resolutions.

We deeply deplore the continued collaboration with South Africa of certain western countries in disregard of the pertinent resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council, strongly condemn the activities of all foreign economic interests operating in Namibia under the illegal South African administration which are illegally exploiting the resources of the territory, and request that an end be put to any cooperation with the illegal South African administration. The resources of Namibia are the inalienable heritage of the Namibian people according to the provisions of Decree No. 1 for the Protection of the Natural Resources of Namibia enacted by the United Nations Council for Namibia in 1974.

The rapid depletion of the resources as a result of the systematic plunder by foreign economic interests is a grave threat to the integrity and prosperity of an independent Namibia, and contributes to the maintenance of the repressive occupation regime.

The international situation is marked by the amplification of the manifestations of the economic crisis which negatively affects all states, in particular developing countries. Of particular concern are the present trends toward the extension of protectionist measures and discriminatory practices, the amplification of the already considerable disparity between prices of raw materials and those of industrial goods, the increasing burden of the external debts of developing countries and the high interest rates for development of credits, the reduction of aid programmes, and hindering of access to modern technology.

The overcoming of the present economic crisis requires not only the resumption of economic activities in the developed countries but the revitalization of the development process in the developing countries to regain their dynamic role in the world economy, and in the growth of international trade.

The various studies prepared for this Conference draw our attention to the gravity of the situation of the developing countries in the field of food and agriculture. We share the concern expressed by the Director-General of FAO, Mr Edouard Saouma, in his introductory statement that after two years of better food output, global food production declined in 1983, and that some 22 African countries urgently require assistance for overcoming their serious food problems.

We commend the efforts made by FAO to assist the developing countries in implementing their national food policies. We appreciate the proposals put forward by the Director-General to concentrate FAO's action in high priority areas and reinforce its operational activity. And we take note with interest that in the 1984/85 biennium the share of the operational programmes is to be increased. We are grateful that in 1982 there were nine projects of assistance for Namibia and consider that this assistance must be enlarged in the future within the context of the Nationhood Programme for Namibia and the United Nations Institute for Namibia. At the same time, we would like to express our appreciation for the efforts made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to assist Namibian refugees. Given the fact that these refugees generate additional pressure on the food resources of the neighbouring states, we call upon the FAO World Food Programme to continue to cooperate with him in order to expand the programmes of assistance to Namibian refugees in the neighbouring states, particularly in Angola, Zambia and Botswana, in view of substantial increase in the number of Namibian refugees.

Finally, we would like to reiterate the request addressed by the General Assembly to all Specialized Agencies and to call upon this Organization to continue to grant a waiver, as it did in the past, of the assessment of Namibia during the period in which it is represented by the United Nations Council for Namibia.

Tribute to Mr. Arrhenius F.M. DE FREITAS, Permanent Representative of Brazil to FAO

Hommage à M. Arrhenius F.M. DE FREITAS, Représentant permanent du Brésil auprès de la FAO

Homenaje al Sr. Arrhenius F.M. DE FREITAS, Representante Permanente del Brasil ante la FAO

CHAIRMAN: I regret that I must interrupt the session for a very, very sad reason, which is that today we have heard with great sorrow of the death last Friday of one of our members, Mr Arrhenius F. Machado de Freitas, who was a distinguished member of the delegation of Brazil. I propose that we observe one minute of silence, but before we do that I would like to call upon the Director-General to say a few words.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Mr Chairman, it is with very deep sorrow and regret that we have heard of the sudden demise of our dear colleague Arrhenius Machado de Freitas in the midst of our proceedings. He was taken ill in the middle of last week and we had hoped that this was merely a temporary halt to his devoted service to his country and to this Organization. His sudden death on Friday comes as a great shock and tragedy to us all.

He was only fifty. He was thus at the height of his powers and no doubt destined for an even more brilliant period in his career before his shockingly sudden end. He was appointed Permanent Representative of Brazil to the Organization in September 1979. Many of you and I have thus known him for the last four years as a conscientious, skilful, effective and friendly representative of his country and participant in our activities. His distinguished contribution continued to the very end. He died as it were in action in loyal, dedicated and fruitful support of his Government and our Organization.

Before coming to FAO he worked in the Office of the Brazilian President and in the Foreign Ministry. After coming to FAO he rapidly distinguished himself in his understanding of the main issues, his motivation, his outstanding capacities and his dignified but friendly comportsment. It was no doubt in recognition of his attributes that he was elected in two successive biennia to the Programme Committee, and played a prominent role in shaping the conclusions of the Council and Conference, as well as being elected Chairman of the Committee on Commodity Problems, in which capacity he served with distinction and to the satisfaction of all shades of opinion. In these capacities all who knew him came to appreciate his judgement, his frank but constructive arguments and his ability in negotiation.

Since he was based in Rome, most of us also had the privilege of meeting him and his family socially. Our sympathies go out to his wife Lilla and their young daughter. He was a worthy representative of his great country, and a man who commanded the respect and sympathy of all who came in contact with him. His going from us is a loss for his family, for his friends, for his Government, for the Programme Committee, for the Organization, and myself personally, as Director-General.

On behalf of myself and all my colleagues, I offer my deepest condolences to his family, to the Government of Brazil, to the Programme Committee, and to all his friends among the delegations here.

Mr Chairman, may I now suggest, as you did, Mr Chairman, that the Conference rise and observe a minute's silence in memory of Arrhenius Machado de Freitas, and respectfully request that due note should be taken in the Report and that you Mr Chairman be requested to convey the heartfelt condolences of us all to Lilla de Freitas and the Government of Brazil.

One minute of silence

Une minute de silence

Un minuto de silencio

CHAIRMAN: I am sure that the Conference endorses the remarks of the Director-General in the tribute that he has so handsomely paid.

Now I call upon the Ambassador of Brazil to Italy to say a few words, and I take this opportunity of offering the Conference's deepest sympathy in their great loss.

C. SYLVESTRE de OURO-PRIETO (Brazil): Mr Chairman, I should like to express the recognition of the Brazilian Government for the Director-General's remarks of sympathy on the decease of Minister Arrhenius F. Machado de Freitas and to thank the Plenary Session for the special ceremony.

Minister de Freitas has worked with me for the last year. I have been able to witness his dedication to his work at the Embassy, especially on behalf of the strengthening of relations between Brazil and the FAO and with all its Member Nations. He was not only an excellent public servant but a personal friend of mine. Minister de Freitas was a career diplomat for over 25 years, having served in the Ministry of External Relations with great competence not only in Brazil but also abroad in New York, Brussels and Moscow.

I should like to express the deep regret of the Brazilian Government at Minister de Freitas' decease. We have lost a valuable and exceptional colleague.

Mr Chairman, it is Minister de Freitas who is speaking through my voice with an emotion that unfortunately my words are unable to translate.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, and once again we offer you our deepest sympathy. Now I call upon the Chairman of the Programme Committee to say a few words because the late Mr de Freitas was a member of the Programme Committee.

M. TRKULJA (Chairman, Programme Committee): It was with tremendous shock and disbelief that I learnt of the sudden and untimely death of my friend and colleague Arrhenius Machado de Freitas, a truly outstanding Brazilian.

We were speaking together just a few days ago, and Machado de Freitas has been attending the Conference, the Council and many other FAO meetings for the past 5 years. He has been a member of the Programme Committee since its Thirty-seventh session in September 1979, over four years ago. My colleagues on the Committee and I have always admired his calm, reasonable, objective approach to the questions and problems which came before us. This does not mean that he was not a persistent advocate on behalf of his region, his Government, and indeed his own views when he felt this was called for, but he always conducted himself in a gentlemanly and correct manner. All his colleagues and friends on the Committee feel deeply privileged at having worked closely with Machado, as we used to call him. His colleagues and I personally will greatly miss him, and we all wish to extend our sincerest heartfelt sympathy to his lovely wife and his family.

Millicent FENWICK (United States of America): I think all of us who have served on the Programme Committee know what a terrible loss we have suffered. Our Chairman has just spoken for us, but as someone newly arrived here and coming to the Programme Committee for the first time, I felt privileged to meet somebody so free, so frank, so courteous, so friendly and warm.

I remember his talking about his beautiful country and some of the troubles there with such sympathy and such concern. It was heartwarming to see a human being so dedicated to the work in which he was involved, loving his country, honouring his country by his presence and, indeed, all of us too. This is a loss suffered by the Programme Committee, by this Organization, and I may say, by the world. He was a valuable human being, a marvellous public servant, and it is a terrible thing to have lost him when he had so much to give. Like others, I join in presenting our sympathy to his wife; and the world, too, needs sympathy for the loss of such a man.

V.S. BLANCO DELGADO (México): Es para unirme a la voz del Director General y a la del Presidente del Comité del Programa en nuestro sincero pésame para el Gobierno de Brasil y la familia del Ministro de Freitas. Los que tuvimos oportunidad de conocerle y trabajar en su compañía, hemos sentido profundamente su pérdida. El Ministro de Freitas dedico su vida, y hasta el último momento de ella, a su trabajo. Recuerdo que el miércoles, precisamente poco antes de retirarse a almorzar, tuvimos una última entrevista en la cual discutimos algunos de los proyectos que íbamos a estudiar por la tarde. Desafortunadamente, ese mismo día, una hora u hora y media después, recibimos la noticia de su enfermedad. El viernes nos llevo la noticia de su desaparición.

El grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe, por nuestro conducto, quiere enviar el más sentido pésame al Gobierno de Brasil y a la familia del Sr. de Freitas por la gran pérdida que con su desaparición han tenido.

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, your very handsome tributes will be included in the verbatim record of the Conference, I trust with your approval. There will also be an appropriate commemoration in our official report.

No amount of words can bring an excellent man back into the bosom of his family, back to his country, to this Conference, or to FAO. Therefore, at the conclusion of this rather brief but very sad ceremony, let me add that I share your feelings of profound regret and condolance for this personal, national and international tragedy. We shall all miss him, and echo the words of the Director-General who says that he will miss him in his work.

I believe that we have all expressed our sincere and heartfelt feelings about this sad event, but now it is my duty to terminate this solemn, eloquent ceremony and to return the Conference to its normal agenda.

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

– STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATION (continued)

– DECLARATIONS PES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)

– MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

li. OULD AMAR (Mauritanie): Etant le premier orateur inscrit après cette cérémonie, je voudrais dire au nom des pays africains et des pays arabes puisque je suis à la fois Arabe et Africain, aussi la tristesse que nous éprouvons à la suite de cette douloureuse nouvelle.

Je voudrais m'associer aux félicitations qui vous ont été adressées, M. le Président, à l'occasion de votre élection à la tête de notre conférence. J'y ajoute mes voeux de plein succès.

Ma Délégation renouvelle sa haute appréciation pour le travail remarquable accompli par le Directeur Général de la FAO, le Dr. Edouard Saouma, pour faire de notre Organisation un instrument efficace au service de la coopération et de la solidarité internationales.

Je m'acquitte aussi d'un agréable devoir en transmettant les salutations fraternelles de mon gouvernement aux pays nouvellement admis au sein de notre Organisation. Je ne doute pas que leur contribution sera utile à la FAO, dans sa marche vers une plus grande coopération entre les Nations et vers une solidarité plus concrète entre les hommes.

Monsieur le Président, la 22ème Session de notre Organisation m'offre l'occasion d'évoquer les traits essentiels de la politique de développement rural suivie par mon gouvernement, avant de parler de problèmes plus généraux qu'il me semble opportun d'aborder devant cette auguste Assemblée.

Mon pays a officiellement accordé la priorité au Secteur rural, en octobre 1979. En vertu de cette décision, la majeure partie des financements internes et externes est allouée à ce secteur. L'accent est mis sur l'accroissement de la production céréalière et des productions animales en vue de l'auto-suffisance alimentaire, ainsi que sur la lutte contre l'exode rural et de la désertification.

La maîtrise de l'eau a reçu une attention particulière. Des aménagements hydro-agricoles, des barrages, des forages et des puits ont été réalisés.

Des études menées en collaboration avec les paysans ont abouti à l'adoption d'une législation foncière nouvelle qui facilite et encourage l'accession et l'appropriation individuelle des terres.

Des mesures d'encouragement ont été prises en matière de crédit agricole et de prix à la production.

Les associations professionnelles d'agriculteurs et d'éleveurs ont été encouragées par le biais des exonérations douanières sur les intrants agricoles.

Les populations mauritaniennes se sont mobilisées au sein des structures d'éducation des masses, au niveau des régions, des départements, des zones rurales et des quartiers pour réaliser ou participer à des projets qui leur profitent directement.

Un code forestier et une loi sur la faune, plus appropriés aux nouvelles conditions du pays ont été adoptés.

Une nouvelle politique de pêche a été mise sur pied. Elle se caractérise par la suppression des licences qui donnaient lieu à beaucoup d'abus de la part de ceux qui en étaient les bénéficiaires et l'encouragement de constitutions de sociétés de droit mauritanien, ouvertes à des Etats et à des privés étrangers.

Le débarquement des prises dans un port national est devenu la règle. Cette politique commence à porter des fruits malgré des cas de fraude opérés par des armements étrangers.

Mon pays a fait beaucoup d'effort dans le domaine agricole. Mais il est victime d'une longue sécheresse, au même titre que les autres pays du Sahel.

La campagne agricole 1983-84 sera l'une des plus déficitaires de notre histoire. Nous avons fait ce que nous avons pu; mais nous ne pouvons pas faire tomber la pluie.

Enfin, la Mauritanie a entrepris un vaste programme de coopération régionale avec le Sénégal et le Mali pour la mise en valeur du fleuve Sénégal. Cette coopération régionale prometteuse se développe et s'élargit.

Notre présente session se tient dans un contexte de crise. Crise morale d'abord qui est de notre point de vue la plus grave. Il semble malheureusement que les principes moraux sont de plus en plus absents dans les rapports internationaux. C'est au contraire en termes d'intérêt ou de force que ces mêmes rapports sont abordés. Or, on sait que sans morale, les sociétés humaines et les Etats qui en constituent les supports seront ingouvernables. C'est malheureusement ce que l'on observe de plus en plus et qui est une donnée nouvelle et inquiétante de la situation internationale.

C'est ce qui explique aussi que 800 milliards de dollars, chiffre donné dans le rapport du Directeur général sont consacrés chaque année à l'armement au lieu de servir à la nourriture, à la santé et à l'éducation des millions d'hommes et de femmes qui en ont besoin, y compris d'ailleurs dans les pays développés.

Les plus forts veulent rester les plus forts et les faibles veulent se donner cette forme de responsabilité que conférerait la force. C'est ici que réside la justification absurde et totalement inadmissible de cette délapidation de sommes colossales.

C'est la raison aussi de notre doute en ce qui concerne la volonté politique de ceux qui en ont les moyens, d'aider à la solution définitive du grave problème de la faim et de la malnutrition dans le monde.

Nous avons la conviction que la crise multiforme actuelle, économique, politique et sociale, est la conséquence de cette crise des valeurs humaines. On peut feindre de l'ignorer et continuer à chercher des palliatifs. Il n'y aura pas de stabilité tant que des centaines de millions de femmes, d'enfants et d'hommes ne disposent pas du minimum vital, ou continuent de mourir de faim dans une indifférence quasi générale.

Si nous sommes nombreux dans cette assemblée à évoquer la tragédie de la faim dans le monde, ce n'est assurément pas pour apitoyer et encore moins pour gâcher nos retrouvailles, mais pour rendre compte d'une réalité dramatique qui risque de menacer à terme la paix et la stabilité du monde. Notre auguste assemblée doit en être informée afin qu'elle propose aux gouvernements membres des solutions appropriées pendant qu'il en est temps.

Il importe de savoir que la situation de nombreux pays est devenue critique, et même intenable :

- endettement excessif
- déséquilibre grave des échanges
- dépendance alimentaire accrue
- aide au développement en constante diminution
- environnement économique et politique plus hostile et plus sombre
- tarissement des ressources de l'aide multilatérales, comme l'IDA, le PNUD, le FIDA.

Comme on le voit, la porte est ouverte au désespoir et à l'irrationnel. Des hommes et des nations affamés, désespérés, n'ont plus rien à perdre.

Pourtant des solutions existent. Elles figurent sous la forme de propositions dans le discours du Directeur général à l'ouverture de notre session.

Ces propositions généreuses et courageuses découlent de l'analyse très lucide de la situation alimentaire internationale. Elles constituent une approche nouvelle susceptible de fournir une réponse satisfaisante aux difficultés qui nous préoccupent tous, à juste raison.

Il nous appartient de les adopter par consensus et de les appliquer effectivement dans le cadre de contrats de progrès où chaque Etat s'oblige à remplir fidèlement et loyalement ses engagements vis-à-vis de la communauté internationale, comme le ferait un homme à l'égard de sa communauté villageoise.

Ainsi la solidarité entre les nations aura une signification réelle en s'appliquant à éliminer dans le monde la faim, la malnutrition et la menace qu'elles représentent pour la paix.

Nous considérons que cette solidarité est une nécessité qui découle de l'interdépendance des nations, qui crée à son tour des obligations et des droits, dont d'abord le droit au développement et le droit à l'alimentation.

Avant de terminer, je voudrais réaffirmer l'appui de ma délégation aux propositions contenues dans le discours du Dr Edouard SAOUMA, ainsi que notre appui au projet de budget 1984-85 ainsi qu'au programme de travail de la FAO pour la même période.

L. AL-ANSI (Yemen Arab Republic) (original language Arabic): On behalf of the delegation of Yemen Arab Republic, we would like to express our deep regret for the decease of the representative of Brazil to FAO, His Excellency Mr de Freitas. We express our condolences and sympathies to his country, to his family, and to the Organization.

The Twenty-second session of FAO General Conference is convened while the problem of food security is still amongst the major problems faced by the world at large, and developing countries in particular. Our country looks at this issue with preoccupation and deep concern, and would like to express its support for the special measures mentioned in the Director-General's statement in order to deal with this issue in both the short term and the long term.

The serious indications concerning world food security will have grave implications for world peace and stability if countries do not cooperate together in order to remedy the situation as soon as possible, since we live in a small world in which interests become increasingly interlinked, and interdependence increases day by day. The increase in assistance to developing countries is justified as one of the requirements for peace and progress of mankind. Indeed, it is as much necessary for the stability of rich countries as it is for meeting the needs of developing countries and enabling them to attain a level of self-reliance as soon as possible.

On this occasion, and from this forum, we would like to express our appreciation of the important role played by FAO, and the efforts exerted by the Director-General, Mr Edouard Saouma, in order to help the developing countries and to mobilize the concerted efforts needed to combat the problems of food and agriculture at the international level.

As regards FAO's efforts in our country, we would like to express our appreciation for the efficient contribution of the Organization, in the past and at present, to our agricultural development programmes, and also for the aid extended to us by the Organization in rebuilding those areas of our country that were affected by the earthquake and in order to face the problems of drought which have hit our country this year.

On behalf of the Yemen Arab Republic, I would also like to express our deep gratitude and appreciation for the assistance extended to us by brother and friendly countries as well as international organizations, in order to help us to rebuild the disaster areas and to consolidate our development efforts to implement the second five-year development plan.

At the domestic level, our country is witnessing great development in an atmosphere of political stability and willingness of our people to achieve more progress. The guidance of our political leadership has had an important and decisive role in mobilizing the efforts of the local development cooperative bodies, which are peoples' non-governmental organizations, in order to increase agricultural production, especially after the enormous achievements made in the field of services and infrastructure over the last period.

This trend was accompanied by a series of important measures, namely the consolidation of the Agricultural Cooperative Credit Bank, and the increase of its capital to 300 million Riyals - that is to say three times its previous capital. Loans are also now oriented in order to meet the needs of farmers and agricultural cooperatives. Moreover, the activities of the Bank are being linked to the Agricultural Extension Network, to which we grant a special importance. This year has witnessed the establishment of important measures aimed at encouraging domestic production and the provision of subsidies through the setting-up of an Agricultural Marketing Company and through the consolidation of the Public Institution for Cereals and the rationalization of imports, particularly of agricultural products, in order to encourage and develop domestic production at high growth rates.

Agricultural research in our country has also witnessed an important development which will serve our development requirements. An Independent Agricultural Research Institute was set up and consolidated by a programme of more than US \$ 31 million, to be financed through international and bilateral loans and assistance,

We grant great importance to the deployment of development efforts so that they cover all the regions of Yemen. We give particular attention to the least developed areas and the areas most in need. Our country has adopted the principle of integrated rural development, in compliance with the recommendations of the international conferences. This principle has proved its efficiency when put into practice in order to direct development efforts on several axes in an integrated and coordinated manner to reach the desired objectives. For this purpose we set up the Supreme Council of Agricultural and Rural Development at ministerial level in order to coordinate and complement the efforts of the various bodies concerned.

At another level, the policy of the State provides all the necessary facilities to promote the flow of capital and the implementation of projects to meet the requirements of our national economy in compliance with our national development plans.

Because of the scarcity of our financial resources, like many developing countries, we strongly appeal for the consolidation of the resources of the International Fund for Agricultural Development in view of the important role played by this fund in order to help the poorest rural communities in the developing countries. In this respect, we also appeal for an increase of the funds available for the Technical Cooperation Programme and the World Food Programme, in view of the vital and urgent assistance which they provide to developing countries.

In conclusion we would like to endorse the Organization's Programme of Work and Budget for the coming biennium, and to appeal for the provision of funds needed for its implementation. We also call for the expansion of the Organization's Regional Office experiment in view of the efficient service provided by these regional offices. Furthermore, we call upon the Organization to devise a practical solution for the problem of the Near East Regional Office, so that it may expand the activities of the Organization in the region. Finally, I wish this Conference every success in its extremely important deliberations in order to reach positive resolutions and to contribute efficiently to the solution of the food and rural development questions, and thus achieve the progress of mankind.

M. CANTAVE (Haïti): En tant que membre à part entière du panaméricanisme, tout ce qui frappe un pays du continent touche Haïti directement. Aussi c'est avec un coeur rempli de douleur que je demanderai, au nom du Gouvernement haïtien et de son peuple au représentant du Brésil ici présent de transmettre au Gouvernement brésilien et à la famille de l'illustre disparu, au peuple brésilien tout entier, nos condoléances émues.

M. le Président, permettez-moi, au début de mon intervention, de joindre ma voix à celles des délégations présentes et de vous féliciter pour votre élection à la Présidence de la vingt-deuxième session de la Conférence de la FAO.

Ces félicitations s'adressent également à l'actuelle Direction de la FAO pour son réel souci de conserver les nobles traditions de courage et d'indépendance de l'Organisation dans ses relations avec les Etats Membres.

Quant aux nouveaux Etats Membres, la Délégation d'Haïti éprouve un plaisir immense à leur souhaiter la plus cordiale bienvenue et à leur transmettre le salut fraternel du Gouvernement et du Peuple Haïtiens.

Cette Conférence qui réunit aujourd'hui tant d'éminentes personnalités du monde agricole venues de tous les continents, revêt une importance toute particulière pour les pays en développement étant donné que la malnutrition et la faim préoccupent actuellement l'ensemble du tiers monde.

En effet, ces pays avaient nourri l'espoir que le rôle primordial accordé à la promotion de l'Agriculture leur aurait permis de s'intégrer avantageusement dans la conjoncture économique et financière de la planète. Malheureusement, la récession généralisée, l'inflation et le chômage, l'instabilité monétaire persistante et l'important déséquilibre des balances des paiements s'opposent au progrès rapide de l'agriculture des pays en développement. En outre, la chute des prix des produits de base, les termes de l'échange défavorables, les taux d'intérêt élevés et l'alourdissement de leur dette extérieure ont ralenti leur croissance et ont créé des situations insoutenables et des déficits tellement grands qu'il est impossible de les ramener à des propositions acceptables à brève échéance,

Il n'est donc pas étonnant que la situation de l'alimentation continue à empirer et que les conclusions de l'importante étude sur les perspectives globales à plus long terme intitulée "Agriculture: Horizon 2000" ne fournissent guère de raison d'être optimiste en ce qui concerne la situation à venir, si des mesures efficaces ne sont pas mises en oeuvre tant au niveau national qu'international. Dans ces perspectives, cette Conférence à laquelle nous participons se déroule à un moment critique pour l'économie mondiale. Elle va sans doute s'intéresser aux problèmes immédiats de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, mais je crois sincèrement que nous devons nous pencher sur une multitude d'autres facteurs critiques, dont plusieurs sont par nature à plus long terme. L'insuffisance de la productivité, du revenu et de la consommation, le dualisme flagrant entre ceux qui ont des ressources et ceux qui n'en ont pas, l'incapacité des structures agraires à s'adapter aux technologies nouvelles et aux systèmes de l'agro-industrie, la protection de l'environnement, le nombre croissant de paysans sans terre, la faiblesse de l'épargne et de l'investissement, le manque d'emplois en milieu rural, constituent des contraintes majeures pour l'expansion agricole des pays en développement et requièrent notre plus sérieuse attention.

Ces problèmes, bien sûr, ne sont pas nouveaux. La question qui se pose est celle de savoir si nous sommes mieux équipés aujourd'hui que par le passé pour les résoudre. Nous sommes plus conscients aujourd'hui du fait que le développement rural ne saurait être traité à part et qu'il doit être envisagé dans le cadre d'un processus plus large. La solution des problèmes ruraux doit être recherchée à travers un réseau complexe de liens entre politiques et programmes qui touchent tous les secteurs de l'économie.

A cet effet, le Gouvernement Haïtien a compris que pour combattre l'ignorance, abolir la pauvreté et la malnutrition, il lui fallait adopter, en matière de développement, une méthode d'approche globale qui tienne également compte de l'élément primordial de la production : la promotion de l'homme haïtien et plus particulièrement de l'homme rural placé dans son contexte socio-économique.

Cette proposition s'inscrit dans le cadre des options générales définies par le Ministère de l'agriculture, des ressources naturelles et du développement rural, et les interventions programmées dans le Plan quinquennal se réalisent en tenant compte de certaines situations conjoncturelles et du cri d'alarme lancé par le Chef de l'Etat dans le message délivré au siège du département le 7 janvier de cette année. En termes de politique agricole tous nos efforts tendent vers :

- l'autosuffisance alimentaire pour les denrées alimentaires de base. Cette option entraîne la mise sous irrigation effective des terres irrigables du pays; l'extension des cultures agro-industrielles; la promotion de l'élevage et de la pêche; le désenclavement de beaucoup de sections rurales; l'efficacité des services d'appui à la production; l'amélioration du régime foncier.
- la protection et la conservation de l'environnement ;
- la diversification et la promotion des denrées d'exportation ;
- l'amélioration de la qualité de la vie en milieu rural ;
- l'adéquation institutionnelle et la formation à tous les niveaux.

C'est pour assurer la poursuite de ces objectifs et de ceux des autres secteurs de développement que le Département de l'agriculture a procédé à la mise en place d'un certain nombre de structures socio-économiques et d'infrastructures agricoles, routières et d'irrigation, et conduit sur le terrain différentes activités pour la promotion de la production rurale. Celles-ci ont contribué notamment à l'extension de nouvelles aires de culture, à l'accessibilité des denrées agricoles au marché, à l'organisation de l'artisanat rural, à l'aménagement de bassins versants et à l'implémentation d'un type d'agriculture conservacionniste de montagne d'après un schéma agro-sylvo-pastoral.

Bien qu'il ne soit pas dans mes intentions de me lancer dans une énumération exhaustive de tous les projets de développement conçus par le Gouvernement de la République et qui s'exécutent en coopération avec les institutions multilatérales, bilatérales et financières, je me bornerai à mentionner : le projet d'intensification des cultures vivrières en cours, le programme d'extension de la culture du riz par l'Organisme de développement de la vallée de l'Artibonite (ODVA), de celle des haricots, le projet forestier, le programme sucrier de Léogâne, le projet de développement du nord, les projets agricoles de la plaine du cul-de-sac, de Jacmel, et de l'Asile.

Qu'il me soit permis, ici, de rendre un hommage public à toutes les nations ainsi qu'à toutes les organisations internationales qui nous apportent leur assistance technique et financière dans l'exécution des différents projets du programme agricole national qui compte déjà à son actif des résultats encourageants. La participation des institutions spécialisées des Nations Unies et plus particulièrement de la FAO, du FIDA, du PAM, du PNUD à notre effort de développement a toujours été intense; et il est à espérer que leur appui sera sollicité dans les domaines de la commercialisation des céréales dans le cadre de la sécurité alimentaire nationale, du repeuplement porcin, de la production et de la santé animales, et de l'aménagement de nos bassins versants.

La promotion de l'agriculture restera pendant longtemps le principal volet de notre stratégie de développement. Mais la tâche à accomplir est immense, difficile et de longue haleine; aussi la République d'Haïti réaffirme-t-elle sa confiance dans les objectifs de la FAO et appuie-t-elle le programme de travail ainsi que le budget présentés par la direction générale de l'Organisation. De plus, cette délégation apprécie comme une action efficace et positive la libération de fonds par le P.C T pour l'exécution d'actions ponctuelles susceptibles d'améliorer le revenu et le niveau nutritionnel des petits agriculteurs.

Aux termes de cet exposé, la délégation d'Haïti est fière de vous informer des mesures de redressement d'ordre fiscal et administratif appliquées par le gouvernement en vue de redresser le déficit des opérations du secteur public et de favoriser la relance de l'économie. Notre peuple est disposé à entreprendre les efforts et à consentir les sacrifices nécessaires pour s'assurer un avenir meilleur. Cette volonté de bien faire se manifeste chaque jour dans le renforcement du volontariat national qui organise des conseils communautaires, des coopératives ou des groupements agricoles, des centres d'entreposage et des systèmes d'irrigation.

Mais malheureusement, nous ne pouvons progresser isolément dans la voie du développement rural s'il n'y a pas de gouvernement mondial, il existe bien une économie mondiale et des organisations internationales. Nos économies nationales sont interdépendantes: l'aide au développement, le commerce international, les systèmes internationaux de crédit, les transports, le droit de la mer, la politique du protectionnisme, toutes ces grandes questions de relations internationales doivent intervenir dans l'élaboration d'une stratégie mondiale et nationale du développement rural. Aussi la délégation d'Haïti souhaiterait que, toutes les nations du monde, grandes et petites, riches et pauvres, dans un sentiment d'appartenance commune, se joignent dans une grande coalition que j'appellerais volontiers la Suprême alliance afin d'organiser une vigoureuse croisade contre la faim et la malnutrition, car quand la terre aura compté plus d'un milliard d'affamés et de mal nourris, il n'y aura de sécurité pour personne; et il n'y aura plus de civilisation.

Le développement de l'agriculture à tous les niveaux doit permettre la visualisation d'une image encourageante du devenir de la planète - et il m'est agréable de conclure mon exposé par les fortes paroles prononcées par Son Excellence, Monsieur Jean-Claude DUVALIER, Président à vie de la République, dans son message du 16 octobre dernier, à l'occasion de la troisième journée mondiale de l'alimentation: "En réitérant mon engagement à poursuivre un combat sans merci contre la faim et la malnutrition et pour un ordre de choses plus juste et plus humain, je renouvelle l'hommage de mon gouvernement à la FAO et au PAM pour l'amélioration du sort de nos couches majoritaires".

"Mon voeu le plus cher est que la célébration de cette date du 16 octobre consacrée à la réflexion sur les problèmes de l'alimentation aide à accélérer le processus de l'avènement d'un nouvel ordre économique, condition indispensable à l'abolition définitive de la faim et de la malnutrition sur notre planète."

Excellences, honorables délégués et observateurs, je vous exprime ma reconnaissance personnelle pour la bienveillante attention que vous avez accordée à cette communication. La délégation d'Haïti vous félicite de votre participation active à la 22ème session de la Conférence de la FAO.

M. NTIBARIKURE (Burundi): Avant de commencer, je voudrais exprimer à la famille du délégué brésilien qui est décédé et à son pays les condoléances les plus émues de ma délégation et de moi-même.

Je voudrais, Monsieur le Président, m'associer aux orateurs qui m'ont précédé pour vous féliciter pour votre brillante élection à la présidence de cette conférence et vous souhaiter plein succès dans la conduite des travaux qui vont animer la présente session. Je voudrais également féliciter les quatre nouveaux membres de notre Organisation et leur souhaiter la bienvenue.

C'est devenu habituel que les responsables de l'agriculture des pays du monde entier se réunissent annuellement pour voir ensemble les difficultés que posent l'alimentation de la population dans le monde ainsi que les pas franchis dans l'élévation du niveau de vie des couches les plus déshéritées qui habitent le monde rural. La présente session se tient au moment où les perspectives économiques mondiales sont sombres, surtout dans les régions africaines où l'économie repose sur le secteur agricole.

Des catastrophes naturelles alliées à la dégradation progressive des terres cultivables causée par une pression démographique croissante ont provoqué une diminution dangereuse de la disponibilité de denrées alimentaires tant et si bien que des populations de plus en plus nombreuses ne survivent que grâce à la solidarité internationale.

Les modalités de mise en place d'une aide alimentaire sont souvent très lentes et l'efficacité d'une telle opération est en conséquence faible.

Il devient alors impérieux pour chaque Etat d'engager le plus d'efforts possibles afin d'améliorer l'alimentation de sa population et de prendre toutes les mesures nécessaires pour arriver à la sécurité alimentaire.

La situation qui prévaut dans mon pays ne diffère pas beaucoup de celle des autres pays africains qui vivent sous la menace de la famine et de la malnutrition.

Depuis quelques années, le Burundi parvient à satisfaire les besoins alimentaires de sa population, grâce à des conditions climatiques favorables et à la mobilisation pour la production agricole lancée par le Gouvernement, et soutenue par les organes tant administratifs que politiques du pays.

Malgré les résultats obtenus au cours des dernières années, les disponibilités alimentaires actuelles constituent un minimum en dessous duquel on ne peut plus aller.

La dégradation des sols a provoqué une diminution de la productivité agricole en général et vivrière en particulier, alors que nous assistons à une croissance démographique de 2,65 % par an. Le taux d'exploitation des terres cultivables, un des plus élevés du monde, est de presque 90 %.

Une augmentation, par mise sous cultures des terres non encore cultivées, est difficile parce que les terres restantes sont les plus pauvres.

Ceci a amené mon Gouvernement à mettre un accent particulier sur l'intensification de la production vivrière, par fourniture aux producteurs d'intrants agricoles, comme les engrais minéraux, les semences sélectionnées, les produits phytosanitaires, en même temps qu'on développe les techniques de conservation des récoltes.

Une telle politique demande la mise en place d'un encadrement technique dense et qualifié, le développement de la recherche, ainsi que l'organisation rationnelle du commerce de produits agricoles.

Pour mettre en place cette politique, le Gouvernement a mis sur pied une structure institutionnelle adaptée, la société régionale de développement, qui coordonne et exécute les programmes agricoles d'une région naturelle.

Pour que nos efforts soient couronnés de succès, il nous faut des moyens financiers très importants que l'Etat du Burundi ne peut pas réunir.

Grâce à la coopération bilatérale et multilatérale nous avons pu réaliser beaucoup de projets agricoles et en démarrer d'autres et nous espérons qu'ils vont contribuer à la résolution de nos problèmes alimentaires.

Nous constatons malheureusement que l'assistance internationale tend à stagner ces dernières années alors que les besoins ont continué à augmenter.

Nous profitons de l'occasion qui nous est offerte de nous exprimer devant cette conférence pour exhorter les pays les plus riches à soutenir les efforts de nos masses rurales dans la lutte qu'elles mènent contre la malnutrition et la faim.

Nous pensons plus particulièrement aux populations des zones Sahéliennes, régulièrement éprouvées par la sécheresse, et aux pays à densité très élevée où la productivité agricole est liée au changement des techniques traditionnelles de production en faveur de techniques plus intensives, qui demandent une utilisation d'intrants agricoles et une intensification de l'encadrement agricole.

Nous sommes convaincus que la solidarité internationale peut donner de nouveaux espoirs à ces populations ainsi que l'élan nécessaire pour une autosuffisance alimentaire dans les années à venir.

Le rôle que peut jouer l'organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture dans la mobilisation des ressources et dans l'orientation des aides est particulièrement important, c'est pourquoi nous demandons que des moyens suffisants lui soient alloués afin qu'elle puisse s'acquitter de sa tâche.

Ma délégation soutient, à cet effet, les programmes de travail et budget présentés par le Directeur général de la FAO pour la période 1984-1985 ainsi que le programme de coopération technique.

CHAIRMAN: We have now completed the list of speakers on my list but there is an item to accomplish. Israel has asked for the right of reply. I trust they will be very brief.

RIGHT OF REPLY

DROIT DE REPONSE

DERECHO DE REPLICA

M. LADOR (Israel): May I at the outset offer on behalf of my delegation deepest condolences to the family and Government of Brazil on the untimely demise of a dear colleague, Minister de Freitas. May his important activities guide our deliberations at this Conference.

Very shortly, it is regrettable that the Syrian delegate found it expedient to introduce political and extraneous items into this debate which are completely alien to this highly professional and technical Conference, and which are being discussed at great length in another UN body dealing with political subjects on its agenda. My delegation will not take this Conference's time and would only appeal to the Chair to save this Organization from future irrelevant remarks of the kind we have listened to this afternoon.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of Israel and his point is well taken.

The meeting rose at 17.45p.m.

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

C

C 83/PV/15

Twenty-second session
PLENARY

Vingt-deuxième session
PLENIERE

22° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

FIFTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
QUINZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
15ª SESION PLENARIA
(15 November 1983)

The Fifteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours.

Demetrios Christodoulou, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La quinzième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45, sous la
présidence de Demetrios Christodoulou, Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 15ª Sesión Plenaria a las 14.45 horas, bajo la presidencia de
Demetrios Christodoulou, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

- DECLARATIONS PES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)

- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: I declare the Fifteenth Plenary Meeting open, and I call upon Mr Dorji Tenzin, Director of the Animal Husbandry Department, Bhutan, to address the Conference.

D. TENZIN (Bhutan): On behalf of His Majesty's Government of Bhutan and on my own behalf I would like to congratulate the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen on their election to chair this important Conference. My delegation would also like to extend greetings to the four new members to this Organization. We ourselves are among the newer members, having only joined the Organization on 7 November 1981 when we took our place as a Member State of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

With your permission, Mr Chairman, I would like to say something very briefly on how we are attempting to help our people in the two areas on which 90 percent of the population depends namely agriculture and animal husbandry. Bhutan being in the heart of the Himalayan range, agriculture and livestock are the main livelihood of the people and great efforts have been made, both by the FAO and also by His Majesty's Government to help the Bhutanese people. I will now give a brief outline of the geography of Bhutan which will clarify some of the problems FAO as well as ourselves have in implementing the projects.

In the Great Himalaya, at altitudes of over 4 000 metres, the area is practically uninhabited except for yak herders. Most of the population is settled in the Inner Himalaya and live in its fertile valleys. In the South the climate is sub-tropical and tropical, with an average rainfall of 100 inches a year. This climate is well-suited to the growing of both sub-tropical and tropical fruit. With the exception of the narrow strip of land at the foot of the mountains, the whole of Bhutan presents a succession of the most lofty and rugged mountains in the world. In the perpetual snow of the enormous glaciers, which reach a height of over 7 000 metres, most of Bhutan's rivers begin their long journey southwards. These rivers are not navigable at their inception and can only be travelled on several miles after they reach the plains.

You will understand therefore, from the lie of the land that Bhutan has many communication problems, although over the past decade roads have opened up many parts of our mountainous country and journeys which once took several days can now be made in a few hours. The airport of Paro now connects Bhutan to Calcutta.

Bhutan has been traditionally self-sufficient in foodgrains, exporting small surpluses but with population growth, the emergence of non-farming communities, and some increase in per capita consumption, there is now a deficit. The main crops are paddy, maize, wheat, barley buck wheat, etc, paddy being the preferred crop and grown mainly under irrigated conditions at altitudes of 2 500 metres; maize is the dominant crop in the dry areas and wheat and barley are taken up as a second crop at higher elevations. Agriculture, in the Fifth Five-Year Plan aims at: self-sufficiency in foodgrains production, the steady increase of incomes of the farming community through the diversification of production, mainly cash crops for which there is a great potential in the country; improving the overall nutritional status of the population and increasingly improved seeds, production and self-sufficiency to the extent possible. The main outlay of the country to this end has been in Intensive Area Development Programmes, Farm Mechanization and Plant Protection Services.

Closely connected to agriculture is irrigation which, by the efficient distribution and utilization of the water supply, increases agricultural production.

Animal husbandry is an important component of the rural economy in Bhutan, playing a vital subsistence role in the Northern Alpine Region where it is virtually the sole form of economic activity. The consumption of animal products is an important element of the Bhutanese diet. In settled areas, cattle are kept for draughting and milking purposes with most milk being processed and consumed as cheese, curd or butter and the keeping of chickens and pigs is fairly widespread.

In its Fifth Five-Year Plan, His Majesty's Government's main objectives are to: improve the productivity of livestock through an integrated approach giving simultaneous attention to scientific breeding, better farming, improved management and effective animal health control through the prevention of disease; to supplement the income of livestock farmers through better marketing systems so as to ensure that the benefits of production are progressively transferred to the producers, especially in the rural areas; to increase the production of livestock products to improve the nutritional intake of the people and achieve self-sufficiency in animal husbandry production. The main outlay in the animal husbandry sector has been in animal health coverage, cattle development, poultry development and alpine pasture development.

Incidentally, Bhutan feels that the international community, through the FAO, should make full use of the genetic resources in the livestock presently to be found in Bhutan. These animals, especially yaks and mithun cattle are good stock and can provide good genetic resources in mountainous countries throughout the world.

Preservation of the forest cover in a mountainous country like Bhutan is essential in order to conserve the environment and ecological balance. This objective is not in conflict with either the interests of the population or the commercial exploitation of forests so long as there is scientific management and utilization of these resources. Its main programme is the recycling of forests and the establishment of nurseries for afforestation.

I would like to say that Bhutan is proud to be a member of the United Nations and would like to express its gratitude to the FAO and the UNDP for their assistance. His Majesty's Government would also like to extend its highest appreciation to the Director-General for the excellent programme for the biennium 1984-1985.

For its future programme, His Majesty's Government's priorities in the Sixth Five-Year Plan are self-sufficiency in foodgrains; self-sufficiency in animal husbandry; more land is to be made available for agriculture through irrigation; great importance has been placed on forestry and also fisheries. We hope that FAO and UNDP will assist Bhutan in achieving some of its goals in order that the Bhutanese people may reach a better nutritional standard and will be able to fare for themselves and be wholly self-sufficient one day.

Most of the FAO projects in Bhutan are in the agricultural sector, followed by animal husbandry, then forestry and also fisheries.

Due to the increased cooperation with FAO and full justification for it, the Royal Government of Bhutan would greatly welcome FAO's representation in Bhutan through the system of double accreditation, preferably with the posting of a Programme Officer of FAO in Thimphu. We entirely accept this and feel that it would facilitate administrative procedures and simplify the communication problems.

I.P. ALVARENGA (El Salvador): Señor Presidente: permítame, en primer lugar, felicitarlo a usted y a los demás miembros de la mesa por su elección. Quisiéramos ante todo referirnos al ambiente en el cual se reúne esta Conferencia.

Empezaremos poniendo una nota de optimismo. Creemos que estamos en una época de grandes realizaciones. Una de ellas es el acceso de todos los Estados, por pequeños que sean, a su independencia. El colonialismo que hasta épocas recientes era una normal institución internacional, está liquidado como concepto y en un tiempo breve será eliminado materialmente.

En ese contexto, nos llena de alegría saludar y dar una cordial bienvenida a los países recientemente independizados que han ingresado a nuestra Organización: Antigua y Barbuda, Belice, San Cristóbal y Nieves y Vanuatu.

Nosotros estamos seguros, Señor Presidente, que la humanidad saldrá de sus presentes problemas y que una etapa más feliz y más fructífera habrá de presentarse en el camino de la civilización.

Pero tenía plena razón Marañón, un genial pensador de esa noble y querida Madre Patria, España, país que, dicho sea de paso, nos ha dado la enseñanza luminosa de que para pasar de una dictadura a la libertad, que para ganarse el respeto universal, bastan una política ponderada interior y exterior. Tenía razón, repito, Gregorio Marañón, cuando afirmó: "La humanidad es como esos niños enclenques a los que cada etapa del crecimiento les pone en el trance de morir. La humanidad yace dolorida por uno de esos estirones de su juventud milenaria".

No podemos ocultarnos que esta Conferencia tiene lugar rodeada de condiciones sombrías que ponen en peligro la vida y la salud de la humanidad.

Sobresale el problema de la guerra y el armamentismo. La guerra se libra ya entre hermanos de diversos países, ya entre hermanos del mismo país, paradójicamente dándosele al último tipo de conflictos el nombre de "guerra civil", cuando en realidad se trata de la más incivil de las guerras.

El armamentismo lo practican las grandes potencias con medios terrificantes que amenazan con aniquilar no solo al respectivo rival, sino al género humano entero. Unos piensan que son débiles porque pueden destruir a sus potenciales enemigos solo 8 veces, como lo ha señalado recientemente un escritor alemán; y deciden aumentar sus armas para equipararse a quienes puede destruirlos 16 veces. Pero éste aumentará su poder hasta ser capaz de destruirlos 32 veces y así sucesivamente. Si un día tuviesen que emplearse tales medios aterradores, se constatará que bastaba destruirse una vez: y que el resto del esfuerzo bélico era un desperdicio de recursos.

Los países en desarrollo, nos armamos con igual o mayor culpa que las grandes potencias. Como bien nos lo ha señalado en diversas ocasiones nuestro Director General, los países en desarrollo gastamos en armamentos un caudal ingente de nuestros escasos recursos.

Y lo más triste es que haya países en desarrollo que celebren el armamentismo de los grandes; es más, que se sumen jubilosos a la carrera armamentista y al guerrerismo, escudándose en una concepción de la historia tipo "cowboy", tipo película del Lejano Oeste, en la cual quienes están de una parte son todos buenos y los que están en la otra son todos malos.

La paz, señor Presidente, es esencial para construir un mundo mejor; en particular, es indispensable para el desarrollo agrícola y la producción de suficientes alimentos

Pero la paz es responsabilidad de todos y cada uno de los países. Ninguno puede violar el derecho de un pueblo a la autodeterminación y pedir la incolumidad del suyo; ninguno puede pensar que es justo el terrorismo que exporta y no el que sufre; ninguno debe creer que puede armarse y condenar el armamentismo de los demás, cualquiera que sea el principio ideológico que invoque. Nunca antes, como en estos momentos, tuvo tanto valor la verdad que encierra aquella famosa frase de Benito Juárez, uno de los más ilustres hijos del querido y hermano pueblo mexicano: "El respeto al derecho ajeno, es la paz".

Otro elemento alarmante que circunda a esta Conferencia es la crisis económica mundial; huérfana, como se sabe, de una explicación unívoca, conjuga diabólicamente inflación y recesión, y es agravada por las medidas despiadadas con las cuales se pretende combatirla, como los altos intereses y el proteccionismo. Como de costumbre, el peso de la crisis recae con mayor fuerza en los más débiles.

Es innecesario que nos detengamos en estos aspectos, abundantemente documentados y expuestos por el Director General y muchos autorizados delegados.

Esta Organización, Señor Presidente, no tiene por función específica luchar por la paz; pero su labor benemérita es indirectamente una positiva contribución cotidiana a la misma, aparte las intrínsecamente valiosas labores que le están encomendadas.

De ahí que nuestra delegación en todo momento ha dado su pleno apoyo a la FAO, el cual ratificamos en esta ocasión. El Programa de Labores y Presupuesto presentado por el Director General responde adecuadamente a los mejores intereses de la Organización y sus Estados Miembros. Es encomiable la forma en que se ha tratado de conciliar la aspiración de los países en desarrollo a una mayor asistencia, con la insistente demanda de los Estados Miembros desarrollados de que se reduzca el crecimiento del presupuesto. Aunque la consideramos una realidad que se hace bien en respetar, nunca hemos encontrado adecuada justificación a esta demanda, pues creemos que, honestamente, los países que ya contribuyen con generosidad a la FAO podrían aumentar su ayuda con buena voluntad, como la demostrada por Estados Unidos y Canadá en esta misma plenaria, la cual celebramos y felicitamos. Creemos que los países desarrollados socialistas deberían colaborar con un monto mucho mayor del que ahora cooperan, sobre todo si consideramos los ingentes recursos que emplean en la asistencia bilateral. En especial, creemos que el mayor exportador de armas al Tercer Mundo, la Unión Soviética, debiera cesar de hacerse el desentendido en materia de ayuda multilateral a la agricultura y la alimentación. El Premio Nobel de la Paz, Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, desde las páginas de la revista de la Sociedad Internacional para el Desarrollo, es decir, fuentes ambas a las que sería imposible acusarlas de veleidades pro-imperialistas, nos recuerda que en 1981 esa potencia exportó armas a los países en desarrollo por un valor de 15 000 millones de dólares. Las agencias noticiosas han informado, no sabemos con cuanto apego a la realidad, que un solo país ha recibido en días recientes 1 000 millones de dólares en armas de tal potencia. Sería maravilloso si al menos el uno por ciento de esa cifra fuese destinada a las nobles tareas de la FAO.

Entre estas, por cierto, creemos que el Director General ha hecho una correcta selección de prioridades y estrategias.

El fomento de la investigación y la tecnología no pueden sino ser saludados con satisfacción. Apoyamos a este respecto los cambios institucionales propuestos.

Las actividades complementarias de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural merecen un creciente y sostenido apoyo. Es imperioso mantener la atención puesta en la reforma agraria; pero nunca se insistirá suficientemente en que si se cierra el acceso a la tierra y otros recursos agrícolas a quien puede y quiere trabajarlos, se cierra el camino a cualquier progreso económico y social. Los demás programas relacionados con la reforma agraria y el desarrollo rural, nos merecen igualmente apoyo, en especial los concernientes a la promoción y participación de la mujer.

A este respecto, permítasenos excepcionalmente una breve referencia a nuestro país. En 1980 se inició un programa de reforma agraria que comprendió dos pasos fundamentales: la expropiación de todas las propiedades mayores de 500 hectáreas y la transferencia obligatoria de toda explotación menor de 7 hectáreas al campesino que la cultivase.

En ambos se ha logrado un éxito sustancial, incluso en el aspecto productivo, no obstante la más despiadada campaña terrorista de la historia del continente americano que sufre nuestro país, la cual ha causado daños por un equivalente a 1 500 millones de dólares en 4 años. Blanco favorito de esa campaña destructiva, auspiciada por quienes irónicamente dicen defender la paz, han sido las cooperativas creadas por la reforma agraria, cuyas cosechas, maquinaria agrícola e instalaciones han sufrido frecuentes ataques. Blanco también favorito de una extrema derecha demente y asesina han sido dichas cooperativas, cuyos líderes ha pagado con su vida su servicio a los campesinos.

Volviendo a las prioridades de nuestra Organización, nos merecen pleno apoyo los otros programas agrícolas, económicos y sociales sobre todo en lo que dice a su sostén a la producción y la seguridad alimentarias.

A propósito de esta última, nuestra delegación ha apoyado y seguirá apoyando el nuevo concepto formulado por el Director General. Apoya igualmente la acción de la Organización basada en el informe del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria en la forma aprobada por el Consejo, y pide que se continúe discutiendo el documento base preparado por el Director General, hasta lograr el máximo consenso posible sobre el mismo.

Deseamos igualmente reiterar nuestro apoyo a la creación de un banco internacional de recursos fito-genéticos. Aparta la bondad intrínseca de la idea que en varias ocasiones hemos sostenido, querríamos en este momento poner el acento en un aspecto que no debe pasar inadvertido. Al principio, este tema parecía que iba a introducir diferencias inzanjables entre países partidarios de la creación del banco, generalmente países en desarrollo y países opuestos al mismo, generalmente desarrollados. En cambio, un franco, abierto y respetuoso intercambio de ideas fue limando asperezas y en breve tiempo nos hallamos ante una etapa constructiva donde parecen poderse conciliar los intereses encontrados. Este es un ejemplo iluminador de cómo el diálogo bien intencionado logra para todos mejores resultados que el choque violento. Un papel extraordinariamente valioso lo ha jugado la Secretaría, la cual ha demostrado máxima disponibilidad y capacidad para acorrer al llamado de los Estados Miembros recogiendo las legítimas aspiraciones de todos ellos.

No podemos referirnos a otros detalles del trabajo de nuestra Organización. Deseamos mencionar sólo pocos aspectos más.

Uno es el Programa de Cooperación Técnica, instrumento valiosísimo para contribuir a poner en práctica el Programa de Labores. Su agilidad, su adaptabilidad a las necesidades y prioridades de los países, su versatilidad, lo hacen una herramienta potente y precisa. Estamos de acuerdo en su reforzamiento y continuidad.

Para terminar con lo que concierne a la FAO en sentido estricto, creemos que se imponen algunas reformas institucionales en sus órganos de gobierno, sobre todo el Consejo, para adaptarlos a las nuevas situaciones que vive nuestra Organización. Digna de consideración es por ejemplo una sugerencia formulada por el delegado de Costa Rica.

Mención especial deseamos realizar del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, que al estar cumpliendo 20 años de abnegada y útilísima labor, nos da un motivo más para felicitar a su capaz y dinámico Director Ejecutivo, así como a su personal, especialmente a la Subdirección de América Latina y el Caribe, cuyo jefe y funcionarios nos merecen plena confianza y estimación:

El PMA ha recibido recientemente refuerzos presupuestarios y ello nos complace. Todo lo que contribuya a fortalecer el Programa nos merece apoyo. Es deseable, sin embargo, que los países donantes no apliquen parámetros distintos a la FAO. No pueden fomentar el crecimiento en un caso y truncarlo en otro; lo ideal sería promover el desarrollo de ambos organismos.

Concluimos formulando votos sentidos porque nuestra Organización crezca vigorosa y fecunda. Que todos le demos el mayor sostén posible, sustrayendo esfuerzos a la violencia y los armamentos. Hay que ayudar a alimentar, no a matar.

A. DAHMOUCHE (Algerie): Nous nous trouvons dans un contexte conjoncturel extrêmement préoccupant pour la sécurité des Etats et des Peuples.

La sécurité des Etats et surtout celle des Pays en voie de développement est troublée par l'exacerbation des tensions Est-Ouest qu'accompagne une remise en cause des rares acquis de la détente.

Le clivage entre les grandes puissances nucléaires en érigeant en zones d'influence exclusives toutes les aires géographiques du monde, nous ramène à des situations historiques remettant en cause le droit des peuples à disposer d'eux-mêmes.

Alors que l'interdépendance entre les Nations s'accroît, que l'interaction des intérêts devient plus complexe, resurgit paradoxalement une vision primaire et manichéenne des relations internationales qui tend à installer un climat d'insécurité permanent nous rapprochant du point de rupture.

La course aux armements, trouvant dans la spirale des tensions sa justification, s'en trouve même relancée dans les Pays en voie de développement où l'on estime à 1,3 million: de dollars par minute es dépenses à des fins militaires. Dans ces mêmes pays, l'un des effets des dépenses militaires t de contribuer à maintenir en activité les puissantes industries d'armements des Pays développés, i détriment d'investissements dans l'agriculture.

La sécurité des Etats est aussi compromise par les hypothèques pesant sur les négociations commerciales globales. Les positions rigides exprimées par les Pays développés, en bloquant les exportations des pays du tiers monde, accroissent les menaces d'instabilité.

De Cancun à Belgrade les espoirs et l'énergie investis pour refondre l'ordre économique international actuel ont été stérilisés par l'attitude négative des Pays industrialisés, principalement par ceux qui contrôlent les sources de financement et les mécanismes des marchés internationaux.

La détérioration de la situation économique et financière des Pays en voie de développement, ne pouvant qu'accentuer, à fortiori en période de crise, la logique de la dégradation, il serait illusoire de fonder des espoirs sur les perspectives d'une reprise porteuse d'effets d'entraînement, favorisant de meilleures conditions de développement des Pays du tiers monde.

Les exhortations au réalisme, si sages soient-elles, ne devraient pas avoir pour effet de désagréger les solidarités naturelles ou de diluer les options politiques fondamentales des Etats.

En termes de sécurité alimentaire, la sécurité des peuples n'est donc pas à l'abri des turbulences qui agitent les systèmes des relations économiques internationales. Elément de la sécurité interne des Pays en voie de développement, elle concourt au maintien de la paix et de la stabilité internationales.

Les inquiétudes nouvelles relatives à la production alimentaire mondiale cette année et à la détérioration des indicateurs de la situation alimentaire n'autorisent pas un optimisme quelconque dans ce domaine.

Dans l'immédiat et globalement considéré, il n'y aurait aucun danger de grave pénurie mondiale, mais le spectre d'une dépendance alimentaire accrue est déjà un phénomène actuel.

En 1981 les Pays en voie de développement sont devenus pour la première fois des importateurs nets de produits agricoles. L'Organisation pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture estime avec justesse que l'interdépendance croissante de l'agriculture mondiale signifie en fait une plus grande dépendance alimentaire des Pays en voie de développement.

Ceci est d'autant plus vrai que plus de la moitié de tous les stocks existants sont détenus par un seul Pays, qui a - par ailleurs - décidé de réduire sa production; la dépendance à l'égard de l'aide alimentaire augmentera particulièrement vite dans les Pays à faible revenu de l'Afrique, au sud du Sahara. Ces pays importent déjà plus de 46 pour cent de leurs besoins céréaliers.

Nombre de Pays ne seront pas en mesure de couvrir complètement leurs besoins croissants par des importations commerciales normales à cause de la détérioration de leur balance des paiements et de la hausse des coûts des importations. Entre temps, ils doivent exporter davantage pour importer davantage de produits alimentaires. Or, l'effondrement des cours des produits de base, conjugué à la montée des protectionnismes, notamment sur les produits transformés et semi-transformés, concourt à l'instauration d'une situation d'insécurité alimentaire.

Dans ce contexte, nous notons avec préoccupation le profil bas du budget de l'Organisation pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture pour l'exercice 1984-85.

Ce Budget ne doit pas représenter l'amorce d'une tendance qui matérialiserait à terme un gel de la satisfaction des besoins des Pays en voie de développement. Déjà l'objectif de l'élimination de la faim dans le monde, retenu initialement pour 1985 par la Conférence mondiale de l'Alimentation en 1974, est ajourné à la fin du siècle.

Elle matérialiserait un rétrécissement du champ multilatéral et induirait une dévalorisation graduelle du rôle considérable de la FAO

Dans un climat de dégradation continue de la situation politique internationale, les atteintes quotidiennes portées aux institutions des Nations Unies à la fois dans leur fonction naturelle de cadre de négociations et de vecteur de l'esprit de coopération internationale, y compris pour l'aide au développement, expriment un recul de l'esprit de dialogue. Il complète la généralisation des pratiques discriminatoires et la recherche de l'avantage politique à travers les relations économiques.

Que les Nations Unies soient contestées dans leur capacité à conduire l'entreprise de restructuration des relations économiques internationales par certains de leurs fondateurs mêmes, met en évidence une volonté de pérenniser les pôles oligarchiques. Seule une vision appréhendant les problèmes de la paix, de la sécurité et du développement dans leurs interactions réciproques est de nature à garantir à nos Pays la stabilité et le développement.

Le débat sur l'alimentation et l'agriculture a constamment été traité dans un cadre étriqué, et pratiquement amalgamé aux questions les plus diverses qui font l'objet de négociations multilatérales dans le cadre du nouvel ordre économique international.

Au mieux, il a été traité dans la rubrique générale du commerce. Le débat est évidemment circonscrit par les pays qui jouent un rôle déterminant dans ce domaine.

L'adoption par le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire à sa 81ème session, puis par le Conseil de la FAO à sa 83ème session, du "Rapport du Directeur général de la FAO sur la sécurité alimentaire mondiale - Principes et méthodes: une nouvelle approche", doit être considérée comme une contribution à l'entreprise de restructuration des rapports alimentaires entre les pays développés et les pays en voie de développement.

Nous partageons l'idée que le cadre conceptuel actuel de la sécurité alimentaire est devenu obsolète. Sa remise en cause est même quelque peu tardive si l'on se réfère aux actions entamées dans d'autres domaines et d'autres instances internationales du système des Nations Unies.

Face à la politisation croissante de l'assistance alimentaire et à l'instabilité structurelle des marchés des produits, la valeur et la portée du nouveau concept de la sécurité alimentaire sont fondées non pas en raison du paradoxe relevé entre la baisse de la consommation alimentaire par habitant dans les pays en voie de développement et l'abondance des disponibilités à l'échelle mondiale, non pas en raison des effets de ce paradoxe sur les prix, mais à cause de la concentration croissante des stocks, essentiellement au niveau de certaines grandes puissances.

Le danger réside dans le fait que dans les années à venir nous aurons à faire face à un quasi-monopole de fait d'un pouvoir alimentaire mondial sans précédent.

Dans ce contexte mondial d'insécurité politique, il faut garder à l'esprit l'ampleur du risque couru.

Cette inquiétude n'est pas sans rapport avec l'approche de notre pays sur cette question qui le lie aux efforts entrepris pour l'établissement d'un nouvel ordre économique international, mais qui suppose cependant que l'on se dégage des mécanismes traditionnels raccordant la sécurité alimentaire mondiale à de simples aménagements des mécanismes des marchés internationaux, ou faisant confiance, plus aux jeux réglementaires du marché, qu'aux stocks de sécurité.

Les oppositions qui se manifestent contre les revendications des pays en voie de développement dans les négociations globales ont leurs reflets naturels dans la question de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et notamment sur les deux objectifs que sont la stabilité des approvisionnements et des marchés et les garanties d'accès aux approvisionnements.

Il est clair que ces deux objectifs heurtent des intérêts commerciaux à l'échelle mondiale par le biais des forces dites du marché et pour lesquelles dans un contexte de récession, la relance des échanges des ressources alimentaires domine les questions de l'aide alimentaire et de l'aide à l'agriculture.

La résistance qui se manifeste contre l'adoption intégrale du concept de sécurité alimentaire tend - sur le fond - au maintien de la vulnérabilité des pays en voie de développement face aux forces connues ou occultes du marché.

M. le Président, la dégration des termes de l'aide alimentaire n'aide pas à atteindre l'autosuffisance alimentaire ni à favoriser son dépassement, étant admis qu'elle revêt un caractère temporaire. Elle induit aussi une dépendance plus étroite à l'égard des surplus des pays donateurs.

Il faut aussi se préoccuper des pratiques des principaux pays donateurs qui conditionnent souvent leurs apports en ressources à des réformes de structures internes.

Enfin, régression et inflexion des orientations de l'aide alimentaire n'encouragent pas les efforts tendant à stimuler les transactions triangulaires lorsque des excédents sont dégagés par un pays en voie de développement aux motifs que l'aide alimentaire doit essentiellement provenir de la production des principaux pays donateurs et doit s'intégrer à leurs motivations politiques spécifiques.

Ils n'ouvrent pas davantage de perspectives au développement des pêches dans l'aide alimentaire par le biais d'opérations triangulaires. Les objectifs de promotion alimentaire et d'accroissement des échanges entre les pays déficitaires en application des résolutions prises par les pays non alignés à la Havane en 1979 et précisés par le Programme d'action de Caracas sur la coopération économique entre les pays en voie de développement en mai 1981, sont également compromis.

Nous ne déduisons pas cependant de ce qui précède que la situation dans le domaine alimentaire soit sans issue. Les possibilités concrètes d'une meilleure répartition des ressources existent et il ne tient qu'à nous de les mettre en oeuvre.

Compte tenu de la grave crise qui prévaut actuellement dans le domaine de la politique internationale, une incompréhension volontaire ou non des besoins de la communauté dans le domaine alimentaire pourrait s'avérer un facteur aggravant de remise en cause de la détente.

Cela, nous en sommes persuadés, personne ne le souhaite et la vision apocalyptique que nous offre actuellement le spectacle de la famine sur une bonne partie de notre planète devrait suffire à susciter un esprit de générosité et de solidarité dont la FAO a toujours été l'inspiratrice.

A. PINOARGOTE CEVALLOS (Ecuador) Señor Presidente: Es la primera vez, desde que la Conferencia de la FAO se reúne en Roma, que tenemos como Presidente al Secretario de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos de América. Felicito al señor Block por este alto encargo y congratulo a esta Conferencia por su acierto. El señor Block representa a la más importante producción agrícola del planeta y al gobierno del señor Reagan que, según se nos informó en el octogésimo cuarto período de sesiones del Consejo, está interponiendo todos sus esfuerzos para que el multilateralismo no sea herido de muerte con un proyecto de ley que del crecimiento cero llevaría a la FAO, y otros organismos de las Naciones Unidas, a un decrecimiento neto, progresivo, y funesto. Nuestro reconocimiento y apoyo al Presidente de esta vigésimosegunda Conferencia de la FAO. Nuestra cordial bienvenida a los nuevos miembros de la organización: Belice, Antigua y Barbuda, San Cristóbal y Nieves, y Vanuatu. Igualmente felicitamos a los señores He Kang, de China; Demetrios Christodoulo, de Chipre; y Javier Gazzo, de Perú, Vicepresidentes de esta Conferencia, quienes con la válida experiencia de sus países y por lucidísimos méritos personales coadyuvarán para que este vigésimosegundo período de sesiones brinde un aporte señero a la comunidad internacional, que hoy se agita en una de sus peores crisis. Cabalmente, con el propósito de hincar hitos, a un nuevo derrotero internacional, creo que se deben tener muy en cuenta los luminosos conceptos del señor Bruno Kreisky, vertidos durante su disertación a la memoria de Frank MacDougall, en la tercera plenaria de esta Conferencia. El espectro del hambre jamás podrá ser combatido con eficacia mientras no se estructure una amplia estrategia común que facilite la realización de los postulados de la FAO. En caso de no ser así todos los magníficos esfuerzos que realiza esta Organización corren el peligro de volverse frágil hojarasca, juguete de los vientos de la guerra o presa del fuego atómico. La mente visionaria del señor Kreisky nos ha advertido con escalofriante clarividencia que, así como hace medio siglo la salida política de la crisis económica fue la guerra, hoy la humanidad se ve nuevamente caminando hacia el abismo empujada por un gasto anual en armamentos que superó los 700 mil millones de dólares en 1982, según el Instituto de Investigaciones sobre la Paz, de Estocolmo. Entre tanto el hambre, cada día, devora a millones de seres humanos a lo ancho del globo terráqueo, porque a lo largo, hacia el norte, se concentran excedentes que manipulan el mercado internacional. Los precios reales de la producción agropecuaria, básica de los países en vías de desarrollo, permanecen excesivamente bajos, y deprimidos por una continua inestabilidad, mientras el esquema proteccionista de los países industrializados no da lugar a una recuperación. De otra parte, el mercado financiero se ha contraído, y retorcido, con un débito de 700 mil millones de dólares del Tercer Mundo. Adoptándose políticas financieras de índole policial que lo único que logran es estrangular más a todos. Pues la consigna de ajustar cinturones para asegurar el pago de esa deuda está alcanzando serios aprietos para el mundo desarrollado. Ya que, al disminuir drásticamente el consumo del Tercer Mundo, los grandes estados industrializados han logrado un nivel de desempleo sin precedentes. De acuerdo a datos proporcionados por el doctor Kreisky, en su brillante conferencia, son 35 millones los desocupados en el área industrializada, con una carga financiera anual que, bordeando los 168 mil millones de dólares, está haciendo estremecer al hasta hace poco airoso sistema de Previsión y Bienestar Social. De manera que en el próximo quinquenio habría que crear 20 millones de plazas de trabajo en los países desarrollados sólo para evitar un mayor número de parados. Es decir que, de seguir las cosas tal como están, la indisoluble interdependencia económica internacional de nuestros días nos puede llevar a un colapso colectivo. Porque el círculo vicioso se cierra peligrosamente cuando ese paro de los industrializados causa un descenso en la adquisición de materias primas que produce el Tercer Mundo. De allí la urgente necesidad de plantear, y acordar, una estrategia común a fin de salir de la crisis. El doctor Kreisky, citando al Premio Nobel de Economía Leontief, propone un Segundo Plan Marshall de alcance mundial, "combinando la garantía de préstamos bancarios viejos y nuevos a condición de que los tipos de interés se redujeran lo suficiente con una sustancial asistencia directa a las zonas más pobres". Condonan-

do incluso una tercera parte de esa deuda de 700 mil millones de dolares, esto es, dando por perdidos, los países industrializados, 233 mil millones de dolares; en lugar de incrementar el monto total como está haciendo ahora el sistema bancario, al aplicar intereses adicionales por el nuevo plazo y el mayor riesgo.

Señores Delegados, esta propuesta no puede quedar flotando en este foro sin ser debidamente apoyada. Este es el meollo de la situación y debe ser acometido en la perspectiva que se sugiere por razones pragmáticas, no por humanitarismo. Si no se arregla previamente este marco fundamental de las relaciones económicas internacionales, seguiremos, como hasta ahora, en la FAO, la UNCTAD, el GATT, la Asamblea General, las Negociaciones Globales, el Diálogo Norte - Sur, etc., sin llegar a posiciones válidas que permitan vislumbrar un sendero de soluciones, que acerque políticamente al Este y al Oeste y económicamente al Norte y al Sur. El Gobierno de la República del Ecuador, por iniciativa de su Presidente, el doctor Osvaldo Hurtado Larrea, ha formulado un llamamiento, a través de SELA y CEPAL, a los países latinoamericanos a efectos de elaborar una estrategia común para la recuperación económica. El 11 de febrero último el Presidente Hurtado solicitó al SELA y a CEPAL la elaboración de un documento encaminado a la búsqueda de soluciones conjuntas para la crisis económica de América Latina y el Caribe.

Este documento, denominado "Respuestas de América Latina ante la crisis económica internacional", fue entregado a nuestro mandatario el 15 de mayo pasado y debatido en una reunión de representantes personales de los Jefes de Estado de América Latina y el Caribe, en los primeros días de agosto, en Santo Domingo, República Dominicana. En esta reunión se recomendó celebrar una conferencia económica regional al más alto nivel en la capital ecuatoriana, y se constituyó un grupo de seguimiento formado por Argentina, Costa Rica, República Dominicana, Jamaica y Perú, cuyos Jefes de Estado asistirán a la Conferencia Económica Regional en Quito, el próximo mes de enero. Se abordará una agenda integral con miras a estructurar esa estrategia. En esa agenda, que he llamado integral porque no está exclusivamente referida al problema de la deuda externa, se tratará también sobre el suministro de alimentos, que es lo que a nosotros en la FAO particularmente nos preocupa. La seguridad alimentaria tiene claras implicaciones de ejercicio de soberanía así como una íntima vinculación con la crisis financiera, ya que muchos países se ven privados de divisas para adquirir materias primas y alimentos. De no encontrarse un acuerdo amplio, que no sólo mire el interés de los prestamistas sino también los aspectos políticos, sociales y económicos, se estimulará el problema del hambre que en estos momentos en América Latina se manifiesta mediante lo que se denominan las "guerrillas sociales", consistentes en asaltos a negocios de alimentos para obtener un pan que comer. En definitiva, para sobrevivir.

En tal virtud la Delegación del Ecuador, consecuente con su política internacional, quiere, de forma especial, consignar una vez más su restricto respaldo a las labores de la FAO. Reitera al Director General, señor Saouma, la felicitación expresada en el Consejo respecto a sus esfuerzos por dar una mayor eficiencia a la organización, obteniendo un crecimiento del 3,6 respecto al nivel actual en lo que concierne a los programas técnicos y económicos, en base a una racionalización severa de los gastos corrientes de administración. Apoyamos el concepto revisado y ampliado de Seguridad Alimentaria, también las doce orientaciones generales para el reajuste agrícola internacional. Nos adherimos al principio y a la práctica de una libre y amplia disponibilidad de los recursos fitogenéticos, considerados patrimonio de la humanidad. Observamos con atención los planteamientos sobre la Reforma Agraria y el Desarrollo Rural, en particular lo concerniente a un desarrollo rural integral con el objeto de extirpar la miseria de la vida del trabajador agrícola; a lo cual el gobierno democrático del Ecuador le ha dedicado ingentes esfuerzos. Por lo mismo hacemos llegar nuestra grave preocupación en lo que atañe a la situación financiera del Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola (FIDA), que viene prestando una valiosa ayuda a los pequeños y medianos agricultores. Es menester que se cumplan los compromisos asumidos para la primera reposición y, al mismo tiempo, que se continúe hacia una positiva conclusión las negociaciones para la segunda reposición.

Así como participamos con creciente interés en la necesaria labor de enlace y coordinación que puede efectuar, y efectúa, el Consejo Mundial de Alimentos en lo que concierne a las tendencias, estrategias, y prioridades alimentarias en las regiones en desarrollo de Africa, Asia, América Latina y el Caribe; también aplaudimos la excelente labor que realiza el Programa Mundial de Alimentos (PMA), el cual en sus veinte años de actividades ha beneficiado a 170 millones de personas. Solamente en 1982 el PMA, en actividades de desarrollo y ayuda de emergencia, entregó alimentos por un valor de 800 millones de dólares. El Ecuador está realizando con el PMA un proyecto de nutrición materno-infantil que precisamente atiende a los sectores más necesitados de la población y también ha recibido ayuda de emergencia debido a los desastres naturales causados por el fenómeno "El Niño". Felicitamos al Director Ejecutivo del PMA, señor James Ingram, y esperamos ampliar en un futuro cercano el marco de proyectos que se gestionan con esa organización.

El Ecuador es un país de clara vocación agrícola, exportador tradicional de bananos; café y cacao, que en estos dos últimos años está desarrollando intensamente su producción pesquera, pese, incluso, a las adversidades de la naturaleza. Prestamos nuestra decidida colaboración a través del Consejo de la FAO y de sus diferentes comités, y esperamos seguirlo haciendo con mayor énfasis en el futuro. Siempre bregando por imprimirle una nueva dimensión a la concepción tradicional de la solidaridad internacional, en sus diferentes aspectos, acentuando ese énfasis en los países de menores recursos, como los africanos, cuyas condiciones de vida son verdaderamente dolorosas.

The meeting was suspended from 15.45 to 16.00 hours

La séance est suspendue de 15 h 45 à 16 h

Se suspende la sesión de las 15.45 a 16.00 horas

STATEMENT BY HER EXCELLENCY MARY EUGENIA CHARLES, PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FINANCE, DOMINICA

DECLARATION DE SON EXCELLENCE MARY EUGENIA CHARLES, PREMIER MINISTRE, MINISTRE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES ET MINISTRE DES FINANCES, DOMINIQUE

MANIFESTACION POR SU EXCELENCIA MARY EUGENIA CHARLES, PRIMER MINISTRO, MINISTRO DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES Y MINISTRO DE FINANZA, DOMINICA

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, I welcome on your behalf the Right Honourable Mary Eugenia Charles, Prime Minister of Dominica, who also has the Portfolios of Foreign Affairs and Finance. She will do us the special honour of addressing this Conference on behalf of her Government, but before I give the floor to the Right Honourable lady, I will ask the Director-General to address us.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL, Mr Chairman, Honourable Prime Minister, Honourable Ministers, distinguished Ambassadors and delegates, ladies and gentlemen:

It gives me great pleasure once more to welcome to our Conference another Head of Government of a Member Nation. The presence of such dignitaries not only enhances the prestige of the FAO Conference but increases the importance of our deliberations. I particularly wish to salute the Honourable Eugenia Charles who has the distinction of being the first woman Head of Government in the Caribbean.

Miss Charles became a member of Parliament in 1970. Dominica became independent in 1978 and Miss Charles was elected to the high office of Prime Minister in July 1980. She also holds the Portfolios of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She is also at present the Chairman of the Organization of the Eastern Caribbean States.

At the invitation of her Government, I had the pleasure and privilege to visit Dominica last year. The island is mountainous and clothed with green verdent vegetation. It has a rugged beauty all of its own. In spite of the recent ravages of two hurricanes, its luxuriant landscapes would gladden the hearts of environmentalists and naturalists.

Since Dominica became a member, at the Twentieth session of the Conference in 1979, we have been cooperating actively. Emergency assistance has been provided to help rehabilitate agriculture and forestry following hurricane David in 1979 and again after hurricane Allen in 1980. Assistance has been provided for the construction of agricultural feeder roads; in reducing post-harvest losses; with the provision of fertilizers; and more recently in the organizing of a training course for plant quarantine officers.

A few days ago Mr Chairman, I had the honour to welcome to the Conference His Excellency Jaafar Mohamed Al Nimeri, President of the Democratic Republic of Sudan, a country of more than 2.5 million square kilometres. Today we greet with equal courtesy and deference Her Excellency Eugenia Charles, Prime Minister of Dominica, an island of 722 square kilometres. If anything, Mr Chairman, this should amply illustrate the plurality and diversity of FAO's membership. The importance of agriculture and its natural resources to Dominica is enshrined in its Coat-of-Arms which, drawing heavily on its French heritage, says "Après le bon Dieu c'est la Terre" - After God Comes the Earth.

Mr Chairman, it gives me great pleasure to extend a warm and hearty welcome to Prime Minister Charles and to invite her to address the Conference.

H.E. MARY EUGENIA CHARLES (Prime Minister of Dominica): Thank you, Mr Chairman and Mr Director-General. I am very grateful to you for affording me the opportunity to address the Conference.

When I first took over the reins of government in the Commonwealth of Dominica at the end of July 1980, I reviewed many of the institutions in our country and I reflected on the international institutions in which we hold membership. At the time I was amazed at the number of agencies which existed in the United Nations Organizations, and I wondered at the necessity of so many and varied a number. After three years of working with some of the agencies, I have learned to value those with which I work most closely. Naturally the agencies which devote their resources to agriculture took priority in my thinking since we are an agricultural country.

If I may be permitted to say, the first to come to mind was IFAD, perhaps because they had not yet been able to do anything for us in Dominica. We are all aware of the difficult climate facing multi-national financing agencies who provide much needed concessional resources to the developing world. I am glad to say that, in spite of the very great difficulties that IFAD has been facing, under my administration they have been able to enter into a very successful and meaningful project with us during my administration. The project probably has a very formal aim, but to us in Dominica it is simply known as: 'IFAD grow more food for your own eating.'

We have approached IFAD for additional funding for an integrated rural development programme and I hope that the international community will ensure that the funds are available so that we can continue to grow in our agricultural pursuits. The Food and Agriculture Organization is one of those agencies with which we work very closely. We have learned to appreciate the assistance given to us, especially in the aftermath of hurricanes David in August 1979 and Allen in July 1980.

The assistance given in inputs for agriculture, boat building, and livestock fencing, was timely and well chosen. There is of course a larger project which we have asked FAO to do for us, and we hope that the funding will soon be available: that is for the purpose of stabilizing our land and soil, which has been very disturbed by the hurricanes. But by and large assistance given us by FAO is technical.

I wonder if the UN agencies ever give thought to the frustration which they cause by identifying the problem for us, writing out reports on the remedies to be applied, and then leaving us flat on our faces because, as we hear so often, "we are not a funding agency". Will you, Mr Chairman, permit me to throw out a new idea to be pursued by your Director-General - that in each country which FAO serves, the Organization should choose one particular field, and should study it - if of course it is not already overstudied. In our country we have at least seven studies for every aspect of life and no implementation planned. Having studied - or having studied the already prepared studies in that field - a plan for implementation should be worked out with the authorities in the country, and the FAO should put up the funds to assist the country, or to assist the country to seek out the additional funds needed and then assist us in implementing the plans for growth in that particular field. In short, we should not spread ourselves too thin on the ground by taking up a multitude of fields and then achieving little, if any, of them.

Such a plan as I have indicated would require the goodwill of the international community to give the sort of funding which will permit such actions. FAO realizes, and must realize, that your presence is needed. We wish to respect your presence, and let it be seen and felt in our area. I am of the opinion that there is a real place for FAO in each developing country, but I think it should choose a field in which it intends to serve that country and put maximum effort into that endeavour. In fact, it should look after the programme "from the cradle to the grave" if I may use an expression from another place. I am sure that this is no new gospel that I am preaching.

The difficulty appears to be that in seeking to carry out this scheme to raise levels of nutrition and standards of living, to improve the production, assessing, marketing and distribution of all food and agricultural products from farms, forests and fisheries, to promote rural development and improve the living conditions of rural populations - and above all, to eliminate hunger - FAO, because of its funding, has to nibble at all the projects put before it instead of adopting one stance which would be useful for that particular country. I feel sure that the reason for this is that the level of funding is insufficient to permit such comprehensive programmes to be adopted. You in FAO have the experts; therefore you must give authority to the particular country to decide which is the aspect which should have priority and what is required to give effect to the implementation of plans, and where the resources to carry this through can be sought.

Too often, international agencies are carried away by the demands of loud and persistent groups in the Member States. Not sufficient attention is given to finding out whether these groups really represent persons in the rural areas or farming communities, and as a result funds are ill utilized for purposes for which these agencies have been founded. I know of course that these instances arise because of FAO's anxiety to assist individuals as well as countries and I would like to keep that aspect of FAO's work - but I ask that it be dealt with with great caution.

Criticism such as this is given for the purpose of making the agencies more effective, for ensuring that the aims are always pursued. Those of us in government do not expect only the voice of authority

to be heard, but we seek clear cooperation from international agencies. We request that far reaching inquiries be made before money is committed, to ensure that persons who are meant to be benefitted, do in fact reap the benefits meant for them.

While we are on the subject of benefits, let me say quite categorically here that the Caribbean region seems to be short-changed in all the international agencies because of the historical and geographical mistake of putting the small regions in the Latin-American context. When Britain took her independence of her former British colonies she did this over a period of 20 years; as a result, a home had to be found for each new independent country. Geographically it made sense to place us with Latin-America, but the Latin-American countries - most of which have stretched out the hand of friendship to the British Caribbean, which hand we have ourselves warmly grasped - are vast areas compared to us. Their needs are great, and there does exist the language barrier although on both sides we are making real efforts to breach this. Therefore most of the resources do not proliferate in large enough quantities fast enough for us in the Caribbean. We are insistent therefore that we must be treated as a sub-group in the regional grouping, and that programmes and funding must be particularly directed to us. We know that this has now been given some thought, but the action is too slow for us. We are a small region in a hurry to catch up with the Twenty-first century forecast. We are not yet asking that we become a separate region, but we are demanding that we be considered a sub-region of sufficient importance to have programmes specially designed for our needs and funding to implement these programmes. Though we are small and poor, we believe we have shown by our talent, our vigour, and our determination that we know what is good for us and the direction in which we are going. We have a plurality of ideologies in our region, but we all believe that we must seek the greatest good for the greatest number.

This is perhaps a reason for our dissatisfaction with the international community over the events of the past month in Grenada. The international community without studying the situation, without ascertaining the facts, without assessing us as a Sub-region, decided that we were too small, too poor and too unimportant to be able to make decisions for ourselves. That is the reason, no doubt, for the scepticism that the Organization of East Caribbean States had the legal right and had formed the intention to assist their kith and kin in Grenada. All attention was paid, not to Barbados and Jamaica, who were in the same position, but the United States of America, because we estimated that they had the means and were in a position physically to react to an urgent call for assistance. I am sorry that our action has caused the USA to be villified for action taken at our request. If the international community is honest with itself, it will now admit that the wishes and request of the people of Grenada have been followed, and that sovereign people have a right to speak out for themselves. Let us never forget that it is the people who are sovereign - not the land or the boundaries. The international community remained silent for four years when a sovereign people were subjected to domination, torture and false imprisonment by a handful of people, most of whom in fact had invaded their shores and were not wanted. The people of Grenada requested and welcomed the rescue mission of last October mounted by their kith and kin with the help of two other Caribbean states and the United States. In the same way, we feel we know that we can approach FAO to assist us to fight the battle against hunger.

We are all rural populations, in spite of some of us having some industrialization programmes going. The Commonwealth of Dominica in particular depends on agriculture and will do so for the foreseeable future. As the lead agency for rural development in the UN system, I know that FAO will not fail us.

The Director-General, as he has stated, visited our island and has seen our potential for growth in the agricultural and agro-industrial fields. We should be happy if he would return to see us again soon, to see the progress we have made since his visit, and to estimate for himself how well we have put to use the assistance FAO has given us.

On behalf of the people of the Commonwealth of Dominica, I wish to thank you for your past assistance from FAO and your promise of further assistance in the future. I wish to say again: thank you very much for permitting me to address you today.

CHAIRMAN: On behalf of the Plenary meeting I thank the Right Honourable Mary Eugenia Charles for taking the trouble to come and address the Conference. I am sure you will all ponder over what she has said and draw your own conclusions. I thank you once again and will adjourn now for a few minutes to allow the honourable lady to leave the room.

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATIONS (suite)

- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

J.N. BOAKAI (Liberia): On behalf of the Government and people of Liberia, and that of my delegation, I wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the Government and people of Italy for the warm welcome and courtesy extended to us, and to extend our compliments to the current Chairman for his preferment and congratulate the Director-General and his able staff for the efficient manner in which they continue to conduct the affairs of this Organization. We also heartily welcome the new members to our Organization, and believe their membership will bring about added contribution to FAO.

My delegation also takes this opportunity to extend on behalf of the Government of Liberia our kind sentiments and appreciation to member countries that were responsive to our country's invitation to attend a donor's conference which recently took place in Berne, Switzerland.

Mr Chairman, the adverse effects of the world economic crises in these past years are aggravating a phenomenal deterioration of agricultural production in the developing countries today. The economically weak ones, especially those in Africa, continue to be burdened with problems of unfavorable balance of payment, deteriorating terms of trade, lack of foreign exchange, and deplorable public financial crises all of which prevent or make it more difficult, if not impossible, for such poor countries to conveniently pay off their external debts or to even import some of the basic needs for survival. Equally so, the food and agriculture situation in most developing countries continues to take on a downward trend simply because most governments cannot adequately execute relevant programmes to induce farmers to actively increase production. The lack of adequate financing, appropriate research capabilities, recurring drought, population growth and urbanization are among factors hampering increased output.

In spite of all these world-wide realities, some more fortunate members of our world community continue to enjoy the blessings of favourable climatic conditions, fertile arable land, and a high level of appropriate technology. Other countries, on the other hand, who have foreign exchange earning resources, have by virtue of their natural resource-possession been able to turn unfavourable situations into favourable conditions.

The latter group, which has fortunately overcome the more urgent and crucial problems which contribute to instabilities and the constant undermining of government efforts in fighting poverty, disease and malnutrition, have now turned to the building of warfare and the accumulation of destructive weapons. Thus, forgetful of yesterday's struggle, the means of survival for mankind is unfortunately being replaced by the means of wanton destruction.

We are all aware that Africa is a continent of a fair size: it holds about one third of the UN votes, with a reasonable treasure of human resources - a population of well over 450 million people, half of which are below the age of fifteen. It is a continent of great potential so that only events such as mentioned by earlier speakers, have conspired against its progress, thus making our future gloomy and a hostage of the past.

The FAO must be commended for its efforts and commitment to tackle some of these problems hostile to agriculture.

The Director-General and his staff were aware of these when they prepared the budget that needs our support.

My delegation supports the Programme of Work and Budget as put forward in the document and is in general agreement with the priorities and strategies as outlined. Nevertheless, we regret that forestry fell short of the desired attention in the Programme of Work and Budget. However, we hope that the required importance will be attached to forestry in the next programme.

My delegation realizes that much emphasis must be placed on agriculture because of the fact that agriculture provides the basic livelihood requirements for the masses; as it provides funds and generates resources for supplying the capital needed for industrial development and foreign exchange. Thus agriculture remains the major tool for socio-economic development.

In recognition of this, our Government continues to make important changes in its economic and social policies in order to involve subsistence farmers in the monetized economy by encouraging the growing of food surpluses and cash crops. The provision of services such as extension, credit, marketing and input supply underlines our basic agricultural policies.

Agricultural extension has become the main thrust of our agricultural development programme since farmers can be quickly reached through extension. Consequently, various agricultural development strategies, including small scale estate farming and integrated rural development projects, have been inaugurated in the past few years, some of which have been successfully implemented. However, much disappointment has resulted in our efforts in the development of small industrial corporations where emphasis is mainly placed on the production of crops for export markets. Further efforts are still being made to improve these corporations and any assistance will be most welcomed. Some measure of success, however, has been achieved in our integrated rural development programme, with the major objective being to improve the overall quality of life in the rural areas by increasing the income level of the masses and providing basic facilities. The programme is being assisted by the World Bank, USAID, the German Government, and quite recently by the African Development Bank.

Rubber production, which accounts for Liberia's second most important export, continues to take a declining position due to the low market price, inadequate credit facilities and poor farm management problems. In order to help minimize these problems the Liberian Rubber Development Unit, assisted by the World Bank, CDC and ODA, established in 1977, has been actively involved in a programme of replacing 40 000 acres of low-yielding rubber trees with high-yielding varieties and rehabilitating about 23 000 acres of mature untapped rubber. Price however still remains a problem. We therefore request the FAO to assist in conducting a study through which a price policy would be established.

Forestry resources, which include timber and logs, account for Liberia's third important export. The Liberian Government, assisted by FAO and other external donors, is now making headway in developing this sector.

But we have realized that these strategies cannot by themselves sustain or expand production without the provision of the necessary institutions and services. These include research, extension, training, marketing, credit arrangements, and cooperative development. We have therefore endeavoured to provide such services within our meagre resources.

As extension is the major link between research and the farmers, it is our desire to fully develop and integrate it into the decentralization approach of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Our training programme covers all aspects of training necessary to translate most of the efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture into usable information and together with other technical packages to be carried to farmers through extension services. Consequently, extension workers must be well trained in a variety of areas in order for them to respond to the problems relative to various crops and livestock, as well as those dealing with supportive services. It is our ardent hope that the Technical Cooperation Programme would afford us the means for training extension workers and special programme technicians.

We would also appreciate assistance from the FAO, foreign governments and other multi-donor agencies to bring about an organized small farmers' marketing system. Planning and evaluation are essential components of the development process, and we cannot over-emphasize the need for assistance in developing such capabilities in the Ministry of Agriculture.

Despite all efforts made by governments present here, it can once more be echoed that the disease emanating from the world economic situation, coupled with factors contributing to crop failures, as discussed in the Pan-African paper presented at the World Food Security meeting, has compelled most inhabitants of the poorer regions to go to bed on an empty stomach. My delegation continues to support the wider concept of the World Food Security programme, as was approved during the Committee's last meeting. The Director-General must be commended for his conclusive statement on food security: "All people at all times must have both physical and economic access to the basic foods they need". There should be no reason for a huge storage of surplus food in one area when others need it for their daily survival.

Even though much effort is given to improving Liberia's food security situation, we are still seriously faced with the problem of under-production of rice, which is our staple food. Between 1974 and 1981, rice production remained at 255 000 metric tonnes; this stagnation in no way met the high increase in domestic demand for rice especially for urban centres. Moreover, the growth in population has contributed adversely to the rice supply situation. This condition has therefore encouraged the importation of rice. Rice imports increased from 30.6 thousand metric tonnes in 1975 to about 104 thousand metric tonnes in 1981 at a cost of 43 million dollars; this figure accounted for 53 percent of all food imports for that year. However, in 1982-83 we have experienced a 300 percent increase in the production of rice probably due to the Expansion Rice Programme initiated by the government and assisted by the IFAD and FAO.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) financed smallholder Rice Seed Project is steadily progressing in the production of high quality seed for distribution to small farmers. But the project's financial resources are limited in providing logistic support for distributing seeds. Additionally, assistance in fertilizers, insecticides, herbicides and the foreign training component in seed technology would enhance the work of the project.

It is because of the desire to reduce the dependency on imported food that efforts are being made to accelerate local production. In this direction some of our army personnel have been mobilized into an agricultural batallion to assist in food production. The project is being guided by technical assistance from the FAO. Each sub-political area in our country is also implementing self-help agricultural activities geared towards self-sufficiency in food production.

Livestock production has not been a part of the traditional agriculture and as such the country had depended on imports for its meat supply. However, in recent years, efforts have been made to encourage farmers to engage in both pasture and animal husbandry projects but climatic conditions, disease, particularly trypanosomiasis, and the availability of fodders and concentrates appropriate for small farms are still constraints. We thank FAO and other organizations for their support given to the Pan-African rinderpest and CBPP campaign and the war against animal trypanosomiasis.

Industrial and artisanal fisheries have great potential in Liberia but much external assistance and investment supports are needed to develop and transform these potentials into viable realities.

In this light, my delegation would very much like to emphasize the need for greater external assistance in both technical and financial aid to upgrade our agricultural situation in order to help us achieve self-sufficiency in our basic food needs.

My delegation would also like to take this opportunity to thank FAO for its input in all current and proposed agricultural development programmes in Liberia. The FAO Representative in our country has been most helpful.

We recognize that FAO needs considerable support from all its member countries particularly from the developed, industrialized, and oil-producing countries, in order to implement its field programmes and its proposed Programme of Work and Budget for the period 1984-85. We appeal to all nations for their generous support towards this worthy cause.

N.R. SABILLON REYES (Honduras): Señor Presidente, señores delegados, Honduras, en primer lugar, desea expresar su complacencia y satisfacción por la incorporación de cuatro nuevos Estados soberanos como lo son Belice, San Cristóbal y Nieves, Vanuatu, Antigua y Barbuda. Lo hacemos en la seguridad de que estos hermanos países contribuirán con su ingreso a fortalecer la FAO.

Mi país se hace presente en esta 22ª Conferencia en momentos bien difíciles en el plano político, económico y social en el mundo, particularmente en ciertas Regiones y, dentro de esta situación, en la región Centroamericana. El Gobierno y el pueblo de Honduras son conscientes de la gravedad de esta situación y por ello nos estamos esforzando en superarla. Es así como nuestro Gobierno propuso en el seno de la Organización de Estados Americanos un plan de internacionalizar la paz en el área centroamericana.

Sin embargo, los objetivos buscados en este plan hasta el momento no han producido los frutos deseados y se continúa viviendo en el área centroamericana en un ambiente de tensiones y violencias.

Reconocemos, valoramos y apoyamos los esfuerzos que los países amigos que forman el grupo de Contadora están realizando en busca de la paz deseada. No obstante, la situación de tensión ha llevado a Honduras, un país amante de la paz y de limitados recursos, a que tenga que dedicar parte de estos recursos a prepararse para su defensa y seguridad; situación que el país jamás ha promovido, ni mucho menos apoyado. La situación en el país se agrava mucho más por su situación geográfica que por su política humanitaria. En ese sentido ha abierto sus fronteras a miles de refugiados de los países vecinos. En el momento actual existen aproximadamente 70.000 refugiados, ocupando mi país en la actualidad el quinto lugar en el mundo como país receptor de refugiados.

Señor Presidente, señores delegados, ustedes comprenderán que la situación de un país con limitados recursos se convierte prácticamente en insostenible con la afluencia masiva de ciudadanos de países vecinos. En esta oportunidad queremos dejar constancia de nuestro reconocimiento al Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para Refugiados y a otras agencias de las Naciones Unidas, que han proporcionado recursos y ayuda. En conformidad con lo anterior, en esta oportunidad deseamos apelar al sistema de las Naciones Unidas y de los otros países para que nos brinden su ayuda en este empeño y en los esfuerzos que puedan realizarse para incorporar a esta numerosa población de refugiados en un proceso de desarrollo digno, humano y acorde con los planteamientos hechos en distintas reuniones a nivel mundial.

En este resumido bosquejo de la situación de mi país y de los esfuerzos que se están realizando y paradójicamente por estos esfuerzos en busca de la paz y de auxilio a esos miles de ciudadanos refugiados, se ha querido darle un calificativo que proyecta una imagen completamente distorsionada de la verdadera realidad que vive Honduras.

Compartimos plenamente la preocupación expresada por la mayoría de los delegados en relación con los graves y cruciales problemas que aquejan a muchas regiones del mundo y específicamente a los países en vías de desarrollo. Problemas caracterizados por el hambre, motivados por la falta de acceso a los recursos productivos, principalmente la tierra, derecho del uso de agua y acceso a los servicios complementarios de la producción de alimentos y la seguridad alimentaria, el desempleo y el subempleo, los sistemas de precios agropecuarios y las relaciones de intercambio y su inestabilidad, en detrimento de los esfuerzos realizados para el desarrollo de nuestros países; el endeudamiento y la honerosa carga que significa el servicio de dicha deuda y la necesidad de una nueva concepción del desarrollo, basada en relaciones justas y soberanas entre los países.

Los problemas directamente relacionados con el Programa y Proyectos de Desarrollo, nuestra delegación los planteará en las Comisiones respectivas; pero deseamos dejar constancia de nuestro reconocimiento y agradecimiento al Director General, por el dinamismo demostrado por la FAO en promover y organizar diferentes actividades regionales y subregionales, en las que Honduras ha participado, así como también con misiones técnicas y apoyo directo a nuestros programas nacionales de desarrollo. Este apoyo ha sido de enorme utilidad y beneficio para el país y sabemos que, sin el interés y apoyo personal del Director General, muchas de las actividades desarrolladas en el país durante el año 1982/83 no se hubiesen realizado.

Finalmente, señor Presidente, mi país desea manifestar su apoyo al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto presentado por el Director General a consideración de esta Conferencia.

A.S. ALWAN (United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia): On behalf of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia, I wish to congratulate the Chairman and his colleagues for being chosen to preside over this important session of the Conference. I am confident that under your able leadership this session will proceed successfully towards the achievement of the planned objectives.

I would like also to avail myself of this opportunity to express our deep appreciation to Dr Edouard Saouma, Director-General of FAO, and the Secretariat for organizing this session of the FAO Conference, and for making excellent Conference arrangements.

Agriculture and rural development is one of the major concerns of the United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia. Though the relative importance of agriculture has declined during the recent past, it continues to play an important role in the overall socio-economic development of the region. Agriculture, besides being the major source of income, after petroleum, for the majority of the population, provides the non-agricultural sectors with food, raw materials and labour. It should be noted, however, that agricultural development of the region has not been up to expectations. The rate of growth in food and agricultural production has been quite low in most of the countries in the region; the gap between the domestic production and consumption has become larger. Consequently, the self-sufficiency ratio for the major food commodities has sharply declined during the recent years.

In major producing countries the low rate of growth in agricultural production, particularly in the wake of explosive growth of food demand in the region, has resulted in high prices and soaring import bills, thus highlighting the serious food security position of the region. The region is now among the world's largest importers of foodstuffs.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia has observed these developments in the agricultural sector of the region with concern. In its programme of action the problems of food and agriculture rank among the highest priorities. In the relatively short period of time since its inception in 1974, the Commission has played a significant role in support of agricultural development and cooperation. This has been made possible by the exemplary cooperation and joint efforts of the Food and Agriculture Organization, through the Joint ECWA/FAO Agriculture Division, which has been able to tackle these problems on three major fronts, namely, agricultural planning and adjustment, regimai cooperation and agricultural and rural institutions.

There has been systematic consultations with FAO on programme formulation, which implies that the programme focus closely follows the areas of concentration of FAO activities, i.e., agricultural information and planning, food security, resource use and conservation, agrarian reform and rural development, etc.

Dissemination of information on agricultural development in the region has continued through the annual publication "Agriculture and Development", now established as a major source of information, review and appraisal of the regional agricultural situation and outlook together with special reviews on national agricultural development experiences.

A study on agricultural development in Saudi Arabia, which evaluates the land and water resources potential, regional cropping patterns, the cost of production on traditional and commercial farms and agricultural price and marketing margins was completed. The study also includes an in-depth analysis of the past and current development plans and discusses the relationship between programme implementation and sector growth. A similar study is planned to be completed on Iraq in December 1983. These studies are being presented to an expert group meeting on constraints in agricultural planning, which is scheduled to be held during December 1983.

A case study on agricultural prices in Iraq is expected to be completed shortly. The study attempts to demonstrate the relationship between agricultural policy and over-all socio-economic policy, to evaluate the importance of incentives and agricultural production, to suggest alternatives to the present price policy, and to identify policy options for consideration by the Government. Similar studies for Jordan and Yemen Arab Republic and other countries are planned to be completed in December 1983.

In the area of food security, a study on food security issues in Saudi Arabia was completed. The study includes a number of proposals and recommendations on food production, procurement, supply management and distribution.

At the request of the Government of Yemen, a joint ECWA/FAO mission was launched in March 1982 to prepare proposals for food security projects on the provision of bufferstock and emergency reserves and the construction of the necessary storage facilities.

A study on food security in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip is scheduled for completion during 1983. The study will include various aspects of food production, conservation, storage and distribution. The other two studies which are planned to be completed during 1983 relate to post-harvest losses of cereals in Iraq and Egypt.

In the field of agricultural resource management and desertification control, ECWA is playing an active role in the Interagency Working Group on Desertification Control (IAWGD) and has formulated a broad programme of action in this field.

The final report of the Expert Meeting on Management, Conservation and Development of Agricultural Resources (Damascus, May 1981) has been published and distributed. In the follow-up to this meeting, a number of proposals for external financing have been prepared.

At the request of UNEP a paper was proposed on Planning for Integrated Agricultural Resource Management and Development in the ECWA region (Desertification Control, November 8, 1983), while a paper on the status and management of agricultural resources in the ECWA region was prepared for the UNEP/USSR monograph "Desertification; scientific fundamentals and strategies of control". In the context of UNEP's first general assessment of progress in implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification (PACD), a study on Regional Assessment of Desertification in the ECWA region was completed and submitted to UNEP.

A case study on Agricultural Resource Management and Desertification Control in Iraq, which reviews the extent of desertification and the measures taken by the Government for its control, and outlines a future plan of action in the context of UN-PACD, has been completed, while a study on pastoral and livestock management systems and strategies in the ECWA region is expected to be completed by the end of 1983.

The main activities of ECWA in rural development during the 1982-83 biennium were focussed towards the holding of two regional meetings during the last quarter of 1983. An Expert Group meeting on Review of Experiences with Rural Development Projects in the Countries of Western Asia was held from 29 September to 2 October in Baghdad. That meeting was primarily based on six national case studies, of which five (on Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Democratic Yemen and Syria) were especially prepared for this meeting. These studies reviewed selected rural development projects with respect to their organization and management, performance vis-à-vis objectives, effects and impact, innovative features and technical assistance needs.

The results of this Expert Group Meeting were presented to the Regional Intergovernmental Consultation on Rural Development in the Near East, which was jointly held by ECWA and FAO at Baghdad from 3 to 6 October 1983. This meeting reviewed the national agrarian reforms and rural development experiences since WCARRD and discussed the issues of growth with equity, rural poverty alleviation, people's participation innovative experiences in rural development and monitoring and evaluation of rural development projects and programmes.

Two case studies on Rural Poverty Alleviation in Egypt and in Democratic Yemen were completed. These studies were based on socio-economic indicators of rural poverty, prepared in follow-up to the WCARRD Plan of Action, and examined the incidence of rural poverty and the extent to which the national development strategies incorporated the elements of poverty alleviation as laid down in the WCARRD Programme of Action. Causal factors were defined, the impact of policy actions on the alleviation of rural poverty assessed, and a number of proposals made for initiating or strengthening policy measures and action programmes.

A report on the organization and management of state farming in Iraq was completed.

The report recommended strengthening of economic principles in state farm management and a certain degree of decentralization.

In follow-up to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, the Economic Commission for Western Asia continues to participate in the interagency efforts conducted under the leadership of FAO, to achieve programme development, promote policy action and increase investment activity towards the benefit and well-being of the rural population.

It is hoped that, with its move to its permanent headquarters in Baghdad, ECWA will be better equipped to meet the challenges of its mandate and will continue to play its catalytic role in promoting national development through regional action.

In conclusion, may I wish this Twenty-second session of the FAO Conference complete success in its important deliberations.

NGUYEN VAN TANHN (Observateur de la Confédération mondiale du travail): Je voudrais joindre mes félicitations à celles qui vous ont été adressées par les honorables délégués qui m'ont précédé à cette tribune pour votre élection à la présidence de la Conférence.

Bientôt se seront écoulées dix années depuis la convocation de la Conférence Mondiale sur l'Alimentation à Rome en 1974. Dans ses documents la FAO a estimé que plus de 400 millions d'êtres humains souffraient de dénutrition dans les années 70.

La situation mondiale ne s'est pas améliorée. Les chiffres officiels le démontrent, et le fait non seulement persiste, mais tend à empirer. Les pays connaissant une situation alimentaire précaire sont encore plus nombreux. Les indices FAO de la production alimentaire mondiale par habitant révèlent que celle-ci a régressé dans l'ensemble des pays moins avancés. La production agricole des pays en développement est soit en stagnation soit en faible augmentation, mais surtout la production par tête d'habitant reste stationnaire. La production par habitant a régressé dans de nombreux pays, elle est bien inférieure à la croissance démographique.

Il serait trop facile d'accuser la Nature d'être le principal responsable par ses calamités et ses catastrophes.

La sécheresse et les typhons sont peut-être inévitables, mais ces phénomènes naturels sont souvent aggravés par l'action de l'homme, et malheureusement frappent essentiellement les pauvres trop faibles politiquement pour obtenir le strict nécessaire de ce qui est disponible pour satisfaire leurs besoins essentiels, pendant que les riches deviennent plus riches et les forts, plus puissants.

Nous pouvons, sans exagération, dire que notre société avec ses structures sociales injustes n'a pas la volonté d'en sortir ou la capacité d'intervenir.

Les désordres actuels de la production agricole peuvent être imputés à toute une série de causes. Des êtres humains (hommes et femmes, enfants, jeunes et vieux) meurent de faim chaque jour. Les animaux domestiques, les chiens et les chats des pays développés souffrent d'embonpoint. On nous rapporte qu'environ 500 millions de tonnes de céréales, soit plus du tiers de la production mondiale, sont, chaque année, utilisées pour nourrir les animaux, et cette proportion augmente sans cesse. Mais il ne faudrait pas minimiser la responsabilité majeure des sociétés transnationales ainsi que leurs relais politiques nationaux dans les pays du Tiers Monde qui ont réussi à extravertir les économies rurales en les mettant au service d'un nombre restreint de marchés presque tous situés dans les pays industrialisés. C'est par leur biais qu'ont été introduits partout dans le monde des modes de consommation, de nutrition et de culture sans rapport avec les besoins des populations des pays du Tiers Monde. Les pays en développement sont devenus des importateurs des produits alimentaires que traditionnellement ils exportaient. L'importation des produits alimentaires crée une balance commerciale déficitaire les précipitant dans la dépendance. Les déficits des balances commerciales sont encore amplifiés par le surprix que réclament ceux qui détiennent le contrôle des marchés. La détérioration croissante des balances commerciales laisse les pays du tiers monde exsangues et les empêche de mener à bien les plans de développement dont ils ont tant besoin, et nous sommes en plein dans la troisième décennie de développement des Nations Unies!

Nul n'ignore les interactions entre différents facteurs: nationaux et internationaux, techniques et sociaux, politiques et économiques, mais nous continuons à affirmer que le développement national doit prendre avant tout en considération les besoins essentiels de la population; il en est de même du développement rural et des aspirations de la population rurale qui dépense son énergie, lutte contre les conditions naturelles et en même temps fait face à celles créées par l'homme pour faire vivre les autres et survivre.

Nous osons espérer que la priorité a été déjà donnée au développement rural et au principe de la participation populaire. Mais cette participation ne peut être acquise que si la population a foi et enthousiasme dans ces activités. Il consiste à tout faire pour redonner la confiance à la population rurale, plusieurs fois déçue et blasée par des promesses non tenues, par des experts trop irréalistes, par des efforts non soutenus, intermittents, insuffisants. Mais avant tout, il faut combattre le sentiment de frustration de la population rurale devant le trop grand décalage entre le cadre de vie urbaine et de vie rurale, avec les richesses accumulées par les privilégiés d'un côté et la misère rurale de l'autre, devant la hausse de prix des inputs agricoles (machines, insecticides, engrais...) et les produits de consommation manufacturés, et la baisse en valeur relative des produits agricoles, fruits de beaucoup de labeur, de sueur et d'efforts. Une politique de prix différentiels, préférentiels avec des péréquations adéquates, une politique de subventions, d'encouragement en matière de crédit et de bonus, une politique d'aide technique, opérationnelle adaptée aux conditions physiques et sociologiques du milieu, constituent des conditions sine qua non d'une stratégie de développement rural. Les fruits des labeurs du monde rural doivent être appréciés à leur juste valeur. Il faut donner aux paysans la possibilité d'avoir des revenus plus élevés, des conditions de travail moins dures, une perspective d'amélioration de leur condition de vie et de leur avenir.

Il est illusoire de vouloir développer la campagne sans la désenclaver aussi bien sur le plan technique et physique que sur le plan psychologique. Cela veut dire que des investissements en matière de réseau de communication (routes, ponts,...), d'électrification, d'enseignement et d'information sont nécessaires. Cela veut dire aussi que la présence des instituteurs/institutrices, des animateurs/animatrices à la campagne constitue un acte de solidarité et de foi indispensable, un soutien moral et technique d'une importance capitale. Cette présence physique sur le terrain ne peut être crédible et efficace que si le gouvernement apporte son soutien matériel et logistique adéquat. Au moment où le chômage affecte beaucoup d'hommes de compétence et de bonne volonté, on peut estimer qu'avec des mesures gouvernementales pertinentes la campagne pourra recevoir assez de cadres qualifiés indispensables pour leurs programmes de développement.

Si le tableau actuel de la situation alimentaire mondiale est sombre, il risque encore de s'obscurcir davantage parce qu'il a de profondes conséquences sur l'environnement et sur les possibilités futures d'inverser les processus engagés. Deux phénomènes menacent la survie d'une grande partie de l'humanité: la déforestation et la désertification.

La déforestation est rapide: plusieurs dizaines de millions d'hectares de forêts disparaissent chaque année. On estime que la superficie des forêts tropicales a reculé, entre 1970 et 1980, de 110 millions d'hectares, soit environ 6 %. La situation, il est vrai, varie d'un pays à l'autre, mais ce phénomène est devenu une grave menace dans de nombreux pays d'Afrique, d'Amérique latine et d'Asie. Les causes de la déforestation sont multiples, mais signalons trois causes qui nous paraissent essentielles :

- la nécessité d'obtenir des devises en exportant. La demande de bois est croissante dans les pays industrialisés;
- des modes de cultures inadaptés, fruits partiels de la montée de la faim;
- la coupe intensive pour obtenir du bois de feu, seule source d'énergie pour une large majorité de l'humanité, la plus pauvre

Est-ce la pauvreté de ceux qui subissent cette crise de l'énergie qui justifie, de notre part, le silence sur cette crise énergétique?

La FAO affirme que si l'on ne réagit pas rapidement, la situation risque de devenir très grave. La réduction des forêts a aussi d'importants impacts sur le climat. Le régime des pluies se trouve altéré, le contrôle des inondations est rendu plus ardu, la faune et la flore sont appauvries, etc.

Chaque année le désert grandit, aidé qu'il est dans sa tâche par la surexploitation de la nature par l'homme. En Afrique sahélienne, le désert fait des progrès constants vers le Sud, il hypothèque le développement futur de ces régions par la disparition de terres arables.

Il faut en ces domaines une action mondiale, parce que si rien ne change, si l'on se contente d'attendre une reprise économique généralisée, on risque de voir accroître la masse des affamés. La catastrophe est proche en Afrique, les plus hautes instances en conviennent. Les importations de produits agricoles des pays en développement ont continué à augmenter et déséquilibrent encore plus les termes d'échanges de ces pays, les plaçant dans une situation de dépendance chaque jour plus accentuée.

La Banque Mondiale et la Communauté Economique Européenne ont compris les dangers de cette situation. Ces institutions se font les avocats d'une autonomie alimentaire accrue. La force de leur propos est cependant fort amoindrie par la myopie politique des principaux dirigeants politiques et des gouvernements des pays concernés.

Dans le court terme, la Confédération mondiale du travail (CMT) demande instamment que soit instaurée une meilleure collaboration entre tous les organismes et toutes les institutions qui agissent pour améliorer la situation alimentaire mondiale.

Il manque pour les pays du Tiers Monde des moyens financiers nécessaires pour leur permettre un véritable démarrage d'une politique de Réforme agraire et de Développement rural mettant ainsi en oeuvre le Programme d'Action formulé à la Conférence Mondiale sur la Réforme Agraire et le Développement Rural en 1979.

Des projets aussi longs et aussi coûteux que ceux qui luttent contre la déforestation et la désertification exigent eux aussi une étroite collaboration entre tous les milieux intéressés.

Il ne faudrait pas non plus perdre de vue les intérêts immédiats des populations rurales qui doivent être associées à tous les niveaux et étapes lors de la mise en oeuvre de ces programmes.

La Conférence donnerait ainsi une attention particulière aux problèmes qui préoccupent actuellement le mouvement syndical et les masses des travailleurs ruraux, attention capable de promouvoir le bien-être et l'amélioration du niveau de vie en milieu rural.

M. HUSSEINI (Observer for World Federation of Trade Unions): Allow me to make some observations of a general character on behalf of the World Federation of Trade Unions.

The World Federation of Trade Unions, which groups over 206 million organized workers living under different social systems and at different levels of development, is deeply concerned at the present extremely critical situation of food shortage, the underdevelopment of agriculture and under-utilization of agricultural possibilities in vast areas of the world, particularly in the developing countries.

Twenty-one years have already elapsed since the World Indicative Plan for Agricultural Development was presented within the framework of FAO in 1962. That plan established the guidelines for a programme that was to make hunger and undernourishment mere bitter memories of an unpleasant past for the peoples of the developing countries by the year 1985. Furthermore, it envisaged turning the agricultural sector into a dynamic development factor instead of a traditionally stagnant and weak one.

But what do we have now? We have 500 million people (or 900 million, according to other statistics) who suffer from hunger. Tens of thousands of them die of it every year, especially in the developing world. The agriculture of developing countries still remains largely underdeveloped economically. Unprecedented mass unemployment and underemployment in the capitalist world, particularly in the developing countries, have resulted in rural exodus, with millions forced to live in overcrowded urban slums in inhuman conditions and living a life of even greater poverty.

In addition, food aid given by some capitalist countries, namely the USA, to developing countries is being constantly used as a weapon to interfere in the internal affairs of, and to pressure, recipient countries.

This extremely grave situation has caused deep anxiety among workers and their trade union organizations the world over. They view this situation as a direct result of the continued prevalence of an unjust and inequitable international economic order which perpetuates colonial exploitation and underdevelopment, and sanctions the manipulation and near total control of the food and agricultural sector in developing countries by the agro-food transnationals. These transnationals have been appropriately termed veritable dealers in the underdeveloped countries' wants, since their economic power and big profits have been built on the hunger and weak agricultural sectors of the developing countries.

The World Federation of Trade Unions would like to underline here that this tragic situation is neither inevitable nor irreversible. There are enough resources on our planet which could produce sufficient quantities of food and assure a decent life for all. The present development crisis (which in many developing countries is heavily influenced by the agrarian crisis) is a manmade crisis, caused essentially by the continued dominance of outdated structures which hamper the full utilization of the production forces. At the same time, the colossal wastage of human resources resulting from the massive rate of unemployment and underemployment in rural areas is not inevitable. The experience of a number of countries clearly demonstrates that unemployment and under-utilization of human resources can be eliminated through a successful solution of the basic question of agrarian reform and rural development, as part of an overall economic and social development strategy.

It is the firm belief of the World Federation of Trade Unions and its affiliated trade union centres that the present tragic situation can, and should, be reversed through planned development in which rural workers and their organizations should play a prominent role. This concept has been stressed in a number of studies, including the documents of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. But for such a development to be ensured, it is absolutely necessary that the centres of decision should be within the country and not at the headquarters of agri-business transnational corporations which dominate virtually almost all principal internationally-traded agricultural commodities. It is imperative in this connection that serious and urgent national and international measures are taken to eliminate the grip of transnational corporations which monopolise the trade in agricultural commodities.

A basic prerequisite for the achievement of such a planned development is the implementation of radical agrarian reforms that allow a full and just utilization of agricultural resources and prevent exploitation by vested interests - the property-owning feudal and semi-feudal and capitalist classes. Such reforms should lead to expansion of the domestic market and full utilization of human resources, alleviating the tremendous problems of unemployment and underemployment in developing countries.

It is necessary to point out at this juncture that rural workers in many countries remain to be among the most, if not the most, exploited workers in the world. Four years have already elapsed since the WCARRD adopted extremely important documents, now known as Peasants' Charter. But progress in securing its implementation has been thwarted by a lack of "political will" in many countries. Particularly deplorable in this regard, is the non-implementation of provisions relating to the rights of agricultural workers and peasants and the very spirit of the recommendation concerning people's participation in development. It is absolutely necessary that serious efforts are made to overcome the obstacles and assure the implementation of the Peasants' Charter.

The world trade union movement is deeply disturbed by policies often recommended by the International Monetary Fund (as a condition for assistance to countries) which involve the removal of food/ subsidies and cuts in social services which particularly hit the rural workers. Such policies make a mockery of the very essence of the development strategy adopted by the United Nations under the Third UN Development Decade and only aggravate the situation. It has to be recognized that hunger, poverty and other social problems are caused by exploitation and unequal economic relations as between peasant producers and agri-business corporations as well as between developing countries exporting agricultural commodities, on the one hand, and the transnational conglomerates, on the other. An end should be put to such policies and a responsible and serious attitude should be adopted in this regard.

The world trade union movement also strongly deplores the use of food aid by some states as a political weapon which practically amounts to the use of hunger and poverty as a weapon to perpetuate their domination and control over the destinies of people.

The World Federation of Trade Unions calls at the same time for a joint investigation by the FAO, UNCTAD, ILO and the international trade union organizations of the shameful practice of "fixing" commodity prices by those who exercise market power - the agri-business transnational corporations. This grave issue must be brought to the attention of world public opinion and the international community, as the human cost of non-implementation of a New International Economic Order must be seen in all its grim dimensions.

Two important international trade union conferences held recently - the Eighth Conference of the Food Trade Union International in September 1983 and the Ninth Conference of the Agriculture Trade Union International in October 1983 - have discussed in depth the present critical situation of food and agriculture - at the national, regional and international levels. The discussions centred on promoting united actions by the trade unions, farmers' organizations, cooperative organizations and concerned international inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations on the urgent questions of agrarian reform, rural development, eradication of hunger and rural poverty and related issues. The conclusions of both conferences stressed the need for participation of rural workers and their organizations in development planning, for achieving self-sufficiency in food, to ensure that gains of development are equitably distributed and to give the highest priority to the fight against rural poverty and hunger in the world.

The WFTU and the two TUIs are planning to convene shortly an International Trade Union Conference focusing on the fight against hunger and malnutrition as part and parcel of the democratic development strategies.

The World Federation of Trade Unions and the world trade union movement would like to underline that the struggle, against hunger and poverty and for social and economic development is being undermined by the growing massive arms race, particularly in the nuclear field. Badly needed resources for development, financial and otherwise, are being diverted to destructive purposes and increasing the danger of a third World War, instead of being used to feed the people and solve their aggravating social and economic problems. Consequently, wide sections of world public opinion demand and end to the arms race, for reduction in military spending and the transfer of these huge allocations to meet urgent civilian needs. The World Federation of Trade Unions supports the UN efforts in promoting disarmament and will actively participate in the World Disarmament Campaign launched by the UN. It is prepared to work together with the FAO in campaigns for educating public opinion on the issues of peace, disarmament and reconversion. We hope that this wish of ours will be positively met by FAO.

The meeting rose at 18.45 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.45 horas

conference

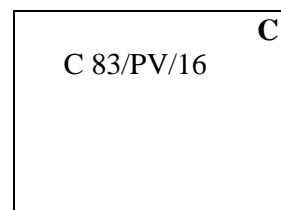
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Twenty-second session
PLENARY

Vingt deuxième session
PLENIERE

22° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

SIXTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
SEIZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
16° SESION PLENARIA
(16 November 1983)

The Sixteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.15 hours
Demetrios Christodoulou, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La seizième seance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 15
sous la présidence de Demetrios Christodoulou, Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 16° Sesión Plenaria a las 10.15, bajo la presidencia de
Demetrios Christodoulou, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION
INTRODUCTION ET QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE
INTRODUCCION Y CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO

- Fourth Report of the General Committee (C 83/LIM/27)
- Quatrième rapport du Bureau (C 83/LIM/27)
- Cuarto Informe del Comité General (C 83/LIM/27)

- Fifth Report of the General Committee (C 83/LIM/28)
- Cinquième Rapport du Bureau (C 83/LIM/28)
- Quinto Informe del Comité General (C 83/LIM/28)

CHAIRMAN: The Sixteenth Plenary meeting is now open and the first item to consider is the Adoption of the Fourth and Fifth Reports of the General Committee. I will ask the Assistant Secretary-General, Mr Henderson, to introduce the subject.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL: I shall start by reading the Fourth Report of the General Committee on the Right to Vote.

"Subsequent to its Third Report, adopted by the Conference on 11 November 1983, the General Committee was informed by the Director-General of developments regarding Mauritania and Guinea-Bissau.

The Committee noted that Mauritania has now transferred to the Organization an amount sufficient to regain its right to vote throughout the remainder of this session of the Conference.

The Committee also noted that a contribution had also now been received from Guinea-Bissau but that this was significantly less than the minimum amount required to regain its vote. The delegation confirmed that the delay in the payment of its contributions in recent years was beyond the control of the Government, being the result of a difficult economic situation due to a prolonged drought and a reduction in exports which had limited the availability of foreign currency. The Committee was sympathetic to Guinea-Bissau's difficulties and having been informed that it was the intention of the Government to effect a further payment in the near future and to settle all of its arrears as soon as possible, recommends to the Conference that Guinea-Bissau's right to vote be restored for the remainder of this session of the Conference.

The delegation from the Central African Republic had provided no information as to any action which the Government was proposing with regard to payments of its contributions. The Committee therefore does not recommend any action to restore its right to vote. That is the end of that report."

The Fifth Report of the General Committee concerns the election of Council Members.

The Conference set 18.00 hours on Tuesday 15 November 1983 as the deadline for submission of nominations for election to the Council.

The General Committee has examined the nominations received by that time and confirms their validity.

These nominations are as follows:

Africa: Period, November 1983 - 31 December 1986; five seats to be filled; candidates: Congo, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, Uganda. Period, 1 January 1985 - November 1987; four seats to be filled; candidates: Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Zimbabwe.

Asia: Period, 1 January 1985 - November 1987; three seats to be filled; candidates: India, Pakistan, Philippines.

Europe: Period, November 1983 - 31 December 1986; three seats to be filled; candidates: Austria, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia. Period, 1 January 1985 - November 1987; four seats to be filled; candidates: Denmark, France, Italy, United Kingdom.

Latin America: Period, November 1983 - 31 December 1986; five seats to be filled; candidates: Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Mexico, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago. Period, 1 January 1985 - November 1987; 1 seat to be filled; candidates: Ecuador, Nicaragua.

Near East: Period, November 1983 - 31 December 1986; two seats to be filled; candidates: Afghanistan, Lebanon, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. Period, 1 January 1985 - November 1987; three seats to be filled; candidates: Egypt, Saudi Arabia.

North America: Period, November 1983 - 31 December 1986; two seats to be filled; candidates: Canada, United States of America.

South-West Pacific: Period, 1 January 1985 - November 1987; 1 seat to be filled; candidate: Australia.

The General Committee formally draws the attention of the Conference to the following paragraphs of Rule XXII of the General Rules of the Organization:

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

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

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

For 3 Regions - Africa, Europe and North America, the number of candidates for the first period is the same as the number of vacancies, while for 3 Regions - Asia, Europe and the Southwest Pacific, the number of candidates for the second period is the same as the number of vacancies. One ballot for each period for each one of these Regions may therefore be sufficient for candidates to obtain the required majority in accordance with Rule XII-3(b) of the General Rules of the Organization. In this connection, attention is drawn to Rule XII-9(a) which specifies that the election of Council members must be decided by secret ballot, even in cases where there are not more candidates than Council seats to be filled.

For the Near East for the second period there are 2 candidates for 3 seats.

For the remaining Regions, there are more candidates than vacancies, as follows:

- Africa:

- (b) for the period 1 January 1985 to November 1987 there are 6 candidates for 4 seats.

- Latin America:

- (a) for the period November 1983 to 31 December 1986 there are 7 candidates for 5 seats
- (b) for the period 1 January 1985 to November 1987 there are 2 candidates for 1 seat.

- Near East:

- for the period November 1983 to 31 December 1986 there are 3 candidates for 2 seats.

This means that for these Regions several ballots may be needed before the vacancies in each one of these periods are filled.

In accordance with Rule XXII-10(g) of the General Rules of the Organization: "Candidates who are unsuccessful in the election to fill the vacancy or vacancies occurring in the first calendar year shall be included among the candidates for election to the vacancy or vacancies occurring at the end of the second calendar year, except where they voluntarily withdraw".

The General Committee recommends that the first stage of voting should comprise balloting for all Regions concerned for the first period, i.e. November 1983 - 31 December 1986. This will be followed by any additional ballots which may be required for the first period. Thereafter balloting will commence for all Regions concerned for the second period, i.e. 1 January 1985 - November 1987.

That completes the Fifth Report of the Committee.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the Assistant Secretary-General. Now I suggest that if there are any observations on the Fourth Report of the-General Committee we hear them first. If there are no observations, I take it that we adopt the Fourth Report.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Now if there are any observations on the Fifth Report of the General Committee, we will hear them now. Since it seems there are no observations or comments, I take it that it is adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

ADOPTION OF REPORT

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT

APROBACION DEL INFORME

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 1 (from Commission II)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA CONFERENCE - PARTIE 1 (émanant de la Commission II)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 1 (de la Comisión II)

11. Programme of Work and Budget 1984-85 and Medium-Term Objectives (paras. 1-103)

11. Programme de travail et budget 1984-85 et objectifs à moyen terme (par. 1-103)

11. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1984-85 y objetivos a plazo medio (párrs. 1-103)

CHAIRMAN: We move to the next item, which is Agenda Item 11, Programme of Work and Budget 1984-85 and Medium-Term Objectives, a report from Commission II. The Chairman of the Commission will introduce the subject.

C. NTSANE (Chairman of Commission II): Commission II has adopted the report which is now to be tabled for further adoption by the Conference. In the session which lasted all day yesterday the Commission went through this report paragraph by paragraph. What is reflected in document C 83/REP/2 is the result of the deliberations of Commission II on the Programme of Work and Budget.

Therefore, I submit to you, Mr Chairman, to place the report before the Conference for adoption. May I suggest that since most of the delegations present here were represented in Commission II you might request the Conference to consider examining the report section by section.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the Chairman of Commission II for his introduction. I believe that it is a good idea to follow his suggestion. Therefore, I place the report before the Conference. (C 83/REP/2; C 83/REP/2-Sup.1).

Paragraphs 1 to 102 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 102 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 102 son aprobados

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments or observations on the text of the Resolution which is before you in C 83/REP/2-Sup.1 and forms part of the last paragraph, para. 103, of C 83/REP/2? If there are no comments on the text, then we will put the matter to a vote.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL: Before proceeding to the roll call vote, the Chairman drew by lot the first country to start the roll call vote, and it is the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Vote

Vote

Votación



RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

~~SHOW OF HANDS
VOTE A MANO ALZADA
VOTACION A MANO ALZADA~~

ROLL CALL VOTING
APPEL NOMINAL
VOTACION NOMINAL

1st Vote on Resolution on Budgetary Appropriation 1984-85
Vote sur Résolution pour
Votación para

Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	113
Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	0
Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0
No reply Aucune réponse Ninguna respuesta	39

Number of votes cast Nombre de suffrages exprimés Número de votos emitidos	113
--	-----

Majority required Majorité requise - Mayoría requerida	76
--	----

ADOPTED
ADOPTÉ
ACEPTADA

~~REJECTED
REJUSÉ
RECHAZADA~~

Date... 16.11.83 Elections Officer... B. Lindley
Fecha Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

RULE XII - 13(a) GRO

If a vote is equally divided on a matter other than an election, a second vote shall be taken at a subsequent meeting to be held not less than one hour after the conclusion of the meeting at which the equally divided vote occurred. If the second vote is also equally divided the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

En cas de partage égal des voix lors d'un vote ne portant pas sur une élection, on procède à un deuxième vote au cours d'une séance ultérieure, qui ne peut avoir lieu moins d'une heure après la fin de celle à laquelle s'est produit le partage égal des voix. Si les voix restent également partagées lors de ce second vote, la proposition est considérée comme repoussée.

Si hubiere empate en un asunto que no sea una elección, se repetirá la votación en una sesión subsiguiente la cual no deberá celebrarse hasta que haya transcurrido una hora, por lo menos, desde la conclusión de aquella en que se produjo el empate. Si en la segunda votación hubiere también empate, se considerará rechazada la propuesta.

CF 12 1001 66a321 - PB12R/c

CHAIRMAN: Paragraph 103 and the resolution on budgetary appropriations 1984-85 as contained in C 83/REP/2-Sup 1 was adopted by 113 votes to nine with no abstentions.

Paragraph 103, including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 103, y compris la Résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 103, incluida la Resolución, aprobado

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany, by voting in favour of the FAO Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85, has joined the consensus of the FAO Member States, even though it does not approve all aspects of the budget. It wishes to indicate that the Budget Committee of the German Parliament has provisionally blocked the FAO contribution of the Federal Republic of Germany for 1984. The Committee urges economy and efficiency also on the part of international organizations. The Federal Government strongly supports these efforts. It will endeavour that these demands of the Budget Committee are translated into practice.

A. ABDEL-MALEK (Liban): Nous attirons l'attention du secrétariat au sujet du nombre des votes pour, ce nombre étant de 115 et non pas de 113. Nous prions donc le secrétariat de corriger ce chiffre.

CHAIRMAN: This is obviously important. The suggestion is that the votes cast in favour are 115 and not 113. Let us have a recount. While the recounting is taking place, Colombia wishes to take the floor.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, la Delegación de Colombia se complace de que por unanimidad haya sido aprobado el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto de la FAO.

Agradecemos la cooperación de aquellos representantes de Gobierno que se han sumado a la propuesta. Sin embargo, lamentamos que justamente en este momento, que es de vital importancia para la actividad futura de nuestra Organización, se haya producido una nota por lo menos un poco discordante. No entendimos exactamente qué quiso decir nuestro colega Grabisch, de la República Federal de Alemania, cuando habló del comité de presupuesto del Parlamento de la República Federal de Alemania. Me pareció entender que había dicho que estaba suspendido el presupuesto, o algo así.

Como yo no conozco bien el mecanismo de ese respetable país, me preocupa mucho el significado de esa afirmación y quisiéramos una aclaración sobre el particular. ¿Quiso decir que la República Federal de Alemania va o no a contribuir con el aporte correspondiente al Presupuesto que acabamos de aprobar? o ¿Cuál va a ser la actitud de ese país al respecto?

CHAIRMAN: It seems to me a legitimate question. We all want to know, and if the distinguished delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany wants to give us some clarification, we will appreciate it.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): Thank you very much. The Budget Committee of the German Parliament had already taken a similar measure, last year, that means it provisionally blocked the contribution to FAO. Later, it removed that reserve; and you can see from the FAO documents that the Federal Republic of Germany paid its full contribution to FAO before the Conference. I feel these comments may be sufficient at the moment.

F.E. VREDEN (Suriname): Suriname agrees completely to the Budget, although we would like to make a remark. We regret that the contributions are coming in so slowly: it again shows a tendency that bilateral aid might be preferred to multilateral aid, and this might give some donor countries an opportunity to arbitrarily use the aid as a political weapon, as in the case of Suriname. In the case of Suriname, the Netherlands allowed themselves the right to judge Suriname's internal affairs and so dramatically misused development aid by unilateralist planning, as a means to influence Suriname's internal social, economic, the entire colonial political system, by so doing aiming at poverty, disaster and hunger for the poorest in Suriname.

CHAIRMAN: I regret the observations made, but if the Netherlands wish to speak they have the right to reply - but I suggest that there is no point. I am really surprised, speaking for myself, that we have had such a businesslike session this morning - unanimity in voting - and we now begin to spoil it. You have the right to speak if you like - but I really do feel that we should leave it at that. I regret the remarks made just now, and I suggest that we leave it there. Any other observations more pertinent, shall we say, to what we have just agreed, I would appreciate - I think we have now got the results of the vote.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL: We have checked again, and we make the count 113. If there is any doubt in the mind of any delegate I am prepared to read the list again if you wish.

CHAIRMAN: In any case, the vote was unanimous. There is nobody against - everybody present voted for it. Now, the Director-General wants to say a few words.

DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Au nom de tous mes collègues, je voudrais exprimer notre satisfaction de voir la Conférence approuver unanimement, par 113 votes, le Programme de travail et budget que j'ai présenté pour le biennium 1984-85. Ce programme de travail et budget est le reflet de la situation économique dans laquelle sont plongés tous les Etats membres.

J'ai noté avec une très grande satisfaction aussi que deux des grandes options que j'avais proposées en 1976 pour revitaliser la FAO, au moment où celle-ci était sortie affaiblie à la suite de la Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation, que deux des grandes options - le Programme de coopération technique et la décentralisation au niveau du pays - ont été appuyées par la Conférence et n'ont fait l'objet d'aucune contestation.

Il est prématuré de parler du budget de 1986/87 et de poser la question de savoir si le niveau du Programme de coopération technique par rapport à l'ensemble du budget devra y être maintenu ou augmenté. Je sais que les pays qui bénéficient directement du Programme de coopération technique, c'est-à-dire la majorité des pays membres, souhaiteraient que pour le prochain biennium le pourcentage du PCT, par rapport à l'ensemble, soit augmenté.

Je suis conscient aussi que d'autres pays qui profitent du PCT (mais ceci indirectement, par les équipements, par les experts, par toutes sortes de bénéfices indirects), souhaitent que son pourcentage de 13,5 pour cent environ par rapport au budget total soit maintenu. Ces pays n'ont jamais dit pourquoi ils souhaitaient que ce pourcentage soit maintenu. Il ne s'agit pas de l'augmenter jusqu'à 66 pour cent comme c'est le cas du budget de l'Organisation Mondiale de la Santé. En tout cas, il est prématuré de parler du budget de 1986/87.

Je voudrais faire à présent une remarque très importante sur la mise en oeuvre du Programme de travail et budget.

La mise en oeuvre du Programme de travail et budget pour 1984/85 dépend essentiellement du paiement en temps voulu des contributions. Ce Programme ne peut être réalisé que grâce aux contributions des Etats membres. Ces contributions ne sont pas volontaires mais obligatoires d'après la Constitution. Or, je vois trois sortes de problèmes concernant la réception en temps voulu de l'ensemble des contributions.

Le premier problème c'est que les trois principaux contributeurs, dont la contribution totale s'élève à presque 45 pour cent, ont décidé depuis deux ans de régler leur contribution en retard, c'est-à-dire à la fin de l'année, alors que le règlement de l'Organisation indique que le paiement doit se faire au cours des trois premiers mois de l'année. Il en résulte donc un retard dans les paiements de la moitié presque des contributions - soit 45 pour cent.

Je n'ai pas été avisé que ces gouvernements aient changé de politique et aient décidé maintenant de faire comme tout le monde, c'est-à-dire de se plier au règlement et de payer au début de l'année. Je suis donc obligé de croire que leur décision est maintenue.

Deuxième problème: les arriérés. 68 pays doivent à l'Organisation 29 millions de dollars. Il s'agit non seulement des contributions pour le biennium 1982/83, mais il y a également des arriérés dans les paiements pour les exercices précédents.

Ces 68 pays nous ont dit qu'ils avaient des difficultés, une crise financière économique, la baisse des prix des matières premières d'exportation, que sais-je?... Si les mêmes causes produisent les mêmes effets, je ne vois pas comment la situation en 1984 pourrait s'améliorer subitement sur le plan économique pour ces pays. Il est possible que ces 68 pays ou la plupart d'entre eux, non seulement ne payent pas leurs arriérés mais aussi ne payent pas leur contribution pour 1984/85. Il se peut aussi qu'il y ait d'autres pays qui se trouvent dans une situation économique critique. Il y a donc danger à ce que les arriérés s'accumulent pour 1984/85 et que nous ayons un chiffre beaucoup plus important à la fin de 1985. Aujourd'hui, je vous dis 29 millions. Quel chiffre vous donnerai-je à la Conférence de 1985? Je ne sais pas si cela sera 40 ou 50 millions de dollars d'arriérés.

Enfin, il y a un risque très sérieux et très important qui provient du fait que le pays qui a la contribution au budget la plus importante peut se voir obligé peut-être de payer une contribution pour 1984 inférieure à celle que vous avez décidée, et ceci parce qu'une décision législative vient d'être prise qui pourrait interdire à ce pays de payer sa contribution en 1984, telle qu'elle est approuvée par la Conférence. Et maintenant qu'est-ce que j'ai entendu ce matin? La RFA qui nous dit que la Commission du budget a gelé les crédits pour payer la FAO! Nous ne devrions pas recevoir une contribution de l'Allemagne pour 1984! Peut-être que ceci sera levé comme c'était le cas dans le passé, mais je ne sais pas pourquoi cette sanction est répétée chaque année. En tout cas, je dois aussi tenir compte de cette décision importante de la RFA qui peut lever ou ne pas lever cet interdit, de même que les Etats-Unis - puisqu'il s'agissait des Etats-Unis - peuvent ou peuvent ne pas payer leur contribution pour 1984 telle qu'elle a été décidée par la Conférence.

Pour toutes ces raisons-là, j'ai décidé de présenter à la Commission III un document dans lequel je propose que les 30 millions de dollars de surplus que, grâce à une bonne administration du budget de 1982-1983 de la FAO, j'ai pu mettre de côté et qui devraient être distribués aux Etats Membres sur la base du règlement de l'Organisation, que ces 30 millions puissent servir à couvrir les arriérés ou le manque de paiement des contributions de tel pays ou d'autre.

J'attire votre attention sur cet important document, sur ce projet de résolution que je soumetts à la Commission III et sans lequel je ne peux pas garantir que j'aurai les contributions nécessaires pour mettre en oeuvre le Programme de travail et de budget que vous venez de décider, et ceci du fait que certains pays se trouvent dans une situation parlementaire ou législative, ou économique, ou financière qui ne les met pas dans la possibilité de payer à temps ou de payer simplement toutes leurs contributions.

Je remercie les gouvernements qui ont été francs et qui m'ont indiqué leur position. Je crois que c'est utile d'en être informé, mais, comme vous le savez, la situation est claire et nette: une fois que le budget est voté, tous les pays doivent payer leur contribution sur la base du budget voté. Même les parlements ou les sénats etc. ne peuvent changer la décision de la Conférence de la FAO. Ce serait violer la Constitution, mais évidemment les gouvernements sont souverains...

J'ai donc pris la responsabilité de vous proposer des mesures pour faire face à cette situation un peu décourageante en ce qui concerne le paiement des contributions.

Enfin, je voudrais, au nom de mes collègues et de moi-même, vous dire combien nous avons été stimulés et encouragés par le vote unanime de ce matin. Nous allons déployer tous nos efforts pour la mise en oeuvre efficace de vos décisions dans le cadre du Programme de travail 1984 et 1985.

Je remercie encore une fois tous les délégués ici présents, qui ont, ce matin, accordé leur confiance au Directeur général et à tous ses collaborateurs.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the Director-General on your behalf and on my behalf also for a very clear but necessary exposé of the conditions that he is facing even after this very successful meeting this morning and the very good work of Commission II, on which I congratulate both the Chairman and, through him, the Commission itself for the excellent work done.

We have done good work this morning but obviously we must back our words with deeds. Therefore I wish the Director-General and his staff every success in the new biennium. I notice he looks forward to the following biennium. He obviously has worries ahead of him but, anyway, we can only promise him our unanimous decision today and may I emphasize for that we will back our words with deeds, especially through the timely payment of our contributions. As I say, we wish the Director-General and his staff every success but obviously we must watch the situation because his problems do not end by a unanimous resolution this morning, important as it is.

If there is no announcement by the Director-General, this Plenary Session is now adjourned and will be resumed on Monday morning at 9.30.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.

La séance est levée à 11 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.30 horas

conference

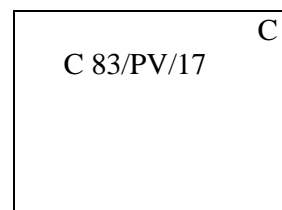
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Twenty-second Session
PLENARY

Vingt-deuxième session
PLENIERE

22° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

SEVENTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
DIX-SEPTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
17ª SESION PLENARIA

(21 November 1983)

The Seventeenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.05 hours

J. Gazzo F.D., Vice-Chairman of the Conference presiding

La dix-septième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 05

sous la présidence de J. Gazzo F.D., Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 17ª Sesión plenaria alas 10.05 horas, bajo la presidencia de

J. Gazzo F.D., Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

PART IV - APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued.)

QUATRIEME PARTIE - NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS (suite)

PARTE IV - NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)

23. Election of Council Members (first ballot for the first period - Nov. 1983-Dec. 1986)
23. Election des membres du Conseil (premier scrutin pour la première période - nov. 1983-déc. 1986)
23. Elección de Miembros del Consejo (primera votación para el primer período - nov. 1983-dic. 1986)

El PRESIDENTE: Podemos pasar ahora al tema 23 de nuestro Programa: "Elección de Miembros del Consejo". El documento de referencia es el C 83/LIM/28, que hemos aprobado el miércoles pasado. A continuación voy a ceder la palabra al señor Secretario General, que nos explicará la mecánica de procedimiento.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Le journal de la Conférence d'aujourd'hui contient en première page un modèle de bulletin de vote pour l'élection des Membres du Conseil avec des noms fictifs de pays indiquant la façon correcte de remplir ces bulletins qui vont vous être distribués.

Comme vous l'avez décidé, nous allons procéder en deux étapes: tout d'abord à un scrutin portant sur les six régions intéressées pour la première période, c'est-à-dire de novembre 1983 au 31 décembre 1986. Nous procéderons à autant de tours de scrutin qui seront nécessaires pour cette période.

Une fois les élections pour cette première période achevées, nous passerons alors à la seconde période, c'est-à-dire du 1er Janvier 1985 à Novembre 1987, et procéderons également à des tours de scrutin pour toutes les régions intéressées.

Ces élections doivent être faites au scrutin secret, conformément au paragraphe 9(A) de l'article XII du Règlement Général. Ceci s'applique même lorsqu'il y a autant de candidats que de postes à pourvoir. Chaque bulletin doit être rempli conformément aux instructions y figurant. La majorité requise est spécifiée au paragraphe 3(B) de l'article XII du Règlement Général.

J'attire votre attention sur le fait que le nombre de postes à pourvoir varie d'une région à l'autre. Lorsqu'il y a plus de candidats que de postes à pourvoir, une croix doit être marquée dans la case correspondant à chacun des pays que l'on désire voir élire (comme indiqué sur le bulletin même).

Conformément au paragraphe 11(A) de l'article XII du Règlement Général, chaque électeur, à moins qu'il ne s'abstienne doit voter pour chaque poste à pourvoir. Chaque vote doit être émis pour un candidat différent. Tout bulletin qui ne se conformerait pas à ces indications sera déclaré nul. Le paragraphe 4(C) de l'article XII du Règlement Général prévoit que tout bulletin blanc sera considéré comme une abstention. Le paragraphe 4(D) du même article précise qu'aucune notation ou signe autre que la croix indiquant le vote ne doivent figurer sur les bulletins.

Un bulletin indiquant plus de pays qu'il n'y a de postes à pourvoir sera considéré comme nul. De même, un bulletin indiquant moins de pays qu'il n'y a de vacances à pourvoir sera également considéré comme nul. Ceci veut dire que, pour être valable, un bulletin doit porter autant de croix "X" qu'il y a de postes à pourvoir.

Ce premier scrutin sera suivi par autant d'autres que nécessaires pour conclure les élections pour la première période. Ensuite, nous procéderons de même pour la seconde période.

Nous allons maintenant élire pour la première période 5 pays pour l'Afrique, 3 pays pour l'Europe, 5 pays pour l'Amérique latine, 2 pays pour le Proche-Orient et 2 pays pour l'Amérique du Nord.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, señor Secretario General.

Quisiera llamar la atención de los señores delegados sobre el párrafo 14 del Artículo XII del Reglamento General que especifica que "una vez comenzada una votación ningún delegado o representante podrá interrumpirla, salvo para plantear una cuestión de orden relacionada con la misma."

También quisiera elegir cuatro escrutadores para acelerar el escrutinio de las papeletas de la votación. Me dicen que hay en este momento en esta Sala más de 109 delegaciones presentes. Quisiera recordar que el Artículo XII del Reglamento General establece que el quorum para estas elecciones es la mayoría de los Estados Miembros. Voy a pedir encarecidamente a las delegaciones de Etiopía, Israel, Japón y Nueva Zelandia que actúen como escrutadores.

Si no hay comentarios adicionales, vamos a proceder a la votación.

Vote

Vote

Votación

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS AFRICA REGION: Nov. 1983 - Dec. 1986 ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL REGION AFRIQUE: Nov. 1983 - Déc. 1986 ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO REGION AFRICA: Nov. 1983 - Dic. 1986
---	----------	---

1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	128
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	9
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	3

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas validas	116
5. Seats to be filled Sieges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	5
6. Votes cast Sufrages exprimés Votos emitidos	580

7. Majority Majorite Mayoría	$\frac{580}{6} + 1 = 96 + 1 = 97$
------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Elected - Elus - Eligidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos	
Congo	116		
Sao Tome and Principe	116		
Sierra Leone	116		
Tunisia	116		
Uganda	116		

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escurtadores

Signature
Firma Tesema Negash (Ethiopia)

21.11.83
Date
Fecha

Signature
Firma Hiroshi Nakagawa (Japan)
B. Linley
Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire electoral
El oficial de elecciones

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS REGION EUROPE: Nov. 1983 - Dec. 1986 ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL REGION EUROPE: Nov. 1983 - Dec. 1986 ELECTION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO REGION EUROPA: Nov. 1983 - Dic. 1986
---	--------------	--

1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribues Papeletas distribuidas	128
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	9
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	5

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas validas	114
5. Seats to be filled Sieges a pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	3
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimes Votos emitidos	342

7. Majority Majorite Mayoría	$\frac{342}{4} + 1 = 85 + 1 = 86$
------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Elected - Elus - Eligidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos	
Austria	114		
Bulgaria	114		
Czechoslovakia	114		

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escuradores

Signature
Firma
Graham Boxall (New Zealand)

21.11.83
Date
Fecha

Signature
Firma
Eliahou Douwek (Israel)

B. Linley
Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire electoral
El oficial de elecciones

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS LATIN AMERICA REGION: Nov. 1983 - Dec. 1986 ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL REGION AMERIQUE LATINE: Nov. 1983 - Déc. 1986 ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO REGION AMERICA LATINA: Nov. 1983 - Dic. 1986
---	----------	--

1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	128
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	5
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	2

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	121
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	5
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	605

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	$\frac{605}{6} + 1 = 100 + 1 = 101$
------------------------------------	-------------------------------------

Elected - élus - Eligidos		Not Elected - Pas élus - No Eligidos	
Brazil	113	Trinidad and Tobago	83
México	112	Cuba	82
Colombia	106	Costa Rica	63
		Suriname	46

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escurtadores

Signature
 Firma
 Graham Boxall (New Zealand)

Signature
 Firma
 Eliahou Douwek (Israel)

21.11.83
 Date
 Fecha

B. Linley
 Elections Officer
 Fonctionnaire électoral
 El oficial de elecciones

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS NEAR EAST REGION: Nov. 1983 - Dec. 1986 ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL REGION PROCHE-ORIENT: Nov. 1983 - Déc. 1986 ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO REGION CERCANO ORIENTE: Nov. 1983 - Dic. 1986
---	----------	---

1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	128
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	8
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	5

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	115
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	2
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	230

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	$\frac{230}{3} + 1 = 76 + 1 = 77$
------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos	
Yemen, P.D. Rep.	94	Afghanistan	44
Lebanon	92		

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escurtadores

Signature
Firma

Tesema Negash (Ethiopia)

21.11.83
Date
Fecha

Signature
Firma

Hiroshi Nakagawa (Japan)

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

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS NORTH AMERICA REGION: Nov. 1983 - Dec. 1986 ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL REGION AMERIQUE DU NORD: Nov. 1983 - D�c. 1986 ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO REGION AMERICA DEL NORTE: Nov. 1983 - Dic. 1985
---	--------------	--

1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribu�s Papeletas distribuidas	128
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	4
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	10

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas validas	114
5. Seats to be filled Si�ges � pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	2
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprim�s Votos emitidos	228

7. Majority Majorit� Mayoria	$\frac{228}{3} + 1 = 76 + 1 = 77$
------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Elected - Elus - Eligidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Eligidos	
Canada	114		
United States of America	114		

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Esgrutadores

Signature
Firma

Tesema Negash (Ethiopia)

Signature
Firma

Hiroshi Nakagawa (Japan)

21.11.83.....
Date
Fecha

.....B. Linley.....
Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire  lectoral
El oficial de elecciones

INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION(continued)

INTRODUCTION ET QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)

INTRODUCCION Y CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)

Third Report of the Credentials Committee

Troisième rapport de la Commission de vérification

Tercer Informe del Comité de Credenciales

EL PRESIDENTE: Damos la palabra al Sr. V. ISARANKURA, de Tailandia, Miembro del Comité de Credenciales, para la lectura y adopción del Tercer Informe del Comité de Credenciales. Nos referimos al documento C 83/LIM/25.

V. ISARANKURA (Member of the Credentials Committee): The Credentials Committee further examined the Credentials of the following six Member Nations, bringing the total of credentials presented and found to be in order to 144:

Central African Republic

Haiti

Ivory Coast

Mauritius

Mauritania

Paraguay

In addition to the four Member Nations which have already notified the Organization that they will not be attending the Twenty-second session of the Conference, mentioned in previous reports, a fifth Member Nation, Fiji, has notified the Organization of its inability to attend.

Apart from the five Member Nations referred to in the preceding paragraph, the following seven Member Nations have not registered to date:

Chad

Democratic Kampuchea

Djibouti

Grenada

Saint Lucia

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Seychelles

The Committee also examined the credentials of the following international organizations and found them to be valid:

United Nations Agencies

- United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)

Intergovernmental Organizations with which FAO has Formal Agreement

- Islamic Development Bank

Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with FAO

- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 1

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - PREMIERE PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 1

El PRESIDENTE: Señores delegados, sugiero que vayamos aprobando las partes del Informe que están listas. Empezamos por el documento C 83/REP/1.

Paragraph 1 approved

Le paragraphe 1 est approuvé

El párrafo 1 es aprobado

Paragraphs 2 and 3 approved

Les paragraphes 2 et 3 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 2 y 3 son aprobados

Paragraph 4 approved

Le paragraphe 4 est approuvé

El párrafo 4 es aprobado

Paragraphs 5 and 6 approved

Les paragraphes 5 et 6 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 5 y 6 son aprobados

Paragraph 7 approved

Le paragraphe 7 est approuvé

El párrafo 7 es aprobado

Paragraph 8 approved

Le paragraphe 8 est approuvé

El párrafo 8 es aprobado

Paragraphs 9 to 11 approved

Les paragraphes 9 à 11 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 9 a 11 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 1, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, première partie, est adoptée

El proyecto de Informe de la Plenaria, Parte 1, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 3

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - TROISIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 3

EL PRESIDENTE: Vamos ahora a la aprobación de la parte del informe que está en el documento C 83/REP/3: "Proyecto de Informe de la Plenaria - Parte 3".

Paragraph 1 approved

Le paragraphe 1 est approuvé

El párrafo 1 es aprobado

Paragraphs 2 to 15 approved

Les paragraphes 2 à 15 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 2 a 15 son aprobados

Paragraphs 16 to 20 approved

Les paragraphes 16 à 20 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 16 a 20 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 3, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, troisième partie, est adoptée

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte 3, es aprobado

PART IV - APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)
QUATRIEME PARTIE - NOMINATION ET ELECTION (suite)
PARTE IV - NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)

23. Election of Council Members (continued)
(second ballot for the first period - Nov. 1983 - Dec. 1986 - Latin America Region only)
23. Election des membres du Conseil (suite)
(deuxième scrutin pour la première période - nov. 1983-déc. 1986-seulement Région Amérique latine)
23. Elección de Miembros del Consejo (continuación)
(segunda votación para el primer período - nov. 1983 - Dic. 1986 - sólo Región América Latina)

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores delegados, procederemos a una nueva votación para la Región de América Latina. Hay cuatro países candidatos para dos puestos. Los escrutadores son los países de Israel y Nueva Zelandia.

En este momento, la Secretaría va a llamar para la segunda votación.

Vote

Vote

Votación

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores delegados, el resultado de esta segunda elección les será dado esta tarde, al inicio de la reunión.

A continuación le doy la palabra al Secretario General.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Je porte à la connaissance de la Conférence à travers vous, Monsieur le Président, que la délégation du Ghana a demandé que sa candidature soit retirée de la liste des candidats pour la deuxième période, c'est-à-dire 1985-1987. La délégation du Nigéria a également envoyé une lettre par laquelle elle demande que son nom soit rayé de la liste des candidats prévus pour cette même période, ce qui nous ramène pour la région d'Afrique et pour la deuxième période à quatre candidatures pour quatre sièges.

Ces candidats seront les suivants: le Libéria, le Sénégal, la Tanzanie et le Zimbabwe.

Ensuite, je voudrais rappeler que selon les dispositions du paragraphe 6 du document C 83/LIM/28 le Proche-Orient avait deux candidats pour trois sièges; pour la première période l'Afghanistan n'ayant pas obtenu la majorité requise est automatiquement ajouté à la liste de candidats pour la deuxième période. Vous aurez constaté qu'au cours de cette période le Proche-Orient avait deux candidats pour trois sièges, il s'agissait de l'Arabie Saoudite et de l'Egypte; maintenant sera ajouté l'Afghanistan pour le vote de la deuxième période cet après-midi.

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores delegados, entonces, por la tarde, tendremos el escrutinio de esta segunda votación, además de la votación para el período I de enero de 1985 a noviembre de 1987.

The meeting rose at 13.45 hours

La séance est levée à 13 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.45 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C 83/PV/18

C

Twenty-second Session
PLENARY

Vingt-deuxième session
PLENIERE

22° periodo de sesiones
PLENARIA

EIGHTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
DIX-HUITIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
18ª SESION PLENARIA

(21 November 1983)

The Eighteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours,
J.R. Block, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La dix-huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 00
sous la présidence de J.R. Block, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 18ª sesión plenaria a las 15.00 horas
bajo la presidencia de J.R. Block, Presidente de la Conferencia

IV. APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)

IV. NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS (suite)

IV. NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)

23. Election of Council Members (continued)

(third ballot for the first period, Nov. 1983 - Dec. 1986 - Latin America Region only)

23. Election des membres du Conseil (suite)

(troisième scrutin, pour la première période, Nov. 1983 - Déc. 1986 - seulement Région Amérique latine)

23. Elección de Miembros del Consejo (continuación)

(tercer votación, para el primer período, Nov. 1983 - Dic. 1986 - solo Región América Latina)

CHAIRMAN: I would like to call this session to order. We would like to resume the item we were working on this morning. At the close of this morning's meeting the tellers had gone to count the votes. I want to ask the Secretary-General to read the results. I want to express a deep appreciation to my Vice-Chairmen. They have all served a tour in this Chair, and I appreciate their efforts very much.

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 2	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS LATIN AMERICA REGION: Nov. 1983 - Dec. 1986 ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL REGION AMERIQUE LATINE: Nov. 1983 - Déc. 1986 ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO REGION AMERICA LATINA: Nov. 1983 - Dic. 1986
---	----------	--

1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	125
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	7
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abatenciones	1

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	117
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	2
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	234

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	$\frac{234}{3} + 1 = 78 + 1 = 79$
------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Elected - Elus - Eligidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos		Eliminated - Éliminé Eliminado	
		Cuba	76	Suriname	31
		Trinidad and Tobago	75		
		Costa Rica	52		

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Encrutadores

Signature
Firma

E. Douwek (Israel)

..... 21.11.83
Date
Fecha

Signature
Firma

G. Boxall (New Zealand)

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

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Aucun des quatre pays mentionnés n'a obtenu la majorité requise.

Un troisième tour est donc nécessaire.

Mais en vue de ce troisième tour, un des quatre candidats est automatiquement éliminé en raison des dispositions suivantes du règlement général: "Si lors d'un scrutin aucun candidat n'obtient la majorité requise, le candidat qui a recueilli le moins de voix dans ce scrutin est éliminé. Il est procédé au vote conformément aux dispositions pertinentes."

En conséquence, le Suriname ayant obtenu 31 voix, c'est-à-dire moins que les autres candidats est donc automatiquement éliminé.

Le troisième tour va se dérouler entre les pays suivants: Cuba, Trinité-et-Tobago et Costa Rica.

CHAIRMAN: I would announce we have 86 delegates in the room. The tellers assigned will be New Zealand and Barbados and I will turn the election process over to the Assistant Secretary - General.

Vote

Vote

Votación

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 3	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS LATIN AMERICA REGION: Nov. 1983 - Dec. 1986 ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL REGION AMERIQUE LATINE: Nov. 1983 - Déc. 1986 ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO REGION AMERICA LATINA: Nov. 1983 - Dic. 1986
---	----------	--

1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	124
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	5
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	118
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	2
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	236

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	$\frac{236}{3} + 1 = 78 + 1 = 79$
------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos	
Trinidad and Tobago	93	Costa Rica	61
Cuba	82		

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Encrutadores

Signature
Firma G. Boxall (New Zealand)

Signature
Firma L. Smith (Barbados)
B. Linley

Date 21.11.83
Fecha

Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

23. Election of Council Members (continued)
(first ballot for the second period - Jan. 1985 - Nov. 1987)
23. Election des Membres du Conseil (suite)
(premier scrutin pour la deuxième période - Janv. 1985 - Nov. 1987)
23. Elección de Miembros del Consejo (continuación)
(primera votación para el segundo período - En. 1985 - Nov. 1987)

CHAIRMAN: Now that the voting for the first period is concluded we shall proceed with the voting for the second period, January 1985 to November 1987. The Secretary-General will read the regions concerned with the respective number of seats to be filled for each region.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Pour le premier tour de la deuxième période, sont à pourvoir par région : Afrique : 4 sièges. Candidats: Libéria, Sénégal, Tanzanie et Zimbabwe. Asie: 3 sièges. Candidats : Inde, Pakistan, Philippines. Europe: 4 sièges. Candidats : Danemark, France, Italie, Royaume-Uni. Amérique latine : 1 siège. Quatre candidats : Costa Rica, Equateur, Nicaragua, Suriname. Proche-Orient : 3 sièges. Trois candidats : Afghanistan, Arabie saoudite, Egypte. Pacifique du Sud-Ouest : 1 siège. Un candidat : l'Australie.

Les votes pour cette deuxième période vont s'effectuer dans les mêmes conditions que ce matin, conformément à l'article XXII, par. 3 du Règlement général.

CHAIRMAN : We will now proceed to the vote. I remind you that Rule XII-14 continues to apply : once voting has commenced no delegate or representative may interrupt the voting except to raise a point of order in connection with the voting. The tellers will be Israel, New Zealand, Japan and Barbados. Will the tellers please proceed to the voting area so that voting can begin.

Vote

Vote

Votación

Point of order

Point d'ordre

Punto de orden

C. di MOTTOLA BALESTRA (Costa Rica): Mi delegación creía que íbamos a tener tiempo de tomar una decisión respecto a si presentarse o no al nuevo ciclo de votación; por lo menos poder pensar durante cinco minutos. Por lo tanto, mi delegación quiere comunicar a las demás delegaciones que todavía no han votado que se retira de la votación para el año próximo.

Según el Reglamento estamos en la lista Suriname y nosotros. Nosotros nos retiramos por que el Reglamento establece que automáticamente habiendo sido descartados del primer turno pasamos al segundo a menos que nos retirásemos, y yo creía tener cinco minutos de tiempo para tomar una decisión, y no habiéndolos tenido quiero comunicar a los colegas de la sala que me retiro.

F.C. VAN DIJK (Suriname): I want to inform the meeting that my country has withdrawn too.

CHAIRMAN: Permission granted. Let me take this opportunity to clear the situation. We have granted the request of Costa Rica and Suriname to withdraw. We will just be a minute or two and we will proceed with the balloting. Accordingly they will not be on the list.

A. DAHMOUCHE (Algérie): Je regrette de ne pas être tout à fait d'accord avec vous, bien que je tiens à vous aider. C'est pourquoi je n'insisterai pas, mais je voudrais simplement attirer votre attention sur le fait que la question soulevée par le représentant de Costa Rica n'est pas une question de procédure qui aurait pu faire l'objet d'une motion d'ordre; c'est une question qui a un intérêt politique très important. Comme ce n'est pas une question de procédure, le vote n'aurait pas dû être interrompu. J'estime pour ma part que, normalement, on devrait considérer cette motion de procédure - ou prétendue telle - comme n'ayant pas existé; naturellement, cette déclaration du délégué de Costa Rica aura une influence sur les délégués qui n'ont pas encore voté. C'est incontestable, néanmoins je considère personnellement que cette intervention n'aurait pas dû exister et n'existe pas.

CHAIRMAN: I appreciate the statement made by Algeria. Let me take this opportunity to explain what has transpired, and the ruling of the Chair. I appreciate whatever opinions some of you may have, but earlier in the day Suriname was eliminated, and sent a note up here saying they did not want to be involved in the election for the second period of time. In the last ballot Costa Rica was eliminated, and in all honesty I concede they did have but about three minutes to do something, and they did it in about five, whereas Suriname had more time. I think in all fairness they should have the opportunity to withdraw. Both of them will be off the ballot, and that particular Latin America ballot will include Ecuador and Nicaragua. That is the way it is going to be. They should be ready for the voting very quickly. It will not take them very long to prepare. Unfortunately we have this brief delay, but I would say as I look at the next ballot if we are fortunate we may do it all on this next round of voting, and it may not require a run-off or two, as we had earlier on today.

Ms A. SALGADO SANTOS (Brazil): A point of clarification. The ballot we had first, I have voted already, had four names, so I wondered if they are going to substitute the paper of the ballot for two names, and the people who have already voted are going to vote again?

CHAIRMAN: Those who have voted will vote again. Very few had voted, but those who had voted once will have to vote again. We are prepared to start. now. I call on the Assistant Secretary-General.

Vote

Vote

Votación

CHAIRMAN: That concludes the balloting and we will suspend the meeting while the ballots are counted.

The meeting was suspended from 16.40 to 17.25 hours

La séance est suspendue de 16 h 40 à 17 h 25

Se suspende la sesión de las 16.40 a 17.25 horas

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS AFRICA REGION: Jan. 1985 - Nov. 1987 ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL REGION AFRIQUE: Jan. 1985 - Nov. 1987 ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION AFRICA: En. 1985 - Nov. 1987
---	----------	---

1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	125
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	11
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	3

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas validas	111
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	4
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	444

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	$\frac{444}{5} + 1 = 88 + 1 = 89$
------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos	
Liberia	111		
Senegal	111		
Tanzania	111		
Zimbabwe	111		

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escurtadores

Signature
Firma

N. Nakagawa (Japan)

.....21.11.83.....
Date
Fecha

Signature
Firma

L. Smith (Barbados)

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

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS ASIA REGION: Jan. 1985-Nov. 1987 ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL REGION ASIE; Jan. 1985-Nov. 1987 ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO REGION ASIA; En. 1985-Nov. 1987
---	----------	--

1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribues Papeletas distribuidas	125
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	7
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	2

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas validas	116
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	3
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	348

7. Majority	$\frac{348}{4} + 1 = 87 + 1 = 88$
Majorité	
Mayoría	

Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos	
India	116		
Pakistan	116		
Philippines	116		

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature
 Firma

H. Nakagawa (Japan)

21.11.83
 Date
 Fecha

Signature
 Firma

L. Smith (Barbados)

B. Linley

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

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS REGION EUROPE: Jan.1985 - Nov.1987 ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL REGION EUROPE: Jan.1985 - Nov.1987 ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO REGION EUROPA: En.1985 - Nov. 1987
---	----------	--

1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	125
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	8
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	3

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas validas	114
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	4
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	456

7. Majority	$\frac{456}{5} + 1 = 91 + 1 = 92$
Majorite	
Mayoría	

Elected - Elus - Eligidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Eligidos	
Denmark	114		
France	114		
Italy	114		
United Kingdom	114		

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature
Firma H. Nakagawa (Japan)

Signature
Firma L. Smith (Barbados)

.....21.11.83.....
Date
Fecha

.....R. Linley.....
Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire electoral
El oficial de elecciones

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS LATIN AMERICA REGION: Jan. 1985 - Nov. 1987 ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL REGION AMERIQUE LATINE: Jan. 1985 - Nov. 1987 ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO REGION AMERICA LATINA: En. 1985 - Nov. 1987
---	----------	---

1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribues Papeletas distribuidas	125
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	6
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas validas	118
5. Seats to be filled Sieges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	1
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimes Votos emitidos	118

7. Majority Majorite Mayoría	$\frac{118}{2} + 1 = 59 + 1 = 60$
------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Elected - Elus - Eligidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos	
Ecuador	60	Nicaragua	58

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escurtadores

Signature
Firma
G. Boxall (New Zealand)

Signature
Firma
E. Douwek (Israel)

21.11.83
Date
Fecha

B. Linley
Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire electoral
El oficial de elecciones

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No.	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS
	1.	NEAR EAST REGION: Jan. 1985 - Nov. 1987
		ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL
		REGION PROCHE ORIENT: Jan. 1985 - Nov. 1987
		ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO
		REGION CERCANO ORIENTE: En. 1985 - Nov. 1987

1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	125
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	20
3. Abstentions Abstenciones Abstenciones	4

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas validas	101
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	3
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	303

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	$\frac{303}{4} + 1 = 75 + 1 = 76$
------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos	
Afghanistan	101		
Egypt	101		
Saudi Arabia	101		

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escurtadores

Signature
Firma

E. Douwek (Israel)

21.11.83
Date
Fecha

Signature
Firma

G. Boxall (New Zealand)

B. Linley
Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire electoral
El oficial de elecciones

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS SOUTHWEST PACIFIC REGION: Jan.1985 - Nov. 1987 ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL REGION PACIFIQUE DU SUD-OUEST: Jan.1985 - Nov. 1987 ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO REGION PACIFICO SUDOCCIDENTAL: En. 1985 - Nov.1987
---	--------------	---

1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	125
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	2

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	123
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	1
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	123

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	$\frac{123}{2} + 1 = 61 + 1 = 62$
------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Elected - Elus - Eligidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Eligidos	
Australia	123		

Tellers/Scruteurs/Escuradores

Signature
Firma

H. Nakagawa (Japan)

..... 21.11.83
Date
Fecha

Signature
Firma

L. Smith (Barbados)

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

CHAIRMAN: I have only one announcement, or one suggestion: after some discussion with some other representatives, it seems to me that when we vote and there are say four vacancies and four countries running, it is an excessive amount of effort to go and vote for everyone of them, when we could have a show of hands, or a voice vote. Or, if you have one vacancy, and one country running, it looks pretty obvious to me who is going to win. I would ask the Legal Counsel, to give us a reading on what we could do to maybe speed up the process in another year, because we have done it now, or another session. I ask that that information be made available before the end of the Conference, if that could be done. Could that be done? It cannot be done that quickly. Alright, it will be examined and prepared. How soon will you get it? The next Conference? That is a long time away. Are you not afraid by the next Conference we will have forgotten about it? I would ask the Legal Counsel to examine it as soon as it can be made available. I certainly do not pretend it should be adopted, but I think it should be given fair consideration.

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

C 83/PV/19

C

Twenty-second-session
PLENARYVingt-deuxième session
PLENIERE22° período de sesiones
PLENARIANINETEENTH PLENARY MEETING
DIX-NEUVIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
19ª SESION PLENARIA

(22 November 1983)

The Nineteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours,
John R. Block, Chairman of the Conference presiding

La dix-neuvième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45,
sous la présidence de John R. Block, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 19ª sesión a las 9.45 horas, bajo la presidencia
de John R. Block, Presidente de la Conferencia

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

- 24. Appointments:
- 24. Nominations:
- 24. Nombramientos:

- 24.1 Appointment of the Independent Chairman of the Council
- 24.1 Nomination du Président indépendant du Conseil
- 24.1 Nombramiento de Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRMAN: I call this session to order. The first item of business is scheduled to be the election of the Independent Chairman. However, before we proceed with the election of the Independent Chairman I should like to call upon the distinguished delegate from the Sudan.

S.A.M. KHALIL (Sudan) (original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, Heads of Delegations, Mr Director-General, ladies and gentlemen, this Twenty-second session of the General Conference of the FAO has been characterised by something which distinguishes it from previous Conferences, namely the consensus which has been at the basis of all our decisions and recommendations. This consensus is something that I hope will continue, and I trust that it will become a time-honoured tradition.

I should like to declare that I am going to withdraw my candidacy for Independent Chairman of the Council so that the consensus which has been formed in all our work will be maintained.

The reason why I have withdrawn my candidacy, apart from the reason I have just quoted, is that I do not want it to be said that the Government of my country and I myself created any sort of division in this Conference, because this Conference has been a resounding success. During the time I have spent in this Organization, and through the regional groups I have concentrated all my efforts to uphold the unity of these groups and to strengthen their role. That is the reason why I have never been, and never will be, a cause of division within the non-aligned or the Group of 77 which I now have the privilege of chairing.

The welcome, the satisfaction and the cordial atmosphere which has been the backdrop to this Conference, particularly when we were honoured by the visit of President Jaafar Al-Ninéri, have helped to put the questions of cooperation into perspective, questions which we all act in favour of. Also, the good relations that Sudan has with all countries are an objective which the Government of Sudan, President Nimeri and the people of Sudan are constantly striving for.

That is why I should here and now like to congratulate beforehand my colleague, Dr Swaminathan, whom I esteem and for whom I have a great deal of respect

.I should like to thank all those who supported me in my nomination. I should like to thank them for the trust placed in me. I trust that I shall always be able to fulfil the trust placed in me to serve this Organization and those peoples of the world who need FAO help.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, distinguished delegate from the Sudan. Nevertheless, according to the rules, we are still obligated to proceed with the voting. Even though there is only one candidate, we must still vote in accordance with the rules, because I have checked with the Legal Counsel, the Parliamentarian, and that is what we must do. The appointment will be made by secret ballot as specified in paragraph 9 of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization. At present there are at least 94 delegates present, so I shall ask the Secretary-General to read the relevant instructions.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Les délégués vont être appelés un par un à se rendre aux urnes où ils recevront chacun un bulletin de vote avec le nom du candidat. Les votants devront indiquer leur choix en marquant une croix X à l'emplacement indiqué à côté du nom du candidat, présenté conformément au paragraphe IV(d)i. Est nul tout bulletin de vote portant plus de suffrages qu'il n'y a de postes à pourvoir. Les bulletins de vote ne doivent porter aucune indication ni aucun signe autre que ceux par lesquels s'exprime le suffrage. Voilà tout ce que j'avais à dire à propos des dispositions légales pour le vote.

CHAIRMAN: Voting will now commence and may not be interrupted until its conclusion. I now invite the two Tellers, Delegates of Austria and Mexico, to proceed to the voting area, after which the Secretary-General will start calling the countries. As soon as delegates have voted, would they please arrange themselves in such a way that the Commissions can be covered as well, because there is no quorum in the Commissions at the moment and their work cannot begin.

Vote

Vote

Votación

REPORT OF BALLOT	No.	INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL
RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN	1	PRESIDENT INDEPENDANT DU CONSEIL
RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION		PRESIDENTE INDEPENDIENTE DEL CONSEJO

1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	123
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	3
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	8

4. Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	112
5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	1
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	112

7. Majority required Majorite requise Mayoría requerida	57
---	----

Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus No Elegidos	
M.S. SWAMINATHAN	112		

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escurtadores

Signature
Firma J.R. López-Portillo (México)

Signature
Firma H. Laube (Austria)

.....22.11.83.....
Date
Fecha

B. Linley
Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

CHAIRMAN: The Chair congratulates Dr Swaminathan and would like to recognize the delegate from India.

S.P. MUKERJI (India): Mr Chairman, my delegation is grateful to the Sudanese Delegation and to Mr Amir Abdalla Khalil, the distinguished Ambassador of the Sudan, and the Sudanese Government for their magnanimous and gracious gesture in standing down in favour of Dr Swaminathan for the office of Independent Chairman of the FAO Council. This has been in the larger interests of cohesion and unity especially amongst the developing countries. India is grateful to all the member countries of FAO for voting in favour of her nominee, Dr Swaminathan. We are grateful to the Director-General of FAO, Dr Saouma, for his most valuable contribution in bringing about this happy outcome of an uncontested re-election of Dr Swaminathan.

Dr Swaminathan is an agricultural scientist of world renown. Apart from this he is a great humanist, an administrator and a perfect gentleman who has been and will be adding lustre, erudition and dignity to the high office of the Independent Chairmanship of the FAO Council.

I am sure he will continue to enjoy the unreserved cooperation of all concerned.

The distinguished Ambassador of the Sudan who brought about this happy event is a young person of great promise who will have, I am sure, a bright future before him in his own country and in international fields.

Dr Swaminathan's uncontested re-election is also a clear indication of the policy of friendship and close cooperation amongst nations which India's Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi has been following so assiduously. She delivered the McDougall Lecture two years ago in this very hall. It was a message of friendship and hope for freedom from hunger for the whole of mankind. The vindication of her policy of friendship has been evident this morning across the continents, across the developed and developing countries, across the north and the south and across the east and west.

I believe I shall be reflecting the feelings of each and every one of the 156 Member States of the FAO when I say that this happy outcome of the election is a source of satisfaction, joy and pride for all of us. It would be a source of strength and confidence for the future of this great Organization, dedicated to the service of mankind.

The uncontested election of Dr Swaminathan today bears testimony to the underlying spirit of common endeavour and purpose amongst all members of the FAO. This will be a source of strength to us all, it will also strengthen the hands of the Director-General of FAO, Dr Saouma, in his untiring efforts and dynamic leadership to ameliorate the condition of the developing countries and in his drive against hunger and malnutrition which afflict developing countries, especially those in Africa.

We thank the Director-General of FAO, Dr Saouma, and his staff for their cooperation. Most of all, my delegation thanks the Chairman for his able stewardship of the proceedings of this Conference.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Mr Chairman, I am very pleased to congratulate Dr Swaminathan on his reelection to the important office of Independent Chairman of the FAO Council.

Having already served in this high office for the last two years, his re-election is not only a measure of the high esteem in which he is held by the Conference, but also an eloquent reaffirmation of the confidence reposed in him.

Of course, Dr Swaminathan, by this time, is well known to all of you. His varied experience embraces a wide range of responsibilities, both in his own national government and in the international sphere. He has a clear understanding of and deep sympathy for the developmental problems and plight of the Third World.

During his first two years as Independent Chairman of the Council, we have come to respect his intellect and to admire his patience and tolerance. His own clarity of thought has helped to steer the deliberations of the Council towards consensus.

I am therefore privileged to welcome Dr Swaminathan, on your behalf, to this challenging office. As before, he can completely rely on the assistance and support of the Secretariat and myself. I personally look forward to continuing to work with him closely and with full harmony. Thank you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

M.S. SWAMINATHAN (Independent Chairman of the Council): Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I am overwhelmed by your kindness to my country and to me. I cannot find words to give adequate expression to my sense of gratitude for this renewal of your confidence in my ability to discharge the duties of the Independent Chairman of the Council.

I fully echo the sentiments so sincerely and movingly expressed by my distinguished friend the delegate of Sudan, Mr Amir Khalil, when he said that the cause which this Organization serves needs above all constructive cooperation among all Member Nations. The thought-provoking address of His Excellency the President of Sudan, in fact provided the guidelines and inspiration so essential for the success of this Conference, which has been rightly termed on this podium as the World Parliament on Food and Agriculture. I thank Mr Khalil for his generous gesture as well as his good wishes.

On this occasion, I would like to express my deep sense of gratitude to the Government of India for nominating me for a second term. I am proud to be one of the 700 million citizens of India, a country which has not only been the mother of many religions and cultures but is also one deeply wedded to the philosophy of bread with freedom based on self-reliance at home and peace and goodwill among all nations.

To you, Mr Director-General, and to all your able colleagues I am grateful for the courtesy and cooperation you have always extended to me. This had made my task both pleasant and purposeful. I am looking forward to the continuation of this happy association.

To the Chairman of the Conference I wish to say how much I have enjoyed the privilege of participating in a session so brilliantly and effectively chaired by you. You are what we call in India a true "Karma Yogi", that is a sanskrit term which means a person who seeks personal and professional fulfilment through action. You and the three distinguished Vice-Chairmen have been able to impart to this Conference a sense of dedication and mission, for which we are all very grateful.

Finally, to my colleagues on the Council, I wish to express my special thanks for the friendly cooperation they have always extended to me so far and which I hope I will continue to receive. I congratulate all who were elected to the Council yesterday. The FAO Council in my view is an outstanding example of achieving unity in purpose and action, amidst diversity in perceptions and background.

When asked as to what is the most important lesson he had learnt in his life and from whom, Mahatama Gandhi replied: "The most important lesson I have learnt in my life is from my illiterate mother who taught me to recognize that all rights accrue from a duty well done." It is in this spirit I shall try my best to prove worthy of your trust.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

24.2 Appointment of Member Governments' Representatives to the Staff Pension Committee

24.2 Nominations des représentants des Etats Membres au Comité de la Caisse des pensions

24.2 Nombramiento de los representantes de los Estados Miembros en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal

CHAIRMAN: We can continue with the next item on our agenda, Appointment of Member Governments' Representatives to the Staff Pension Committee, for which you have document C 83/16. This Committee requires three members and three alternates to be appointed by the Conference. I invite the Secretariat to make a statement at this time.

Dean K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): The United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund provides retirement, death, disability and related benefits to staff of the United Nations, the staff of FAO and to staff of the related organizations which are members of the Fund. It is administered by the UN Joint Staff Pension Board which is made up of members appointed by the participating organizations. These committees are tripartite, they are composed of members selected by the organizations' administrations, staff and the governing bodies and in the case of FAO by the Conference.

Document C 83/16 sets forth the present Member Nation Representatives to the Committee. Only one, Mr John Glistrup, the distinguished representative of Denmark, is able to continue as a member. The Conference is therefore requested to confirm his membership and to appoint two new members and three alternates to the FAO Staff Pension Committee for the period 1 January 1984 to 31 December 1985.

In view of the necessity to attend frequent meetings at Headquarters, the Conference usually appoints representatives who are resident in Rome. I am informed that certain members of delegations have indicated an interest in serving on the Staff Pension Committee for a 2-year term, and I should like to ask the Secretary General to read the names to you of those members and proposed alternates.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Les propositions sont les suivantes: M. John Glistrup, Conseiller, Représentant permanent du Danemark; M. Tesema Negash, Conseiller, Représentant permanent de l'Ethiopie, M. Michael D. Metelits, Second Secrétaire, Représentant permanent adjoint des Etats-Unis d'Amérique, et comme suppléants: M. Ivo P. Alvarenga, Ambassadeur du Salvador; M. Amidjono Martosuwiryo, Attaché de l'agriculture, Représentant permanent adjoint de l'Indonésie; M. Hassan Ali El-Huraibi, Ministre plénipotentiaire, Représentant permanent de la République arabe du Yémen.

Dean K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): If the Conference has no objection, I propose that the appointment of these members to the FAO Staff Pension Committee be considered approved. That is for your consideration Mr Chairman.

CHAIRMAN: You have heard the proposals, are there any objections? Seeing no objections and seeing your enthusiasm, I assume that the Conference agrees to the proposals. We shall proceed from here and they will be adopted.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

V. OTHER MATTERS

V. QUESTIONS DIVERSES

V. OTROS ASUNTOS

26. Any Other Business

26. Autres questions

26. Otros asuntos

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

20ème ANNIVERSAIRE DU PROGRAMME ALIMENTAIRE MONDIAL

20º ANIVERSARIO DEL PROGRAMA MUNDIAL DE ALIMENTOS

DIRECTEUR GENERAL: La création du Programme alimentaire mondial dont nous célébrons aujourd'hui le vingtième anniversaire a indubitablement marqué un tournant dans l'histoire de la FAO.

Le PAM représente, en effet, une étape importante de la guerre à outrance que notre Organisation a déclarée à la faim et à la malnutrition.

Il apporte à la FAO et à l'Organisation des Nations Unies une contribution importante dans l'accomplissement de leur mandat et dans leurs efforts pour atteindre leurs objectifs dans le domaine du développement économique et social.

Quoi de plus normal que la FAO joue un rôle de premier plan dans la célébration de cet anniversaire puisqu'elle est, avec l'Organisation des Nations Unies, l'un des co-fondateurs du Programme et qu'elle participe, d'une façon ou d'une autre, à pratiquement toutes ses activités.

Les responsabilités spéciales qui m'incombent dans le bon fonctionnement du Programme, notamment pour les questions administratives, financières et les aides d'urgence, justifient l'intérêt particulier que j'y attache.

L'idéal humanitaire dont l'aide alimentaire témoigne remonte aux temps les plus anciens.

"J'avais faim et vous m'avez donné à manger...", lit-on dans la Bible.

Cette foi de l'homme en l'homme est sanctifiée dans toutes les religions et affirmée dans toutes les régions du monde.

Le Programme alimentaire mondial en est une vibrante illustration.

Ce jour est l'occasion d'exprimer notre reconnaissance aux fondateurs, du Programme.

Les efforts qu'ils ont déployés sans relâche et le haut idéal qui les animait ont donné naissance à une institution dont la Communauté internationale a toute raison d'être fière.

Le Dr. B.R. Sen, ancien Directeur Général de la FAO, y a joué un rôle de premier plan.

Il s'est d'emblée rendu compte des possibilités de développement que pouvait offrir une utilisation rationnelle de l'aide alimentaire.

Sans sa vision claire et perspicace, ce projet n'aurait pu être mené à bon terme.

Les contributions de M. Don Paarlberg, aujourd'hui parmi nous, du Sénateur Georges S. McGovern et d'autres personnalités éminentes des Etats-Unis, ne furent pas moins décisives.

C'est l'annonce par le Sénateur McGovern, lors de la réunion de 1961 du Comité consultatif intergouvernemental, d'une première contribution américaine de 100 millions de dollars qui a transformé en certitude ce qui n'était encore qu'un espoir.

Le point de vue des Etats-Unis, tel qu'il l'exposait alors, pourrait aujourd'hui encore servir de Charte fondamentale au Programme.

"Nous pensons que la FAO devrait jouer un rôle majeur dans ce Programme, en coopération avec d'autres organisations des Nations Unies".

"Nous croyons que ce devrait être un programme véritablement multilatéral avec la participation du plus grand nombre possible d'Etats".

A voir ces débuts modestes, qui aurait pu penser que le Programme se développerait aussi rapidement et jouerait aujourd'hui un rôle tellement important?

Qui aurait osé prédire les dimensions multiples et novatrices que le concept d'aide alimentaire prendrait sous son égide en l'espace de vingt ans seulement ?

Depuis sa création, le Programme a engagé presque six milliards de dollars d'assistance dans 1 200 projets de développement au profit de plus de 110 pays; en outre des aides d'urgence ont été octroyées pour quelque 1,2 milliard de dollars.

Plus de 170 millions de personnes ont ainsi bénéficié de l'assistance du PAM.

La force et la renommée du Programme tiennent à ce qu'il a su démontrer de façon frappante les diverses utilisations de l'aide alimentaire: ressource pour le développement, moyen de renforcer les économies rurales, instrument de sécurité sociale assurant aux plus déshérités l'accès à la nourriture, aide en cas de crise causée par l'homme ou par la nature.

De toutes les armes forgées pour combattre la faim et la malnutrition, l'aide alimentaire est la plus puissante et son impact est immédiatement visible.

N'oublions pas deux des principaux facteurs auxquels le Programme doit son succès et son efficacité.

L'un réside dans les étroites relations de travail qui existent entre la FAO et le PAM et qui s'imposent tout naturellement eu égard, non seulement à l'origine du Programme, mais aussi à la complémentarité de leurs fonctions.

En effet, la majeure partie des ressources du PAM est allouée à des secteurs sur lesquels portent les objectifs et priorités de la FAO: encouragement au développement agricole et rural, mise en place d'infrastructures économiques et sociales, amélioration de la nutrition - assistance humanitaire - tout un ensemble d'actions qui contribuent à améliorer la sécurité alimentaire.

C'est pourquoi le concept élargi et révisé de sécurité alimentaire et les approches nouvelles que j'ai récemment proposées s'appliquent particulièrement aux activités du PAM.

Je suis heureux que cela soit désormais largement reconnu.

L'assistance et le soutien techniques fournis par la FAO pour assurer la viabilité économique et la qualité technique des projets sont également primordiaux pour garantir la bonne marche du Programme.

L'autre facteur de succès provient de ce que le PAM est un parfait exemple d'association mutuellement avantageuse entre pays donateurs et pays bénéficiaires.

J'en veux pour preuve les déclarations de nombreux orateurs au cours des débats du Conseil et de la Conférence sur le Programme.

Il donne à tous les pays, qu'ils soient développés ou en développement, l'occasion de s'unir pour servir la plus grande cause commune, peut-être, de l'humanité: résoudre le paradoxe de la pénurie au milieu de l'opulence.

Le Programme est, à notre époque troublée, la meilleure expression de l'idéal de solidarité humaine.

Il faut espérer qu'un jour l'aide alimentaire devienne sans objet.

Dans l'état actuel des choses, cependant, le besoin d'aide alimentaire n'est pas près de disparaître.

Il faut donc réfléchir aux tâches qui nous attendent et aux meilleurs moyens d'améliorer sans cesse le Programme.

Ce n'est ni le temps ni le lieu de décrire en détails les améliorations qui pourraient encore être apportées au Programme.

J'en ai déjà signalé à plusieurs reprises.

Par exemple, j'ai indiqué qu'il importerait de mieux programmer l'aide alimentaire et les activités du PAM et de les intégrer davantage dans les plans nationaux de développement, tout en veillant à ce qu'elles soient complémentaires de l'aide bilatérale et de celle fournie par le système des Nations Unies, en particulier la FAO.

Les organes directeurs de la FAO ont réaffirmé ce point de vue.

Ils se sont aussi accordés à reconnaître que les projets du PAM dans le secteur agricole et rural et ceux de la FAO doivent se renforcer mutuellement.

La Conférence de la FAO a approuvé, il y a quelques jours, un objectif de 1 milliard 350 millions de dollars pour le PAM durant l'exercice 1985-86.

Cette somme n'est peut-être pas tout à fait à la mesure ni des capacités du Programme, ni des demandes et besoins croissants des pays à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier.

Le Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire n'a-t-il pas estimé que 20 millions de tonnes de céréales représentaient un indicateur utile des besoins d'aide pour 1985?

Mais dans les circonstances économiques présentes, l'objectif retenu était sans doute le seul réaliste.

Ouvrons tous pour qu'il soit atteint et si possible dépassé.

A ceux qui remettent en cause le principe même d'aide alimentaire, le Programme alimentaire mondial apporte un démenti flagrant.

Comme l'a dit la Commission Brandt "Ce n'est pas l'aide alimentaire qu'il faut critiquer, mais sa mauvaise utilisation".

Le Programme a toujours évité et continuera d'éviter avec le plus grand soin que l'aide alimentaire ne soit mal utilisée.

Etant donné le prestige dont il jouit auprès des donateurs comme des bénéficiaires, il est en bonne position pour regarder l'avenir avec confiance.

En votre nom comme au mien, je tiens à saisir cette occasion de transmettre au Programme alimentaire mondial les vœux de la FAO et de l'assurer de son appui dans l'action qu'il mène depuis vingt ans avec tant de succès.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Thank you Mr Director-General. I would now like to call on the representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr BI JILONG.

BI JILONG (United Nations): It gives me great pleasure to join with you in the special ceremony of the FAO Conference commemorating the twentieth anniversary of the World Food programme.

In many ways the World Food Programme symbolizes important principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations. It is in the first instance a joint undertaking by governments - a practical commitment by countries of the North, South, East and West "to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character". It is also significant that the World Food Programme is a joint undertaking of the FAO and the UN. By drawing on the capacities of its parent organizations as well as on the relevant organizations of the UN system, the Programme is able to harness the expertise available, and I believe that the net result is greater than merely the sum of its parts.

Established 20 years ago as an experiment in multilateral aid oriented toward surplus food disposal, the Programme is recognized today as an integral part of the multisectoral development efforts of the UN system. It has become one of the largest programmes of the system channeling about \$6 000 million to more than a hundred developing countries during the period of its existence. Besides its regular resources, the Programme administers the International Emergency Food Reserve, handles a part of the shipments made under the Food Aid Convention, and supports certain non-food items in support of its development projects. The decision by the Fifteenth session of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes to set a target of \$1.3 billion for the 1985/86 biennium, an increase of 12.5% above the target of the current biennium, is evidence that countries maintain their belief in, and commitment to, the Programme.

In its 20 years of existence the World Food Programme has been characterized by efficiency, effectiveness and flexibility. For example, full and frank evaluation of its programmes has been a continuing feature of its work. Similarly, its increasing orientation toward integrating food aid into overall economic development, while avoiding the risk of discouraging food production in recipient countries, reflects an adaptation to our increased awareness of the problems of development.

The governing body and the responsible officials of the World Food Programme can look back with pride at their achievements. But as the WFP enters into the third decade of its existence, it faces a world of increasing need for food aid. The current food shortages facing many sub-Saharan countries is all too vivid a reminder that hunger and malnutrition remain one of the critical problems confronting the international community. The Programme will be called upon to make even greater contributions towards both emergency relief and economic development in the years ahead.

It is therefore essential that the Programme maintain its relevance and its strength; relevance in terms of the priorities in its programme of work and strength to contribute meaningfully to the development efforts of recipient countries, in particular of low-income countries. I congratulate the Executive Director, Mr James Ingram, and his illustrious predecessors, on their leadership and on their efforts to ensure that the Programme responds effectively to the increasing demands made upon it. I also congratulate the Director-General of FAO, Mr Edouard Saouma, for his invaluable support to the Programme.

In the final analysis, the continued effectiveness of the Programme will depend upon the support it can generate among member states, both donor and recipient countries. Let me express my appreciation to all those who, over the years, have generously contributed and my conviction that the Programme will continue to merit your support.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. I appreciate that message you have given us from the Secretary-General of the United Nations. I would now like to call upon Dr Paarlberg, who is being honoured here today.

Don PAARLBERG (Assistant-Secretary of Agriculture, USDA): Thank you, Chairman of this Convention, Secretary and greetings to you Dr Saouma, the Director-General of FAO. It is an honour to participate in this impressive ceremony. To be here is to renew my pleasant association with you, Dr Saouma, and with the FAO, and with the World Food Programme. It has been my opportunity to participate on behalf of the United States in earlier meetings of the FAO Council and in the FAO Convention. It is good to see old friends and to witness the consensus of the good feeling of this Organization so well described just a short while ago by the delegate from the Sudan.

I share with you some of the reminiscences of the origin, in the United States, of the World Food Programme, whose Twentieth Anniversary we are celebrating this day. During the 1950s the United States accumulated very heavy stocks of cereal grains under price support operations that were then in force. Some of these stocks were moved overseas bilaterally by gift and concessional sales under our Public Law 480, otherwise known, and perhaps better known to you, as "Food for Peace". The then Vice-President Nixon was, as he presently is, possessed of a keen perception of international affairs. He became interested in multilateral, as well as bilateral food aid. Where he got the idea I do not know. I was at that time special assistant to President Eisenhower, and Coordinator for Food for Peace Programme. It fell to me to check out Mr Nixon's idea on behalf of the Administration. I found in my examination and in other studies an impressive number of considerations for furthering the proposal.

First of all, the multilateral programme would permit us to get food into countries which might, for political or diplomatic reasons, refuse bilaterally.

Secondly, by cooperating with the developing nations in multilateral food aid we could demonstrate our concern for them.

Thirdly, a multilateral programme would help broaden the base for the provision of food aid which, prior to that time, had been provided disproportionately by Americans.

Fourthly, when the aid had been bilateral, we had been accused by other exporters of giving food to countries that would otherwise have bought from these other exporters, and with multilateral aid the other exporters would be involved with us and their objections thus blotted.

Fifthly, by adding the multilateral programme to our bilateral programme, more food would be moved to help the hungry people around the world.

There were, however, at that time - and that persists today - some negative assessments of multilateral food aid. Under multilateral food aid it was argued the United States would lose control of the destination of its food, and it was feared that as the volume of food aid expanded, we would be giving away food that we might otherwise sell. Some felt that expanded food aid would encourage dependency on the part of recipient people, dependency which would be difficult for them to stop, and for us to stop.

There were arguments that increased food aid would lower food prices in the recipient countries and would inhibit their agricultural development, and some said that institutionalizing food aid of an international kind would legitimize US farm programmes that over-stimulated production and piled up excessive costs.

On balance, as we weighed the argument pro and con, the favourable assessment prevailed, but it took a long time before outright advocacy occurred. This began with the Republican administration and achieved fulfilment while the Democrats were in power. The gestation period took a number of years; not an unusual length of time when the idea of multilateral food aid was embraced, bilateral programmes were continued and they do continue to this day. Thus, the advantages of multilateral aid were in part achieved and the disadvantages were minimized. The Congress gave a pragmatic answer to an issue which often is posed in ideological terms. This is the genius of the American political system. How look the arguments pro and con after the elapse of twenty years? Each had and has no doubt a degree of legitimacy, overstated by its adherents. The Programme has been administered with a strong effort to capitalise on its advantages and to minimise its dangers. Presumably, this is why the resources have grown from a target of \$ 100 million to a billion dollars. This is notwithstanding the fact that the arguments pro and con food aid still go on. In a way, this reflects the unfortunate fact that despite the great increases in food produced on an overall basis and the comparatively high rates of growth in a number of developing countries, the number of hungry people has grown in absolute terms. There are many reasons for that. Certainly, it is not the existence of food aid which is responsible. In any case, I do not believe that the problems of food aid and food production create the need for an either/or decision. Food aid is a short-term solution to human suffering. Food production is a long-term solution to hunger,

malnutrition, and poverty, and it is well for the FAO to address both the short-term and the long-run aspects of this problem.

In this respect, while at the beginning of the World Food Programme we did foresee the need for emergency aid, we could not foresee the Sahel disaster or the enormous number of refugees that various poor countries now have to deal with. This is why I understand the creation of the International Emergency Food Reserves to go alongside of development of food aid, and this is why you now have a joint pledging conference for the ordinary target and the IEFER target.

I believe therefore it is fair to say that the World Food Programme has resulted during the twenty years of its life in a clear improvement in the human condition. This is a tribute to you in this audience who have administered it. I am happy with the role the United States has had in the launching and implementing of this Programme.

In conclusion, I would like to say how happy I was to be invited to this ceremony and to thank the Director-General and the Member Nations of this Conference for championing the cause of the World Food Programme since its beginning.

Thank you very much, Mr Chairman

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much Dr Paarlberg. We are happy that you are here and hope to have the opportunity to honour you and your contribution and pleased to hear your remarks which were direct and straightforward and gave us a good understanding of the early developments of the World Food Programme and how it ties together, and we appreciate that very much.

It is indeed our pleasure today to celebrate the Twentieth Anniversary of the World Food Programme. When the Food and Agriculture Organization and the United Nations began the World Food Programme, they really did not envision the great contribution it would make towards strengthening agriculture in the developing world, and I am particularly proud that the United States was an instrument in founding this honourable international effort. It is a credit to the people such as Dr Don Paarlberg. We honour Dr Paarlberg today. He and his colleagues had the conviction and the initiative for this Programme which today allocates resources towards development objectives which are in magnitude second in the United Nations system only to those of the World Bank, and experience with the World Food Programme shows that food aid can be an effective aid in agricultural development. More than 1200 development projects are a testament to World Food Programme's success, its efforts to span the globe. The Programme has brought about \$6 billion to 114 developing countries. I commend Executive Director James Ingram and his predecessors on the fine job that they have done managing the Programme and ensuring that food aid actually reaches the people who need it. There is a tremendous scope to the work the World Food Programme has done in agriculture and rural development in the last two decades. That work has been effective. We have seen efforts in land development and soil conservation on the sub-continent, dairy development in Latin America and the Caribbean region, rangeland and forage development in the Middle East, promotion and encouragement of women in agricultural development in North Africa, food security and price stabilization in Africa, resettlement and transmigration for new lands in the Pacific region. All of this demonstrates the World Food Programme's central focus on food aid as an investment for lasting development.

One of the best features of this Programme is the way resources are focused on those who are most in need. Over 80 percent of the World Food Programme trends last year were for development projects in the low-income food-deficit countries. The Programme wisely devoted about half of these resources to sub-Saharan Africa where food aid and the agricultural development are so desperately needed.

In addition to its development activities the World Food Programme has carried out emergency operations in over 100 countries to help both refugees and the victims of earthquakes, floods, droughts, and other natural disasters. This work amounted to almost \$200 million last year alone.

May I speak for just a moment as a Minister of Agriculture from the United States on this opportune occasion? The President of my country, Ronald Reagan, commented recently on the importance of multilateral efforts to combat hunger. He said, "Traditionally, the United States has been the foremost supporter of multilateral aid. We make the largest contribution to many organizations concerned with hunger, including the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Food Programme and the international development banks. We were there to help found these organizations and we stand firmly behind them". President Reagan made this statement at the United Nations. There is little that I can add to that endorsement. Let me just wish the World Food Programme even greater success in the years ahead. The food aid it provides is surely a sound investment in the future of mankind.

The United States is very proud of Dr Paarlberg. I have known him personally for many years. He is a champion of agriculture, he is a champion of people in need and people that are hungry. He has had great vision and attacked his responsibilities with a great amount of enthusiasm and initiative, and I would say that without Dr. Paarlberg and others like him from the United States and from other countries, we would not have achieved what we have achieved to this date.

Nations throughout the world have made a devoted contribution, and their efforts for the effective management of the World Food Programme and other programmes, its implementation, assistance to thousand of individual projects and operations, all can be justly proud of their significant contributions to the goal of eliminating world hunger.

We congratulate you today, Dr Paarlberg. We congratulate the World Food Programme for its efforts as all of us work together in harmony to try to achieve the noblest of objectives of mankind, the elimination of hunger. Thank you very much.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

S.A.A. KHALIL (Sudan) (original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Executive Director of the World Food Programme, Dr Don Paarlberg, ladies and gentlemen, we are today celebrating the Twentieth Anniversary of the World Food Programme. We would like to congratulate the United Nations Organizations and those countries which brought forth this child which has become a giant to combat hunger and malnutrition in the world. We should like to thank donor countries who have agreed to share their daily bread with others. We congratulate and thank World Food Programme officials for their efforts. The World Food Programme is in a particular situation in my country because it started the Wadi Haifa Project in Sudan. This is a project which the WFP can be justly proud of. On behalf of the Group of 77, I should like to congratulate the World Food Programme and wish it full success, and wish it a development of its activities to benefit the whole of mankind. We are sure that it will attain its objective, namely eradication of hunger and malnutrition in the world.

On behalf of the Group of 77, I would appeal to donors to step up their contributions and support to WFP so that WFP can fulfill its task.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

G. STUYCK (Belgique): Je voudrais associer ma voix à la vôtre, M. Le Président, ainsi qu'à celle du Directeur général de la FAO, le Dr Saouma, et à celle des orateurs qui sont déjà intervenus pour rendre hommage à l'action admirable et indispensable que mène depuis vingt ans le Programme alimentaire mondial. Il est permis de se demander en effet ce que seraient devenus les millions d'êtres humains secourus par le PAM si le Programme n'avait pas existé. Combien d'êtres humains ne seraient-ils pas morts de faim ou de malnutrition? Aussi faut-il que nous exprimions notre reconnaissance émue à tous ceux qui ont oeuvré depuis vingt ans à cette entreprise admirable dans les conditions souvent les plus difficiles, les plus pénibles pour arriver à sauver tant de vies humaines.

Je voudrais à cette occasion adresser mes sincères félicitations au Dr James Ingram ainsi qu'à ses collaborateurs pour l'action admirable qu'ils mènent chaque jour pour lutter contre la faim dans le monde et je voudrais en même temps exprimer notre gratitude à M. le Directeur général de la FAO pour l'appui qu'il a donné au Programme au cours des nombreuses années pendant lesquelles il en a assumé la direction.

Sans doute l'aide alimentaire n'est qu'un aspect de l'aide au développement et celle-ci doit viser avant tout à rendre autosuffisants les pays démunis mais, hélas, il est évident que dans les circonstances actuelles les besoins d'aide alimentaire demeurent immenses et risquent de s'aggraver encore à l'avenir, particulièrement en Afrique. Aussi le rôle du PAM apparaît-il aujourd'hui encore plus nécessaire qu'il l'était il y a vingt ans.

En exprimant au Programme mes vœux sincères pour la poursuite de son action admirable, j'associe ma voix à celle de ceux qui, dans le passé, ont déjà invité les Etats qui n'ont pas encore contribué à l'action du PAM à lui apporter leur concours de manière à mettre le Programme en mesure de répondre aux tâches de plus en plus vastes qu'il doit affronter.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: At this time Commissions II and III are short of delegates and cannot proceed with their work. We cannot conclude the responsibilities of this group if we do not get the Commissions' work done so that we can act on their recommendations to this body as a whole. I shall call a thirty-minute recess at this time and urge you to go to work on those Commissions and get the work done. We shall come back after thirty minutes and take a couple of other small items of business. Not everyone should come back here: we just want enough people back here so that we can finish the morning's programme.

The meeting was suspended from 11.15 to 11.50 hours

La séance est suspendue de 11 h 15 à 11 h 50

Se suspende la sesión de las 11.15 a 11.50 horas

CHAIRMAN: I call this session back to order.

S. AHMED (Deputy Executive Director, World Food Programme): It is an honour for me to represent the World Food Programme at this ceremony when one of its co-founders, namely, the FAO, is observing the Twentieth Anniversary of the Programme. It is a heart-warming gift that the coming of age of the Programme is formally acknowledged by the Conference. We are gratified by the expressions of regard and appreciation that the Director-General conveyed to the World Food Programme on behalf of FAO. Let me take this opportunity to recall the kind references that the Secretary-General of the United Nations made in New York regarding the Programme on the occasion of the World Food Day. We are also grateful for the statement read out on his behalf by Mr Bi Jilong a while ago.

The Executive-Director has asked me to convey to you his deep regret at his inability to be present, and to express his thanks for the recognition of the Programme. Unfortunately, he had made firm arrangements to visit some Latin American countries many weeks ago, well before he became aware that this celebration was scheduled for today. It would have been discourteous to the Presidents of those countries if he were to cancel this programme, and so he had to leave yesterday. You will understand I speak on his behalf and convey his thoughts to you.

If the Programme has steadily progressed from its experimental beginning some 20 years ago to becoming the second biggest source of assistance, after the World Bank Group, in the UN system, this has been due to the support, guidance and counsel of the international community and the active cooperation of governments and project participants in making the assistance more useful, effective and progressively strengthened and refined. The persistent effort of a succession of Executive Directors and staff, both at Headquarters and in the field, has also been vital in this process.

The generous remarks made here today and in the discussions in the Conference last night reinforce our conviction that the action taken in 1961 was well devised and fruitful for the people of the developing countries. Therefore, it is very appropriate to mark this occasion by honouring one of the distinguished pioneers of the Programme, Dr Paarlberg, and we join in congratulating him. In doing so, we not only honour him and his country, but the work of all those throughout the world scholars, statesmen, public servants and peasant workers - who have demonstrated their confidence in food aid as an instrument of development.

The Programme has demonstrated its ability to apply food both as a humanitarian and a development aid, the two going hand-in-hand. It is a partnership of the international community with the poor and disadvantaged of the world, not only to provide them with access to food, but also to help them turn the assistance received towards achieving self-reliance and contributing to overall development within a framework of national development operations. Food is the staple of life, fundamental to human dignity. It is the role of the Programme to be an active agent and catalyst in making all this available to vast millions in many parts of the world who otherwise would be condemned to chronic hunger and indignity. While the basic impulse of food aid must never be overlooked, it is also recognized as a source of promoting development. Indeed, the World Food Programme increasingly should be seen as a funding organization which uses not finance, but food for investment in development.

Food is a specialized resource, and as you yourself have said, Mr Chairman, WFP's 20 years of experience have shown that it is possible, with planning and imagination, and in combination with other inputs from governments and international agencies, to give food aid a wide range of applications in support of development. As has been repeatedly mentioned by the Programme, no less than two thirds of its food assistance goes to finance rural development activities.

The experience of many countries, some of them large recipients of food aid, is that food aid has helped them channel the available resources to advance their self-reliance. This is the ultimate goal of all food assistance. The Programme, in collaboration with governments, will keep refining its project activities to advance this paramount goal.

On this particular occasion, our hearts go out to the millions of people in Africa suffering from the effects of drought and other natural and man-made disasters. The Programme has come to their assistance as promptly and effectively as possible. The Executive Director has announced before this Conference and elsewhere that all the Programme's resources for emergency food assistance will be committed by the end of this year. The Programme has set up a special operational task force to look after this. In addition, the World Food Programme is cooperating with FAO in the Joint FAO/World Food Programme Task Force set up to monitor the food situation in the 22 specially affected countries and elsewhere in Africa. We take this opportunity to join with the Director-General of FAO and the Secretary-General of the United Nations in urging all countries in a position to do so to enhance and accelerate their assistance, both multilaterally and bilaterally to the affected African countries.

Finally, the Programme is indeed grateful to the Conference for its endorsement of the Programme's pledging target for the 1985/86 biennium. Conscious of the trust and confidence placed in the Programme by governments, we approach the coming years in a spirit of humility, with courage, conviction and commitment.

Thank you Mr Chairman, for all your very kind words of cheer and appreciation and also our thanks to, through you, to all the distinguished delegates who have spoken and to those who have not. We feel truly encouraged in the mission ahead.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

IN MEMORIAM

CHAIRMAN: The next matter to be taken up is In memoriam where the Conference pays tribute to all FAO Staff members who have died while in service since the last Conference and who contributed with their work to the achievement of the objectives and ideals of this Organization. At this point, may I also add my personal condolences for the untimely passing of Ambassador, de Freitas, the Brazilian Permanent Representative to FAO. He was a dedicated and capable colleague and will be greatly missed by all.

One minute of silence

Une minute de silence

Un minuto de silencio

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

ABROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

- DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART4 (from Commission I)

- PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA CONFERENCE - QUATRIEME PARTIE (émanant de la Commission I)

- PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 4 (de la Comisión I)

CHAIRMAN: We now turn again to the business of adopting the report for the session.

A.E. KARASAPAN (Turkey): During the vote on the Programme of Work and Budget of 1984-85, the head of our delegation could not be present due to circumstances beyond his control. I have now asked for the floor to indicate Turkey's full support, and request that this be recorded in the Minutes.

H M. CARANDANG (Philippines): Before you vote for the adoption of the Report, I remember yesterday, after a long day spent on the procedure of voting, the proposal for a review of procedures for election with the end view of saving the valuable time of the delegation, as the saying goes, time is gold". I remember yesterday you made a proposal that the Council and its appropriate subsidiary bodies review the procedure of elections, so that, if possible, and if the Member Nations of the Organization deemed it appropriate, that when there is only one post to be filled or if there is only the same number of candidates for the same number of elected posts to be filled up, that there could possibly be a way of shortening the procedures for election. I just wanted to be sure that this forms part of our recommendations to this Conference, and that it should be part of the Report that there is a recommendation that this matter be studied by the Council, and by its appropriate subsidiary body.

CHAIRMAN: If there is no objection to that recommendation, that it shall be a part of the body's Report, then that review will be made. I see no objection. It does stand.

B. SEQUEIRA (Angola): Just a brief statement. We agree with the proposal which has just been made, and we note that that proposal is made in the spirit that provides that the process of voting will always be kept secret. It will be observed.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I now call upon the Chairman of Commission I.

J.R. LOPEZ-PORTILLO (Presidente de la Comisión I): Muchas gracias, señor Presidente, el día de ayer la Comisión I adopto unánimemente un proyecto de informe que recoge en unidad la diversidad de planteamientos e intereses expresados a lo largo de las 286 intervenciones durante las 14 sesiones de trabajo realizadas.

Los documentos C 83/REP/4 y REP/5 que contienen nuestro proyecto de informe fueron revisados y aprobados por nuestra Comisión, párrafo por párrafo e incluyen cinco proyectos de resolución, uno sobre la situación de la alimentación y la agricultura en Africa, otro sobre el concepto revisado de seguridad alimentaria, uno más incluye las 12 orientaciones revisadas' y actualizadas del Reajuste Agrícola Internacional, la cuarta es relativa al seguimiento del Programa de Acción de la CMRADR y la quinta sobre el Día Mundial de la Alimentación.

Señor Presidente, la madurez de los documentos me permite solicitar a usted los presente a la Conferencia para su adopción. Pongo a su consideración someter este informe sección por sección, en vista de que la mayoría de las delegaciones aquí presentes participaron ampliamente en nuestros trabajos.

Antes de terminar deseo hacer mención de algunas correcciones que deben introducirse en los documentos en vista de que no pudieron ser incorporadas: en la versión en inglés, en el documento C 83/REP/5, página 11, párrafo 23, en la primera línea se presenta la palabra which mal escrita, debe escribirse correctamente. Asimismo, en el párrafo 22, quinta línea hay un guión entre overall y la palabra but que debe ser suprimido. Asimismo, en esa misma página, en el párrafo 24 se omitió en la versión en inglés la palabra timely, al final del segundo renglón debe decir "which could contribute to the timely formulation". Más adelante, en la cuarta línea de ese mismo párrafo debe decir en lugar de "rough approximation" "an approximation". Es decir "while being an approximation".

Asimismo, en la versión en francés, en el documento C 83/REP/5, en el párrafo sexto de la página 20, al final de dicho párrafo debe hacerse referencia, en francés, a "y las mujeres rurales". Es decir debería decir "los campesinos pobres y las mujeres rurales".

Señor Presidente, tiene usted en sus manos el proyecto de informe, le reitero mi solicitud y respetuosa sugerencia de que pueda ser sometido a esta plenaria de la Conferencia sección por sección en vista de la amplia participación que la mayoría de las delegaciones, sin duda aquí presentes, tuvieron en nuestros trabajos.

Le agradezco su atención.

CHAIRMAN: We can proceed with the adoption of the Report in accordance with the recommendation of the Chairman of Commission I.

Paragraphs 1 to 24 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 24 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 24 son aprobados

Paragraph 25 including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 25, y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 25, incluida la Resolución, aprobado

Paragraphs 26 to 34 approved

Les paragraphes 26 à 34 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 26 a 34 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 35 to 63

PARAGRAPHERS 35 à 63

PÁRRAFOS 35 a 63

B. FURNESS (United States of America): Upon reflection, we find that in paragraph 55 the statement that the Conference has called for the conclusion of a more effective agreement, that is an International Wheat Agreement, with price and stock clauses. We believe that may overstate the consensus. We respectfully request that our views be footnoted, specifically that the footnote be appended to the third sentence of paragraph 55, and that the footnote should read as follows: "The United States of America recalled its doubts regarding the desirability, feasibility, or advisability of a New International Wheat Agreement with price and stock clauses."

CHAIRMAN: That should be so noted. Are there any other subjects to be brought before this gathering, on the World Food and Agricultural Situation, paragraphs 1 to 63? Hearing none, that section is adopted.

Paragraphs 35 to 62, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 35 a 62, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 35 a 62, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 63, including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 63, y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 63, incluida la Resolución, aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 4, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, partie 4, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte 4, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 5 (from Commission I)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA CONFERENCE - PARTIE 5 (émanant de la Commission I)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 5 (de la Comisión I)

J.R. LOPEZ-PORTILLO (Presidente de la Comisión I): Mi respetuosa sugerencia Sr. Presidente es tratar cada uno de los temas del Programa, es decir el 7, el 8, el 9 y, finalmente, el 10, de manera que le hago la respetuosa sugerencia de ir del párrafo 1 al 21, del 22 al 30, del 31 al 44 y finalmente del 45 al 49. Gracias.

CHAIRMAN: We will proceed in accordance with Commission I Chairman's recommendation.

B. FURNESS (United States of America): A technical point, but the footnote expressing the views of the United States on the Resolution in paragraph 21 regarding the revision and updating of the Guidelines and Targets for International Agricultural Adjustment has been placed in paragraph 18, where the Conference is recording its expression of support for the reviews and updating of the Guidelines.

Mr Chairman, we would appreciate that the United States position on this be reported and be footnoted in the text of the Resolution itself, that is, wherever the Secretariat would deem it appropriate, either in the title or elsewhere as it is appropriate, to indicate that the United States has in fact disassociated itself from the new revised and updated Guidelines.

CHAIRMAN: That footnote can be moved and that will be put in the location as requested. Is there any other comment?

M. AHMAD (Pakistan): I was only going to invite reference to paragraph 20, in which it is stated that "Many countries requested that a reference to New International Economic Order be made". It is not merely a reference to the New International Economic Order, but it was decided "Many countries suggested that it should be indicated that the purpose is to promote a New International Economic Order", and I would suggest therefore that this be amended to say that "Many countries requested that a reference be made in Guidelines I to the effect that the purpose is to promote New International Economic Order".

CHAIRMAN: I would call upon the Chairman and see what is your reaction to that. Does that stand with the position taken by the Committee or not?

J.R. LOPEZ-PORTILLO (Presidente de la Comisión I): Efectivamente, muchas delegaciones hicieron referencia a la inclusión en las orientaciones de ese punto; es decir, que debía estar orientado hacia la constitución de un nuevo orden internacional.

Sin embargo, el trabajo del Grupo de Contacto llevó a la convicción de que no sería factible incluirlo dentro de las orientaciones porque no habría consenso.

No obstante esto, en el día de ayer varias delegaciones apoyaron y recordaron nuevamente sus planteamientos en torno a esta cuestión y solicitaron que un párrafo específico hiciera referencia a esas solicitudes, que si bien no se incluían dentro de la Resolución, sí se consideraran dentro del Informe de esta Conferencia, en los términos en que ha señalado el señor representante de Pakistán.

Me parece que este párrafo 20 pudiera corregirse en este sentido: "Muchos países pidieron que la Orientación 1 hiciera referencia a que esos esfuerzos debían estar ligados a la realización o a la tendencia hacia un nuevo orden económico internacional."

Considero con todo respeto, señor Presidente, que es perfectamente admisible la inclusión de este texto.

CHAIRMAN: My question is does that really change the substance of what paragraph 20 says? So I am not so sure that we have changed anything, and if we have not changed anything, I wonder why we should change it.

ZHONG SHUKONG (China): The Chinese delegation feels that our report, that is C 83/REP/5 should reflect the actual proceedings at Commission I. As the Chairman and Pakistan rightly pointed out at the Commission yesterday, many countries requested that specific reference be made in Guideline 1 towards promoting the establishment of a New International Economic Order. That was the exact proceeding, so the Chairman's suggestion we support.

Similarly do we support also Pakistani's amendment, because that is in order and that exactly reflects the proceedings of yesterday's proceedings.

R. RAHMAN (Bangladesh): There was a long debate held in Commission I leading up to the reflection of this particular point. Now, we had initiated the proposal that the last sentence of Guideline 1 should include the promotion of the establishment of a New International Economic Order. Ultimately, it was decided that this should be included in the Report itself.

Now, we would like to underscore three points because these are extremely important to us in this particular paragraph 20. These three points are firstly, that the preamble of the Resolution relating to the updating of these Guidelines does include reference to the NIEO, but it is not included in any of the operative follow-ups.

Secondly, the position in all multi lateral forums with regard to social and economic development has shown a consistent position in which reference has been made to the NIEO. By omitting references in the operative paragraphs to the NIEO, we are reflecting an omission which may carry the connotation that there is a retrograde step taken or a change in policy. Therefore, we would like to arrange that in supporting the strengthening of paragraph 20, it was in effect a compromise position. It should be reflected in a stronger version than at the moment. Here it states that "Many countries requested". In itself, the paragraph leaves the question unanswered because we do not know what happened to that request. In any event, we would like to suggest that "Many countries - " the proposal that was made by Pakistan and seconded by China, we would like to support that, and a stronger version than the present text that is reflected. I think the word "requested" should be also changed and we should say that "Many countries proposed".

CHAIRMAN: I think I get the picture that some countries wanted a stronger reference here but it was not a consensus. As the Chairman says, it was not agreed upon and it was not established. The point is, does this sentence say what really happened? Does it give it enough emphasis? ^{If} "Many countries requested" or "proposed" - I think we are just talking words here - "that a reference to New International Economic Order be made in Guideline 1."

If you wanted to, you could say "However, a consensus was not arrived at". Now, that said what happened in my estimation.

H.M. CARANDANG (Philippines): I would like to support the Pakistan proposal because it reflects what really happened in the debate. The words "Many countries propose" I think already gives us an indication that it was not carried, the proposal was not unanimously adopted by the Conference. Otherwise it would have indicated the Conference adopted it and then it would have been effectively reflected in Guideline 1, so I think the wording as reinforced reflects what really happened during the debate.

CHAIRMAN: The European Economic Community has indicated they wish to speak. It is true that observers do not normally participate in the debate at this stage of the debate, and I think I would request that you talk to one of your member countries and let them speak for you if that would be all right, and if you still insist, maybe we will accommodate you, but we are trying to move forward.

B. FURNESS (United States of America): I think it is fair to say that my country was not one of those that supported the reference to a New International Economic Order, but we have listened attentively to the debate, and we think that the language proposed by Pakistan accurately reflects the tenor and tone of the debate. It is true that many countries did propose this, and on our own part, we have no problem in showing them the same courtesy that you have shown to us in ensuring that our views are recorded.

CHAIRMAN: Would the Secretary-General read that language that Pakistan provided, or have Pakistan read it if someone has it because I cannot recall what it was.

M. AHMAD (Pakistan): "Many countries" --I start with the word "requested" but I think it would be better if you changed it to "proposed" that a reference be made in Guideline 1 to the effect that the purpose is to promote New International Economic Order".

CHAIRMAN: May I ask is there objection to that wording on behalf of the delegates? Hearing no objection, that wording will stand.

Paragraphs 1 to 20, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 20, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 20, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 21, including Resolution as amended, adopted

Le paragraphe 21, y compris la résolution ainsi amendée, est adopté

El párrafo 21, incluida la Resolución así enmendada, es aprobado

Paragraphs 22 to 30 approved

Les paragraphes 22 à 30 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 22 a 30 son aprobados

Paragraphs 31 to 43 approved

Les paragraphes 31 à 43 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 31 a 43 son aprobados

Paragraph 44, including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 44, y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 44, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

Paragraphs 45 to 48 approved

Les paragraphes 45 à 48 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 45 a 48 son aprobados

Paragraph 49, including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 49, y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 49, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 5, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière, partie 5, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte 5, así enmendado, es aprobado

CHAIRMAN: They call this a steamroller. I thank the Chairman of Commission I for his assistance here.

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 83/PV/20

C

Twenty-second Session
PLENARY

Vingt-deuxièmes session
PLENIERE

22° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

TWENTIETH PLENARY MEETING
VINGTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
20ª SESION PLENARIA

(22 November 1983)

The Twentieth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.55 hours,
John R. Block, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La vingtième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 55, sous la
présidence de John R. Block, Président de la Conférence'

Se abre la 20ª Sesión Plenaria a las 14.55 horas, bajo la
presidencia de John R. Block, Presidente de la Conferencia

- Sixth Report of the General Committee
- Sixième rapport du Bureau
- Sexto informe del Comité General

CHAIRMAN: I call upon the Assistant Secretary-General to read the report of the General Committee this morning.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL: I shall read the text as follows:

"THE CONFERENCE,

Having proceeded to a secret ballot, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization,

1. Declares that M.S. Swaminathan is appointed Independent Chairman of the Council for a period of two years, that is until the end of the regular session of the Conference to be held in 1985;

2. Decides that the conditions of appointment, including the allowances attached to the office of the Independent Chairman of the Council, shall be as follows:

(a) An annual allowance of the equivalent of \$10 000 to cover representation expenses and secretarial assistance in the Chairman's home station, on the understanding that the Director-General will provide secretarial assistance when the Chairman attends sessions of the Council or Conference; one half of the allowance shall be payable in US dollars, the balance being payable, in whole or in part, in the currency of the home country of the Chairman, or in Italian Lire, according to his desires;

(b) A per diem allowance at a rate equivalent to that for the Deputy Director-General, while the Chairman is absent from his home station on Council business, the allowance being reduced to \$20.00 per diem while the Chairman is in travel status;

(c) Travel expenses, including the above per diem allowance, shall be defrayed by the Organization, in conformity with its regulations and existing practice when the Chairman attends sessions of the Council, of the Programme and Finance Committees, of the Conference, or when he is invited by the Council or by the Director-General to travel for other purposes."

That is the end of the text, Mr Chairman.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. You have heard the Report of the General Committee, are there any objections? If there are no objections then the Report stands approved.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

- DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 6 (from Commission III)

- PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA CONFERENCE - SIXIEME PARTIE
(émanant de la Commission III)

- PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 6 (de la Comisión III)

CHAIRMAN: I will now call upon the Vice-Chairman of Commission III, the delegate of Nigeria, to proceed with the adoption of Part 6 of our report - from Commission III.

R.R. FAJEYISAN (Vice-Chairman, Commission III): Document C 83/REP/6, the Draft Report of the Plenary, Part 6, is from Commission III and was adopted in Commission yesterday afternoon. I suggest we now take each item in turn, starting with item 17.

CHAIRMAN: The recommendation is that we go item by item.

Paragraphs 1 and 2 approved

Les paragraphes 1 et 2 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 y 2 son aprobados

Paragraphs 3 to 6 approved

Les paragraphes 3 à 6 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 3 a 6 son aprobados

Paragraph 7, including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 7, y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 7, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

Paragraphs 8 and 9 approved

Les paragraphes 8 et 9 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 8 y 9 son aprobados

Paragraph 10, including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 10, y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 10, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

CHAIRMAN: New paragraphs 11 to 14. Are there any corrections or additions to these paragraphs?

Sra. Da. M. RUIZ ZAPATA (México): Gracias señor Presidente, mi delegación quiere dejar constancia de que vota en contra de la escala de cuotas propuesta.

Sra. Doña L. PLANAS GIRON (Venezuela): Gracias señor Presidente, sólo para dejar constancia de que mi delegación también vota en contra de la escala de cuotas propuesta.

CHAIRMAN: That shall be so recorded.

M. AL SAGHIR (Libya)(original language Arabic): My delegation would like to vote against the Scale of Contributions proposed in these paragraphs.

Ms A. SALGADO SANTOS (Brazil): I would just like to say that our delegation is voting against the scale of Contributions.

CHAIRMAN: Are there other comments or corrections? Seeing none, I declare the paragraphs 11 to 14, item 20, adopted.

Paragraphs 11 to 13 approved

Les paragraphes 11 à 13 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 11 a 13 son aprobados

Paragraph 14, including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 14, y compris la resolution, est adopté

El párrafo 14, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

Paragraphs 15 to 23 approved

Les paragraphes 15 à 23 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 15 a 23 son aprobados

That concludes Part 6 from Commission III, with my compliments to the Vice-Chairman for a very able job, I thank her for her efforts.

Draft Report of Plenary - Part 6, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, Sixième partie, est adoptée

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte 6, es aprobado

The meeting rose at 15.15 hours

La séance est levée à 15 h 15

Se levanta la sesión a las 15.15 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C 83/PV/21

C

Twenty-second Session
PLENARY

Vingt-deuxième session
PLENIERE

22° periodo de sesiones
PLENARIA

TWENTY-FIRST PLENARY MEETING
VINGT ET UNIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
21ª SESION PLENARIA

(23 November 1983)

The Twenty-first Plenary meeting was opened at 10.45 hours

John R. Block, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La vingt et unième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 45 sous la présidence de

John R. Block, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 21ª sesión plenaria a las 10.45 horas, bajo la presidencia de

John R. Block, Presidente de la Conferencia

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: I call the meeting to order and I call On the Chairman of Commission II to come forward.

C. NTSANE (Chairman, Commission II): Thank you very much Mr Chairman. I am greatly honoured to present through you to the Conference the second set of reports on the work of Commission II of the Twenty-second Conference of FAO. I am also honoured to present these reports at a time when there is a demonstration by all nations to honestly seek solutions to the problems of hunger and malnutrition which indeed has been the permanent objective of this Organization.

The reports on items 12, 13, 14 and 16 in document C 83/REP/7 were considered as document C 83/II/REP 2 and 3 at normal working pace. The discussions that led to this report before the Conference were conducted in an atmosphere of seriousness but were greatly relaxed.

With regard to item 15, Plant Genetic Resources which is a follow-up to Conference Resolution 6/81, the Commission, both as a whole and in its Contact Groups, deliberated on this subject for 32 and 1/2 hours, most of which was continuous - 16 1/2 hours in the Contact Group and 16 hours in the Commission. During this time all concerned, the FAO staff, representatives of developed and developing countries, as well as representatives of nongovernmental organizations, worked with loyalty and a deep sense of duty all without exception, and in a spirit of cooperation and compromise were seeking to emerge with a general framework called an International Undertaking within which all nations and entities would find it possible to place at the disposal of FAO their present and still to be developed Plant Genetic Resources for the common good of humanity.

Mr Chairman, this was not an easy task, but it was borne with courage, patience and conviction. At the beginning of the debates on the Director-General's report on this matter positions were hard and fixed; some were generally agreeable, some were opposed, while others would join consensus only under certain specified conditions. Negotiations brought these positions closer together to a point where it was possible to produce acceptable versions of an International Undertaking on plant genetic resources as well as enabling the Draft Resolution, both contained in document C 83/REP/8. Only as a result of the acceptability of these versions some members would not stand in the way of consensus and could permit the adoption of the Undertaking and the Resolution, but reserved their positions until further consideration by their respective governments.

The report of the Director-General, the Draft Undertaking and the Draft Resolution on Plant Genetic Resources, all done in accordance with Conference Resolution 6/81, had been so carefully worded that even with many hours of deliberations the Commission in a majority of cases came back to the original wording. For this the Director-General and his staff deserve to be commended.

Throughout the discussion it was clear that many members would have wished to see an internationally binding convention, but for practical considerations and in an attempt to attract the widest possible participation in the exchange of plant genetic resources and information, an Undertaking was the best mechanism to settle for as a starting point. However, the hope for a more formal arrangement cannot die easily, and to accommodate this the Commission presents for the consideration of the Conference the Draft Resolution under paragraph 13 of document C 83/REP/8. Clearly Mr Chairman, between a binding convention and a relatively loose undertaking only a compromise mechanism may be appropriate to permit a start on this activity of universal interest.

I take, if you permit, this opportunity to thank all those who have combined their energies on the work done so far on plant genetic resources for the benefit of future generations.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I recommend to you that we proceed with the consideration of the Report section by section. I thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you Mr Chairman for your efforts in putting the work of Commission II together. We will proceed with the adoption of the agenda items.

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 7 (from COMMISSION II)
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - SEPTIEME PARTIE (de la COMMISSION II)
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 7, (de la COMISIÓN II)

Paragraphs 1 to 5 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 5 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 5 son aprobados

Paragraphs 6 to 15 approved

Les paragraphes 6 à 15 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 6 a 15 son aprobados

Paragraphs 16 to 27 approved

Les paragraphes 16 à 27 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 16 a 27 son aprobados

Paragraph 28, including Resolution adopted

Le paragraphe 28, y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 28, incluida la Resolución, aprobado

Paragraphs 29 to 45 approved

Les paragraphes 29 à 45 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 29 a 45 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 46 to 59

PARAGRAPHES 46 59

PÁRRAFOS 46 a 59

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Si he entendido bien, ahora puedo referirme al párrafo 53 del capítulo referente al Examen y Evaluación de la Estrategia Internacional de Desarrollo. Se trata de una corrección que más bien afecta al texto castellano. Si la planteo aquí, en Plenaria, es porque es muy importante, es muy sustancial y es la última ocasión de hacerlo. Me excuso por ello, pero al final del párrafo 53, la traducción al castellano es sumamente deficiente. Habla de "industrias agrícolas de elaboración a la producción de ingresos en las áreas rurales". Creo que la lógica traducción será, al final del párrafo 53, "la contribución de las agroindustrias que generen ingresos en las áreas rurales". Repito, "la contribución de las agroindustrias que generen ingresos en las áreas rurales". En su forma actual, es inaceptable en el texto castellano.

Y si me lo permite, ya que estoy en el uso de la palabra, también quiero referirme al párrafo 58.

CHAIRMAN: Let us address the first question first; the correction of the wording as suggested by the distinguished delegate from Colombia. Mr Chairman, what do you have to say in regard to that?

C. NTSANE (Chairman, Commission II): As I understood that effects only the Spanish text and I believe it can be corrected as suggested.

CHAIRMAN: Is there any objection to correcting the Spanish text in accordance with the recommendation of the delegate from Colombia? Hearing none, that correction will be made.

Now your second point delegate from Colombia.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Este punto es menor; se refiere al párrafo 58, pero igualmente es desastrosa la traducción al castellano, y por eso me permito presentarla. En la primera frase del párrafo 58 dice "con la compartición", y debe decir "el progreso social con la participación en los beneficios por parte de todos los sectores de la población". Por lo tanto, "con la participación en los beneficios". Gracias y de nuevo me excuso.

C. NTSANE (Chairman, Commission II): Likewise I believe since it affects only the Spanish text it can be corrected.

CHAIRMAN: Is there any objection to that correction? Hearing none the correction will be made. Are there any other corrections or additions to item 16?

Paragraphs 46 to 59, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 46 à 59, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 46 a 59, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 60 to 63 approved

Les paragraphes 60 à 63 sont approuvées

Los párrafos 60 a 63 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 7, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, septième partie, ainsi amendée, est adoptée

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte 7, así enmendado, es aprobado

I would like to call upon the Commission Chairman now and see if the Commission Chairman has any remarks before we move to part 8 agenda item 15 - Plant Genetic Resources.

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 8 (from COMMISSION II)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - HUITIEME PARTIE (de la COMMISSION II)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 8 (de la COMISION II)

C. NTSANE (Chairman, Commission II): Thank you very much Mr Chairman. A slight addition to what I have already said. I can only say that two modifications can be introduced to bring paragraph 12 and the Resolution into line more closely with the language already adopted, and in the second line of paragraph 12 there should be inserted the words "interested in the Undertaking", and the word "interested" before the word "governments" should be therefore erased. Also in paragraph 1 of the Resolution under paragraph 13, paragraph 1 starting with "Membership", in the second line between "Organization and whether" the words "interested in the Undertaking" should also be inserted. Those are the only slight introductions we can make Mr Chairman.

CHAIRMAN: You have heard those additions and I trust that you have inserted them.

A. CAVERO MONCANUT (España): Sólo quería pedir que repitieran las correcciones, sobre todo la segunda de ellas.

CHAIRMAN: Mr Chairman, would you repeat that correction for the delegates please.

C. NTSANE (Chairman, Commission II): First on page 9, paragraph 12, the second line where it reads "of an intergovernmental committee or other body open to all interested", at that point we delete "interested" and insert "interested in the Undertaking". Therefore it should correctly read "of an intergovernmental committee or other body open to all governments interested in the Undertaking".

The second place where we make the insertion is under paragraph 13 in the Resolution, under paragraph 1 which starts with the word "Membership". Again in the second line where it reads "Member Nations of the Organization", we insert there "interested in the Undertaking", and therefore it would read "Member Nations of the Organization interested in the Undertaking whether or not they are members of the committee".

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 11, INCLUDING RESOLUTION AND ANNEX
PARAGRAPHES 1 à 11, Y COMPRIS LA RESOLUTION ET L'ANNEXE
LOS PÁRRAFOS 1 a 11, INCLUIDA LA RESOLUCION Y EL ANEXO

PARAGRAPHS 12 and 13, INCLUDING RESOLUTION
LES PARAGRAPHES 12 et 13, Y COMPRIS LA RESOLUTION
LOS PÁRRAFOS 12 y 13, INCLUIDA LA RESOLUCION

CHAIRMAN: Are there any corrections or additions or discussions on this agenda item?

A. LUTZ (Finland): I have a small addition which I would like to propose for the Resolution on page 9, in the 3rd paragraph which starts with the words "Requests the Council and the COAG". Then this sentence goes on to say that "the Committee's regular sessions" etc. I would like to propose that either the abbreviation "COAG" is spelled out in full, because it is not clear to everybody - after all, this is for the future - or to put the whole name of the COAG into square brackets after the abbreviation; or else call it by its name, Committee on Agriculture.

CHAIRMAN: You heard the recommendation. Do you have any comments on it, Mr Chairman?

C. NTSANE (Chairman, Commission II): I believe there should be no difficulty in putting that in full, that is, the Committee on Agriculture.

CHAIRMAN: Is there any objection to this insertion? Hearing none, it is accepted. Now I would open the floor once again for corrections or additions or recommendations.

J.R. LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Nos congratulamos de que se haya hecho mención, por parte de la Presidencia, a los dos cambios- o adiciones que sobre el párrafo 12 y 13 de las disposiciones sobre el término "interesados en el compromiso" se han hecho. Lo subrayamos porque a pesar de que no tiene, según lo que ayer nos confirmó el señor Asesor Jurídico, implicaciones legales, sí marca una cuestión de tipo moral en el sentido de que aquellos Estados Miembros que aceptan el Compromiso y aquellos que no lo aceptan, deberán actuar en congruencia. Es decir, aquéllos que no han aceptado el Compromiso, se entiende que sin duda no estarán interesados en participar en un subcomité de Recursos Fitogenéticos puesto que no están de acuerdo en la base misma de su constitución y de su trabajo. Y en consecuencia, los países que sí están aceptando el Compromiso, podrían interpretar su presencia y su actuación como de mala fe.

Pero en fin, eso es una cuestión solamente de tipo moral y de congruencia, por lo cual lo subrayamos y nos alegramos de que haya sido insertado.

Efectivamente, tenemos alguna observación que hacer en torno al párrafo 3 preambular, que resulta primero una pregunta a la Secretaría, y posteriormente, podríamos afinarla como una propuesta de parte de nuestra delegación.

Va en el siguiente sentido; ayer no quedó claro si existían otras posibilidades para constituir un órgano que respondiera adecuadamente y oportuna o prontamente a nuestro interés de tratar estos aspectos relativos a los recursos fitogenéticos en el futuro inmediato. Viendo los artículos de la Constitución de la FAO, y concretamente el artículo VI, vemos que es factible que la Conferencia o el Consejo creen comisiones de las que podrán formar parte todos los Estados Miembros y miembros asociados. De manera que podríamos poner a consideración de esta Conferencia otra alternativa a este párrafo preambular, con sus consecuencias en los siguientes dispositivos, en el sentido siguiente. Y me voy a permitir dar lectura a nuestra proposición: "Pide al Consejo que en su 85° período de sesiones establezca un órgano sobre recursos fitogenéticos que se reunirá en los períodos de sesiones ordinarios del Consejo y cuya composición y mandato serán los siguientes: párrafo 1 -Composición. El Subcomité de Recursos Fitogenéticos estará abierto a todos los Estados Miembros de la Organización y Miembros Asociados interesados en el Compromiso. De conformidad con el artículo VI, etc...".

La razón de esta pregunta, y si se contesta adecuadamente la propuesta, es que la Constitución de un Organismo Auxiliar bajo COAG tendría que esperar un año y medio para su constitución; y posteriormente, para obtener resultados, quizás otro año y medio. De manera que tendríamos

ya tres años de espera para obtener ciertos resultados. Quizás una Comisión del tipo que estamos proponiendo pudiera permitirnos acelerar los trabajos, y eventualmente desaparecer en el momento en que haya arrancado con éstos y precisado prioridades, etc. Quizás alguna asistencia legal podamos tener en torno a esta cuestión para confirmar o retirar nuestra propuesta.

CHAIRMAN: I am going to call upon you, Mr Chairman. I have two questions that you may be able to help with, or perhaps someone else. The first question is where this would properly fit, if it was acceptable. Does it replace something else, if we were to pursue this route? And I would ask the Chairman to comment on what we are talking about here.

C. NTSANE (Chairman, Commission II): I recommend that you give the floor to the Legal Counsel.

LEGAL COUNSEL: The point raised by the delegate of Mexico has two parts to it. The first is: can the Conference ask the Council to establish a Commission under paragraph 1 of Article VI of the Constitution, which would be open, as provided in that paragraph, to all Member Nations and associate members of the Organization? The answer to that question is: yes, the Council may do this.

The second part of the point raised by the delegate of Mexico relates more to the periodicity of the meetings of such a body. If I have understood him correctly, he indicated that this Article VI.1 Commission would meet simultaneously with each regular session of the Council. In that connection, from the purely practical point of view, this would mean that the Commission would meet once in non-Conference years and three times in Conference years. This might be somewhat excessive. Nor did the delegate of Mexico indicate whether it was his intention that the Article VI.1 Commission would meet only until such time as a subsidiary body of the Committee on Agriculture would be established, at which time, the Article VI.1 Commission would cease to be of use. The delegate of Mexico might clarify, whether the Article VI.1 Commission that he is suggesting would, or would not, cease its functions at such time as a subsidiary body would be established by the Committee on Agriculture.

CHAIRMAN: I would ask Mexico to respond to that question.

J.R. LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Sr. Presidente, como usted sabe la Conferencia es el máximo órgano de esta Institución de la FAO y por tanto puede crear o puede solicitar al Consejo en última instancia que cree un órgano conforme a sus propios estatutos.

Lo que estamos solicitando es urta revisiórt o un análisis de la alternativa a la propuesta que se hace en el párrafo 3° del Preámbulo, es decir que en vez de constituir un órgano auxiliar del Comité de Agricultura creemos una Comisión que podría ser, eventualmente, auxiliar del Consejo, no del Comité de Agricultura, en vista de que tememos que de no hacerlo así van a pasar muchos años sin que haya un avance adecuado en estas materias y los países en desarrollo particularmente interesados en estas cuestiones, porque de ello dependerá sin duda buena parte del esfuerzo productivo del futuro en materia agrícola, no nos podamos ver beneficiados por los esfuerzos de este órgano. En consecuencia, no estamos planteando que se constituya una Comisión hasta que se reúna el COAG, sino que se constituya una Comisión que trabaje por su parte, avance los trabajos y si esta Comisión tiene logros importantes y eventualmente la Conferencia decide en dos años eliminarla y crear otro tipo de órgano, un Comité Intergubernamental por ejemplo, pues entonces se tomará la decisión; pero, por lo pronto, poder tener algo, un órgano con que empezar a trabajar.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): The Federal Republic delegation can muster some understanding for the fact that the delegate of Mexico would like to see action as soon as possible in the field of plant genetic resources, in accordance with the proposals before the Conference in document C 83/REP/8. We can understand that viewpoint but on the other hand, a certain amount of time is necessary for preparation; I think this is something we should not lose sight of. The Chairman of Commission II in his introductory remarks has already told us that the Commission devoted a great deal of time to discussing this whole nexus of issues. Among those issues there was the proposal that an alternative to COAG and its proposed sub-committee or subsidiary should be considered. However, on the suggestion of Libya we have, on page 9 of the document before us, C 83/REP/8, a Resolution which was agreed to in the Commissiono

That is to say, a proposal that these tasks be remitted to a subsidiary body of the Committee on Agriculture. In the view of the Federal Republic that is where the work should be done because it is a specialised task. Accordingly my delegation would find it very difficult indeed to go along with the proposal that another commission be set up to deal with these issues.

My delegation also has quite a few misgivings about the whole package. However, we have decided not to bring this up, in order to achieve a consensus and with the agreement of other delegations, then my delegation as well would be prepared to accept C 83/REP/8 as it stands.

M. Balla SY (Sénégal): Nous avons eu l'avis du Conseil juridique quant à la possibilité en vertu de l'article VI de la création d'un Comité par le Conseil ou la Conférence. Mais le problème qui se pose, c'est qu'à l'article XXXII, point 12, il est également prévu que c'est le COAG qui a la possibilité de créer un organe subsidiaire ou ad hoc. Or, on dit que le COAG détermine la composition, le mandat et la durée de l'organe subsidiaire ou ad hoc créé. Mais une résolution a déjà fixé, à la place du COAG, la composition, le mandat, sans parler de la durée, de ce Comité. A ce moment, notre délégation avait éprouvé des difficultés juridiques et elle s'est demandé dans quelle mesure cette résolution, qui comportait beaucoup de conséquences, était indispensable, d'autant plus qu'il existait déjà un engagement international et une résolution d'ordre général. Donc, nous nous demandons si la question ne pourrait pas être mûrie davantage plutôt que d'adopter cette résolution qui entraîne beaucoup de conséquences juridiques.

I.P. ALVARENGA (El Salvador): Nosotros compartimos la preocupación de la Delegación mexicana en cuanto al tiempo que tardaría el establecimiento de este órgano auxiliar y efectivamente vemos dificultades para que funcione a tiempo prudencialmente corto y con la intensidad necesaria si tuviese que reunirse cada vez que se congregue el Comité de Agricultura. Pensáramos a ese respecto que se deje liberada la creación solamente al Consejo y estamos de acuerdo con la Delegación mexicana en eso, y que sea convocado en concomitancia con las reuniones del COAG, o cuando lo convoque el Director General o su Presidente. Está sobreentendido que esto no debe aumentar los costos de funcionamiento, desde luego.

M. AHMAD (Pakistan): We also share the concern about the timing as expressed by the delegation from Mexico and perhaps the best way of dealing with this could be through a slight amendment which would say in this third paragraph "which would meet at the time of the Committee's regular sessions", instead if we could say "which would meet once a year" to propose thereby the frequency would increase because the Committee on Agriculture usually meets every two years, after intervals of two years. Perhaps this would meet the point expressed by the delegation of Mexico.

CHAIRMAN: I see no other comments at this point of time. Let me say something from my own standpoint as Chairman of this Conference and I see this as an idea which has been talked about at great length already, according to the Chairman in the Commission, and idea that has perhaps good merit but this work should have been done in the Commission and not to be all done on this floor and we could have a very lengthy debate on this and I am not sure what we should resolve. My sense is that there are some problems with it, from what I have heard from some sources, I cannot speak specifically to all the legal ramifications but some have been bringing up questions like this that I cannot answer but I would ask the Director-General if he has any comments.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: The year 1984 is going to be a very busy year. I will have to organize five Regional Conferences at ministerial level in five different countries. FAO will also have to organize a World Conference on Fisheries and also the Council is meeting in 1984. I think very frankly it will be very difficult for us to organize a meeting for 130 or 140 countries because this Committee is going to be open to all Member States, including those who are interested, and those who will write to me a letter to say that they are interested to join. The same applies to the Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on Fisheries, they are open to the interested member countries. I myself, from the practical point of view, will have difficulties to convene a meeting on this subject in 1984. A meeting for 140 countries may cost half a million dollars. It is a very big decision to have a Committee meeting every year, and to put it at the same level as the Council. We are dealing with one subject, plant genetic resources. There are other subjects in FAO, animal resources, food crops, which are also very important. This is a very very far-reaching decision, of course the Conference is sovereign, to create a Committee having the same importance and level of the Council open to all Member States and to meet every year. And then to discuss what? Plant genetic resources, an undertaking which still is a piece of paper although approved by you: even if you adhere to it, it is not really compulsory.

To be frank, a sub-committee of COAG might be something more practical. When we organize a meeting of COAG then it is a meeting for 140 countries, 150 countries, there is no major additional cost if a sub-committee of COAG meets concurrently. Plant genetics as you have seen for yourself, is a very specialized subject and the technicians who are attending the Committee on Agriculture could also deal with this subject. We can have a sub-committee meeting at the same time, the same week and once every two years. To organize every year a meeting on plant genetic resources may not be justified by the subject and by the progress. In fact, besides our work on genetic resources, which is a part of the Programme of Work and Budget, there will be very little to review, maybe our cooperation with IBPGR, and also our dealings with IBPGR. We attend their Board and we need to report to you about what is discussed and to receive your instruction what to say, but nothing more. This is my frank, direct reaction to this idea of having a meeting every year and of having a committee of the Council. In 1984 it will be very difficult, if not impossible for me to have a meeting because we will be very busy and there may be very little progress to report on. So I really request and appeal to the delegate of Mexico not to insist and to keep the text as it is after the amendments which were indicated by the Chairman of the Commission II.

M.S ZEHNI (Libya): I would like first to apologise to my Arab speaking colleagues that I have to use a foreign language which I do not usually use in the Conference but since most of the documentation in front of me and the quotations are in English so I have to try my best to convey my ideas in a foreign language.

When our delegation submitted to Commission II the Draft Resolution which appears now in page 9 we were aware that this perhaps is not the best possible solution but we opted for it for many practical reasons. One of the major concerns was the time concern about when the subsidiary body or body will meet and I think we improved the text last night by putting that "COAG at its next session will establish the", so I thought it is a certainty that it will be established at its next session. We feel that, apart from the final decision of this plenary on what measure it likes to take, this arrangement, though not the best, could be a practical and workable one.

I listened to the Director-General talk about 1984 and how busy it is going to be. I thought I would suggest here that this topic should be a major topic in the agenda of the Regional Conference to discuss it. I think this will prepare the ground, even for the meeting of COAG. So the issue would not lose momentum and would be discussed as one of the major issues during the Regional Conferences to discuss the Undertaking and the views and the concerns of the regions. I think this will give momentum and keep the issue alive in the agenda of FAO.

A further note, last night we were tempted to suggest a slight addition to the draft proposal which we submitted, that if it is at all possible maybe we will add a phrase at the end which reads roughly like this - it is not the final wording but I give you the intent of it: "We further request the Council to examine in due course arrangements of this sort and express its opinion as to their effectiveness and if there are other alternative measures to be taken". So we take the subsidiary body of COAG as an intermediate step. In a few years' time when we have had experience of the working of the subsidiary body perhaps the Council will look into this and we can then see if the measure was effective or if other alternatives were needed.

CHAIRMAN: I will call on Mexico. Let me say that we are not going to debate this all morning. We are going to resolve it fairly soon because we have other work.

J.R. LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Quiero expresar en primer lugar, señor Presidente, que nuestra propuesta estaba sujeta a una confirmación de tipo legal que ha habido. En segundo lugar, debo aclarar que no recuerdo ni fue ésa en todo caso nuestra intención el poner al Comité o a la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos al mismo nivel que el Consejo; sería ingenuo suponer esto. Nuestra intención era acelerar estos trabajos; de manera que, con todo respeto y para solucionar este problema nosotros proponemos una solución intermedia que sería la siguiente. Más bien ateniéndonos a la propuesta de la delegación de El Salvador en el sentido de que el Consejo establezca una comisión que se reuniría en los períodos de sesiones ordinarios del Comité de Agricultura, es decir, en este caso en 1985 o cuando lo convoque el propio Presidente o el Director General de la FAO. De esta manera podríamos adelantar durante un año y medio los trabajos, los documentos y tener así para la sesión del COAG algo sobre lo cual trabajar y no iniciar hasta entonces los trabajos de este órgano.

La idea en consecuencia, es una idea intermedia entre lo que se ha propuesto a esta Conferencia. Acelerar la creación de una comisión u órgano intergubernamental sobre recursos fitogenéticos, que se reuniría en los períodos de sesiones ordinarios de Comité de Agricultura, así se salvarían las preocupaciones justas y explícitas ahora por parte del Director General de que 1984 será un año muy cargado.

Esta es nuestra propuesta, espero que sea ésta aceptable, ya que no vemos que conlleve a ningún problema.

M. TRKULJA (Yugoslavia): It is with great reluctance that we ask for the floor, but we feel that we may offer a small suggestion which would alleviate some of the uneasiness felt by Mexico and some other delegations. I feel in the light of what the Director-General said and what Libya stated that we could reach a common understanding that to the next session of COAG will be submitted the first progress report on the working of the Undertaking. With this I think the uneasiness could be resolved.

CHAIRMAN: I am going to rule that we do not accept the recommendation of Mexico unless Mexico would insist upon a vote. In that case we will vote to determine this. My evaluation is, as I look and listen and hear the argument - and I appreciate the work that the Chairman and Commission II did -that this suggestion, though perhaps with merit, has not really gelled, it is not sure exactly how it is to be done, and it is an idea rather than an amendment, a change of a few words in the Commission's report, and I think it is a whole new addition and I would rule that it not be approved and not be accepted unless I am challenged.

J.R. LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Pensamos nosotros que no traerá ninguno de esos inconvenientes, porque la Conferencia recomendará al Consejo la constitución del órgano, lo que hemos propuesto es una transacción, una situación intermedia que nos permitiría resolver el problema. La idea es que 1985 llegue con documentos ya preparados que podamos discutir y que, además, podamos sesionar con más prontitud o con más celeridad en las reuniones del COAG. Creo que si se acepta esto implica tan sólo una pequeña enmienda.

CHAIRMAN: I hear what you are saying and I appreciate it. You have made a very forceful case and many others have, but unless there is a call for a vote we will go on to the next subject. That is my ruling. If someone insists on a vote, then we will vote. But I appreciate your efforts, and very well done.

A.PINOARGOTE CEVALLOS (Ecuador): Yo había pedido la palabra, señor Presidente, para decir que no se proceda a dar por terminado este asunto, ya que me parece que la última propuesta de México es aceptable y si se ha invertido en discutir este tema tanto tiempo, no podemos llegar ahora a la conclusión de que hay que esperar dos años para que esto quede congelado.

Yo creo que la última propuesta es razonable, en definitiva, lo que él propuso es que durante este tiempo se realice el trabajo necesario para la próxima vez ver el asunto con mayor conocimiento de causa. En consecuencia, creo yo que si El Salvador, México y ahora Ecuador, están de acuerdo en algo, no pienso que se puede dar por cerrado así de esta manera este punto •

CHAIRMAN: Let me say I heard what you said but the Chair offered an opportunity to call for a vote on the subject, the vote was not called for, and we will not debate this subject any longer. I appreciate your efforts and you have a good point. We are not going to debate it any longer.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Mr Chairman, at this juncture I want only to give full assurance to the members of the Conference that while I will be preparing the documentation for the creation of the Sub-committee on Plant Genetic Resources of the Committee on Agriculture, at the same time I will be preparing the provisional agenda and the documentation for its meeting. So if the Committee on Agriculture decides to establish this Sub-Committee, it can meet during the session of the Committee on Agriculture if it is so desired. So we shall not have to wait until the next session of the Committee on Agriculture which would be, as you said, a very long period. In other words, the first session of this Sub-Committee, if it is established by the Committee on Agriculture, could take place in the spring of 1985.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr Director-General. Are there any other corrections or additions to agenda item 15?

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Lamento insistir, señor Presidente, pero éste es un asunto de gran importancia. Podríamos pedir nuevamente a la Secretaría que leyera la última propuesta de México porque, le repito señor Presidente, esto nos interesa a muchos países.

CHAIRMAN: With all due respect that subject is closed. Is there any other discussion? Any other corrections or additions, on any other subject?

A. CAVERÒ MONCANUT (España): Con todo respeto, señor Presidente, pedimos, al igual que Colombia aue se lea la última enmienda presentada por México.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Nous avons écouté avec beaucoup d'attention les thèses développées par les uns et les autres, et nous pensons que sans pouvoir trop s'éloigner du texte qui nous est proposé, il est possible de réexaminer avec un peu plus d'attention la dernière proposition faite par le Mexique.

J. GAZZO FERNANDEZ-DAVILA (Perú): A mí me preocupa, y disculpe señor Presidente que lo haga un poco a destiempo, pero el tema lo acabo de recibir. En el punto 3 de la página 2 hay una parte que como le digo me preocupa, por lo menos en la parte de nuestro idioma. Dice en las dos últimas líneas: "Bajo los auspicios o la jurisdicción de la FAO". En español bajo los auspicios o la jurisdicción, quiere decir uno de los dos. Quisiera que se ponga y/o; o sea pueden ser las dos o puede ser uno solo. Este es uno de los puntos.

El otro punto que me interesa, con todo respeto señor Presidente, porque son varios años que tratamos este tema, es que justamente parece increíble que nosotros, los países en desarrollo, seamos los donantes de genes y los países desarrollados sean los receptores. Al ser los donantes de genes, lo que quisiéramos con todo respeto y admiración por su magnífica dirección, señor Presidente, es que hubiera un poquito de flexibilidad y pudiéramos llegar a acelerar los tiempos y quisiéramos llegar con una documentación un poquito elaborada. No quisiéramos entrar en la burocracia, pero sí encontrar una fórmula mágica con la cual podamos comenzar a trabajar de inmediato.

Por ello, con todo respeto y con toda humildad, le pediría que nos dejara un par de minutos para tratar de llegar a un acuerdo, que su generosidad como un Presidente de amplio criterio nos permita discutir, aunque sea por dos minutos más, este punto.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Consideramos que el punto no puede cerrarse. La propuesta de una delegación apoyada, debe discutirse ya que creemos que hay elementos en la Sala para poder buscar una solución en poco tiempo.

CHAIRMAN: I appreciate that there is interest in it. I have heard there is interest in it. I also appreciate the work that was done in the Committee, and somehow the Committee's Report does not reflect everything for everyone, which is the way I guess you can expect, since apparently there was a great amount of compromise effort involved.

I would ask the Commission Chairman to make any comments he wants. to.

C. NTSANE (Chairman, Commission II): As I have said before, this matter was debated at length, and at this point I would really have nothing else to add.

S.?. MUKERJI (India). Mr Chairman, I would not like to make your task any more difficult by making more amendments or suggestions, but without prejudice to what my government would like to take a decision on so far as the International Undertaking is concerned, I would suggest in all humility that there should be some harmony between Article 5 of the Undertaking and Article 7.2. I will explain it very briefly.

The basic principle of the Undertaking is that the Undertaking will be limited to base collections of plant genetic resources and that on an international level these base collections will be made available for scientific research and on mutually agreed terms. These three elements are evident in Article 5, but in Article 7.2 the last sentence reads "that the centre concerned will whenever requested by FAO make material in the base collection available to participants in the Undertaking".

I would suggest that for the sake of harmony between Article 5 and Article 7.2, a small clause may be added at the end of this sentence to the effect that it will be made available to participants in the Undertaking "for purposes of scientific research, plant breeding or genetic resource conservation, free of charge on the basis of mutual exchange or on mutually agreed terms."

I sincerely feel that the addition of this clause will facilitate and encourage a larger number of governments to participate in the International Centres or the International Coordinated Network of Plant Resources.

C. NTSANE (Chairman, Commission II): For the sake of consistency I believe and I recommend that this should be accepted without any difficulty.

CHAIRMAN: Is there any objection to this recommendation? Hearing none, it shall be adopted.

One further point on the Mexican proposition because I want to be fair, but I would ask the Chairman of the Commission: was this proposition discussed, was it presented formally in the Commission because I was not there, I do not know.

C. NTSANE (Chairman, Commission II): No, Mr Chairman. What is reflected in the Report is what was presented formally. What is suggested by Mexico now is new.

J.R. LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Ayer en la noche, el señor Presidente dio por terminada la sesión sin que pudiéramos terminar esto, indicando que había problemas de interpretación, pero precisamente esas cuestiones se estaban consultando con el Asesor Jurídico, y no creemos que el Asesor Jurídico haya dado el abanico de alternativas suficientes; por lo menos, no en la sesión, de manera que no pudo terminar de discutirse.

Es por ello que acudimos nosotros mismos al texto, y vimos que sí había una alternativa legal. Si usted me lo permite, quizás esto pudiera hacer que se acelerara esta cuestión, podría yo dar lectura a nuestra propuesta y ver si es aceptable para todos, porque no creo que hay ningún problema; y lo digo francamente. Con todo respeto, puedo presentar esta propuesta y resolver de esta manera si es aceptable o no aceptable.

CHAIRMAN: Just read it, O.K.

J.R. LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Dice: "Pide al Consejo que en su próximo período de sesiones, es decir, el 85° período de sesiones, cree un órgano intergubernamental sobre recursos fitogenéticos que se reunirá en los períodos de sesiones ordinarios del Comité de Agricultura o cuando lo convoque su propio presidente o el Director General".

Esto nos permitiría llegar a 1985 con documentos de trabajo.

C. NTSANE (Chairman, Commission II): I would not have anything to say on what has just been read. I just wanted to clarify the fact that in the Commission what transpired were questions from Mexico to the Legal Counsel to find out if what has been suggested now could be accommodated within the Basic Texts of the Organization.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any other subjects to be brought forward, any other corrections or additions? This section is adopted.

Let me clarify where we are at now. Perhaps it was not clear. What we adopted was Agenda Item 15, paragraph 1 through 13, with one or two minor corrections that were made clear by the Chairman of Commission II and one delegation, no other additions, and the Mexican recommendation is not adopted, and it has been completed.

POINT OF ORDER
POINT D'ORDRE
PUNTO DE ORDEN

J.R. LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Una Moción de Orden, señor Presidente. El artículo IX de la Constitución en su párrafo cuarto dice: "El Presidente en el ejercicio de sus funciones está sometido a la autoridad de la Conferencia". No es a la inversa. De manera que le solicitamos que si no hay ninguna objeción al planteamiento que hemos hecho, se acepte éste y se incorpore a este documento, porque consideramos que esto podría facilitar sin duda nuestros trabajos. Le suplico lo tome en cuenta en vista de que hay muchas delegaciones que han hecho uso de la palabra en este sentido.

CHAIRMAN: I will tell you what I am going to do because you are so persistent. I am going to get a show of hands on what we do on this right now and put it to rest one way or the other.

You have just read it, you have heard Mexico's request.

Show of hands voting
Vote à main levée
Votación a mano alzada

The vote was 25 in favour, 30 opposed, 23 abstentions and the recommendation fails. Are there any other recommendations or suggestions on Agenda Item 15, paragraphs 1 to 13? You fought a good fight; that was a good one. Adopted.

POINT OF ORDER
POINT D'ORDRE
PUNTO DE ORDEN

J.R. LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Una Moción de Orden, señor Presidente. Solicitamos que se haga nominal porque nuestro cómputo fue distinto. Claro que es un cómputo informal, pero fue distinto. o sea que solicitamos se haga nominal la votación. Nosotros contamos 27 a favor, 21 en contra y 14 abstenciones.

CHAIRMAN: You have the authority to call for the vote, but may I say that we have people counting up here and they compared their numbers and they are in an advantageous place to count. I do not know about the prerogative of a roll call vote.

Unless I am absolutely obligated by the rules to have a roll call vote I am not going to reverse my position. That count was accurate up here, it was taken by several people. I personally counted, Mr Sylla counted and others counted but we will see what the Council says.

A. SALGADO SANTOS (Brazil): It is just to support the proposal made by the Mexican delegation for a roll call vote.

CHAIRMAN: May I make a request of the distinguished delegate from Mexico. I do not know what we are going to find here or if we are going to know what we found once we find it, but in the interest of trying to solve this I would ask that you withdraw your position inasmuch as I have got a long list. I have had votes from those who were not going to vote and I have heard from many people and heard them speak. That is my request; and I ask, would you consider it.

J.R. LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Yo respeto mucho su situación; sé que para usted es difícil esto. Le agradezco la forma en que está manejándolo, con paciencia, con buena voluntad, pero le reitero que nuestra delegación está profundamente interesada en esto porque no queremos ver que pasen los años sin tener soluciones en torno a este tema que consideramos prioritario.

De manera que, disculpe usted, pero sí reiteramos nuestra posición. Y gracias por su comprensión.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I am talking now to the delegate of Mexico. His text requests the Council at its next session - it meets tomorrow morning - to establish a subsidiary body of COAG on Plant Genetic Resources. So what is your text?

J.R. LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): La idea es que, conforme al artículo VI, tenemos entendido que el Consejo puede constituir una Comisión o un Órgano, en este caso intergubernamental, sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos. La idea sería pues solicitarle al Consejo el que constituya una Comisión sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos que se reunirá en los períodos de sesiones ordinarios del Comité de Agricultura, para que no sea el Comité de Agricultura quien lo cree dentro de un año y medio. Y a partir de entonces, empiece a trabajar. Por supuesto, nos atenemos plenamente al Reglamento, y en este caso al artículo VI, párrafo 1.

CHAIRMAN: I would suggest to the distinguished delegate from Mexico that we have another show of hands, which is a little bit easier, but a careful show of hands on the vote. Is that acceptable? Okay, we are going to do this once more and we are going to count the hands. Keep your country sign up very high and we are going to do it very carefully. Now you are voting on that which Mexico read. Do you want it read again? Read it again please, the specification recommendation, word for word.

J.R. LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Con mucho gusto. Dice: "Pide al Consejo que en su próximo período de sesiones cree un órgano intergubernamental sobre recursos fitogenéticos que se reunirá en los períodos de sesiones ordinarios del Comité de Agricultura o cuando lo convoque su propio Presidente o el Director General".

CHAIRMAN: Would all in favour of that suggestion raise your country sign. Right, those opposed raise your sign and raise it high. All right, now abstentions.

Show of hands votation

Vote à main levée

Votación a mano alzada

The count is: 37 in favour, 30 against and 29 abstentions.

The Mexican amendment was adopted by 37 votes to 30 against 29 abstentions

L'amendement du Mexique est adopté par 37 voix contre 30 et 29 abstentions

Por 37 votos contra 30 y 29 abstenciones queda aprobada la enmienda de México

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of)(original language German): For the reasons which we already announced in Commission II and which were set out here by the Director-General and the delegate of Libya, I now unfortunately have to intimate that we cannot agree with this proposal. Would you therefore include us in the footnote on page 4 of the document and on page 9 as well.

CHAIRMAN: That will be done.

P.S. McLEAN (United Kingdom): I find it very regrettable what this Plenary session has been doing for the last hour or more. We had a very long and detailed discussion in Commission II and the work of that Commission has been, I would not say destroyed but disrupted by this morning's effort. In an earlier intervention the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany stated that this whole thing was a finely tuned package and the United Kingdom, like the Federal Republic, was prepared to go along with it on that basis. What has been introduced to us this morning seems to me a new element which should have been discussed in that Commission, and, like my German colleague, I might find it necessary to enter, in respect of the two Resolutions, a reservation by the United Kingdom.

A. FEQUANT (France): La position de la France est la même sur ce point que celle de l'Allemagne fédérale et du Royaume-Uni.

J. SONNEVELD (Netherlands): I would like to see the Netherlands included in the same list of countries who have reservations on the Resolution on page 9.

M. Balla SY (Sénégal): Je pense qu'à l'image de la position de certains pays, il est bon que ceux qui ont proposé une modification indiquent leur position.

J'avais posé deux questions préjudicielles du point de vue juridique. J'avais dit qu'on ne pouvait pas demander à un organisme de créer un organe subsidiaire et de fixer au départ sa composition et son mandat, alors que le texte consultatif lui donne le droit de le faire lui-même. Si on avait répondu à ces questions préjudicielles, on aurait pu comprendre que du point de vue juridique la proposition du Mexique était tout à fait acceptable. Il n'est pas dans mon esprit de remettre en cause une résolution qui n'a pas été discutée. Je loue l'esprit expéditif du Président qui nous l'a fait adopter, mais nous avons toujours soulevé ces questions préjudicielles.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sr. Presidente, creo que todos debemos estar muy agradecidos a la Delegación de México, y particularmente a nuestro colega el Embajador, por haber propuesto una solución que simplemente está dirigida a acelerar los tiempos en un problema tan importante como este. Creemos que ha sido exagerada, desproporcionada la reacción de algunos colegas sobre el resultado de este voto democrático. Quisiéramos pedirles que ojalá retiren esas reservas que han expresado y acepten tan sólo nuestra voluntad, nuestro deseo de que cuanto antes se comience a trabajar en un aspecto que es de vital interés para nuestros países.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any other corrections or additions? Any other comments? Is there anything else to be added to Agenda item 15?

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I think it is necessary, now that this proposal of Mexico has been accepted, to make corresponding changes in the ensuing paragraphs, and perhaps you will allow the Legal Counsel to take the floor on this issue.

LEGAL COUNSEL: Now that the amendment proposed by Mexico has been adopted there are obviously a number of changes which have to be made to the draft Resolution set out on page 9 of the English version of document C 83/REP/8. First and foremost, of course, the title would need amending because you are now establishing a completely different type of body. But the more important part is the first operative paragraph of the Resolution beginning with the words "Requests". And here I hope I have the correct translation into English of the proposal made by Mexico. That paragraph would read:

"Requests the Council to establish at its next session a Commission on Plant Genetic Resources in accordance with Article VI paragraph 1 of the Constitution, open to all Member Nations and associate members and which will meet at the same time as the regular sessions of the Committee on Agriculture."

I assume, in addition, that the terms of reference of the Commission would remain precisely those which were provided for in the Resolution. Then there is a little bit of purely cosmetic drafting that would have to be inserted, simply in order to link up the text of the terms of reference, the substance of which would remain the same as in (a), (b), and (c), in the Resolution originally proposed by Libya. I hope I have interpreted the decision of the Conference correctly.

Mrs RAVN (Norway): May I request some clarification first from the Legal Counsel? I understand that now the membership is different from what was originally proposed because, as I understand it, now we talk about Member Nations of FAO and associate members, whereas in the original text we have the addition that "The Council may" etc. I do not know if this is still in the text.

LEGAL COUNSEL: Article VI, paragraph 1 provides for two kinds of Commission: those which are open to all Member Nations and associate members - there are, in fact, no associate members of the Organization at the present time - and those which are Regional. Therefore if we are to remain within Article VI.1, the Commission must be open to all Member Nations of the Organization. The procedure which is followed is that those Member Nations who so wish inform the Director-General of their desire to be a member of the Commission.

There are also perhaps two clarifications that I should make to what I said before. The text that I read would, of course, replace the paragraph in the old Resolution which had a small paragraph 1 entitled "Membership". Also, I omitted a few words. I think Mexico did say "which would meet at the time of the Committee on Agriculture's regular session when convened by the Chairman or by the Director-General." On that point, if I may perhaps suggest a slight amendment, I do not think the Commission could meet every time the Chairman so decided because, for reasons which I think are fairly obvious, a particularly diligent Chairman might wish to convene the body more often than the Organization could afford. I do not think it would change anything if we just leave it to the Director-General to call for additional sessions, because at least he is in a position to tell whether the meeting of the Commission is, in fact, financially possible.

I might also add in connection with the point raised by Norway, that the membership is slightly changed in another respect also. If the Commission is established under Article VI, non-member nations of the Organization may not be members of this Commission.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: We have got to understand what was decided. A decision was taken, which may mean that countries like the USSR cannot be members of the Commission. The USSR is playing a role in plant genetic resources and all the technicians know that the USSR should in one way or another be invited to participate.

So we have not gained anything. I said that if it was a sub-committee of the Committee on Agriculture, it would still meet next year at the same time as the Committee on Agriculture. We have not gained time but we have raised the status of the subject on a higher level than the Committee on Agriculture; it is now like the Committee on Fertilizers which meets every two years. We were anyway going to meet the next time but by this decision we are excluding here the USSR and also some other Member Nations. However, it is decided now. It is not for the Director-General to decide when a Commission or a Committee should meet. It is not for its Chairman either. It is the Commission itself which decides because we have to respect democracy in the Commission too.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any other corrections or additions to this section? Any other points to add?

Paragraphs 1 to 11, including Resolution and Annex, as amended, adopted

Les paragraphes 1 à 11, y compris la Résolution et l'Annexe, ainsi amendés, sont adoptés

Los párrafos 1 a 11, incluida la Resolución y el Anexo, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 12 and 13, including Resolution as amended, adopted

Les paragraphes 12 et 13, y compris la Résolution ainsi amendée, sont adoptés

Los párrafos 12 y 13, incluida la Resolución así enmendada, son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 8, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, huitième partie, ainsi amendée, est adoptée

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte 8, así enmendado, es aprobado

CHAIRMAN: We are going to do Part 9 which is a Draft Report of the Plenary.

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 9

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - NEUVIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 9

Paragraph 1 approved

Le paragraphe 1 est approuvé

El párrafo 1 es aprobado

Paragraphs 2 and 3 approved

Les paragraphes 2 et 3 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 2 y 3 son aprobados

Paragraph 4 including Resolution, adopted
Le paragraphe 4, y compris la résolution, est adopté
El párrafo 4, incluida la Resolución, aprobado

Paragraph 5 approved
Le paragraphe 5 est approuvé
El párrafo 5 es aprobado

Paragraph 6 approved
Le paragraphe 6 est approuvé
El párrafo 6 es aprobado

Paragraph 7 approved
Le paragraphe 7 est approuvé
El párrafo 7 es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 9, was adopted
Projet de rapport de la plénière, neuvième partie, est adoptée
El proyecto de informe de la plenaria, Parte 9, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION III - PART 3
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION III - TROISIEME PARTIE
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION III - PARTE 3

T. GLASER (Président, Commission III): Sur les points 21.3 et 21.4 de l'ordre du jour du rapport de la Commission III, il y a eu de légères modifications. Sur le premier point "Etat des contributions" il y a eu un assez long débat qui fait l'objet, dans le rapport qui vous est soumis, d'une résolution. En ce qui concerne le texte qui a été distribué, il a été malheureusement matériellement impossible de le réimprimer après la dernière discussion en Commission et c'est pour cela que je dois vous indiquer les quelques petits changements que la Commission a encore décidés.

Le premier changement concerne le paragraphe 15, première phrase. Je vous lis d'abord la phrase telle qu'elle est dans la version qui a été distribuée: "15. On a aussi noté qu'après l'adoption de la résolution proposée, le Directeur général placerait l'excédent de trésorerie sur un compte spécial". Cette phrase a été modifiée, elle est maintenant comme suit: "15. On a aussi noté que si le Conseil donnait l'autorisation de retenir quelque montant que ce soit de l'excédent de trésorerie, le Directeur général placerait le montant retenu sur un compte spécial". C'est la première modification approuvée par la Commission. .

La deuxième phrase concerne le paragraphe suivant: Je vous lis d'abord la phrase comme elle est dans le document: "16. Un certain nombre de membres ont fait observer qu'il s'agissait malheureusement d'un problème à long terme". La nouvelle version de cette phrase est la suivante: "16. Un certain nombre de membres ont fait observer que le problème du retard dans les paiements et les arriérés était malheureusement un problème à long terme". Cette modification a été aussi approuvée par la Commission, et cela rend le texte un peu plus clair.

La troisième et dernière modification concerne uniquement le texte anglais. Au commencement de l'article 17 (le texte français reste inchangé), on va remplacer les quatre premiers mots et je vous lis le nouveau texte de la première phrase du paragraphe 17 en anglais: "17. After the discussion the Conference adopted the following Resolution".

Je fais confiance à la traduction simultanée pour la version dans les autres langues.

Voilà les modifications qui vous sont proposées.

Le deuxième point couvert par ce rapport concerne l'amendement du Règlement financier: attestation de vérification des comptes. Il y a là une résolution qui a été également acceptée par la Commission III pratiquement sans discussion, il n'y a eu aucune contestation.

CHAIRMAN: We will proceed by paragraphs and I understand that the suspension of the Financial Regulations which we will adopt, will be a roll call vote. Let us proceed then to paragraphs 1 to 3. Are there corrections or additions?

Paragraphs 1 to 3 approved
Les paragraphes 1 à 3 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 1 a 3 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 4 to 16
PARAGRAPHES 4 à 16
PARRAFOS 4 a 16

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Es una pequeña modificación que considero debe hacerse para mantener la estandarización de estos tipos de informe.

En el párrafo 10 se comienza diciendo: "Varios miembros". Después en el cuarto renglón se dice: "otros señalaron. "Varios" designa cantidad", "otros", no.

Proponemos que donde se dice "otros", en la cuarta línea, diga "muchos señalaron". Varios miembros destacaron y muchos señalaron, porque "otros" no dan cantidad.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chairman, what is your reaction to that recommendation?

T. GLASER (Président, Commission III): Pendant le débat, je n'ai pas fait le décompte exact. Si s'est désiré je pense qu'on peut modifier le texte mais je souligne que celui-ci a été approuvé comme il est présenté ici. Si l'on commence à faire des changements ça et là, nous risquons de prolonger la discussion pendant quelques heures parce qu'il pourrait y avoir d'autres petites améliorations possibles.

CHAIRMAN: What is the pleasure of the body? Do you understand the changes? Acceptable? Are there any objections or corrections to paragraphs 4-16?

M. Balla SY (Sénégal): Paragraphe 15. En français dans la modification donnée par le Président, ont dit "placerait le montant retenu sur un compte spécial". Nous demandons (c'est peut-être une question de traduction) que l'on dise "dans un compte spécial".

CHAIRMAN: Any other objections, any other recommendations or corrections?

Paragraphs 4 to 16, as amended, approved
Les paragraphes 4 à 16, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés
Los párrafos 4 a 16, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 17, INCLUDING RESOLUTION
LE PARAGRAPHE 17, Y COMPRIS LA RESOLUTION
EL PARRAFO 17, INCLUIDA LA RESOLUCION

CHAIRMAN: Now the Financial Resolution which requires a roll call vote. There are 98 delegates present so we have a quorum to proceed. Let us proceed with that Resolution. Mr Chairman, do you have anything to add to the Financial Resolution?

T. GLASER (Chairman, Commission III): No, thank you.

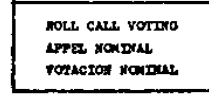
CHAIRMAN: Is there any discussion on the Financial Resolution? Are there any corrections or additions to be added to the Resolution before we vote on it?

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): Only a procedural question. I was wondering if the Resolution is adopted unanimously would you still require a roll call? If procedurally it is required then you can go ahead but otherwise I thought there was no problem with that.

CHAIRMAN: I am told it does require a roll call vote. Are there any points to be made, otherwise we will proceed with the vote.

Vote
Vote
Votación

RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS



1st Vote on SUSPENSION OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS
Vote sur Vote sur
Votación para

Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	94
Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	1
Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	10
No reply Aucune réponse Ninguna respuesta	47

Number of votes cast Nombre de suffrages exprimés Número de votos emitidos	95
--	----

Majority required Majorité requise - Mayoría requerida	64
--	----



Date: 23.11.83 Elections Officer: B. Jipley
Fecha Fonctionnaire Electoral El oficial de elecciones

RULE XII - 13(a) GRO

If a vote is equally divided on a matter other than an election, a second vote shall be taken at a subsequent meeting to be held not less than one hour after the conclusion of the meeting at which the equally divided vote occurred. If the second vote is also equally divided the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

En cas de partage égal des voix lors d'un vote ne portant pas sur une élection, on procède à un deuxième vote au cours d'une séance ultérieure, qui ne peut avoir lieu moins d'une heure après la fin de celle à laquelle s'est produit le partage égal des voix. Si les voix restent également partagées lors de ce second vote, la proposition est considérée comme repoussée.

Si hubiera empate en un asunto que no sea una elección, se repetirá la votación en una sesión subsiguiente la cual no deberá celebrarse hasta que haya transcurrido una hora, por lo menos, desde la conclusión de aquella en que se produjo el empate. Si en la segunda votación hubiera también empate se considerará rechazada la propuesta.

CF 13 1081 684321 - 75128-c

Session of the Conference
 Session de la Conférence
 Período de sesiones de la Conferencia

ROLL CALL VOTING AND ISSUE OF BALLOT PAPER REPORT
 APPEL NOMINAL DISTRIBUTION DE BULLETIN
 VOTACION NOMINAL Y DISTRIBUCION DE PAPELETAS

Vote on
 Vote sur
 Votación para.....

SUSPENSION OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

COUNTRY	Yes	No	Abs	NR	COUNTRY	Yes	No	Abs	NR	COUNTRY	Yes	No	Abs	NR
Afghanistan	X				Ghana	X				Pakistan	X			
Albania	X				Greece	X				Panama	X			
Algeria	X				Grenada				X	Papua New Guinea				X
Angola	X				Guatemala	X				Peru	X			
Antigua & Barbuda				X	Guinea				X	Philippines	X			
Argentina	X				Guinea-Bissau				X	Poland	X			
Australia			X		Guyana				X	Portugal	X			
Austria	X				Haiti	X				Qatar	X			
Bahamas				X	Honduras	X				Romania	X			
Bahrain	X				Hungary	X				Rwanda	X			
Banladesh	X				Iceland				X	St. Christopher & Nevis				X
Barbados	X				India	X				Saint Lucia				X
Belize			X		Indonesia				X	Saint Vincent & the Grenad.				X
Benin	X			X	Iran				X	Sao Tome and Principe				X
Bhutan	X				Iraq				X	Saudi Arabia	X			
Bolivia	X				Ireland	X				Senegal	X			
Botswana	X				Israel	X				Sierra Leone	X			
Brasil	X				Italy			X		Somalia				X
Bulgaria				X	Ivory Coast	X				Spain	X			
Burma	X				Jamaica				X	Sri Lanka	X			
Burundi				X	Japan				X	Sudan	X			
Cameroon	X				Jordan	X				Suriname	X			
Canada			X		Kenya	X				Swaziland	X			
Cape Verde	X				Korea (Republic of)	X				Sweden	X			
					Kuwait	X				Switzerland				X
					Laos	X				Syria	X			
Chile	X				Lebanon	X				Tanzania	X			
China	X				Lesotho	X				Thailand	X			
Colombia	X				Liberia	X				Togo				X
Comoros				X	Libya	X				Tonga				X
Congo	X				Luxembourg				X	Trinidad and Tobago	X			
Costa Rica				X	Madagascar				X	Tunisia	X			
Cuba	X				Malawi	X				Turkey	X			
Cyprus	X				Malaysia	X				Uganda	X			
Czechoslovakia	X				Maldives				X	United Arab Emirates	X			
					Mali	X				United Kingdom				X
					Malta				X	U.S.A.			X	
Dem. Rep. of Congo	X				Mauritania	X				Upper Volta				X
Denmark	X				Mauritius				X	Uruguay	X			
Djibouti				X	Mexico	X				Vanuatu				X
Dominica				X	Morocco				X	Venezuela				X
Dominican Rep.	X				Mozambique				X	Viet Nam	X			
Ecuador				X	Namibia				X	Yemen Arab Republic	X			
Egypt	X				Nepal	X				Yemen (P.D. Rep. of)				X
El Salvador	X				Netherlands	X				Yugoslavia	X			
Equatorial Guinea				X	New Zealand				X	Zaire				X
Ethiopia	X				Nicaragua				X	Zambia	X			
Fiji				X	Niger	X				Zimbabwe				X
Finland	X				Nigeria	X								
France	X				Norway	X								
Gabon	X				Oman				X					
Gambia				X										
Germany (Fed. Rep. of)			X											
	33		4	13										
						30		3	19					
											31	1	3	15

CHAIRMAN: The suspension of the Financial Regulations carries. My understanding is now we have adopted the Resolution by the vote.

Paragraphs 17 including Resolution, adopted
Le paragraphe 17 y compris la résolution, est adopté
El párrafo 17 incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

CHAIRMAN: Now we are obligated to adopt the Amendment to the Financial Regulations which are on pages 8, 9 and 10 of your text. Is there any discussion, any corrections or additions?

Paragraph 18 approved
Le paragraphe 18 est approuvé
El párrafo 18 es aprobado

Paragraph 19 including Resolution adopted
Le paragraphe 19 y compris la résolution est adopté
El párrafo 19 , incluida la Resolución, aprobado

Draft Report of Commission III, Part 3, as amended, was adopted
Projet de Rapport de la Commission III, troisième partie, ainsi amendée, est adoptée
El proyecto de informe de la Comisión III, parte 3, así enmendado, es aprobado

V. OTHER MATTERS
V. QUESTIONS DIVERSES
V. OTROS ASUNTOS

25. Date and Place of the Twenty-third Conference Session
25. Date et lieu de la vingt-troisième session de la Conférence
25. Fecha y lugar del 23º período de sesiones de la Conferencia

CHAIRMAN: We have now one more issue, Item 25 on our agenda. I propose the date to be 9-28 November 1985 in Rome. Is there any objection to that?

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

CHAIRMAN: Even with all the turmoil and excitement that we have experienced this morning we are just about ready to close down the curtain on this Conference, if you can imagine that. I am going to give you some more formal remarks upon closing, but I wanted to tell you that I appreciated your cooperation. You have been a tremendous group to work with and I not only am pleased and honoured to have had the chance to have chaired this session because indeed I think it is a great honour, but I am also pleased to have had the chance to meet and become friends with many of you here, and I appreciate that very much.

Unless there is some other business, we have accomplished our work at hand.

P. GOSSELIN (Canada): I, with your indulgence, would like to read a statement from the Canadian Minister of Agriculture, Mr Eugene Whelan, who, as you know is the President of the World Food Council. The statement is as follows:

"Mr Chairman, fellow colleagues and delegates, as the Twenty-second Conference draws to a close, as President of the World Food Council I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all Godspeed and safe journeys home. I value greatly the moments that we spent together and look forward to seeing many of you again during the coming two years.

I and the WFC urge you to be vigilant and courageous in your efforts to increase agricultural productivity in your countries. We are grateful to Mr Edouard Saouma and the FAO for their repeated and appropriate calls for increased priority to agriculture. We all know that a crisis of unimaginable proportions lies just over the horizon if we relax and weaken our resolve. I urge you to carry the message to your Cabinet colleagues and fellow countrymen. Agriculture must come first and not weapons. Tractors and trawlers must take priority over tanks and limousines. If you fail to convince your governments of these priorities in your first discussions try a second time. If this fails, try a third, a fourth and a tenth and continue for whatever number of times it proves necessary. You have the support of the World Food Council and you have and will continue to have, I am sure, the support of the FAO. You have the support of the World Food Programme and IFAD.

Mr Chairman, I must also remind you of my opening address to the Conference as President of the World Food Council. I had some strong words to say about IFAD, but they needed to be said. You have promised to speak to your Cabinet colleagues about your government's share in this important indeed critical institution. I and the World Food Council, indeed, all ministers and governments represented at this Twenty-second FAO Council shall be most disheartened and disappointed should your government fail to live up to the generosity and genuine concern for humanity which has been the most predominant single characteristic of the American people.

To Mr Saouma and the FAO I express once again our thanks and appreciation. The World Food Council and the FAO will be working together in the many months ahead in our common resolve to eradicate hunger, malnutrition and poverty, the common single ailments of all mankind. Sincerely, Eugene F. Whelan, President, World Food Council."

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

B. SEQUEIRA (Angola): Mr Chairman, I apologise to you and to the other delegates for coming in at this late moment. Very briefly, I am not speaking in the name of Portuguese-speaking Member Nations of FAO. However, the delegations of Mozambique, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Portugal, Brazil and Aneola have agreed to kindly request the Director-General to look into the possibilities of having the Portuguese language as a working language, and if this is not workable, to examine other avenues in consultation with above-mentioned member countries.

I hope this will be acceptable to you and to other delegations. I thank you, Sir, and once again I apologise for coming in late.

J.M. BULHAO MARTINS (Portugal): La délégation portugaise appuie chaleureusement la proposition que vient de faire le délégué de l'Angola, touchant l'élaboration d'une étude sur l'utilisation de la langue portugaise comme langue de travail de la FAO. Ma délégation voudrait également faire remarquer que la langue portugaise est la langue officielle de sept pays qui, dans leur ensemble, représentent environ 200 millions de personnes et, comme d'autres langues, elle constitue un important instrument de compréhension et de relation entre cultures diverses.

Je crois d'ailleurs pouvoir saisir l'occasion pour très rapidement rappeler que, déjà, en 1979, dans le cadre de l'Union postale universelle, a été créé un groupe linguistique portugais: Angola, Brésil, Cap-Vert, Guinée-Bissau, Mozambique et Portugal, pour l'institutionnalisation du portugais comme langue de travail.

Ultérieurement, à la Conférence mondiale sur les politiques culturelles qui a eu lieu au Mexique sous l'égide de l'Unesco, en juillet 1982, a été approuvée la réglementation 73 qui, ayant pris en considération le fait que la langue portugaise est employée par sept pays et qu'elle est aussi un véhicule intellectuel, recommande au Directeur général de l'Unesco, l'utilisation du portugais comme langue de travail.

De la même façon, lors du Sommet des chefs d'Etat africains de langue officielle portugaise, tenu au Cap-Vert, en 1982, on a convenu de l'utilisation de la langue portugaise comme langue de travail dans les organisations internationales.

En outre, le portugais est aussi une des langues officielles de travail à l'Organisation des Etats américains. Lors du Congrès sur l'utilisation de la langue portugaise dans le monde, tenu cette même année au Portugal, conclusion identique.

Le cadre que je viens de tracer paraît suffisant pour justifier que, nous aussi, les pays de langue portugaise de la FAO, manifestations le plus vif intérêt pour l'élaboration d'une étude qui, si elle se concrétisait, pourrait faciliter énormément notre participation aux travaux de cette Organisation.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much and your concerns will be taken into consideration, I assure you, and also for Brazil and Cape Verde, I am guessing that you want to promote the same subject.

I am going to take the prerogative of the Chair at this time and go forward with my closing remarks, if I may. I want to thank all of you for the privilege that you have given to me of serving as Chairman of this FAO Conference. I appreciate your confidence in me to guide this assembly through its work. In particular, I am grateful to the Vice-Chairmen. They did a tremendous job. I appreciate their efforts and the Commission Chairmen of this Conference for their efforts, and I know the many hours that they spent and their patience.

In terms of concrete action, however, a great deal remains to be done. I will therefore certainly be coming forward with suggestions for further action at the next Committee on World Food Security next Spring.

The problem of world food security is not going to go away. Unless dealt with radically, it will get worse and threaten the peace and stability of a large part of the world.

It is FAO'S duty to make the facts known; to propose action at various levels; and to take action itself. This is our inescapable duty, notwithstanding all the constraints of which we are so often reminded.

Even on questions of finance we have succeeded in reaching either unanimity or a high level of consensus. I say "even", because, as in the past, but even more so today, questions of finance seem to excite far greater passions than other more fundamental matters.

I will not at this juncture again go over all my reasons for proposing a virtually zero-growth budget. I can say, however, that, in a spirit of realism and conciliation, on this occasion, without recognizing a principle, I recognized a situation.

I remain concerned however about the continuing attack, of which one can see evidence in various quarters, on official development assistance in general, and particularly on its multilateral forms. I cannot help feeling that these attacks spring partly from age-old prejudice against all things foreign and partly from ignorance of what Organizations like FAO are doing and the way they do them. Part of this ignorance is our own fault in that we are not yet making the best use of our resources to put across the facts.

Whatever the causes of the attack on multilateralism, I am convinced by logic and experience that they represent a very narrow view of the world and of the way in which the future of our children and grandchildren should be assured.

I am encouraged in this assessment by the eloquent and penetrating views expressed by the Prime Minister of Sweden, Mr Olof Palme, when we had the privilege of hearing him on World Food Day a month ago in this same room. In an unemotional but extremely effective way he gave fresh meaning and force to the themes of strategic and economic priorities and the paramount importance of food and agriculture, not only in global terms but in the life of individual human beings everywhere.

I am convinced that we must do all we can to overcome negative approaches to multilateralism.

I am also convinced that this involves more than merely cutting budgets. World peace and prosperity involves much more than that.

Having said that, let me however again acknowledge with gratitude the unanimous support which my proposals for the Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85 have received. It has been some years since there was total unanimity on the budget. I hope that now we shall be enabled by the contributions of our Member Nations to carry out the unanimously approved programme in full.

Turning now to the last stages of this Conference, it has also been significant in my view that the various elections which have taken place have also been conducted in a high degree of harmony, generosity and understanding.

In this connection, I would refer particularly to the noble and dignified gesture of the Representative of Sudan, Mr Khalil, which enabled the Conference to re-elect Dr Swaminathan, whom I again congratulate today, in an atmosphere of consensus and goodwill. This is the continuing tradition of FAO which we owe to the spirit and commonsense of the representatives of our Member Nations.

I refer to all representatives, but I have been particularly pleased to note that our Conference has been attended by one Head of State, one Prime Minister, one Deputy Prime Minister and a century of Ministers, not all of them but most of them Ministers of Agriculture.

They have offered us valuable insights into the experiences of their countries and wise counsel on the work of the Organization. They have, also given us encouragement and support.

On this occasion, their participation went further in a number of ways. I would refer in particular to the meeting I had with certain Ministers to discuss the critical situation in Africa.

I was much encouraged that at this second meeting, which I took upon myself to initiate at ministerial level, there was a much more positive and concrete response than at the meeting I called on 19 October.

Generous additional pledges were made by certain countries and others indicated their intention to speed up delivery of existing commitments and to see what further could be done in the next few weeks.

Action is still pending in the General Assembly on the initiative I took during my recent visit there to tap an additional source of funds remaining from the United Nations Emergency Fund for use in dealing with emergency situations in Africa. I hope that negotiations among delegations there will turn out satisfactorily for the countries concerned, particularly in providing short-term measures of relief at the present time to those who desperately need them here and now.

This Conference has been much concerned with Africa and rightly so. The picture in the rest of the world is not entirely reassuring but undoubtedly great strides have been made. In Africa, however, the lives of many millions of people are at stake.

Strategies, policies, plans and studies in support of long term efforts are all necessary but can they save lives which today and tomorrow are hanging by a thin thread? I therefore once again appeal to the international community to do all it can to help in the weeks and months ahead.

Meanwhile, I hope that the Ministers and delegations, particularly from Africa, who have been present at this Conference, will return to their countries with renewed resolve to tackle the problems of food production with fresh ideas and even greater vigour.

We must hope that the moves being made with intelligence and insight into fostering South-South relations, ECDC and TCDC will achieve a greater momentum and more impact in the next two years.

One approach is not exclusive of the other. Everyone must help themselves as best they can but they must also help each other. This is the message which permeates the thinking of all institutions devoted to human progress, whether on a national, regional or international basis.

It is certainly the spirit which permeates our thinking and action here. It is this spirit which has enabled us to overcome any difficulties which could have arisen in the last few days on controversial items.

In doing so, we have of course greatly benefited, Mr Chairman, from your leadership, coupled with a good sense of humour. We felt those qualities from the very moment you were elected and you have sustained them throughout. During your unavoidable absence in the middle of the Conference, we were also very ably and skilfully led by the Minister of Agriculture of China, the Minister of Agriculture of Cyprus and, in the last few days, by the able Ambassador of Peru to FAO, Mr Gazzo.

Our thanks are due to you and your colleagues as well as to the ability, skill and patience of the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the three Commissions and their Drafting Committees, the General Committee, the Resolutions Committee and the delegates themselves.

We do not, of course, cease our efforts now. The work of the Organization goes on. Moreover, the active role of member governments in formulating policies and programmes will also continue intensively during the next years.

Foremost in this process are the FAO Regional Conferences, which form an almost unique element in the United Nations system.

This is our overall Food and Agricultural Summit, but the Regional Conferences constitute Regional Summits of Ministers of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

Their deliberations are of great importance, not only in shaping the thinking of the Organization, but also in promoting economic and technical cooperation between the countries of the region.

I am therefore looking forward very much to attending each Regional Conference next year.

I am also looking forward to attending the World Forestry Congress, which will be held in Mexico in 1985. This is not an FAO meeting as such, but of course we are deeply involved in it in various ways. It is an occasion of great importance to foresters everywhere.

The world of Fisheries also constitutes a special fraternity and it will no doubt demonstrate this anew at the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development which will be held here in July of next year.

Mr Chairman, I have been greatly encouraged by the warm reception and most notable cooperation and assistance that the Secretariat has received in its preparation for holding this Conference. I think it has been a model of how a world conference, when you really need to have one, can be prepared.

I sincerely hope that when it is held, it will not only run smoothly but will have an outcome which in the continuing tradition of this Organization will have the support of all.

As I said, however, at the end of the last Conference, whatever our efforts may be, we cannot expect easy victories nor triumphal marches. We are faced with a long and hard task in which there will be disappointments provoked by nature or man himself, as well as achievements.

This Conference has however fortified our faith that by our joint and several endeavours we can eventually succeed in realising the ideals enshrined in our Constitution.

These ideals will not perish. They will survive whatever the prejudice or ignorance or - more important - the climatic, economic and technological difficulties with which we may be faced.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, I rededicate myself and all my colleagues to defending and achieving these ideals and put ourselves devotedly and faithfully at the service of all of you accordingly.

Once more, Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I thank you on behalf of all my colleagues and myself and wish you a safe and happy return to your countries and also a happy New Year 1984.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Director-General, for those inspiring remarks. I yield the floor to the Chairman of the group from Africa, the delegate from Cameroon.

A.G. NGONGI NAMANGA (Cameroon): I know we are all hungry but I will take a few minutes. Mr Chairman, it is through your guidance and that of the Vice-Chairmen and the Chairmen of the Commissions that we have had a very good Conference and, of course, through the technical preparations which were made by the Director-General, and the Secretariat.

Mr. Chairman, this Conference has been a good one because you yourself, Minister of Agriculture of the United States of America, agreed to chair this meeting to show the spirit of cooperation which exists between the big and the small members of our Organization.

Secondly, the Director-General in his wisdom prepared a Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85 which received the unanimous support of the Conference. This is a sign of the good health of the Organization since, to overcome problems of hunger and malnutrition we need to marshal our combined and determined efforts.

Thirdly, this Conference has placed great emphasis - and justifiably so - on food security and has put a stamp of approval on the proposal put forward by the Director-General on the wise concept of world food security. This Conference has also expressed its grave concern on the food situation in Africa and has adopted a Resolution calling for increased assistance to the badly hit countries on whose behalf the Director-General has made several appeals to the international community here at FAO and at the General Assembly for emergency assistance.

As leader of the African Group of representatives to FAO, I am deeply grateful to the Director-General, to you, Mr Chairman, and to the Conference for this support.

This Conference has reelected Dr Swaminathan to the office of Independent Chairman of the Council. The Council will continue to be guided by a very distinguished and capable "Independent Chairman". Permit me to express deep appreciation to the representative of Sudan to FAO, Mr Khalil, for his display of leadership and sense of sacrifice in removing his candidature, thus permitting the reelection of Dr Swaminathan.

Finally, permit me to say a few words in honour of someone who has served this Conference over the last five years. As you would know, Mr Sylla, the Assistant Director-General, Department of General Affairs and Information, and Secretary General for the Conference and Council, will be retiring at the end of the year. I am sure you will agree with me when I say that Mr Sylla has discharged his duties honourably and with great competence. It has been my pleasure to work closely with him over the last years in my capacity as Chairman of the African Group. I am sure he has been as courteous to the other leaders of other groups as he has been to me.

The African Group I am sure would wish Mr Sylla a happy retirement and we are sure he will continue to be of great service to his country, of great service to Africa and the international community.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, el señor Amir Abdalla Khalil, colega y amigo, actual Presidente del Grupo de los 77, me ha conferido el honroso encargo de intervenir ahora a nombre del Grupo de los 77.

Nosotros queremos agradecer a usted la cordialidad y la simpatía, la inteligencia, la competencia y los deseos de acertar con que ha actuado en esta Conferencia. El buen humor y la simpatía que caracterizaron a usted lograron adquirir una cierta firmeza equitativa en medio de cierta efervescencia democrática. Reconocemos y agradecemos a usted que haya abandonado por algunos días sus altas obligaciones en el país donde le respetan y admiran por su alta posición, para estar con nosotros aquí en esta Conferencia. Usted ha cumplido sus deberes con responsabilidad y recta intención que reconocemos. Usted ha sido un excelente Presidente y su acción acertada, nos permite concluir un poco antes de lo previsto esta Conferencia, cuyos buenos resultados usted ha destacado en su reciente declaración, elocuente y afirmativa.

El Grupo de los 77 desea también agradecer a los tres Vicepresidentes de la Conferencia, a los Presidentes de las tres Comisiones y a los Presidentes de los Comités de Redacción, Grupos de Contacto y todos quienes facilitaron nuestros trabajos.

Queremos también destacar y resaltar el gesto generoso y constructivo de nuestro colega y amigo Amir Khabil del Sudán quien facilitó el acuerdo para lograr, por unanimidad, la elección del Presidente Independiente del Consejo, y cordialmente felicitamos al señor Swaminathan por su merecida reelección.

El Grupo de los 77 piensa que el Dr. Edouard Saouma, Director General de la FAO, es un verdadero líder que guía y orienta nuestras justas reivindicaciones. La declaración que él acaba de pronunciar hoy, confirma esa posición destacada de nuestro Director General en el Sistema de las Naciones Unidas.

Estamos muy agradecidos al Dr. Saouma, al Sr. West y a todos los funcionarios de la Organización que nos asistieron con los documentos, presentaciones y todos los elementos indispensables para nuestro trabajo.

En la Secretaría, los Sres. Sylla y Henderson, particularmente, han colaborado con nosotros. Mi colega y amigo Namanga Ngongi del Camerún había anticipado el retiro por su propia voluntad, del Sr. Sylla después de esta Conferencia.

El Sr. Sylla regresa a su país; su gente le necesita. El nos hará falta. Ha sido un excelente Secretario, serio, atento, servicial y eficaz en el Consejo y en la Conferencia. Hemos atribuido al Sr. Sylla el silencio constructivo que tanto nos ha ayudado y confortado porque sólo interviene cuando debe orientarnos, darnos indicaciones siempre útiles.

El Grupo de los 77 se siente orgulloso de que el Sr. Sylla pertenezca a un noble país de una de nuestras regiones. El regresará a Malí y allí continuará su tarea en beneficio del mejoramiento de la agricultura y la alimentación en Africa, y de todos aquellos aspectos económicos y sociales que conforman las justas aspiraciones de nuestros pueblos.

Al retirarse el Sr. Sylla, puede llevar con él, el reconocimiento y la gratitud del Tercer Mundo, de todos quienes le admiramos, respetamos y queremos, y le deseamos mucha felicidad junto con toda su familia.

Sr. Presidente, al final de esta Conferencia, los representantes de los países en desarrollo experimentamos una mezcla de sentimientos; mezcla en la cual quisiéramos que prevaleciera la fe y el optimismo. Con toda honestidad, registramos algunos hechos positivos, pero no podemos ocultar la preocupación que nos causan ciertas circunstancias que parecen afectar la cooperación internacional; particularmente, aquéllas sobre base multilateral. Los gobiernos de los países en desarrollo estamos haciendo grandes y crecientes esfuerzos; estamos asignando progresivamente más alta prioridad y más recursos a la agricultura y a la alimentación en nuestros planes nacionales de desarrollo.

No obstante todo ello, aún no han sido suficientes los resultados obtenidos. Por ello, nuestros países, particularmente los de bajos ingresos y déficit de alimentos, requieren y demandan mayor asistencia técnica y financiera, como un mínimo requerimiento de las poblaciones que, en diversos lugares del mundo, padecen hambre y malnutrición.

El Grupo de los 77 finalmente desea, Sr. Presidente, destacar un hecho importante y fundamental. En esta Conferencia se ha confirmado el espíritu y la buena voluntad en todos los representantes de todos los gobiernos de seguir contribuyendo a la empresa común en que todos estamos comprometidos: apoyar a la FAO, a nuestra Organización, para que bajo la excelente dirección del Sr. Edouard Saouma, siga prestando sus valiosos servicios a todos los Estados Miembros, y particularmente a los países en desarrollo.

Todos los representantes de gobiernos del Tercer Mundo, apoyamos la acción prioritaria del Director General en favor de los problemas de Africa. Terminamos esta Conferencia, pero el calendario no se detiene. Somos conscientes de las dificultades que nos esperan, porque la situación alimentaria y agrícola es incierta y nos angustia.

Por ello, Sr. Presidente, le ruego que nos permita acogernos a la bondad y sencillez que usted ha demostrado para pedirle cordialmente y respetuosamente que al regresar a su país, y reincorporarse usted a sus importantes labores, usted interponga su gran influencia no sólo ante los Estados Unidos de Norteamérica, ante al Gobierno de ese importante y respetable país, sino ante todos los gobiernos de los países desarrollados, para que se atiendan, en particular, algunas de las más apremiantes aspiraciones del Tercer Mundo; para que en los bienios futuros la FAO cuente con los recursos necesarios que correspondan a la importancia de su labor; para que se inicien las negociaciones globales; para que se ratifique la atención al fondo común; para que no se reduzcan más los fondos del PNUD sino que se incrementen; y para que todos los países, con el suyo a la cabeza Sr. Presidente, como factor esencial y decisivo que reconocemos positivamente, cumplan los compromisos adquiridos con el Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola, FIDA; para asegurar la subsistencia del FIDA que necesita tantos pequeños y medianos campesinos en diversos lugares del mundo.

El Grupo de los 77 anticipa sus agradecimientos a usted, Sr. Presidente, y a todos quienes puedan coadyuvar a nuestros propósitos y contribuir a la realización de nuestros ideales, la paz que todos anhelamos, sólo podrá lograrse si desaparecen el hambre y la malnutrición, y todos los seres humanos del planeta dignifican su condición social dentro de los objetivos de un Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional. Gracias.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

MOHD. YUSOF bin AHMAD (Malaysia): I would like to congratulate you for your very inspiring speech, as well as that of the Director-General. I had been noted earlier for being very brief, therefore I shall keep my record intact this time.

On behalf of the Asia Group I wish to congratulate you for your fine handling of this Conference. All the nice things have been said already by other speakers, therefore I shall not deliberate further but merely reaffirm our gratitude and good wishes to you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. You are a big hit! I now call on the Chairman of the North East Group, Cyprus.

F.G. POULIDES (Cyprus): I will now be very very brief. I would like first of all to congratulate you for your very businesslike chairmanship of this Conference and I would like to wish you a happy landing in your country and a happy Thanksgiving celebration because you have managed very well to chair this Conference and I wish you all the best.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

K. GROSS (Germany, Federal Republic of): It is a great satisfaction to me also, on behalf of the member countries of the European Region, to express a few words of thanks. We heard your impressive statement at the end of this Conference and we fully stand behind you, Mr Director-General. We note that the Twenty-second session of the Conference focused on the practical work and there were no clashes that could not be bridged. It was a matter of compromises that were arrived at. There were a number of differences in approach on practical matters but everything was under the sign of the overall target to improve the world food situation.

Mr Chairman, I would like to thank you for your efforts and for your firm guidance of our work. You truly contributed to the success of this Conference.

Our thanks are also addressed to the Vice-Chairmen and the Chairmen of the three Commissions and to those of all the Committees.

Our special thanks are directed to you, Mr Director-General Saouma, and all your colleagues and collaborators for the preparation of this Conference and for all the support and backstopping for this Conference. Our thanks are also addressed to the technical services.

I think we can state that it was a successful Conference.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

J.R. LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Quizás no pueda competir con toda esta brevedad de mis antecesores; pero voy a hacer mi mejor esfuerzo, Sr. Presidente, a nombre del Grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe, quiero expresar que estamos convencidos de que todo está en todo; de que este mundo es un todo interdependiente, y que lo que hagamos en una parte, sin duda tendrá reflejos en otra; pero también lo que ocurra en otras partes, en otras parcelas de la realidad, sin duda afectará lo que aquí nosotros hemos discutido.

Hemos dividido, por razones metodológicas de trabajo, nuestros esfuerzos en distintos ámbitos, pero reconocemos que todos forman parte de un mismo objetivo común. Así, Sr. Presidente, interpretamos los resultados de esta Conferencia como resultados positivos que están íntimamente entrelazados y ligados también a lo que ocurra en otras partes del mundo.

La Seguridad Alimentaria sin duda se va a ver fortalecida con los esfuerzos que hagamos en materia de recursos fitogenéticos. Todo esto a la vez, sin duda, se verá fortalecido por la voluntad política que se aplique en la aplicación, en la materialización de las orientaciones del Reajuste Agrícola Internacional que hemos establecido y reconocido.

Sin duda todo esto, Sr. Presidente, también está íntimamente ligado a los esfuerzos de la Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural en que los países en desarrollo particularmente hemos puesto nuestro interés. Así como esto es importante, lo que la FAO, por sí misma haga para orientar nuestras acciones, para plantear amplia y honestamente nuestra problemática, y para participar de nuestras soluciones, es importante.

Vemos por tanto, Sr. Presidente, con gran entusiasmo los resultados aquí alcanzados; pero ellos no hubieran sido posibles sin su participación imparcial, eficaz, por su buena voluntad, Sr. Presidente, y por otra cosa adicional. Pensamos que su presencia aquí es un símbolo importante para los países en desarrollo en el sentido de que uno de los países más poderosos de la tierra está apoyando con su presencia, Sr. Presidente, las labores que esta Conferencia está alcanzando. Ello nos llena de entusiasmo y nos induce, sin duda, a convencernos de que el multilateralismo se está viendo fortalecido de nuevo, y que en el futuro los países, los Estados en una situación de igualdad y de equidad, podrán discutir ampliamente sus problemas como amigos, con respeto, y también alcanzar soluciones en común que a todos beneficien.

Por eso, Sr. Presidente, le agradezco a usted sus esfuerzos en la Presidencia, y a los Sres. Vicepresidentes que le han acompañado en esta importante tarea, igualmente les reconocemos su trascendencia en los trabajos de coordinación de esta Plenaria.

No puedo dejar, Sr. Presidente, de felicitar también, a nombre del Grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe, la importante labor de liderazgo y el entusiasmo con que nuestro Director General ha preparado y ha fortalecido los esfuerzos que aquí, en esta Conferencia, han quedado materializados.

A él nuestro reconocimiento y nuestro agradecimiento, así como a la Secretaría de la FAO. No voy a hacer referencia específica, que ya se ha hecho y con suficiencia, a cada uno de los integrantes de la Secretaría. Pero todos ellos, han tenido parte de responsabilidad y parte de los éxitos que hemos alcanzado.

Sr. Presidente, en particulier eso sí, quiero destacar la felicitación y el agradecimiento del Grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe al Dr. Sylla por sus largos años de trabajo eficaz, de trabajo silencioso, de trabajo discreto que nos ha permitido llevar con orden nuestras discusiones y nuestros trabajos. Para él, lo mejor: el mejor retorno a su patria.

Quiero felicitar también, a nombre del Grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe al Sr. Dr. Swaminathan por su reelección a la Presidencia Independiente del Consejo, y reconocer la elegancia y la forma trascendental y digna con que el Sr. Embajador Khalil retiró su candidatura. Ello, Sr. Presidente, no viene sino a fortalecer, a ampliar los lazos de unión del Grupo de los 77 aquí en Roma; y sin duda también, los de los países no alineados en todo el mundo.

Señor Presidente, quiero finalmente concluir diciendo que todos los delegados, todos los que han participado en esta Conferencia debemos sentirnos muy satisfechos por sus resultados. Le agradezco a usted su atención y le deseo lo mejor. Muchas gracias.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

A. ABDEL-MALEK, (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Au nom du groupe des pays du Proche-Orient et au nom de la délégation libanaise, je voudrais remercier et féliciter sincèrement le Président de cette Conférence de la sagesse avec laquelle il a présidé le débat, surtout aujourd'hui, au moment où nous allons adopter les divers rapports qui nous ont été présentés. Il nous a permis ainsi de terminer nos travaux avant l'heure prévue.

Nous devons également remercier tous les vice-présidents qui, grâce à leur expérience, ont permis d'adopter des résolutions utiles et efficaces. Je tiens à remercier tout particulièrement le Directeur général, M. Saouma, qui a déployé des efforts surhumains pour que cette Organisation réussisse dans ses entreprises.

Nous voudrions aussi féliciter le Directeur général de l'appui qu'a reçu son Programme de travail et budget.

Nous tenons à remercier M. Khalil de son geste élégant lorsqu'il s'est retiré afin de permettre la réélection du Président indépendant du Conseil.

Je tiens également à remercier tous les soldats inconnus, interprètes, traducteurs, membres du Secrétariat, qui nous ont permis, grâce à leur travail, de terminer ces travaux.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

T. COULIBALY (Mali): Le Ministre chargé du développement rural de la République du Mali, Chef de la délégation du Mali à cette Conférence, a été obligé de rentrer dans son pays en raison de certains impératifs et il m'a demandé de dire à sa place ces quelques mots à notre Assemblée.

"M. le Président, honorables délégués, les bonnes paroles que nous venons d'entendre n'honorent pas seulement M. Sylla - elles ont été prononcées par les chefs des représentants de tous les groupes régionaux. Ces paroles honorent tout le peuple malien. Comme tout le monde le sait, M. Sylla est de nationalité malienne. C'est donc au nom du Gouvernement de la République du Mali que je vous remercie tous sincèrement pour ces éloges à l'endroit de mon compatriote, et je me joins à vous pour féliciter M. Sylla pour la mission qu'il a accomplie. Je me sens bien ému. M. Sylla a fait montre de dévouement, de compétence, de hautes qualités professionnelles dans toutes les institutions pour lesquelles il a travaillé, depuis la fonction publique malienne jusqu'à la direction générale de la FAO. Le Mali est fier de ce fils qui a rendu service non pas seulement à son pays mais à l'humanité entière.

Dans quelques semaines, M. Sylla prendra au Mali une retraite bien méritée que je souhaite paisible. Il sait déjà que cette retraite ne sera pas de tout repos, parce que dans sa communauté et dans les plus hautes sphères de l'Etat malien, sa sagesse, son expérience, sa compétence, seront constamment sollicitées. Je sais d'avance que sa disponibilité sera totale et je m'en réjouis.

Pour terminer, je voudrais renouveler mes souhaits à M. Sylla et renouveler les remerciements de mon pays à la Conférence de la FAO et à vous, M. le Président, pour votre geste combien touchant".

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: That concludes the remarks from the delegates. I call upon Mr Sylla for an announcement.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: J'ai deux annonces à vous faire. La 85ème session du Conseil, qui était prévue pour le 25 novembre, aura lieu demain, puisque nous avons terminé les travaux de la Conférence un jour à l'avance. Cette session se tiendra avec les nouveaux membres élus dans la salle rouge à 10 heures.

On m'a demandé d'annoncer également que le Groupe africain tiendra une réunion demain dans la salle de l'Ethiopie, à 14 h 30.

Avant de terminer, je voudrais dire un mot pour remercier très sincèrement tous ceux qui ont bien voulu exprimer quelques paroles pour apprécier mes modestes mérites. En vérité, mon souhait aurait été de partir sur la pointe des pieds, ce qui aurait correspondu à mon tempérament. Puisqu'on a eu la générosité de m'adresser des remerciements, je me dois d'y répondre et de dire combien j'ai ressenti du plus profond de mon coeur ces mots extrêmement sympathiques.

Je souhaite que le bon Dieu veuille bien aider l'Organisation à atteindre ses objectifs, qu'il veuille bien toujours l'inspirer dans le domaine de sa compétence et enfin que ses actions continuent à aider à soulager les souffrances humaines.

Je voudrais dire aussi combien j'ai apprécié l'amitié et la compréhension pleines de sympathie que j'ai toujours trouvées auprès de toutes et de tous, soit à l'occasion des réunions du Conseil, de la Conférence, ou à l'occasion de réunions individuelles. J'en emporte un souvenir qui me sera des plus chers.

Je vous remercie encore une fois de toute votre amitié et je vous souhaite à toutes et à tous une longue et heureuse vie.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for your consideration and for your friendship. Have a safe trip home, and if you are going to stay here in Rome, enjoy it. It is wonderful here. Thank you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

The meeting rose at 14.15 hours

La séance est levée à 14 h 15

La levanta la sesión a las 14.15 horas