

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

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DE LA CONFERENCIA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE DES MATIERES

INDICE

FIRST MEETING
PREMIERE SEANCE
PRIMERA SESION

(9 November 1983)

	<u>Page/Página</u>
I. <u>MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE</u>	
I. <u>PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET QUESTIONS DE POLITIQUE EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE</u>	2
I. <u>PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLÍTICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION</u>	
6. <u>World Food and Agriculture Situation</u>	
6. <u>Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture</u>	2
6. <u>Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo</u>	
6.1 <u>State of Food and Agriculture (C 83/2; C 83/2-Sup.1)</u>	
6.1 <u>Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (C 83/2; C 83/2-Sup.1)</u>	2
6.1 <u>El estado de la agricultura y la alimentación (C 83/2; C 83/2-Sup.1)</u>	

SECONDMEETING
DEUXIEME SEANCE
SEGUNDA SESION

(9 November 1983)

I. <u>MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)</u>	
I. <u>PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET QUESTIONS DE POLITIQUE EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)</u>	8
I. <u>PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLÍTICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)</u>	
6. <u>World Food and Agriculture Situation (continued)</u>	
6. <u>Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)</u>	8
6. <u>Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo (continuación)</u>	
6.1 <u>State of Food and Agriculture (continued) (C 83/2; C 83/2-Sup.1)</u>	
6.1 <u>Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite) (C 83/2; C 83/2-Sup.1)</u>	8
6.1 <u>El estado de la agricultura y la alimentación (continuación) (C 83/2; C 83/2-Sup.1)</u>	

THIRD MEETING
TROISIEME SEANCE
TERCERA SESION

(10 November 1983)

	<u>Page/Página</u>
I. <u>MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE</u> (continued)	
I. <u>PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE</u> (suite)	34
I. <u>PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLÍTICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION</u> (continuación)	
6. <u>World Food and Agriculture Situation:</u> (continued)	
6. <u>Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture:</u> (suite)	34
6. <u>Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo :</u> (continuación)	
6.1 <u>State of Food and Agriculture, including:</u>	
- <u>The Situation of Food and Agriculture in Africa</u> (continued) (C 83/2; C 83/2-Sup.1)	
6.1 <u>Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, notamment:</u>	34
- <u>Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en Afrique</u> (suite) (C 83/2; C 83/2-Sup.1)	
6.1 <u>El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación, en particular:</u>	
- <u>La situación de la agricultura y la alimentación en Africa</u> (continuación) (C 83/2; C 83/2-Sup.1)	

FOURTH MEETING
QUATRIEME SEANCE
CUARTA REUNION

(10 November 1983)

I. <u>MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE</u> (continued)	
I. <u>PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE</u> (suite)	64
I. <u>PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLÍTICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION</u> (continuación)	
6. <u>World Food and Agriculture Situation:</u> (continued)	
6. <u>Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture:</u> (suite)	64
6. <u>Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo:</u> (continuación)	
6.2 <u>Progress in Implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen World Food Security - Re-appraisal of Concepts and Approaches</u> (C 83/20; C 83/20-Corr.1 English only; C 83/20-Corr.2 English only)	
6.2 <u>Etat d'avancement du Plan d'action visant à renforcer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale - Réexamen des concepts et des approches</u> (C 83/20)	64
6.2 <u>Progresos realizados en la ejecución del Plan de Acción para reforzar la seguridad alimentaria mundial - Reconsideración de conceptos y planteamientos</u> (C 83/20)	

FIFTH MEETING
CINQUIEME SÉANCE
QUINTA REUNION
(11 November 1983)

	<u>Page/Pàgina</u>
I. <u>MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)</u>	
I. <u>PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)</u>	84
I. <u>PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLÍTICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)</u>	
6. <u>World Food and Agriculture Situation: (continued)</u>	
6. <u>Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture: (suite)</u>	84
6. <u>Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo: (continuación)</u>	
6.2 <u>Progress in Implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen World Food Security - Re-appraisal of Concepts and Approaches (continued)(C 83/20: C 33/20-Corr.1 English only; C 83/20-Corr.2 English only)</u>	
6.2 <u>Etat d'avancement du Plan d'action visant à renforcer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale Réexamen des concepts et des approches (suite)(C 83/20)</u>	84
6.2 <u>Progresos realizados en la ejecución del Plan de Acción para reforzar la seguridad alimentaria mundial.- reconsideración de conceptos y planteamientos (continuación) (C 83/20)</u>	

SIXTH MEETING
SIXIEME SÉANCE
SEXTA SESION
(11 November 1983)

I. <u>MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)</u>	
I. <u>PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)</u>	108
I. <u>PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLÍTICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)</u>	
6. <u>World Food and Agriculture Situation: (continued)</u>	
6. <u>Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture: (suite)</u>	108
6. <u>Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo : (continuación)</u>	
6.2 <u>Progress in Implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen World Food Security - Re-appraisal of Concepts and Approaches (continued) (C 83/20; C 83/20-Corr.1 English only; C 83/20-Corr.2 English only)</u>	
6.2 <u>Etat d'avancement du Plan d'action visant a renforcer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale - Réexamen des concepts et des approcher (suite) (C 83/20)</u>	108
6.2 <u>Progresos realizados en la ejecución del Plan de Acción para reforzar la seguridad alimentaria mundial - reconsideración de conceptos y planteamientos (continuación) (C 83/20)</u>	

SEVENTH MEETING
SEPTIEME SEANCE
SEPTIMA SESION

(14 November 1983)

	<u>Page/Página</u>
<u>Tribute to Mr. Arrhenius F.M. DE FREITAS,</u> <u>Permanent Representative of Brazil to FAO</u> <u>Hommage à M. Arrhenius F.M. DE FREITAS,</u> <u>Représentant permanent du Brésil auprès de la FAO</u> <u>Homenaje al Sr. Arrhenius F.M. DE FREITAS,</u> <u>Representante Permanente del Brasil ante la FAO</u>	132
I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)	
I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET d'AGRICULTURE (suite)	132
I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLÍTICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION(continuación)	
7. <u>International Agricultural Adjustment:</u>	
7. <u>Ajustement agricole international:</u>	132
7. <u>Reajuste Agrícola Internacional:</u>	
7.1 <u>Fourth Monitoring Report (C 83/21)</u>	
7.1 <u>Quatrième rapport de situation (C 83/21)</u>	132
7.1 <u>Cuarto informe sobre la situación (C 83/21)</u>	
7.2 <u>Revision and Updating of Guidelines (C 83/22)</u>	
7.2 <u>Révision et mise à jour des lignes d'orientation (C 83/22)</u>	132
7.2 <u>Revisión y actualización de las orientaciones (C 83/22)</u>	

EIGHTH MEETING
HUITIEME SEANCE
OCTAVA SESION

(14 November 1983)

I. <u>MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)</u>	
I. <u>PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)</u>	152
I. <u>PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLÍTICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)</u>	
7. <u>International Agricultural Adjustment (continued)</u>	
7. <u>Ajustement agricole international (suite)</u>	152
7. <u>Reajuste Agrícola Internacional (continuación)</u>	
7.1 <u>Fourth Monitoring Report (continued) (C 83/21)</u>	
7.1 <u>Quatrième rapport de situation (suite) (C 83/21)</u>	152
7.1 <u>Cuarto informe sobre la situación (continuación) (C 83/21)</u>	
7.2 <u>Revision and Updating of Guidelines (continued) (C 83/22)</u>	
7.2 <u>Révision et mise à jour des lignes d'orientation (suite) (C 83/22)</u>	152
7.2 <u>Revisión y actualización de las orientaciones (continuación) (C 83/22)</u>	

NINTH MEETING
NEUVIEME SEANCE
NOVENA SESION

(15 November 1983)

	<u>Page/Página</u>
I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)	
I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)	178
I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLÍTICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)	
8. <u>Food and Population</u> (C 83/18)	
8. <u>Alimentation et population</u> (C 83/18)	178
8. <u>Los alimentos y la población</u> (C 83/18)	

TENTH MEETING
DIXIEME SEANCE
DECIMA SESION

(15 November 1983)

I. <u>MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE</u> (continued)	
I. <u>PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE</u> (suite)	200
I. <u>PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLÍTICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION</u> (continuación)	
8. <u>Food and Population</u> (continued) (C 83/18)	
8. <u>Alimentation et population</u> (suite) (C 83/18)	200
8. <u>Los alimentos y la población</u> (continuación) (C 83/18)	

ELEVENTH MEETING
ONZIEME SEANCE
11^a REUNION

(16 November 1983)

I. <u>MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE</u> (continued)	
I. <u>PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE</u> (suite)	224
I. <u>PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLÍTICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION</u> (continuación)	
9. <u>Progress Report on WCARRD Programme of Action</u> (C 83/23; C 83/23-Corr.1 (English only); C 83/LIM/24)	
9. <u>Rapport de situation sur le programme d'action de la CMRADR</u> (C 83/23; C 83/LIM/24)	224
9. <u>Informe sobre la marcha del Programa de Acción de la CMRADR</u> (C 83/23; CL 83/LIM/24)	

TWELFTH MEETING
DOUZIEME SÉANCE
12ª SESION
(16 November 1983)

	<u>Page/Página</u>
I. <u>MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE</u> (continued)	
I. <u>PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE</u> (suite)	244
I. <u>PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLÍTICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION</u> (continuación)	
9. <u>Progress Report on WCARRD Programme of Action</u> (continued) (C 83/23; C 83/23-Corr.1 (English only); C 83/LIM/24)	
9. <u>Rapport de situation sur le programme d'action de la CMRADR</u> (suite) (C 83/23; C 83/LIM/24)	244
9. <u>Informe sobre la marcha del Programa de Acción de la CMRADR</u> (continuación) (C 83/23; C 83/LIM/24)	

THIRTEENTH MEETING
TREIZIEME SEANCE
13ª SESION
(17 November 1983)

I. <u>MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE</u> (continued)	
I. <u>PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE</u> (suite)	272
I. <u>PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLÍTICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION</u> (continuación)	
9. <u>Progress Report on WCARRD Programme of Action</u> (continued) (C 83/23; C 83/23-Corr.1 (English only); C 83/LIM/24)	
9. <u>Rapport de situation sur le programme d'action de la CMRADR</u> (suite) (C 83/23; C 83/LIM/24)	272
9. <u>Informe sobre la marcha del Programa de Acción de la CMRADR</u> (continuación) (C 83/23; C 83/LIM/24)	
6. <u>World Food and Agriculture Situation</u> : (continued)	
6. <u>Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture</u> : (suite)	291
6. <u>Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo</u> : (continuacion)	
6.1 <u>State of Food and Agriculture, including:</u> - <u>The Situation of Food and Agriculture in Africa</u> (continued) (C 83/2); (C 83/2-Sup.1)	
6.1 <u>Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, notamment:</u> - <u>Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en Afrique</u> (suite) (C 83/2; C 83/2-Sup.1)	291
6.1 <u>El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación, en particular:</u> - <u>La situación de la agricultura y la alimentación en Africa</u> (continuación) (C 83/2; C 83/2-Sup.1)	
- Adoption of Resolution related to Item 6.1 on Critical Situation of Food and Agriculture in Africa (C 83/LIM/26)	
- Adoption d'une résolution relative au point 6.1 sur la situation critique de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en Afrique (C 83/LIM/26)	291
- Aprobación de la resolución relativa al tema 6.1 sobre la situación crítica de la agricultura y la alimentación en Africa (C 83/LIM/26)	
10. <u>Progress Report on World Food Day Activities</u> (C 83/9)	
10. <u>Rapport d'activités sur la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation</u> (C 83/9)	294
10. <u>Informe sobre las actividades del Día Mundial de la Alimentación</u> (C 83/9)	

FOURTEENTH MEETING
QUATORZIEME SÉANCE
14ª SESION

(17 November 1983)

	<u>Page/Página</u>
I. <u>MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE</u> (continued)	
I. <u>PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D' AGRICULTURE</u> (suite)	300
I. <u>PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLÍTICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION</u> (continuación)	
6. <u>World Food and Agriculture Situation</u> ; (continued)	
6. <u>Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture</u> ; (suite)	300
6. <u>Situación alimentaria y agrícol</u> a en el mundo;(continuación)	
6.1 <u>State of Food and Agriculture</u> .	
- <u>The Situation of Food and Agriculture in Africa</u> (continued) (C 83/2;C 83/2-Sup.1)	
6.1 <u>Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture</u>	
- <u>Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en Afrique</u> (suite) (C 83/2;C 83/2-Sup.1)	300
6.1 <u>El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación</u>	
- <u>La situación de la agricultura y la alimentación en Africa</u> (continuación) (C 83/2;C 83/2-Sup.1)	
- <u>Adoption of Resolution related to Item 6.1 on Critical Situation of Food and Agriculture in Africa</u> (continued) (C 83/LIM/26)	
- <u>Adoption d'une résolution relative au point 6.1 sur la situation critique de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en Afrique</u> (suite)(C 83/LIM/2Q)	300
- <u>Aprobación de la resolución relativa al tema 6.1 sobre la situación crítica de la agricultura y la alimentación en Africa</u> (continuación) (C 83/LIM/26)	
10. <u>Progress Report on World Food Day Activities</u> (continued) (C 83/9)	
10. <u>Rapport d'activités sur la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation</u> (suite) (C 83/9)	300
10. <u>Informe sobre las actividades del Día Mundial de la Alimentación</u> (continuación) (C 83/9)	

FIFTEENTH MEETING
QUINZIEME SEANCE
15ª SESION

(21 November 1983)

<u>ADOPTION OF REPORT</u>	
<u>ADOPTION DU RAPPORT</u>	326
<u>APROBACION DEL INFORME</u>	
<u>DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I – PART 1</u> (C 83/I/REP/1; C 83/I/REF/1-Sup.1)	
<u>PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I – PARTIE 1</u> (C 83/I/REP/1; C 83/I/REP/1-Sup.1)	326
<u>PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I – PARTE 1</u> (C 83/I/REP/1; C 83/I/REP/1-Sup.1)	
6. <u>World Food and Agriculture Situation</u>	
6. <u>Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture</u>	326
6. <u>Situación alimentaria y agrícol</u> a en el mundo	
6.1 <u>State of Food and Agriculture</u> (paras. 1-33)	
6.1 <u>Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture</u> (par. 1-33)	326
6.1 <u>Estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación</u> (párrs. 1-33)	

	<u>Page/Página</u>
- <u>World Food Situation</u> (paras. 3-8)	
- <u>Situation - alimentaire mondiale</u> (par. 3-8)	331
- <u>Situación alimentaria mundial</u> (párrs. 3-8)	
- <u>Food and Agriculture Trade</u> (paras. 9-14)	
- <u>Commerce des produits alimentaires et agricoles</u> (par. 9-14)	331
- <u>Comercio alimentario y agrícola</u> (párrs. 9-14)	
- <u>Flow of Financial Resources to Agriculture and Food Aid</u> (paras. 15-19)	
- <u>Apport de ressources financières à l'agriculture et aide alimentaire</u> (par. 15-19)	336
- <u>Caudal de recursos financieros para la agricultura y ayuda alimentaria</u> (párrs. 15-19)	
- <u>Situation of Food and Agriculture in Africa</u> (paras. 20-24)	
- <u>Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture et aide alimentaire</u> (par. 20-24)	336
- <u>Situación de la alimentación y la agricultura en Africa</u> (párrs. 20-24)	
- <u>Situation in Other Regions</u> (paras. 25-30)	
- <u>Situation dans les autres regions</u> (par. 25-30)	340
- <u>Situación en otras regiones</u> (párrs. 25-30)	
- <u>Policies and Longer-term Issues</u> (paras. 31-33)	
- <u>Politiques et problèmes à long terme</u> (par. 31-33)	340
- <u>Políticas y asuntos a plazo más largo</u> (párrs. 31-33)	
<u>DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I – PART 2 (C 83/I/REP/2)</u>	
<u>PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - PARTIE 2 (C 83/I/REP/2)</u>	342
<u>PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE 2 (C 83/I/REP/2)</u>	
6. <u>World Food and Agriculture Situation</u> (continued)	
6. <u>Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture</u> (suite)	342
6. <u>Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo</u> (continuación)	
6.2 <u>Progress in Implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen World Food Security - Re-Appraisal of Concepts and Approaches</u> (paras. 1-29)	
6.2. <u>Etat d'avancement du Plan d'action visant à renforcer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale - Réexamen des concepts et des approches</u> (par. 1-29)	342
6.2. <u>Progresos realizados en la ejecución del Plan de Acción para reforzar la seguridad alimentaria mundial - Reconsideración de conceptos y planteamientos</u> (párrs. 1-29)	

SIXTEENTH MEETING
SEIZIEME SEANCE
16ª SESION

(21 November 1983)

	<u>Page/Página</u>
<u>ADOPTION OF REPORT</u> (continued)	
<u>ADOPTION DU RAPPORT</u> (suite)	354
<u>APROBACION DEL INFORME</u> (continuación)	
<u>DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART 2</u> (C 83/I/REP/2) (continued)	
<u>PROJET. DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - PARTIE 2</u> (C 83/I/REP/2) (suite)	354
<u>PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE 2</u> (C 83/I/REP/2) (continuación)	
6. <u>World Food and Agriculture Situation</u> (continued)	
6. <u>Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture</u> (suite)	354
6. <u>Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo</u> (continuación)	
6.2 <u>Progress in Implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen World Food Security - Re-Appraisal of Concepts and Approaches</u> (paras. 1-29) (continued)	
6.2 <u>Etat d'avancement du Plan d'action visant à renforcer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale - Réexamen des concepts et des approches</u> (par. 1-29) (suite)	354
6.2 <u>Progresos realizados en la ejecución del Plan de Acción para reforzar la seguridad alimentaria mundial - Reconsideración de conceptos y planteamientos</u> (párrs. 1-29) (continuación)	
<u>DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART 3</u> (C 83/I/REP/3)	
<u>PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - PARTIE 3</u> (C 83/I/REP/3)	361
<u>PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE 3</u> (C 83/I/REP/3)	
7. <u>International Agricultural Adjustment</u> (paras. 1-20)	
7. <u>Ajustement agricole international</u> (par. 1-20)	361
7. <u>Reajuste Agrícola Internacional</u> (párrs. 1-20)	
7.1 <u>Fourth Monitoring Report</u> (paras. 1-15)	
7.1 <u>Quatrième rapport de situation</u> (par. 1-15)	361
7.1 <u>Cuarto Informe sobre la situación</u> (párrs. 1-15)	
7.2 <u>Revision and Updating of Guidelines</u> (paras, 16-20)	
7.2 <u>Révision et mise à jour des lignes d'orientation</u> (par. 16-20)	363
7.2 <u>Revisión y actualización de las Orientaciones</u> (párrs. 16-20)	
8. <u>Food and Population</u> (paras. 21-29)	
8. <u>Alimentation et population</u> (par. 21-29)	369
8. <u>Los alimentos y la población</u> (párrs. 21-29)	
<u>DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART 4</u> (C 83/I/REP/4)(C 83/LIM/30)	
<u>PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - PARTIE 4</u> (C 83/I/REP/4)(C 83/LIM/30)	371
<u>PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE 4</u> (C 83/I/REP/4)(C 83/LIM/30)	
9. <u>Progress Report on WCARRD Programme of Action</u> (paras. 1-14)	
9. <u>Rapport de situation sur le Programme d'action de la CMRADR</u> (par. 1-14)	371
9. <u>Informe sobre los progresos realizados en la aplicación del Programa de Acción de la CMRADR</u> (párrs. 1-14)	
10. <u>Progress Report on World Food Day Activities</u> (paras. 15-19)	
10. <u>Rapport d'activités sur la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation</u> (par. 15-19)	376
10. <u>Informe sobre las actividades del Día Mundial de la Alimentación</u> (párrs. 15-19)	
<u>DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART 3</u> (C 83/I/REP/3) (continued)	
<u>PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - PARTIE 3</u> (C 83/I/REP/3) (suite)	377
<u>PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE 3</u> (C 83/I/REP/3) (continuación)	
8. <u>Food and Population</u> (paras. 21-29) (continued)	
8. <u>Alimentation et population</u> (par. 21-29) (suite)	377
8. <u>Los alimentos y la población</u> (párrs. 21-29) (continuación)	

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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

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ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 83/I/PV/1

Twenty second Session
COMMISSION IVingt-deuxième session
COMMISSION I22º período de sesiones
COMISION IFIRST MEETING
PREMIERE SEANCE
PRIMERA SESION

(9 November 1983)

The First Meeting was opened at 10.10 hoursJosé Ramón López-Portillo, Chairman of Commission I, presidingLa première séance est ouverte à 10 h 10 sousla présidence de José Ramón López-Portillo, Président de la Commission ISe abre la primera sesión a las 10.10 horas, bajo la presidencia deJosé Ramón López-Portillo, Presidente de la Comisión I

I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET QUESTIONS DE POLITIQUE EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULRE

I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

6. World Food and Agriculture Situation

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

6. Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo

6.1. State of Food and Agriculture

6.1. Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture

6.1. El estado de la agricultura y la alimentación

PRESIDENTE: Señores delegados; la Secretaría y yo mismo vemos que hay quórum, y por tanto, comenzamos esta sesión. Declaro formalmente abierta la primera sesión de la Comisión I del 22^o período de sesiones de la Conferencia FAO. A nombre de mi gobierno y del mío propio, les agradezco la distinción de mi elección como Presidente de esta Comisión. Mucho me honra; la serviré con imparcialidad, con entusiasmo y con el deseo de obtener los resultados que a todos satisfagan en beneficio de la humanidad. Estoy convencido de la fuerza de las ideas, que en la medida en que trascienden, forman la evolución histórica de los pueblos.

Lo que no se prevé se convierte en problemas, y éstos abaten nuestros objetivos de desarrollo. Por conveniencia, apatía o ignorancia hemos permitido que la realidad nos rebase y las crisis nos estallen, y nos obliguen a precipitación y concesión. El hambre en el mundo asesina ahora. No esperemos a ofrecer remedios para un día futuro.

No podemos mantener buenas expectativas abiertas y malas intenciones encubiertas, porque sólo contribuiremos a cancelar la esperanza de la abrumadora mayoría de los seres humanos, y la dignidad de estos foros que, sea como fuere, es lo mejor que han creado los hombres para dirimir sus controversias, atemperar abusos y encontrar soluciones razonadas y equitativas en una situación de igualdad.

No deseamos ni lamentaciones infructuosas ni actitudes arrogantes. Queremos un debate útil y práctico que nos lleve a plantear mejor los problemas; convenir y establecer prioridades; precisar lo viable y sobre todo, y a partir de ello, encontrar más que los culpables del pasado, los responsables del futuro. Es la única vía a soluciones racionales, justas y factibles.

Sabemos que detrás de los planteamientos que aquí se harán, se encuentran los intereses de cada pueblo y también su generosidad y su buena voluntad para responder a los postulados de la FAO, y también a las grandes cuestiones relativas a tendencias y políticas agrícolas y alimentarias que aquí se plantean. Esperamos pues, señores, soluciones y acciones que trasciendan.

En relación al calendario de nuestros trabajos, quisiera llamar la atención de los señores delegados, sobre el documento C 83/12 relativo a los arreglos para el período de sesiones de la Conferencia. El calendario de trabajo a ser ejecutado por la Comisión I, aparece en el Apéndice A del documento citado, páginas A-4 hasta la página A-12. Sin embargo, dicha agenda fue revisada por el Comité general del presente período de sesiones de la Conferencia, de lo que resultó una nueva organización del calendario para nuestra Comisión, como indicado en el párrafo 7 de la página 2 del documento C 83/LIM/7.

Conforme a ello, esta Comisión deberá concluir sus trabajos al mediodía del jueves 17 de noviembre. Es por tanto necesario, que los distinguidos delegados otorguen su cooperación a esta Presidencia a fin de culminar nuestros debates a tiempo, y que el Comité de Redacción pueda presentarnos el Reporte a aprobar el día lunes 21 de noviembre.

Por esta razones, les solicito amablemente, se ajusten al programa y moderen el tiempo de sus intervenciones .

Antes de pasar al primer punto de nuestra agenda, les informo sobre la constitución del Comité de Redacción que prepara el reporte de la Comisión. Sus integrantes serán los siguientes, de acuerdo a lo que hemos auscultado y si ustedes no tienen alguna objeción, los leeré en orden alfabético: Afganistán, Australia, Camerún, Colombia, Francia, Hungría, India, Kenya, Países Bajos, Nicaragua, Tailandia, Estados Unidos de América, República Popular del Yemen.

Les informo que también el Comité se reunirá bajo la presidencia de la India.

Deseo consultar a esta Comisión, si tiene alguna observación en torno a este Comité de Redacción o a algunas de las cuestiones que hemos planteado.

No veo ninguna, de manera que procederemos ahora al tratamiento del primer punto de nuestra agenda, llamado "El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación en el mundo". Como ustedes saben, este punto ha sido dividido en dos subíndices; el 6.1 "El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación, en particular, la situación de la agricultura y la alimentación en Africa"; y el 6.2 "Progresos realizados en la ejecución del Plan de Acción para reforzar la seguridad alimentaria mundial: reconsideración de conceptos y planteamientos".

En vista de la importancia de cada subíndice, y a fin de facilitar la discusión, sugiero que los delegados traten cada subíndice en forma separada. Si ello es aceptado, propongo pues que comencemos por el subíndice 6.1 es decir, "El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación". El documento de base para este tema es el C 83/2 acompañado por el C 83/2 Sup. 1, que lo actualiza.

Daré ahora, señores, si no tienen inconveniente, la palabra al Profesor Islam, Subdirector General del Departamento de Política Económica y Social para que introduzca estos documentos

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): Mr Chairman Distinguished Delegates to assist in the discussion of this item, you have two documents: C 83/2 on The State of Food and Agriculture 1983 and C 83/2-Sup. 1, which extends and updates the earlier analysis.

For the past three years, a dominant influence on the food and agriculture situation has been the persistence of the economic recession. Signs of recovery are to be found in only a few countries. International trade has yet to show an upward turn. The developing world is plagued with protected markets, balance-of-payments problems, high real interest rates and indebtedness. Development assistance has stagnated, if not declined.

Food and agricultural production had, however, been faring relatively well until this year. World food production, following an upsurge of 3.1 percent in 1981, had a smaller increase of 2.5 percent in 1982. Carryover stocks of cereals at the end of 1982 were the largest in years, about 21 percent of annual consumption. However, the 1983 world food production will decline slightly, largely because of the acreage reductions and poor weather in the United States. This will cause stocks to decline by a fifth, and will make world food security very sensitive to outcomes of the next cropping season.

In the developing countries, populations continue to increase at 2.7 percent on average per year. On a per capita basis, not much progress in food production has been made this past decade. China is an exception. But the least developed countries, many of which are in Africa, have lost ground.

As many as 30 countries, mostly in Africa, were faced with abnormal food shortages in mid-October. These are caused by poor growing conditions and pest damage. On top of this millions of refugees face destitution as the result of civil disturbance and sudden displacement. Increasingly in recent years a high proportion of food emergencies is due to what may be called man-made disasters. Disproportionately large segments of emergency food assistance go to meet the needs of refugees. The African food situation has deteriorated, to the extent that the Director-General this year established a task force to monitor the African food situation on a regular basis. Only last month a special meeting on the African food emergency was convened by the Director-General and was attended by African countries and the donor countries to seek ways of mobilizing greater food and other assistance for the relief of distress in Africa.

As regards agricultural trade, the value of world exports of agricultural, fishery and forestry products was 8 percent less in 1982 than in 1981, whereas during the late 1970s such trade was increasing at about 15 percent a year. Exports of the developing countries have been hurt more than those of the developed countries.

Moreover, for the past four years there have been serious declines in the net barter terms of trade of agricultural products. In recent months there have been reversals of downward price trends for soybeans, maize and some other crops, but the prices of main tropical trade are still depressed.

Prices of some inputs have declined, especially fuel and fertilizer. However, this has not benefited farmers in countries with weakened currencies that import such items.

What does all this imply for world food security? As will be discussed under the next agenda item, the Council has endorsed a broadened concept of food security embracing increased production, more dependable food supplies, and easier access to these supplies. In this context, the current situation is mixed and uncertain. Natural calamities continue to endanger large areas, not only drought and floods, but also pests and locusts. Restrictive policies related to prices, trade, and monetary flows are affecting stability of supplies and access to food is impeded by loss of income at both individual and national levels.

National price policies have become a matter of particular concern of late. The Director-General accordingly has initiated a special study of price policies. This subject will be on the agenda of the 1984 Regional Conferences. Lessons learned from actual country experiences will be examined further, and a final report will be presented to the FAO Conference in 1985.

Mr Chairman, you may have noticed that we are presenting for the first time in these documents data not only about commitments but also about actual disbursements of official external assistance to agriculture. Development assistance has tended to stagnate in real terms since the late seventies. Bilateral assistance by OECD member countries to agriculture in 1982 went down 6.5 percent as compared with 1981. This, along with the decline in multilateral assistance means that total commitments to agriculture of external resources in 1982 have decreased, even in current prices. Also, assistance is being provided with stiffer terms and a lower degree of concessionality.

The data show that commitments take more than seven years to be disbursed. Why this is so and how this can be speeded up deserve concerted attention by the donors and recipients alike.

On domestic public expenditure on agriculture, the documents present preliminary data for the 1978-82 period. In many developing countries, public spending for this sector is less than proportional to its importance to gross domestic product. While it has shown an appreciable increase in many countries in real terms during 1978-82, more than in other sectors, in some others it has recorded a decline.

A special feature of the documents this year is its longer-run view of the food and agricultural situation in 41 countries of Sub-Saharan Africa.

Among the points brought out by the analysis are the following

- Outmigration from rural areas is leading to rapid changes in food tastes, more dependency on imported foods, need for new food marketing systems and, in some places, agricultural labour shortages.

- Sweeping changes in land-and-water rights, credit arrangements and institutional services, agricultural research and training, are needed to keep up with dynamic population and technological changes.

- Existing price and exchange-rate policies in many cases discourage, rather than encourage, food production; governments need to be more selective in their policy interventions.

- Efforts to increase small-farmer production and income, as well as to sustain agricultural services, have suffered because of limited funding, expertise and institutional capacities.

- Higher priority and greater commitment of African governments needs to be provided to population policies. The population growth rates in Africa are amongst the highest in the developing countries.

The analysis goes on to point out the importance of Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries - the potentials of cooperation among neighbouring countries in eliminating transportation and trade barriers, mobilizing "triangular" arrangements for food aid, preventing unauthorized movements, and stopping the spread of natural pests.

Mr Chairman, in another section, the document C 83/2 highlights issues which are especially important in other regions of the world.

Recent data for South Asia suggest a possible slow-down in the rate of growth of cereal production which declined per caput during 1973-82 by 1.3 percent a year. Observers believe that, if food production strides are to continue in South Asia, research breakthroughs to help crop and livestock systems in hilly, dryland situations are imperative.

In Latin America, with its strong links to international trade, food imports are rising faster than exports. Diversification, export promotion and more intra-regional trade cooperation are often proposed as solutions, but have not always worked out well. There are additional problems of rural poverty and resource conservation to be considered when seeking ways to strengthen Latin America's agriculture.

In the Near East there is renewed concern for food security and self-sufficiency. Especially in the oil-exporting countries, demand for imported food rose fast in the Seventies; such imports in 1981 were 2 1/2 times what they were in 1975, in current dollars. The response has been to increase investment in irrigation and other energy intensive food-production projects, which however call for improved appraisal of the costs and benefits of such investments.

Before concluding, Mr Chairman, allow me to refer to some developments that appear important to watch as we move into the mid and late 1980s.

- The outlook for external assistance flows, as well as early resolution of national debt problems, is discouraging.

- The agricultural trade and monetary policies of any major country or bloc can have significant ripple effects elsewhere.

- These days, national propensities are to postpone projects, especially those with long gestation lags, to let existing infrastructure and routine services (such as animal health) go downhill, relax efforts to conserve natural resources and put less money into agricultural education and research. Creative foresight is especially needed if resource productivity is to be sustained in the long run.

El PRESIDENTE: A nombre de la Comisión quiero agradecer al Dr. Islam su clara intervención a este punto de la Agenda.

Deseo destacar muy brevemente, algunas cuestiones.

La excelente descripción de la problemática agrícola y alimentaria aquí presentada, quizás se pueda ver ampliada con información fresca que en los debates de este tema se presente a nivel mundial, regional y nacional.

Destaco la necesidad de un monitoreo o seguimiento más efectivo a esos niveles que proporcione más información, más oportuna y ajustada a lo que deseamos evaluar. Es decir las circunstancias, factores y relaciones que más influyen en el panorama agrícola y alimentario a nivel mundial, regional y nacional.

Resalto también el interés en conocer a fondo la situación agrícola y alimentaria, particularmente de Africa; quizás sería muy útil, para esta Comisión, conocer el avance del Plan de Lagos.

Subrayo señores que plantear profunda y ampliamente los problemas es buena parte de la solución.

Señores antes de otorgarles la palabra deseo destacar y congratularme por la designación de primer Vicepresidente de esta Comisión, el señor George Mackey de Australia y por la designación del segundo Vicepresidente de esta Comisión Yousef Hamdi, de Egipto, les damos la bienvenida y les agradezco por anticipado la enorme ayuda que sin duda darán a esta Presidencia para conducir los trabajos de la Comisión.

Señores, tienen ustedes la palabra: les recuerdo lo apretado de nuestra Agenda y les suplico apearse al programa y moderar sus intervenciones. Tienen ustedes la palabra.

Bien, por lo pronto comenzamos con estos cinco países. En primer lugar Bangladesh, Kuwait, Polonia, Viet Nam y China. Tiene la palabra el distinguido delegado de Bangladesh.

A.H.M. ABDUL HYE (Bangladesh): Thank you, Mr Chairman. With your permission and indulgence of the respective delegates I would like to make observations on some of the issues brought out in the Conference Document C 83/2. Before that, I would like to congratulate you for assuming the responsibility of chairing this Session.

Your introductory remarks have set the tone for the discussion in a spirit of cooperation. I would also like to congratulate Professor Islam for his brief but effective presentation on the subject matter for discussion which has very effectively provided the background for the discussion which will ensue.

First of all I would like to discuss about food availability. It is most encouraging to note that there has been a marked increase in global food production in the 1980s resulting in record levels of carry-over stocks of cereals and grain into 1983. However, these production gains have been unevenly spread geographically and skewed in favour of few developed countries who also are the largest net exporters. In the midst of world-wide surplus we note 26 countries were reportedly suffering from abnormal food shortages in mid-June 1983, 16 of them in Africa, while 32 countries in southern and northern Africa and in parts of Latin America and Asia reportedly had adverse crop conditions.

By the FAO standard the overall level of cereal stocks may be above the minimum required for world food security (21 percent as against 18 percent), but the concentration of the surplus in a few developed countries highlights the vulnerability of the low-income food-deficit countries. The problem continues to be one of distribution as much as it is of food.

Lest huge carry-over stocks lead the net exporters to cut back on production, whether as a result of deliberate policy or through the operation of the market forces, it is to be considered whether an internationally held reserve of food stock mobilized through an international fund will not be in the interests of both the producing country and the importer. Such a nationally held reserve can distribute the cost of storage among donors/participants in such a scheme and afford a remunerative price to the growers and also a scope to the low-income food-deficit countries to make up their deficits either through sale at concessional rates or as food aid. If this scheme is supported by a stabilization programme for food commodities, the farmer in the exporting country can be assured of adequate income and simultaneously provide benefits for the poorly fed people of the world. Stable prices resulting from the above two matters should not however discourage the producers in both the developing and the developed countries to cut down on costs nor absolve their governments from adopting appropriate pricing policies.

Now I would like to make a brief comment on fertilizers. According to Document C 83/2, in 1981-82 fertilization production declined for the first time and consumption for the second time since the end of World War II.

While weakening commodity prices may have reduced the use of fertilizers in developed countries, the high price of fertilizer resulting from cut-backs in fertilizer subsidies has accounted for the drop in its consumption in most of the developing countries. Faced with the urgent need to increase food production and the inability of a large number of small farmers to purchase modern inputs, the continued availability of subsidized imports appear to be an indispensable part of the strategy of food production. If the consumer can demand and get cheap food, the producers should not be discriminated against by denying them cheap inputs. Moreover, this will be one way of balancing the adverse terms of trade between the urban and rural sectors of the economy.

Now, I would like to make a brief comment on the intermediate and long-term concerns as have been highlighted in the Conference document. The Conference document has emphasized the need to underpin efforts to improve agriculture production, food security and rural income in a sustained manner. These are: non-inflationary economic growth; encouragement of trade; and effective channelling of domestic and international resources. These inter-related elements should not only form the basis of a 3-pronged policy guideline for the developing countries but should also be the framework for international cooperation. As the initiative in respect of all three lie within the jurisdiction of the developed industrialized countries, the success of any response from the developing countries will greatly depend on the attitudes and policy decisions of the former. We hope the developed countries will show greater awareness about the global interdependence and take appropriate measures.

Last but not the least, the World Food Survey: The member countries appreciate the constant endeavour of FAO to highlight the various dimensions of the food crisis and ways and means of overcoming the same nationally, regionally, and internationally. The various studies and surveys made by the Organisation from time to time have been immensely helpful in policy-making. The different studies undertaken by FAO for the analysis of the longer dimensions of hunger and ways to achieve the goals of the international strategy for alleviating the problems should equally be helpful. As this study has not been undertaken for merely academic interest but for practical consideration in meeting urgent issues, time is of the essence. It is for this reason that the publication of the Survey Report now scheduled for 1985 should be advanced so that it can be used as an input in the policy formulation of the developing and developed countries.

Mr Chairman, it has been said that in the long run we are all dead. For those who are poor and hungry, even the short term can make the difference between life and death.

El PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias al distinguido Delegado de Bangladesh.

Deseo informar a la Sala del gran interés que ha manifestado la totalidad de las Delegaciones en todas las Comisiones, así como en el Plenario, para asistir a la Recepción del Señor Presidente de la República Democrática del Sudán, S.E. Jaafar Mohamed Al Nimeri.

Por tal circunstancia, esta Comisión I suspenderá en este momento los trabajos y se reunirá de nuevo para reanudarlos a las 2.30 de esta tarde.

Suplico a todos los Sres. Delegados una muy puntual asistencia porque tendremos que ganar este tiempo que suspendemos durante la tarde y parte de la noche. De otra manera, sería difícil que pudiéramos tener posibilidad de terminar nuestros trabajos.

Les agradezco mucho su atención y les espero a las 14.30 en punto.

The meeting rose at 10.50 hours

La séance est levée à 10 h 50

Se levanta la sesión a las 10.50 horas

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C

C 83/I/PV/2

Twenty second Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt-deuxième session
COMMISSION I

22º período de sesiones
COMISION I

SECOND MEETING
DEUXIEME SEANCE
SEGUNDA. SESION .

(9 November 1983)

The Second Meeting was opened at 14.40 hours

José Ramón López-Portillo, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La deuxième séance est ouverte à 14 h 40 sous

la présidence de José Ramón López-Portillo, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la segunda sesión a las 14.40 horas, bajo la

presidencia de José Ramón López-Portillo, Presidente de la Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET QUESTIONS DE POLITIQUE EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)

- 6. World Food and Agriculture Situation (continued)
- 6. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)
- 6. Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo (continuación)

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

EL PRESIDENTE: Se abre la segunda sesión de los debates de esta Comisión I. Quiero decirles que hoy ganamos una mañana al escuchar la excelente declaración del Sr. Presidente del Sudán, aunque ello significó también el que el tiempo para nuestros debates se compactara. Por ello, señores delegados, pongo a su consideración el que podamos aplazar el término de nuestra sesión hasta las 18.30 horas, y si necesario, y esta decisión la tomaremos posteriormente, para más tarde.

Tengo hasta ahora la siguiente lista de oradores; hoy en la mañana nos hizo el honor de presentarnos su declaración la distinguida delegación de Bangladesh. A continuación, para esta tarde, tenemos a Kuwait, Polonia, Viet Nam y China. ¿Tienen ustedes alguna observación que hacer?

D.L. PLANAS GIRON (Venezuela): Quisiera informarle, a nombre de las delegaciones de India México y de la nuestra propia, que cuando se discuta en esta Comisión el siguiente subtema relativo a la seguridad alimentaria, nosotros propondremos una resolución concerniente al concepto ampliado de seguridad alimentaria, pero renunciamos en estos momentos. Para facilitar el debate sobre esta resolución durante la discusión del subtema 6.2, el proyecto de resolución se lo estamos entregando a la Secretaría para su procesamiento.

EL PRESIDENTE: La Secretaría ha tomado nota de ello. ¿Hay alguna otra observación antes de comenzar los debates? Si no la hay, quiero informarles que me acaba de proporcionar la siguiente información la Secretaría; hay programada para hoy en la tarde, una recepción por parte de la delegación de China para las 6 de la tarde. De manera que quizás tendremos que cortar, en esos momentos, nuestros debates. Si no hay ninguna observación, le solicitamos a la digna delegación de Kuwait a que haga su declaración.

A.M.S. AL-NAKIB (Kuwait) (original language Arabic): Mr President, allow me first of all to congratulate you on your election to the Chair. At the same time I wish to congratulate the Vice-Chairmen. I would like to thank Professor Islam for the excellent explanation he provided on the state of food and agriculture in the world and wish his Department success in their work. This afternoon I shall dwell on a few aspects of the state of food and agriculture in the world. The overall situation is still an insecure one, although certain slight improvements occurred at the beginning of the 1980s. However, these improvements are not commensurate with the increase in the population of the world. Millions of human beings in various parts of the world are still suffering from hunger and malnutrition because of a lack of resources, and the shortage of emergency stocks to meet increased demand.

Also, in many cases problems exist in dealing with the flow of resources for food aid. We often hear or read about natural disasters occurring in various parts of the world, such as floods, earthquakes and drought: these destroy agricultural crops, especially in developing countries. Such natural disasters occur more specifically in certain parts of Africa and Asia, as well as elsewhere in the world. In such cases, food demand increases, but the provision of the necessary supplies is made quite difficult as a result of the deficit in the balance of payments of those countries.

Other problems arise for these countries, problems of soil deterioration, salinity, natural disasters, or even problems related to inflation and unemployment; all these may have further negative effects on the level of the economy in those countries.

As the delegates may know, the Food and Agriculture Organization, headed by the Director-General, has repeatedly warned against the overall world economic situation, and more specifically the situation of international agriculture. The Director-General called for the implementation of effective measures to increase agricultural output in the developed countries, and for the setting up of an early warning system where food security is concerned. He called for the promotion of rural development and agrarian reform. We believe such improvement can only take place if modern irrigation schemes are applied, if steps are taken to halt desertification, and to reclaim further areas of arable land. Improved seeds must be used in agriculture to increase output, especially for grain crops.

We believe that the introduction of mechanization of tractors to improve the area of arable land and to help overcome weeds, pests and use of fertilizers to increase crop output is necessary. Modern production methods should be introduced; modern methods of transportation should be applied. Another measure which should help to increase output would be to reduce the amount of forests cut down, and wild grazing. Further attention should be given to agricultural expansion and rural development. In addition, measures such as collective self-reliance between developing countries should be considered because these would help in improving food security in the world.

International banks and funds should provide aid and loans to the countries of the developing world. This will enable it to increase production and to exploit other resources. More policies should be aimed at increasing food grain stocks; joint projects for raising agricultural production should be applied at national and regional levels. Agricultural inputs and the marketing of products such as fertilizers, pesticides, improved seeds are all necessary requirements for agriculture, as is mechanization.

The management of fishery development and marine culture must be organized in order to protect certain fish stocks from extinction and to permit the breeding of other stocks. The developed countries therefore are required to provide the necessary aid and all possible facilities to the developing countries, when such aid is necessary. The developed countries are also called upon to assist in the introduction of modern technology to help those developing countries to increase production efficiency. The more wealthy countries of the world are requested to provide soft loans to those nations most in need of such loans, to improve and set up other vital agricultural projects.

My country, Kuwait, is a desert country with limited resources of water suitable for agricultural purposes. Furthermore, we suffer harsh weather conditions. As a result of this, we are, a net importer of food resources. Therefore, in order to overcome some of these impediments and obstacles we have sought to introduce and use developed and modern agricultural techniques.

The support and aid provided by my country's Government to farmers and fishermen, especially after the setting up of the General Authority for Agricultural and Fisheries Affairs, allowed us to step up and develop our agricultural and fisheries resources. This Authority, which was established a few months ago, aims at providing incentives to farmers to increase production. This helps to reduce or cut back on our dependence on foreign markets. It also helps us to come closer to the target of self-sufficiency in the area of certain vital local foodstuffs.

Z. GROCHOWSKI (Poland): Mr Chairman, first of all I would like to convey our words of appreciation to all the staff of the Secretariat who contributed towards the preparation of the documents now under discussion. We found the statistical data and indices contained in these documents extremely useful and interesting.

It seems that food production in a large number of countries will be insufficient to cover their needs for the current season. The forecast published recently indicates a substantial decline of coarse grains and wheat production, as compared to last year and earlier forecasts. As a result of expected reduced supplies the prices of feed grains and wheat resumed again an upward trend and tight supplies of grains and rising prices will certainly adversely affect trade balances and food availability in many importing countries. It is therefore regrettable that some of the biggest grain producers adopted a policy designed to reduce the acreages under grains and to cut down production.

As has already happened many times, we might very quickly pass from a period of surpluses to a period of shortages. The attitude of some governments towards a new international grains agreement is not very clear. It seems that they are not really interested in undertaking commitments aimed at the stabilization of the market and assuring supplies for needy countries.

Food is being used as a political weapon, to exert pressure on other countries by some big exporters. We are of the opinion that such practices should be condemned by the international community as being contrary to the spirit of cooperation and long-established trading traditions.

The restrictions and different barriers applied by many developed countries are often distorting the flows of international trade and are increasing balance of payments difficulties of other countries. It is very discouraging that in spite of many carefully worded declarations and statements, no significant progress has been achieved over the last few years either in global negotiations, or in the forum of GATT.

It has been rightly indicated in the evaluation of the world food situation that investments in the agricultural sector are insufficient to assure the required growth of production. It has been mentioned that the countries of Sahel will be short by a few billion dollars in attaining the necessary level of production in this decade. At the same time more than 700 billion dollars are spent annually on armaments throughout the world. If only part of the funds used for preparations for killing people could be used instead to preserve human lives, the problem of hunger and malnutrition could be solved in a short time on the whole planet.

We found the chapter relating to the agricultural situation in Sub-Saharan Africa very interesting and highly competent. Although we have different climatic conditions and different kinds of problems, I would like to make a few comments on this issue. The problems of rapid urbanization and changes in consumption patterns resulting from it are widespread also in other areas in the world. We feel that not only the countries of Sahel but other food deficit countries should concentrate their attention on the locally produced kinds of food, and do their utmost to increase this kind of production. The changes in the eating habits from traditional to more sophisticated and modern diets, similar to those of highly industrialized countries, might lead to excessive imports, leaving local resources unutilized. This is putting additional strain on the relatively small export earnings of many countries. The methods used in feeding animals are sometimes equally important, as for instance switching from locally produced fodder to imported grains. We ourselves have had a rather disappointing experience in this field.

Another important issue is the level of procurement prices and retail prices of food. While the maintaining of a reasonable balance between the interests of the urban and the rural population must be carefully considered by respective governments, it is obvious that low prices paid to farmers are often becoming a barrier to the growth of production, especially in view of the rising costs of inputs. Our experience in this area confirms the views expressed in the document prepared by the Secretariat.

Other issues which are pertinent not only to the countries of Sahel are land tenure systems and the application of modern technologies suitable for tropical and subtropical climates. Modern technologies are very often energy intensive, and require other costly inputs. Intensification of scientific research in order to enable the application of the most efficient technologies to different local conditions is therefore of utmost importance for the future.

The differences existing now in the yields of many crops between developed and developing countries indicate that huge reserves could still be exploited, reducing the dependence on imports of a large number of food deficit countries.

The land tenure systems in African countries are often completely different from those applied in Europe. However, at least one statement is of universal value, that is that farmers cannot be expected to invest money and labour in the improvement of their holdings, unless they have the assurance of land tenure stability. The efforts directed towards solving this problem are necessary and will in most cases bring favourable results at least in the long run.

MAI LUONG (Viet Nam): Qu'il me soit permis, au nom de la délégation de la République socialiste du Viet Nam, d'adresser mes chaleureuses félicitations à Monsieur le Président et Messieurs les Vice-Présidents pour leurs élections à cette importante Commission de la vingt-deuxième session de la Conférence de la FAO.

Ma délégation est d'accord avec l'évaluation faite par le Directeur général sur la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture mettant en relief le côté positif et le côté négatif du problème qui a été présenté d'une manière claire et succincte par le Professeur Islam. Certes, on a pu enregistrer de notables augmentations de plusieurs produits alimentaires au début des années 80, aboutissant à des niveaux de stocks de report de céréales. Malheureusement ces gains de production sont inégalement répartis; la majeure partie des stocks est détenue en Amérique du Nord et le fléchissement des prix et revenus agricoles a incité certains pays gros producteurs à réduire même jusqu'à 20 pour cent les superficies ensemencées en blé et en céréales secondaires. D'autre part, les perspectives alimentaires et agricoles de nombreux pays en développement restent sombres; on a de faibles succès dans le combat contre la faim et la malnutrition et la situation alimentaire est extrêmement précaire dans certaines parties du monde. L'apport énergétique aura diminué presque partout entre 1980 et 1982. Les pénuries alimentaires et les situations d'urgence sont de plus en plus nombreuses et fréquentes. La production par habitant n'a pas du tout augmenté au cours des cinq dernières années.

Entre-temps l'apport des ressources à l'agriculture comme l'aide au développement, l'aide alimentaire, les dépenses publiques en faveur de l'agriculture, n'augmentent pas d'une manière sensible et adéquate. L'effet immédiat de cette situation c'est qu'à l'heure actuelle 870 millions de gens sont en proie à la faim et à la malnutrition comme l'a souligné récemment le Directeur général, et 30 enfants dans les pays pauvres meurent à chaque minute et beaucoup d'entre eux à cause de la faim et de la sous-alimentation.

La délégation de la République socialiste du Viet Nam a, plus d'une fois devant cette tribune internationale, souligné les causes profondes et immédiates de cette situation préoccupante.

Les efforts réitérés pour établir un nouvel ordre économique international rencontrent de nombreux obstacles. Les exportations des produits agricoles des pays en développement continuent à pâtir de la stagnation générale du marché et du protectionnisme grandissant; les termes de leurs échanges se sont encore détériorés. Le pouvoir d'achat des exportations agricoles continue à baisser; faute de devises, les pays en développement sont même obligés de réduire l'emploi des engrais (malheureusement, d'ailleurs) ainsi que d'autres facteurs de la production; tout cela porte de graves atteintes aux efforts de production agricole dans bon nombre de pays en développement.

La paix n'est pas encore établie, et rétablie, dans certains endroits dans le monde. Des menaces permanentes de guerre, des interventions militaires, empêchent bon nombre de pays de concentrer leurs ressources sur le développement économique en général et le développement agricole et alimentaire en particulier. L'aide internationale au développement et en particulier l'aide alimentaire est souvent sujette à des considérations politiques et utilisée comme une menace comme vient de révéler l'honorable délégué de Pologne.

ZENG XIANRONG (China) (original language Chinese): Mr Chairman, before I address the topic under discussion, please allow me, on behalf of the Chinese delegation, to extend our congratulations to you on your election as Chairman of this Commission and to the three Vice-Chairmen. We hope under your guidance, the deliberations will proceed smoothly and yield fruitful results.

Affected by the prolonged economic recession, the world food and agriculture situation has been precarious and unstable over the past two years. This cannot but cause our serious concern.

Although the world witnessed slight increases in cereal production in the last two years, the development remains uneven. In the developing countries, agricultural growth has lost its momentum. The food situation in Africa, in particular, is deteriorating with a noticeable drop in per capita food consumption as compared with ten years ago and millions of people are still suffering from hunger and malnutrition. Food shortage is posing a severe challenge to the developing countries in Africa as it is bound to affect the overall development of their national economy. This has aroused our deepest concern and sympathy. Since food problem is vital to the interests of hundreds of millions of people, the current session of the Conference should consider, first and foremost, how to cope with this precarious situation.

We have also noted that the developing countries have encountered many difficulties in trade of their farm products and the declining value of exports and the ever-worsening terms of trade. All this has further magnified the constraints in food supply in those countries which import food grain with earnings from exporting other agricultural products.

Two years ago, in its review of the development of world economy, the World Bank stated that countries which enjoyed a rapid growth in food and agricultural production have also recorded a large increase in their Gross National Product. Now ample facts have testified from another angle the adverse effects agricultural stagnation may exercise on the national economy. Therefore, we should examine the current food and agricultural situation within the context of global economy, and the international community should attach great importance and help to solve problems in the food and agricultural sphere.

Mr Chairman, document C 83/2 has mentioned the agricultural situation in China and offered some analysis. Now, I would like to add a few explanatory remarks.

Over the past few years, the Chinese Government has, according to the prevailing conditions in the rural areas, adopted a series of agricultural policies, conducive to mobilizing the production enthusiasm of the peasants. Among them the most important is the introduction of various forms of household contracting responsibility system with remuneration linked to farm output, aimed at allowing the peasants more decision-making power in production and management, thus eliminating over-centralized management, low efficiency in production and egalitarianism in distribution. This contract system, built on the achievements of cooperative movement, combines the small-scale household management with specialized and socialized production and integrates the superiority of collective ownership with the flexibility of household management. In this way, the initiative of the peasants has been brought into full play.

To spur the development of agriculture, we have implemented the policy of "planned economy supplemented by market regulation", formulated the Sixth 5-Year Plan, set forth the objectives for agricultural development and begun the work of agricultural zoning so as to provide better guidance. The Government has also for several times raised the purchasing prices of agricultural and sideline products, cut down the state procurement quotas and reduced taxes in some areas. At the same time, we have imported some food grain to lighten the peasants' burden and give them opportunities to recover.

As our country has a vast territory and diversified natural conditions, it is highly necessary for us to make full use of the specific favourable conditions in different localities and apply scientific farming. We have also systematically readjusted the crop patterns and agricultural structure and promoted a diversified economy while sparing no effort in developing food production. Now, the acreage under food grain crops have been basically fixed and lands unfit for farming have been gradually rehabilitated for the development of animal husbandry. We have also built up a number of commodity production bases.

The implementation of the above-mentioned policies have led to a major development in agriculture over the past few years. The year of 1982, blessed by favorable weather conditions, witnessed a bumper harvest of crops, with the gross output value of agriculture amounting to 278.5 billion Chinese yuan, an 11 percent increase over the previous year. If taking into account the growth rate of the gross output value in the few proceeding years, we have gained an annual progressive increase of 7.5 percent since 1978, which is 2.3 times the average annual progressive increase during the previous 26 years. Compared with 1978, the output of grain in 1982 in our country increased by 16 percent, oil bearing crops 126 percent, sugar crops 83 percent, cured tobacco, silk cocoons, pork, beef, mutton, etc. more than 50 percent. With more income, the quality of life of the peasants has been remarkably improved. According to the results of selective investigation by the National Statistics Bureau, the per capita net income in 1982 grew by 15.2 percent over the previous year. A large number of rural families began to have bank savings and food reserves. The bank deposits in rural areas totalled 38.99 billion Chinese yuan and the nutritional standard in the rural areas has been generally improved. In the last 4 years, new houses with about 2 billion square metres of floor space have been built, which has helped to better the living conditions for about 20 percent of the rural families.

This year, though the autumn crops have been affected by serious droughts and floods in some regions, it is estimated that with the good harvest of the summer crops, the total annual output will still surpass that of last year. As regards cash crops, except rapeseeds and cured tobacco, the production of which is curtailed by the State in order to raise their quality, all the other cash crops along with meat and aquatic products will fulfil or overfulfil the production quotas. There will be an increase in most products as against 1982.

Mr Chairman, in spite of some successes we have achieved in our agricultural development in recent years, our agricultural production level is still quite low. The per capita consumption of agricultural, animal and aquatic products remains far below that of the advanced countries, and our crop harvests are still to a large extent at the mercy of weather conditions. In developing our agriculture, there remains tremendous work to be done.

Therefore, we are ready to learn from other countries their experience in agricultural development, to strengthen international cooperation in this field and join in the common endeavour with people throughout the world to further the development of agriculture

G. SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Permítame, Señor Presidente, en nombre de Cuba felicitarlo per haber recaído en su persona la Dirección de nuestros debates.

Nos ha dicho usted, Señor Presidente, que es un alto honor para su país tal designación, y esta delegación considera que es un alto honor no sólo nara nuestro país sino nara toda la repión de América Latina y del Caribe.

Estamos seguros, Señor Presidente, de que su experiencia y su imparcialidad conducirán a esta Comisión a excelentes resultados, auxiliado por los distinguidos Vicepresidentes.

Quisiera asimismo, Señor Presidente, agradecer al Profesor Islam por la elocuente y precisa presentación de la documentación correspondiente a este tema, así como a la Secretaría General por los cjumentos puestos a nuestra disposición para facilitar nuestros trabajos.

Nuestra Delegación, Señor Presidente, ha revisado con suma atención el documento C 83/2 que nos ha presentado la Secretaría para el análisis del tema referente al Estado Mundial de la Agricultura y la Alimentación, así como otras publicaciones referidas al mismo, incluyendo otras elaboradas también por la FAO. Nos referimos en lo esencial a aspectos generales de este tema.

En realidad, durante los últimos veinte años, la producción alimentaria de los países subdesarrollados se ha rezagado respecto a la demanda de alimentos.

Según se plantea en la enjundiosa publicación de la FAO "Agricultura Horizonte 2000", esta situación se mantendrá al menos hasta finales del siglo si no cambian sustancialmente las actuales condiciones en cuanto a la producción, comercialización y distribución alimentaria.

Según se plantea en el propio documento C 83/2, en los últimos dos años apenas se han obtenido resultados importantes en la batalla contra el hambre y la malnutrición, particularmente en los países de bajos ingresos, deficitarios en alimentos.

Este aspecto fue recalcado por el Señor Director General en su exposición ante esta Conferencia.

Desde 1980 la producción alimentaria por persona ha disminuido en cerca de 0,6 por ciento en Africa y el Lejano Oriente, y en 1,9 por ciento en los países menos desarrollados.

Estamos de acuerdo con lo planteado en el párrafo 18 del documento analizado en el sentido de que ha causado gran preocupación durante el primer trimestre de 1983 la escasez de alimentos en Africa Subsahariana. Esta situación ha persistido durante todo el año, lo que nos permite deducir unadifícil situación de suministros de alimentos en 1983/84.

Se tiene conocimiento de que algunos gobiernos han hecho llamamientos de ayuda a la comunidad internacional, y que toman medidas para aliviar a la población, pero no ha habido mucha receptividad de la comunidad internacional, y en especial por parte de los países con remanentes de alimentos. En el párrafo 30 se plantea que el remanente de los países desarrollados se elevará a más del 68 por ciento del total mundial, correspondiendo a Norteamérica cerca del 52 por ciento.

Los países subdesarrollados enfrentados a un déficit apreciable en su producción alimentaria se han visto en la necesidad de incrementar sus importaciones de alimentos y el comportamiento de los precios manipulados por las grandes empresas transnacionales comercializadoras que han mostrado una tendencia al aumento más acelerado en los precios de los cereales, cuya producción y comercialización se encuentra fuertemente dominada por un grupo de países desarrollados que son los que reciben los mayores beneficios. Sabido es que las inversiones directas de capital constituyen uno de los mecanismos fundamentales mediante los cuales las empresas transnacionales se expanden de manera incesante a nivel mundial.

El enorme poderío económico de estos modernos monopolios internacionales puede aquilatarse también al comprobar que, por ejemplo, en 1981, las diez mayores empresas transnacionales norteamericanas realizaron ventas por casi 500 000 millones de dólares, cifra que supera ampliamente al PIB conjunto de un numeroso grupo de países del mundo subdesarrollado, como es de entender.

La negativa acción de estas empresas en el terreno agrícola y alimentario se manifiesta de múltiples formas, con la absorción en algunos países de las mejores tierras, la imposición de patrones de cultivos y alimentación ajenos a las necesidades nacionales, entre otras.

Mientras todo esto sucede, y según datos recientes de la FAO, más de 600 millones de seres humanos pasan hambre hoy en el mundo, y más de 40 millones de personas, la mitad de ellos niños, mueren cada año de hambre y desnutrición.

Nuestro Gobierno, a partir de las transformaciones sociales que comenzaron en 1959, ha desplegado una ardua labor en mejorar las condiciones de vida de nuestro pueblo de manera integral, pudiendo decir con satisfacción que con esos esfuerzos y con la ayuda recibida de otros países y de organismos internacionales. Si bien nos faltan muchos problemas por solucionar, no hay en nuestro país personas que se acuesten sin alimentarse, y nuestros índices de mortalidad infantil están muy por debajo del resto de los países subdesarrollados.

Nuestra delegación aboga por que todos los países puedan lograr un desarrollo de planes que le permitan abastecerse al máximo posible, de los alimentos básicos, lo cual debe conllevar, como es lógico, a profundos cambios socioeconómicos y estructurales, incluido la reforma agraria, donde fuese necesaria, que posibilite la adopción de formas superiores de producción agrícola que garanticen el nivel de producción necesario para este fin. La adopción del Programa de Acción de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural celebrada en 1979 nos ayudará a cumplimentar estos propósitos.

Por último, quisiéramos expresar que consideramos de vital importancia la creación de reservas alimentarias mundiales, luchando a la vez por inhumana y egoísta, contra la deliberada reducción de tierras dedicadas a la producción de alimentos, y su absurda destrucción por motivos comerciales en determinados países desarrollados, los que utilizan además los alimentos como un arma política, aspectos todos que deben ser condenados por esta Comisión.

Asimismo, esta Comisión debería pronunciarse por exhortar a que se asegure que, junto al flujo imprescindible de sustanciales recursos derivados de la reducción necesaria de los gastos militares y de otras fuentes, se logre un aporte de recursos financieros, tecnológicos y humanos que coadyuven a la solución de los problemas de los países subdesarrollados. Muchos países que no disponen de medidas financieras suficientes, entre ellos un grupo de países subdesarrollados, podrían participar aportando otros recursos de acuerdo con sus posibilidades, como es la asistencia mediante el envío de médicos, ingenieros, proyectistas, profesores y otros técnicos en forma gratuita o bajo favorables condiciones de pago.

Estas son ideas un tanto nuevas que bien merecen ser tenidas en cuenta por esta Comisión. Consideramos que la dramática situación que vive el mundo subdesarrollado, origina obligaciones para todos los países, fundamentalmente los desarrollados y muy especialmente, aquellos que a lo largo de siglos se han enriquecido con la más despiadada explotación de los países del Tercer Mundo.

R. GUADARRAMA SISTOS (México): En esta primera intervención de la delegación de México, quisiéramos felicitarle a usted y a los dos vicepresidentes electos por su nominación, estando convencidos que su experiencia nos permitirá concluir adecuadamente nuestros trabajos en esta Comisión.

Felicitamos asimismo a la Secretaría de la FAO por el documento en el que analiza el Estado Mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación que nos permite dimensionar, a nivel mundial, la crítica situación en la materia. Agradecemos asimismo al Dr. Islam la excelente introducción hecha al tema.

La delegación de México entiende, sin embargo, que no puede ignorarse la importancia que tienen los factores financieros y comerciales en la reestructuración del orden internacional. Creemos que la FAO deberá profundizar el análisis a nivel internacional de los factores y relaciones que mayor incidencia y responsabilidad tienen en la actual crisis alimentaria, vinculando la situación económica internacional con la situación alimentaria para trasponer la descripción de los efectos con el análisis de las causas, de los factores y agentes que las provocan.

En cuanto a los factores, pensamos que es indispensable remarcar que, entre otros, la contracción de los flujos de financiamiento para el desarrollo, las altas tasas de interés, el peso de la deuda externa de los países en desarrollo, la caída de los precios de las materias primas, el incentivo al armamentismo en el mundo en desarrollo y otras, se han traducido en un lacerante proceso de erosión de la calidad y seguridad de la vida en los países en desarrollo.

Por eso, estamos convencidos que para la solución de los problemas alimentarios, se requiere una revisión profunda del sistema financiero, comercial y económico internacional que ha propiciado esta situación, lo que nos lleva a considerar la necesidad de un Nuevo orden Económico Internacional, y de un multilateralismo reforzado y renovado. Reiteramos aquí, nuestra solicitud de encuadrar el análisis de la situación alimentaria en su debido contexto económico y político internacional.

Si los precios son importantes en nuestros diagnósticos al igual que las fuerzas de la oferta y la demanda, igual peso tienen los pocos agentes que, de manera abrumadora, dominan el comercio y la industria de alimentos. Me estoy refiriendo a las Corporaciones Transnacionales. Solicitamos a la FAO que en los próximos diagnósticos sobre el estado de la agricultura y la alimentación a nivel mundial, se incluyan en el estudio, las actividades de estos agentes transnacionales en las esferas alimentarias a nivel mundial y regional.

Por sus enormes repercusiones sobre la alimentación mundial, se debe destacar en esta Conferencia la preocupación que todos tenemos por el estado de la producción agrícola de Norteamérica, ya que por su volumen es la más importante a nivel mundial. Esta ha crecido a una tasa comparativamente baja en 1982, y es negativa en 1983. Es de resaltar que dicho comportamiento es producto de políticas de reducción de la superficie sembrada, a fin de reducir la oferta de granos, y poder presionar hacia el alza de los precios. La producción de América del Norte se vio además afectada por factores climáticos; sin embargo, hay que poner en evidencia que la política busca reducir los volúmenes de oferta para influir en el mercado internacional a favor de los agricultores locales.

En este sentido, creemos que Europa occidental está llamada a jugar un importante papel como abastecedor de alimentos a nivel mundial, tal y como lo demuestran sus tasas de crecimiento de producción, colaborando así también, al establecimiento de un mercado internacional más estable en su abastecimiento y menos agresivo en sus precios.

Sobre las altas tasas de crecimiento de producción de algunas áreas del Tercer Mundo, es necesario recordar que éstas esconden desigualdades abismales entre los países, inclusive al interior de aquellos que forman las mismas regiones estadísticas. Insistimos ante FAO que para tener un panorama claro y realista de la situación alimentaria en el mundo, es necesario dar cuenta de las diferencias intrarregionales, ya que los promedios estadísticos resultan distorsionadores.

Por otra parte, es importante destacar la tendencia que los países en desarrollo exportadores de petróleo, como México, tienen en relación a la producción agrícola y alimentaria. Estos países son los que experimentaron los mayores descensos per capita en la producción de alimentos, indicando con ello la tendencia a importar del mercado internacional, y a no abastecerse de su producción interna. La razón principal ha sido el deterioro de la capacidad productiva del sector agrícola, y no tanto el aumento de nuestra demanda interna, ya que ésta se vio fuertemente reducida por la reducción de los precios en el mercado petrolero internacional.

Consideramos discutible el planteamiento hecho por parte de la FAO de que los precios de los alimentos han tenido un comportamiento estable, y en el caso de algunos elementos, aun a la baja. En principio, consideramos que esta afirmación es incorrecta. Además, tiene implicaciones importantes en la decisión de los países en desarrollo, respecto al tratamiento de las importaciones de alimentos. Y esto es fundamental. Resulta difícil oponerse a un argumento financiero de precios internacionales de alimentos estables, y aun a la baja. Lo cierto es que los precios han aumentado en la medida en que el dólar se ha revaluado con respecto a la mayoría de las monedas del mundo, y ciertamente, de las monedas de los países en desarrollo.

En las actuales circunstancias, la fijación de precios en el mercado internacional, corre a cargo de los oferentes ya que la concentración espacial y el reducido número de gobiernos y agentes que participan en el mercado, generalmente empresas transnacionales, les proporciona una capacidad de negociación mayor que la de un número creciente y atomizado de demandantes.

Es, en consecuencia, necesario insistir en que la FAO presente un panorama claro de los factores, circunstancias y agentes que intervienen en las diversas actividades y disfunciones alimentarias. En este sentido repetimos, el análisis del papel desempeñado por las empresas transnacionales, adquiere una gran relevancia.

En materia de comercio internacional, el reconocimiento de que los países en desarrollo importamos prácticamente el doble de lo que exportamos, y de que la tendencia es a acrecentar los niveles de importación sin una contrapartida en las exportaciones, resulta a todas luces preocupante. Lo es más, si consideramos que en el comercio de productos tradicionalmente de exportación de nuestros países, la participación se ha mantenido estable, en alrededor del 27 por ciento del mercado mundial de productos primarios; sin embargo, nuestras importaciones han pasado de significar apenas un 20 por ciento del mercado mundial en 1973, a una participación cercana al 30 por ciento en 1981.

Estas cifras indican una creciente dificultad de los países en desarrollo para aumentar su participación en las exportaciones mundiales, lo que impide a estas alturas poder financiar nuestras importaciones de alimentos con los ingresos tradicionales, obligando crecientemente a recurrir al endeudamiento externo o a la inversión extranjera directa para la obtención de las divisas que permitan compensar ese desequilibrio comercial.

Es la situación dramática de los fenómenos que ahora estamos describiendo, la que nos incita a reiterar la necesidad, más que urgente, de un nuevo orden económico internacional como justa y legítima aspiración de nuestros pueblos, y en contraposición a la actual división internacional del trabajo que, involuntariamente, nos encierra en un esquema de interdependencia desigual e inequitativa, obligándonos además frecuentemente a ser pasivos espectadores en casa propia, de artificiosos y perjudiciales programas de modernización agrícola y de novedosos modelos de desarrollo, que se basan en los riesgos y desventajas de un comercio internacional obediente a la ley de las ventajas comparativas, hoy por hoy, tan lejana de nuestros intereses y necesidades.

El resultado final de este juego, entre producción, comercio internacional y precios, ha resultado en una drástica disminución de las disponibilidades de alimentos en los países en desarrollo. Es de destacar que los países en desarrollo están dependiendo crecientemente de las importaciones para disponer de alimentos, y esta situación es doblemente riesgosa, porque por un lado no incentivan su producción local, y con ello no generan empleo e ingreso entre su población, lo que impide una solución estructural y de largo plazo de su acuciante problema de alimentar a su población.

Por el otro lado, la estrategia de importar, hace depender crecientemente la disponibilidad de alimentos en los países en desarrollo, de divisas escasas y caras, con el agravante de poner en peligro su soberanía alimentaria.

Consideramos que la mayor disponibilidad de alimentos de un país, no resulta necesariamente en una mejoría en los niveles de alimentación-nutrición de la población. La imposibilidad de demandar efectivamente en el mercado los alimentos aparentemente disponibles por la reducción de los ingresos reales de la población, así como por la inadecuada estructura de intermediación comercial e ineficiencia de los sistemas de distribución de alimentos, dan cuenta del deterioro en los niveles de nutrición de los últimos años en la mayoría de los países en desarrollo; tendiendo a recurrir, de esta manera, a programas asistenciales de ayuda en alimentos que, si bien son paliativos en la lucha contra el hambre, no atacan las causas estructurales de ésta.

Invitamos a la FAO a que tenga en cuenta estas consideraciones para profundizar el diagnóstico y poder hacer así planteamientos estratégicos y proponer acciones e instrumentos que, efectivamente, apoyen los esfuerzos que en materia alimentaria hacen sus estados miembros.

Por otra parte, FAO presenta un indicador poco apropiado para reflejar las condiciones de hambre y malnutrición de la población, ya que utiliza el suministro de energía alimentaria como indicador. Es evidente que en los países en desarrollo, la malnutrición resulta tanto de una deficiente ingesta calórica como proteica, y además, los promedios regionales esconden las grandes diferencias entre exceso y deficiencia en la alimentación de los países y en el interior de los mismos.

Finalmente, es importante destacar que para África, el problema alimentario es, ante todo, un problema de desarrollo, de desarrollo integral. El enorme peso e importancia de la producción, empleo e ingreso de las actividades alimentarias en los países africanos, obliga a considerar al sector alimentario como el pivote del desarrollo económico y social de esos pueblos.

Esto obliga a hacer planteamientos estructurales y de largo plazo para resolver la situación de alimentación en todos y cada uno de los países en el mundo, como condición sin la cual no es posible plantear la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

Este tratamiento integral de las actividades alimentarias y de la economía en general, debe de normar el apoyo que la comunidad internacional proporciona y deberá seguir proporcionando a África. Tanto los gobiernos como organismos internacionales, deberán dar un apoyo más efectivo al desarrollo de África con este tratamiento integral. Esta Conferencia deberá proponer alguna resolución de Apoyo Integral al Desarrollo Africano destacando como pivote las actividades alimentarias.

V. MOUZAKITIS (Greece) : As you already know, the ten Member States of the European Economic Community have a Common Agricultural Policy. Therefore, you are kindly requested to give the floor to the representative of the European Economic Community who will express the views of the ten Member States on this matter.

G. DESEQUELLES (CEE): Tout d'abord, permettez-moi, M. le Président, au nom de la Communauté économique européenne et de ses dix membres de vous féliciter pour votre élection à la présidence de cette Commission I qui est fondamentale pour la Conférence puisqu'elle traite de l'objet même de l'Organisation: l'alimentation et l'agriculture. Nous sommes sûrs, et les premiers débats le démontrent, que vous dirigerez nos travaux avec la compétence et la cordialité qui vous caractérisent.

En ce qui concerne le point de l'ordre du jour "la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture", la CEE voudrait concentrer ses observations, d'une part sur l'évolution de l'agriculture dans la Communauté, d'autre part sur la situation alimentaire en Afrique et le renforcement de l'action que la Communauté mène dans ce continent.

Sur le premier point, la production agricole globale dans la Communauté a continué à augmenter pendant les années 1982 et 1983; cette tendance s'est accompagnée d'une augmentation considérable de la productivité par personne employée, un fait qui est remarquable dans une situation où le rythme de la réduction du nombre d'emplois dans l'agriculture s'est ralenti. L'élément décisif pour la situation de l'agriculture dans la Communauté découle des décisions politiques adoptées par les institutions communautaires dans le cadre de ce que nous appelons "l'Organisation commune des marchés". Ces décisions ont été caractérisées, ces dernières années, par des efforts visant à poursuivre une politique prudente en matière de fixation des prix agricoles garantis.

Entre 1978 et 1982, les prix agricoles à la production ont augmenté en moyenne de 9,4 pour cent l'an et les prix des produits alimentaires à la consommation de 11,6 pour cent, et l'ensemble des prix à la consommation de 12,3 pour cent. L'agriculture a donc contribué au freinage de l'inflation.

Durant cette période l'augmentation des prix à la production a donc été inférieure à celle des prix des consommations intermédiaires. Cette tendance avait été cependant renversée en 1982 compte tenu que la hausse des prix agricoles établie en moyenne à plus 12,2 pour cent pour l'année 1982 a été supérieure à la hausse des consommations intermédiaires estimée à 10 pour cent.

A cet égard, la CEE voudrait faire remarquer que le paragraphe 114 du document C 82/3 illustre parfaitement la modération des prix et des revenus agricoles dans la CEE.

Toutefois le paragraphe 115 laisse une impression d'augmentation des revenus depuis 1981/1982 et 1982/1983, il est important à cet égard d'actualiser les données, compte tenu que pour la campagne 1983/1984, préfixée en mai 1983, l'augmentation des prix agricoles s'établit en moyenne à + 6,9 pour cent alors que la hausse des prix en général atteindra probablement 9 pour cent.

Cette indication est d'ailleurs mentionnée au paragraphe 119 du document. Par ailleurs, le paragraphe 22 analyse parfaitement les hausses moins fortes de soutien des prix dans la CEE confirmées par le tableau figurant au paragraphe 116. La politique des prix est le problème le plus délicat dans la mise en oeuvre de la politique agricole commune. Il s'agit de trouver un équilibre entre l'objectif d'assurer des revenus équitables pour la population agricole tout en tenant compte des intérêts des consommateurs, et celui d'éviter la création d'excédents structurels excessifs.

Dans cette perspective, la Communauté, en 1982, a décidé de se fixer certaines orientations qui s'articulent autour des trois idées maîtresses suivantes :

- la poursuite d'une politique prudente en matière de prix, tenant compte à la fois des revenus du secteur agricole et des problèmes d'équilibre du marché;
- la modulation des garanties de prix par l'instauration d'objectifs de production pluriannuelle, assortis de mesures visant à réduire le prix d'intervention en cas de dépassement des seuils fi
- l'objectif d'amélioration des réglementations communautaires pour les produits méditerranéens.

En ce qui concerne la politique prudente des prix on doit plus particulièrement noter les efforts de réduire l'écart entre les prix des céréales communautaires et ceux des principaux pays concurrents Cette diminution du prix réel des céréales permettra de diminuer le coût des aliments du bétail, d'où une plus grande compétitivité de la production animale et, à long terme, de réduire l'attraction qu'exercent les importations en trop grande quantité de céréales de substitution telles que le manioc et le corn gluten feed.

Par ailleurs, une hausse atténuée des prix pour certains produits en excédent a été poursuivie (colza, lait, tabac, sucre).

Des seuils de garantie ont été institués pour les produits pour lesquels on enregistre des excédents structurels. Si ces seuils de garantie sont dépassés les augmentations de prix des produits intéressés sont inférieures à la moyenne.

Les seuils de garantie ont notamment été introduits pour les céréales, les produits laitiers, le colza, les tomates transformées.

L'objectif de l'amélioration des réglementations communautaires pour les produits méditerranéens a été poursuivi. Il est important de souligner que toutes les décisions d'amélioration des organisations communes de marché ont été assorties de l'obligation de l'amélioration des structures de production et de commercialisation.

La récente décision du Conseil des communautés européennes, le 18 octobre dernier, relatif à l'acquis communautaire illustre cette volonté politique.

Si la Communauté considère que le secteur agricole ne peut être traité comme le secteur industriel, compte tenu que les produits agricoles ont une spécificité certaine, il n'en demeure pas moins que la Communauté ajuste en permanence la gestion de sa politique : sur un plan interne dans l'intérêt des producteurs et des consommateurs, sur un plan externe dans l'intérêt du marché mondial. Elle est prête à discuter et à coopérer en vue de résoudre les problèmes qui se posent encore, c'est pourquoi elle s'est ralliée à la déclaration ministérielle du GATT du 28 novembre 1982, tout en précisant dans quel cadre elle entendait cet exercice.

Pour mémoire et pour démontrer que l'ajustement structurel dans la Communauté est une réalité, je mentionnerai que les ajustements apportés à la PAC ont contribué à faire passer de 19 millions de personnes employées dans le secteur agriculture en 1960 à 8,7 millions de personnes en 1980. Cela représente une réduction de plus de la moitié et cette évolution a continué ces dernières années, c'est-à-dire pendant une période où la crise économique mondiale ne facilite pas l'ajustement structurel.

En ce qui concerne la situation de l'agriculture dans l'Afrique, nous observons que dans les années 81 et 82 la situation globale des récoltes et des stocks de produits agricoles dans les pays en voie de développement s'est améliorée. Malheureusement, cette amélioration globale ne s'est pas manifestée dans bon nombre de pays parmi les plus pauvres (notamment en Afrique) et elle ne s'est pas traduite par une amélioration de la situation nutritionnelle des populations les plus dépourvues.

Les mauvaises récoltes qu'une vingtaine de pays africains ont connues cette année - malgré les bonnes récoltes des années précédentes - illustrent que l'insécurité alimentaire n'a guère diminué ni pour les pays individuels, ni pour l'ensemble des pays en voie de développement.

Ces dernières années des efforts ont été faits par les pays concernés aussi bien que par les donateurs pour remédier à cette situation grave. Pourtant, il convient de constater une insuffisance des moyens utilisés aussi bien qu'une inadéquation des politiques mises en oeuvre. Trop souvent le court terme et le résultat immédiat sont visés sans que des considérations touchant au moyen terme et aux causes profondes des problèmes soient prises suffisamment en considération.

Ceci est particulièrement vrai pour l'aide alimentaire. Il est à noter que la Convention d'aide alimentaire a été renouvelée pour 3 ans jusqu'en 1986 et que les quantités visées à la disposition des pays en voie de développement sans toutefois atteindre les 10 millions de tonnes ne se sont pas situées trop loin de cet objectif.

De même la RAIU (Réserve alimentaire internationale d'urgence) a dépassé son objectif en 1981 et n'est pas loin de l'atteindre cette année. La Communauté a contribué à cet effort notamment en augmentant son aide alimentaire en céréales de 45 pour cent entre 1980 et 1983 et en augmentant sa contribution à la RAIU. Prenant en considération la situation dramatique dans certains pays africains, la CEE a déjà décidé ou décidera d'ici la fin de l'année des allocations d'aide alimentaire en faveur de ces pays, substantiellement plus élevées que celles de l'année passée.

Pourtant, sans vouloir nier l'utilité de l'aide alimentaire dans certains cas et à court terme, il ne faut pas perdre de vue que cette forme d'aide entraîne un certain nombre de dangers : risque de dépendance accrue et d'effets négatifs sur la production locale. Pour cette raison, la CEE vise d'une part à améliorer l'efficacité de son aide alimentaire et d'autre part à renforcer son appui à des actions de développement à moyen et long terme :

- afin de stimuler l'intégration de l'aide alimentaire dans les actions de développement la CEE s'efforce actuellement de rendre cette aide plus flexible (par exemple en renforçant les actions triangulaires, en améliorant l'adéquation des produits fournis, en envisageant dans certains cas la substitution de l'aide alimentaire par une aide financière) et en la rendant plus prévisible;
- ces dernières années l'assistance de la CEE au développement rural s'est considérablement accrue. Elle se situe à environ 500 M ECU pour l'année 1982 ce qui représente presque le double des engagements dans ce secteur d'il y a 5 ans :
- afin d'améliorer l'efficacité de son action à moyen et long terme la CEE continue de renforcer son assistance aux pays africains avec qui elle s'est engagée dans une collaboration intensifiée en matière de mise en oeuvre de leur stratégie alimentaire. Le dialogue qui s'est engagé avec les pays a permis de mieux spécifier les objectifs de la coopération en matière de développement agricole et alimentaire, de définir les politiques à suivre dans ce domaine et les actions concrètes à mettre en oeuvre notamment en matière de commercialisation, crédit rural, augmentation de la productivité, etc..
- de même la CEE est en train de mettre en oeuvre actuellement un programme spécial de lutte contre la faim dans le monde pour un montant de 50 millions d'ECU dont la presque totalité est concentrée sur les pays les plus pauvres.

La CEE est d'avis que c'est par un approfondissement des actions de ce type visant des effets à moyen et long terme que la Communauté internationale peut efficacement contribuer à combattre les causes mêmes de la malnutrition, la faim et la pauvreté.

A cet égard, Monsieur le Président, la CEE estime que la FAO est un lieu privilégié pour la recherche de nouvelles réflexions sur la situation critique des pays les plus démunis; ces réflexions, pour être porteuses d'avenir, doivent contribuer à vivifier le tissu même de ces paysans, en n'oubliant jamais que c'est sur l'homme et avec ses motivations réelles que repose essentiellement l'effort du développement.

E. SCHRODER (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German) : Mr Chairman, first of all, on behalf of my delegation but also on my own personal behalf, I should like sincerely to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this Commission. We are firmly convinced that under your chairmanship this Commission will be able to fulfil the tasks it has set itself exhaustively and rapidly. I should also like to extend my congratulations to the Vice-Chairmen.

The Representative of the EEC Commission has already commented on the development of the agricultural sector among the members of the European Community. Therefore my delegation will concentrate on a number of elements contained in the report we now have before us. I should like to express our appreciation to the Secretariat of the FAO for this very excellent report on The State of Food and Agriculture 1983. The documents C 83/2 and C 83/2 Sup.1 contain in a very clear form information on the essential elements of world food and agriculture. A particularly positive aspect has to be stressed, that the authors of the documents have taken the trouble to provide us with a well readable document, which also has the merit of being short. I intentionally emphasize this point because the reading of documents which are often far too lengthy, both from international organizations and the national institutions, absorbs quite a lot of working hours and manpower without necessarily providing people with more relevant information. Another point I welcome is that after the description of the overall situation there is a more pronounced regional breakdown in the report. The report before us confirms what we have realized that despite the above-average increase in production in developing countries of 3.1 percent as compared with the global production increase of 2.3 percent, there was no essential change in the world food situation in the past fifteen years. Only approximately half of agricultural production takes place in the developing countries, where three-quarters of the world's population live. Apart from this, the food situation in many African countries has deteriorated considerably. Because of low cereal harvests in important exporting countries and because of the resulting increased export prices the situation in the developing countries which depend on imports will again take an unfavorable development. This makes the need very clear, and there is full international agreement on this, that food production must be increased in particular in developing countries with a food deficit within the framework of integrated agricultural development programmes. The focal point for promoting the agricultural sector in those countries should be the small farms and an important element are adequate producer prices.

It is not only bodies like the World Food Council and the Committee on World Food Security which have expressed themselves in this sense, but in particular the responsible African ministers when they adopted the Lagos Plan of Action, and the same applies to the African Regional Preparatory Meeting for the last session of the World Food Council. One element which is of great importance is to see to it that even if the overall economic situation deteriorates, the agricultural sector should not be neglected and solutions be sought which do not neglect the ecological equilibrium.

Now for your information I wish to add a new figure on the food imports of the Federal Republic of Germany from developing countries. They amounted in 1982/83 to DM 11.2 billion or to just under one-quarter of our total food imports.

In conclusion, allow me still a few critical comments on the document before us. In the overview at the beginning of the document, we feel that not adequate appreciation is given to the successes achieved in the industrialized countries in fighting inflation. In the Federal Republic of Germany the reduction of inflation is considered to be an important element for a lasting recovery of the economic activity. Successes in that field have been achieved not only in our country, but in many countries. The statement according to which budgetary resources to be released tend to be channelled into military expenditure instead of into development aid does not at least apply to the Federal Republic of Germany, which in the last five years has doubled its development aid allocations.

R.C. GUPTA (India): Mr. President, may I take this opportunity of congratulating you and your three Vice-Chairmen on your unanimous election to these offices on Commission I. May I add that it is a personal pleasure for me to see you preside over our deliberations.

We have carefully gone through these two excellent documents presented to the Commission and have listened most carefully to the lucid explanation presented by Professor Islam. In 1974, the world community took a sacred pledge that after a decade no man, woman or child would go to bed hungry. We feel these two documents represent a balance sheet of the failures and successes of the world community in redeeming that pledge. Since we are talking about food, it seems to us that our successes would amount to a few kilograms against tonnes of failures.

On the food production front, the situation in developing countries particularly is dismal. In the year 1983 we expect a one percent reduction in world food production on account of certain deliberate policies of certain industrialized countries, but the picture is more alarming with respect to the developing countries. There, the growth of production has gone up by only 2 percent or 3 percent, which is much lower than the long-term trend.

Insofar as carry-over stocks are concerned, for the last six months we have been talking about a figure of 21 percent of the annual consumption as stocks being available, but we now learn that these stocks will be reduced to 17 percent within a year. We will have to be very careful during the years to come, otherwise the very edifice on which we are trying to build our system of world food security will collapse.

It has often been mentioned that this uneven distribution of stock is undesirable. It is a good thing that these stocks are available, and we would like to see these stocks more evenly distributed. To that extent, 1983 will have a marginally positive feature in that the distribution of the stocks will be less askew than they have been hitherto. Whatever gains have been made by developing countries, small or big, in increasing their food production have been more than offset by increasing population. The document rightly points out that the growth of population in developing countries, to the extent of 2.7 percent per annum, is the biggest drawback, bottleneck or challenge to those countries. The situation in the 33 countries in the world — and most of them are in Africa — is really grave. Our hearts go out to those millions and millions of men, women and children, and to those areas where hunger is stalking the world. As His Excellency, the President of Sudan mentioned this morning, about 870 million people in the world are suffering the serious effects of hunger and malnutrition.

The food imports of the developing countries are on the increase. Last year the figure was about 105 million tonnes and we understand that the current year, or next year, will end with still more food being imported by those countries. The situation is all the more disturbing when we consider the extent of indebtedness of those countries, falling exports of traditional products of food and agriculture, and a decline in terms of trade. As was so rightly said by Professor Islam, the decline in terms of trade of food and agricultural commodities was 8 percent overall, but in the case of the developing countries as a group, it was 10 percent. The fall in exports of food and agricultural products of developing countries was US dollars 8.5 billion last year, which represents 70 percent of the official commitment of assistance to those countries.

This fact is spectacularly brought out by the situation in Africa. There, with almost the same amount of exports in physical terms, their earnings could purchase only about one-half of the industrial manufactured goods as compared to 1978.

In the field of trade and agriculture, again we are far from satisfied by the outcome of UNCTAD VI, though we notice with gratification that a ministerial committee has been constituted to look into the problems of trade in food and agriculture. We also note with concern that the negotiations for a global system of trade preferences have been bogged down by certain procedural difficulties.

Delay in coming into force of the Common Fund is another matter of concern for us, wherein by 30 September 1983 only 64 countries had ratified the Fund, against the minimum requirement of 90 countries. Protectionism is on the increase and despite discussion and talks in various fora at all times, we see very little signs of protectionism abating, and tariff or non-tariff barriers being rolled back. In fact, what is happening is that the problems of developed countries in terms of structural adjustments, and unemployment are being transferred to the developing countries.

In the matter of availability of international finance to the developing countries, we find that the official development assistance is stagnating. The prospects of the Seventh IOA Replenishment are far from happy and there seems to be little hope that the Seventh Replenishment will reach the desired level of 16 billion dollars. It appears to us that in the final result perhaps the assistance available will be almost the same in monetary terms, and much less in real terms in the coming year.

His Excellency the Canadian Minister of Agriculture yesterday referred to the plight of IFAD, but for certain procedural difficulties of one industrialized country, we see no particular problem in completing the First Replenishment in the current year, and starting the Second Replenishment in 1984. The difficulties put forward are such as are not insurmountable, given the will to see that IFAD, which is the hope of many hungry and malnourished people in the developing countries, does not collapse and die a premature death.

In so far as domestic policies of developing countries are concerned, this paper rightly brings out the inadequate allocation of resources for agriculture, weak infrastructures, pricing policies which act as disincentives to production and so forth. International assistance in terms of finances and expertise is required to build up infrastructures in these areas, as Mr Bruno Kreisky rightly mentioned the other day, and further, the international organizations, particularly FAO, have a lead role to play in this sector.

Before I refer to the situation in Africa, I would briefly like to dwell upon the policies and programmes followed in my own country in this field. We hear with gratification the mention of the Asian Region which has made spectacular progress in the field of food and agriculture. In India, which has one-seventh of the population of the whole world, 70 percent of our agriculture depends upon rains, and though we have during the last 30 years increased our irrigated area from 22 million ha to about 55 million ha, the success or failure of Indian agriculture still predominantly depends upon timely rains and favourable weather.

We have been able to increase our fertilizer consumption during the last three decades from a mere 77 000 tons to about 6.6 million tons in terms of nutrients. Farmers are assured of a fair price for their produce, incentive prices, through a massive public procurement system, and we ensure that no distress sale is resorted to.

In the realm of food security, we have developed an infrastructure and capability of procuring and handling from 15 to 20 million tons of food grains every year, and this has been a positive and spectacular achievement in the sense that but for a colossal natural disaster we feel that the famines which were a common feature in our part of the world are a thing of the past. We are particularly concerned by ecological degradation in the northern part of the country, the mountainous areas and their deleterious effect on the river systems, on ecology, on the fertility of the soil.

We are undertaking a massive programme of reforestation. In our current plan we propose to reforest or rehabilitate about 300 000 ha of land. During the course of these three decades the agricultural system in the country has built up a certain amount of resilience which is borne out by the fact that in 1979 when we suffered serious drought in certain parts of the country, we suffered a loss of production of 22 million tons in one year; whereas in the last year, with almost the same severity of drought, the net losses in production were just about 5 million tons.

We are continuously endeavouring to devise policies and programmes to ensure that agricultural production increases, but again I would emphasize the fact that success or failure largely depend upon weather and timely rains. As Professor Islam rightly mentioned this morning, the impetus of the Green Revolution in our part of the world seems to have reached a peak and unless fresh breakthroughs are achieved in terms of the development of technologies for dry land farming, farming in mountainous areas, perhaps the time is not far off when we might reach a stage of stagnation unless massive resources are invested in developing irrigation potential; a programme which may be beyond our capacity.

Referring to the sorry plight of Africa, we feel a deep sense of anguish and frustration; these cradles of civilization of the world, people who taught farming practices to the whole world, are today facing a situation which is too grim for words. This tragedy has been wrought by the ironies of nature and by the callousness of man in not caring for ecology, in exploiting the mother earth more than its capacity.

There is an urgent need for the international community, for the whole world to come to the rescue of Africa in trying to build proper infrastructures in those areas, to develop human resources, to transfer massive doses of finance and appropriate technologies to these areas to alleviate hunger, suffering, malnutrition and the acute tragedy which Africa is facing today.

To conclude, I would like to mention that as declared by the Non-aligned Summit in March this year in New Delhi, there is an urgent need to increase the amount of contribution to the Food Aid Convention from the present level of 10 million tons, which floor level unfortunately has not even been reached and in the current year has declined even from 9 million tons, which was the level it had reached in 1981 and 1982. There is an urgent need to increase this to 18 to 20 million tons, and similarly in IEFER, on which the demands by man-made disasters are increasing every day, the amount of contribution must be increased from the present 500 000 tons to at least 750 000 tons.

Y. HAMDY (Egypt) (original language Arabic): Allow me first of all Mr Chairman, on behalf of my country's delegation, the Arab Republic of Egypt, to congratulate you on your election to chair the proceedings of this Commission. I would also like to express my profound thanks and gratitude for the confidence that has been placed in me by the various heads of delegations in electing me Vice-Chairman of this Commission.

My country's delegation also wishes to congratulate the Secretariat on the excellent preparation of this document on the State of Food and Agriculture. We wish to thank Professor Islam for his comprehensive and excellent presentation of this document.

My country's delegation wishes to express the importance it attaches to the contents of paragraphs 1 to 13 of this document, which dealt with the state of food and agriculture at present in the world. The document also deals with the concerns on the intermediate and long-term scales. We have a few comments to make on this subject and they are as follows.

First of all, the document indicated that per capita food production in the world had declined by 0.6 percent in Africa and the Near East and by 1.6 percent in the Least Developed Countries. Furthermore, there are 26 countries, including 16 African countries, suffering from food shortages and emergency situations in their food supplies. This requires the international community to further support the International Emergency Food Reserve and to provide effective sources of emergency aid.

This is proof of the effective role played by these two elements in such a situation.

My second comment deals with the contents of paragraph 30 of this document. This paragraph refers to the existence of abundant stocks of food reserves in developed countries, though we find that at the same time there was no increase in stocks held by developing countries. We are fully aware of the negative impact of such a situation. We therefore firmly believe that the dialogue must continue for the establishment of a new economic order.

The state of producer prices in the international trade of agricultural products indicated that a major shift has occurred and that it is not in the interests of the least developed countries.

This shift is due to increased demands for food in certain countries, and has therefore led to an imbalance in the balance of payments of developing countries. We therefore must consider reinforcing the basic infrastructures of those countries especially in the food marketing areas. The Organization can play an important role in this field in our opinion.

Our fourth comment is that study tables dealing with financial commitments of external aid for agriculture indicates that these commitments have dropped, be it on the bilateral or multilateral level. This leads us to urge financing countries and institutions to seek to remove all obstacles affecting the flow of aid to developing countries.

Mr Chairman, the Arab Republic of Egypt believes that agricultural development is the main means of achieving self-sufficiency. We have therefore sought to apply modern technology in agriculture and in pest control. We have also spread the use of agricultural machinery and sought to rationalize the use of water. Egypt has also prepared a new strategy of cooperation with African countries to provide them with modern technology and help in supporting the infrastructure of such countries. This is achieved by providing instruction for such countries' trainees in Egypt, or sending Egyptian experts to those countries, thus enabling them to improve their agricultural output.

Furthermore, Mr Chairman, we share the African countries' concern about the spread of the rinderpest disease. This disease threatens livestock resources in most of the African countries, as well as in Egypt. We support the FAO's special campaign to combat this disease. We urge donor countries to be generous in their aid, be it a bilateral or multilateral form of aid.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): Monsieur le Président, mes premiers mots seront d'abord pour vous féliciter de votre élection à ce poste et adresser également mes félicitations aux différents vice-présidents qui vous accompagneront dans cette tâche. Nous sommes certains que grâce à votre compétence et à votre enthousiasme vous pourrez conduire les travaux de cette commission de manière qu'elle apporte une contribution utile à l'ensemble de la Conférence par le rapport de la Commission qui deviendra ensuite une des parties du rapport de la Conférence.

J'ai hésité à prendre la parole sur ce thème; en effet le thème de la situation de l'alimentation de l'agriculture est un thème classique que nous retrouvons à chaque conférence et où il est évidemment fort difficile d'apporter des idées nouvelles, des réflexions neuves et également de ne pas se répéter les uns les autres.

Je dois aussi signaler que les documents qui sont le support logistique de nos institutions, le C 83/2 et son supplément, préparés par le Secrétariat, sont fort intéressants quant à l'analyse de la situation, les résultats obtenus, résultats positifs ou résultats négatifs suivant les cas. Maintenant l'on voit apparaître, comme une photographie dans un bain révélateur, pour les deux années écoulées au fur et à mesure des travaux soit du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire, soit du Conseil, soit du Comité des produits, enfin toutes les instances de l'Organisation où on étudie sensiblement les mêmes documents, nous voyons apparaître l'image définitive au mois de novembre 1983 de ces résultats. Cette image n'est certainement pas très enthousiasmante; elle est due en partie à la crise économique en général, elle est due aux conditions atmosphériques ou plutôt aux conditions climatiques, elle est due aussi aux troubles dus aux hommes dans un certain nombre de régions qui n'ont fait qu'aggraver la situation des populations locales; elle est probablement due aussi à, non pas une sorte de lassitude, mais au fait que trop souvent tant les peuples, les populations que les gouvernements ne prennent pas suffisamment conscience de la gravité de la situation agricole, et pourtant celle-ci est la base du développement économique, social et humain de tous les pays. C'est ce qui, par exemple, a conduit parfois les pays développés à ne pas augmenter de manière aussi importante qu'il aurait fallu la faire l'aide nécessaire pour améliorer la situation des pays en développement; mais c'est aussi, de la part des pays en développement eux-mêmes, pour un certain nombre d'entre eux en tout cas, une sorte d'indifférence à l'égard du développement de leurs producteurs agricoles, de leurs paysans et parfois dans les budgets, même assez souvent dans les budgets nationaux une trop grande part qui a été réservée à d'autres facteurs du développement, facteurs autres que ceux du développement rural. Effectivement ceci s'est traduit par des insuffisances et des échecs qui sont analysés dans les documents.

Alors plutôt que de discuter longuement sur les causes de ces insuffisances, il convient de se pencher sur les remèdes. Je dis bien les remèdes parce qu'il n'y a certainement pas de solution toute faite ni de solution applicable à tous les pays, c'est vraiment les domaines où le dogmatisme doit être exclu car les situations des pays sont extrêmement variées et ce qui sera bon pour l'un sera néfaste pour l'autre.

Je n'en prendrai qu'un exemple: au début de cet après-midi j'entendais un des nos collègues dire: il faut apporter au développement agricole les moyens techniques les plus modernes, pousser la mécanisation, l'irrigation, les engrais, etc. C'est vrai mais c'est vrai pour un pays en développement qui n'a pas beaucoup d'agriculture et qui en même temps est riche et qui a donc des ressources lui permettant d'utiliser les techniques les plus modernes, et même dans des cas de ce genre on peut se poser la question de savoir si ces formes extra modernes n'ont pas elles aussi des inconvénients.

J'ai eu connaissance assez récemment de ce que j'appellerai des expériences dans un pays d'Afrique noire qui par sa nature était désertique mais, compte tenu de ses ressources importantes, a décidé de faire des cultures céréalières sous forme de zones circulaires de plusieurs kilomètres de diamètre avec une irrigation en pompant de l'eau de la nappe phréatique à de grandes profondeurs; on a fait ainsi apparaître des champs de céréales en plein désert. C'est très beau sur les photos d'ailleurs, mais il est apparu aussi que dans ces zones expérimentales par exemple le fléau acridien se développait. Pourquoi? parce que les insectes qui étaient à la base du développement des essaims ont brutalement trouvé les conditions optimales pour se développer et passer de la phase sédentaire à la phase errante et surtout ils ont trouvé un terrain humidifié et des aliments considérables sous forme de jeunes plants de blé.

Autrement dit ces résultats qui ont été bons ont conduit en même temps à un développement de fléaux qui vont ruiner les efforts ainsi réalisés. De toute façon, il faut tenir compte de ce que de nombreux pays en développement n'ont certainement pas les moyens d'utiliser des techniques aussi coûteuses et c'est pourquoi nous croyons - mais avec prudence et modération - que dans nombre de pays en développement (et je pense tout particulièrement à l'Afrique), il faut pouvoir continuer à utiliser très souvent et les cultures traditionnelles alimentaires et les moyens de production de ces cultures. Bien sûr je ne veux pas dire que ces populations doivent continuer indéfiniment à vivre de mil, de sorgho ou de banane plantain, mais il faut aussi tenir compte que dans ces pays - et c'est ce qui s'est produit ailleurs - si on procède à des implantations pour l'amélioration du sol cela revient très souvent au détriment de la production locale, d'où une diminution de ces productions; mais puisque ces productions locales ne sont plus rentables, qu'est ce qui va se passer? les populations, les fermiers, les cultivateurs de base vont quitter la terre et venir dans les grandes villes, et comme il n'y a pas toujours d'industries locales nécessaires ils vont accroître le nombre des chômeurs et, dans une sorte de boule de neige, ils vont former une masse supplémentaire de chômeurs et un besoin supplémentaire d'importations extérieures grevant à nouveau la balance des comptes. C'est donc un problème important.

Et puisque je viens de donner l'exemple des céréales, et je dirai qu'en effet en Afrique, dans certaines régions d'Afrique centrale, ou plus exactement d'Afrique orientale il y a eu une période où la production de céréale de blé était suffisante pour l'approvisionnement des pays concernés et même pour faire quelques exportations.

Or, les prix sur le marché mondial des céréales ont baissé considérablement et en l'absence de tout accord international efficace il n'y a pas eu de frein à cette baisse et par contre les producteurs de blé de ces régions, qui ne pouvaient pas suivre la tendance décroissante du niveau des prix à la production, se sont trouvés, j'allai dire "ruinés" et se sont trouvés conduits à abandonner ces cultures. Ce qui fait, qu'un tel pays qui était pourtant autosuffisant qui était même quelquefois exportateur est maintenant importateur de céréales, ce qui n'est naturellement pas à son bénéfice. Alors nous croyons donc qu'en matière de céréales une chose importante est d'avoir un accord international sur les céréales avec des dispositions économiques efficaces comme cela a encore été réclamé lors de la dernière CNUCED dans une résolution qui a été adoptée récemment à Belgrade.

On a dit également - et là j'avoue que c'est toujours avec un certain, non pas scepticisme mais enfin je ne suis pas convaincu - que pour les céréales très souvent et même toujours il y a excédent en Amérique et en Europe occidentale alors qu'il y a pénurie ailleurs. C'est vrai, mais c'est un reflet des conditions climatiques des zones géographiques. Si vous voulez, au risque de caricaturer la chose, c'est un peu comme si on disait: il y a excédent de café ou de cacao dans les pays en développement d'Afrique et d'Amérique latine; il y a pénurie de café et de cacao en Amérique du Nord et en Europe. Je pense que ça ne veut pas dire beaucoup plus. Ce qui est certain, c'est que, au point de vue de l'emplacement de stocks, on ne pourra pas éviter que la plus grande partie de ces stocks soient d'abord chez les producteurs, mais il est souhaitable qu'il y ait aussi des stocks chez les importateurs. Mais là encore prudence, quand nous disons des stocks chez les importateurs, chez ceux qui en ont besoin, cela ne veut pas dire la constitution de grands stocks affectée à toute une région entraînant des frais considérables de constitution de gestion, d'entretien et ensuite de répartition et de disposition. Nous pensons qu'il faut qu'il y ait des stocks probablement et même sûrement avec l'aide de la Communauté internationale mais, si j'ose dire, aussi près que possible du consommateur. Alors cela veut dire qu'il faut probablement des réserves nationales et, si cela est possible, qu'à l'intérieur de ces réserves nationales, celles-ci soient bien sûr dans certaines grandes villes mais aussi que les producteurs locaux dans la mesure où ils ont suffisamment de production puissent constituer des stocks auprès de la zone de production.

Seulement là nous allons nous heurter à un autre problème, c'est que pour ce producteur local, pour ce petit fermier, où vont-ils trouver l'argent pour assurer le financement de ces stocks?

Tout ce que je dis, nous le retrouvons dans le document que nous avons adopté en 1978, c'est je crois la Charte ou la Déclaration sur la Réforme agraire et le développement rural. Pratiquement, en ce qui concerne le développement rural tout se trouve indiqué dans ce document, même les moyens qui devraient en fonction de chaque pays permettre d'améliorer la situation alimentaire par rapport à ce qu'elle est.

Il faut aussi bien se rendre compte (je m'aperçois que je parle longuement Monsieur le Président, je n'ai pas préparé d'intervention écrite d'ailleurs), que la production agricole dépend en quelque sorte... j'allais dire de la terre; non; mais de la durée pendant laquelle, génération après génération, les fermiers, les paysans ont apporté des soins à la terre, l'ont tournée, retournée, retravaillée, ont fait qu'elle soit vivante.

Et c'est ainsi que bien sûr les engrais ont été utilisés, mais il y a aussi ce travail de la terre qui a joué pour nous, pour nos pays d'Europe, pour beaucoup de pays d'Asie; je pense à la Chine, à l'art et à l'amour avec lesquels la terre a été travaillée; je pense à l'Indonésie, je pense au travail effectué dans les rizières; je pourrais citer d'autres pays d'Asie; mais tout ceci joue pour accroître la productivité et le rendement.

Il est certain que pour nombre de pays en développement, neufs, il faudra encore non pas des millénaires - heureusement pour eux - mais il faudra encore de très nombreuses années pour arriver à obtenir d'excellents rendements, sans oublier les besoins de formation appropriée des producteurs: mais, formation appropriée et non pas formation voulant les faire passer brutalement d'une certaine époque à une autre ultra-moderne, et là encore: conseils de prudence.

Monsieur le Président, il y a aussi autre chose que j'ai noté dans les documents soumis par le Secrétariat, en particulier dans le C 83/2, c'est le paragraphe 28 et suivants, qui fait un classement des pays africains en cinq catégories en fonction de leur alimentation de base. Je n'en tirerais pas les conséquences que l'on peut en tirer sur le mode de développement, mais on essaie en fonction de l'alimentation de montrer les résultats que l'on a obtenus; je ne vais pas reprendre en détail.

Je constate que les résultats sont dans l'ensemble différents, mais qu'en définitive, pour les uns et pour les autres (non plus les résultats individuels mais le résultat) le résultat final n'est en définitif pas brillant: parce que si dans un pays il y a peu d'exode rural, on s'aperçoit qu'en même temps les importations alimentaires absorbent une part croissante des recettes d'exportation. Dans un autre pays on dit que l'exode rural est plus important, et que la croissance des importations alimentaires reste préoccupante et surtout que la superficie disponible par personne dans l'agriculture continue à diminuer.

Je voudrais simplement pour conclure - comme l'a indiqué notre Ministre hier, vous rappeler ce que nous faisons en ce domaine: l'accroissement de nos contributions de manière à fournir davantage par rapport aux objectifs déjà définis. Je voudrais vous dire que nous sommes prêts à poursuivre dans cette voie pour aider les pays en développement, mais toujours en restant prudents, pragmatiques, sans faire des recommandations générales et en quelque sorte dogmatiques.

Voilà l'essentiel de ce que je voulais vous dire, Monsieur le Président. Merci.

T. OKAMOTO (Japan): First of all I would like to extend my congratulations to you, Mr Chairman, and Vice-Chairmen, on your election to chairmanship of this important committee. My delegation also appreciates the efforts of the Secretariat led by Dr Islam in the preparation of the elaborated papers C 83/2 and C 83/2-Sup.I.

These documents give us a very comprehensive picture of the world food situation and provide us with excellent information for dealing with the world food problem. Now, I would like to make some brief comments on this agenda item "The State of Food and Agriculture 1983".

According to the documents distributed to us, the global agricultural output has registered a decline of 1 percent in 1983. However, in view of current stock levels, there is no cause for serious concern regarding supply and demand. The documents also indicate that there is a growing regional imbalance of food supply and demand with the disproportionate concentration of stocks, particularly in North America, slow growth of food production in the developing countries and even a decline in food production in the African countries.

I believe that increased food production in the developing countries is essential if we are going to find solutions to the world's food problems; and it is also important for rural development that

efforts be made in order to build up the infrastructure of the increasing food production. It is also important that a comprehensive plan, including the enhancement of farmers' zeal for production, in addition to the agrarian reform and the improvement of the social system, should be formulated.

Japan is extending our cooperation in financing and technology to those countries which endeavour to increase food and agricultural production. We are trying to increase our assistance to African countries in the form of provisions of fertilizer and agricultural equipment and other assistance designed to increase food production and also through technical cooperation in various areas of agriculture to support the efforts made by the African countries themselves in dealing with the problems of food shortages.

The repeated fluctuation of the world grain production between the good and the poor harvest over the past decade has been due primarily to climatic conditions. These fluctuations have also been reflected in the extremely complex trends that have affected the agricultural produce prices.

Japan is one of the largest importers of food and agricultural commodities. Therefore, we are always concerned over the world food and agricultural situation. Japan regards the attainment of global food stability as one of the most important world policy objectives over a long-term perspective.

J. DE DIOS OSUNA (España): Quiero empezar felicitándole por su designación como Presidente de esta Comisión y al mismo tiempo hacerle llegar nuestra satisfacción porque esta elección haya recaído en un miembro de la comunidad latinoamericana.

También quiero agradecer a la Secretaría el trabajo realizado en la elaboración de este documento, en cuyo análisis no voy a extenderme pues creo que poco puedo añadir a lo expuesto en el mismo.

No cabe duda que deja muy patente que estamos aún lejos de alcanzar el objetivo final de asegurar a todas las personas el acceso material y económico a los alimentos básicos que necesite.

Aunque en términos generales ha aumentado en el último decenio la producción de alimentos, ha bastado el programa de reducción de superficie cultivada en los Estados Unidos y circunstancias climatológicas adversas para que los precios de diversos alimentos básicos se hayan disparado.

Por otro lado, mientras que a nivel mundial la producción de alimentos ha aumentado un 2,5 por ciento en el año 1982, lo que prerepresenta un 0,8 por ciento de aumento per capita, en Africa y en los países menos desarrollados ha disminuido la producción media per capita.

Es indudable que uno de los factores que más pueden contribuir a la producción de alimentos es una adecuada política de precios que estimule esa producción, pero estas políticas no serán viables si los costes de producción, cada día más elevados como consecuencia del encarecimiento de los insumos, hacen que los precios de los alimentos estén por encima de la capacidad adquisitiva de los consumidores.

En base a estas consideraciones, España, que comparte vivamente el concepto ampliado de seguridad alimentaria, ratifica la instrumentación que exige la producción de alimentos en cantidades suficientes, la estabilización de la corriente de suministros de alimentos y el acceso a los alimentos para aquellos que los necesiten. Es decir, estos tres frentes de producción, distribución y ayuda y/o desarrollo deben combinarse para conseguir el objetivo final de la seguridad alimentaria.

Naturalmente existen unos factores integrados en estos tres frentes como lo referente al desarrollo rural y poder adquisitivo de los sectores sociales más pobres, la reserva de alimentos, el funcionamiento de los mercados, las necesidades de divisas para importación, la liberalización del comercio, la ayuda técnica, los recursos financieros, etc.

Más que hablar críticamente de estos factores que pueden influir en la capacidad de producción o de compra de los alimentos, se deben intentar ajustar las medidas específicas. Es decir, existe un acuerdo inicial sobre las acciones a emprender a nivel nacional y regional alimentario mundial, pero comprendiendo que esta ayuda no hace más que corregir eventualmente las deficiencias alimentarias y no supone un resorte suficiente para la estructuración rentable de sus propios recursos, las acciones deben ser complementadas con una planificación a medio y largo plazo, que es a la que vamos a dedicar un breve comentario, no sin antes decir la importancia que a corto plazo puede tener el sistema mundial de información y alerta de la FAO que, disponiendo del conocimiento de las condiciones meteorológicas, de plagas, de epizootias, de las corrientes cambiantes del comercio internacional o de las situaciones de urgencia provocadas por diversas causas, supone un mecanismo actualmente imprescindible de las labores de la FAO.

A medio y largo plazo, la FAO debe atender, en primer término a elaborar unas líneas indicativas para programas a nivel nacional e internacional en los tres frentes que componen la finalidad específica de una política de seguridad alimentaria; en la producción de alimentos deberá atenderse no solo a la obtención de productos tradicionales como los cereales que por poseer una fácil conservación han supuesto habitualmente el sistema más atractivo de producción de alimentos, sino también aquellas producciones autóctonas mejor adaptadas a los distintos ecosistemas. Deberá atenderse a una conservación o transformación en la que esté presente nueva tecnología que permita la producción y conservación de alimentos a través del tiempo y que cuente con una capacitación adecuada en los programas nacionales, con el fin de alcanzar el objetivo final y autosuficiencia en la producción. Se debe atender a la distribución correcta de alimentos mediante la estabilización de la corriente de suministros, porque la seguridad alimentaria exige en este apartado una garantía en el abastecimiento y una ubicación de lo producido en aquellos puntos donde deban ser requeridos los alimentos. Por eso, este apartado de distribución exige un apoyo especial a la infraestructura que abarca.

La construcción de nuevos almacenes para ubicar los stocks estratégicos dispuestos para consumo; mejora de las comunicaciones en general; racionalización del método de comercialización; orientación del consumo para aprovechar producciones nacionales y evitar las importaciones onerosas, corrigiendo y adecuando los hábitos de consumo hacia aquellos productos nutritivos disponibles; intensificación de la cooperación económica y técnica para apoyar el comercio entre países en desarrollo.

Incremento de las actividades del Plan de Ayuda para Seguridad Alimentaria (F.A.S.A.), porque su capacidad de ocuparse específicamente de problemas de Seguridad Alimentaria permite entrar en este apartado a largo plazo, a través de convenios entre donantes y beneficiarios y, por tanto, la FAO debe animar la contratación de Proyectos con Fondos Fiduciarios o con otros medios de contribución, que permitan establecer programas bilaterales y multilaterales.

La capacidad de adquirir, es un factor también muy importante. Es el tercer frente del concepto últimamente reforzado sobre la Seguridad Alimentaria. Esta finalidad de hacer asequibles los alimentos, exige hacer planteamientos a nivel nacional, regional y mundial.

A nivel nacional, con el fin de racionalizar las ventas de las producciones y obtener una cotización suficiente para sus necesidades de compras en el exterior, con el fin de liberalizar progresivamente el comercio. A nivel regional, la capacidad de adquirir exige un desarrollo integral de los pueblos, desde el área cultural al ámbito económico.

A nivel mundial, porque las reservas mundiales de alimentos exigen una acción coordinada de las políticas nacionales de cereales y de otros productos, y el esbozo de este plan de acción ha sido ratificado por la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas.

Con ello se trataría de alcanzar la estabilidad de los mercados nacionales y un mayor grado de seguridad del comercio internacional, ante situaciones adversas.

La capacidad para adquirir alimentos exige un planteamiento de programas de desarrollo para incrementar el poder adquisitivo de las poblaciones y, por tanto, su posibilidad económica.

Comprendo que la mayor parte de lo manifestado por esta Delegación correspondería mejor al tema siguiente, pero ante el anuncio de la Delegación de Venezuela de presentar un proyecto de resolución sobre el particular, me ha parecido oportuno dejar expuestas estas ideas a fin de que podamos todos disponer de más tiempo para estudiar a fondo el problema.

M. MUKOLWE (Kenya): I should like to join the other speakers in congratulating you and your colleagues on holding the posts that we have placed you in. At the same time I should like to thank the Secretariat for producing this document that is before us, C 83/2. I also commend them on the way they have improved on it, particularly on its quality, as an improvement of other papers. At the same time, I should like to thank Professor Nurul Islam for his lucid presentation of the paper before us this afternoon.

The document, while debating thoroughly the current situation and giving an overall assessment, also looks at regional issues, whose debate could assist in the development of solutions.

It will be remembered that our delegation, that of Kenya, was among those which raised this issue with the Secretariat at the FAO Council Session of November last year, and we are very much encouraged that it was found possible to expand the scope of this very useful document. We hope that the Secretariat will keep it up, as it is really an excellent work. In any case, they should be made fully aware of our appreciation of their accommodation of our suggestions.

It is to be regretted that both the document and our interventions have to strike such a sombre note, but this is to be expected. Many countries still have severe balance of payments problems, as have been maintained by various speakers. Interest rates have not fallen as much as expected. This has already been stated. Inflation worries are not yet over. The effect of these are all felt further afield than places where experiments have been made. While national budget deficits abound, available funds have tended to be put to military expenditure rather than to new development undertakings. This has already been mentioned by distinguished delegates, particularly from India and the rest.

Perhaps people have despaired of ever coming out of the mess, and the build-up of military hardware demonstrates the determination of the "haves" to defend what they have against attempts by the "have nots" to get something out of it.

The so-called encouraging signs that have to do with attitude are nothing but a mirage. We always seem to be seeing encouraging signs at meetings that have been held, like the Brandt Commission, Cancun, etc., but no concrete actions, such as at UNCTAD II; the conclusion of a new International Wheat Agreement which, of course, we have referred to; GATT; and the Common Fund these are just a few examples. The futures of the industrialized and developing countries have always been interdependent, and the fact that the developed countries are now no longer afraid to admit it does not qualify as an encouraging sign. It seems to us that an encouraging sign means only that someone in the developed countries has said something. It seems to us that while the spirit may be willing, the flesh is weak. We cannot accept the argument of the so-called trickle-down effect which is a recipe conceived by the rich to keep the poor absolutely at ground level, from where they can pick up the crumbs from the tables of the rich. I am sorry to use these words, but this is the problem of the poor, which must be dealt with directly and specifically. The development of the poor cannot be a by-product of the activities of some other people.

With such a gloomy economic setting, it is not surprising that the current food and agricultural situation is not entirely satisfactory. To paraphrase paragraphs 6 and 8 on the one hand, the developing countries have not yet evolved food production systems which are reliable; on the other hand the developed countries have not yet evolved commodity stabilization programmes which enable the farmer to earn adequate rewards without resorting to measures which tend to reduce food supplies. Moreover, the injustices associated with current inequitable international trade keep millions of people in developing countries at perpetual subsistence level.

At the end of the day we must develop all the agricultural and food production systems which will work in harmony with the natural and human environment. We must also secure equitable international trade and develop a framework for meaningful global cooperation.

Without beating about the bush, let me go further, to the sub-Saharan region in Africa. Indeed, I am grateful to all those who have taken this point very seriously. It is before us, and as we speak millions are suffering and millions are dying. It is a very cruel thing to be happening now. Once more, we commend the efforts of the Secretariat on this issue, particularly their analysis of the food and agricultural situation in the sub-Sahara, and particularly the breakdown by climatic and agronomic sub-regions. As this is the first attempt, it is no doubt intended to stimulate debate and to give an indication of the future shape of such analyses. We shall confine our remarks to a debate of the various points of interest.

Putting the matter in a nutshell, the majority of countries has a widening gap between growth in food demand and food production. Most countries are failing to meet the increasing demand for food from domestic sources. The increasing reliance on imported food, to be paid for with export earnings, means that these countries are living from hand to mouth. Even where land is relatively abundant they are not bringing new land into cultivation as fast as they are increasing their population. This suggests lack of technology to expand a cultivated area.

Development strategies must seek to answer these questions. The elaboration of such possible strategies should be considered. However, we should like to make a few observations. While perhaps we can agree with paragraph 125 that farmers have adapted themselves to uncertainties in their natural setting, this relates to subsistence production with very low population levels, so that soil degradation - which was not considered - was not an issue. It is to be doubted whether this traditional system would cater for today's requirements.

It is entirely fair to blame the African countries for using the proceeds from agriculture to fuel the engines of their economic development. Agriculture is all that most of these countries have, and therefore naturally, it had to bear the burden. If prices received by farmers in the developing countries have been low, it is only because the ultimate consumer has not been able to pay higher prices. There is no such thing as a cheap food policy. Somewhere along the line somebody pays. However important the price level is, prompt payment for farm deliveries is probably equally important to small farmers. We look forward to the study on price policies and its conclusions, which have already been mentioned in the document.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): En primer lugar, deseamos felicitar a usted, Señor Presidente, y a los tres Vicepresidentes.

Los Representantes de Colombia, que pertenecemos a la región de América Latina y del Caribe, nos sentimos particularmente orgullosos de que sea usted nuestro Presidente, que es un joven de gran porvenir en México, una de las democracias más recias y solidas de nuestra región.

La Delegación de Colombia estima que esta Conferencia se celebra en un momento verdaderamente crítico de la cooperación internacional, y que, por lo tanto, corresponde a esta Comisión I, que es el organismo eminentemente político de la Conferencia, alejarse de la retórica y de la teoría para presentar recomendaciones concretas, específicas, positivas sobre la manera cómo contribuir a mejorar la difícil situación alimentaria mundial que, a nuestro juicio, es negativa, oscura, incierta, pesimista y agravada progresivamente de manera injusta y condenable, como ha dicho la distinguida colega y amiga representante de Cuba.

Con espíritu constructivo, la Delegación de Colombia va a participar en el Comité de Redacción, porque también el párrafo 31 del Documento C 83/2, Supl. 1, el más reciente, confirma que se prevé que la producción mundial de cereales va a disminuir considerablemente en 1983 y que las existencias mundiales también van a ser menores.

Nosotros creemos que uno de los aspectos más concretos, positivos y realistas de nuestro informe debe ser el de consignar en nuestras conclusiones el hecho de que existe una crisis, crisis profunda, de graves proporciones; una crisis con horizontes indefinidos, sin posibilidades de recuperación, sin que se vislumbre solución a ningún plazo.

En efecto, la alegría pasajera del año 1982, ha sido ahora sumergida en las tinieblas del año 1983.

En situaciones como ésta, para abordar temas tan importantes, la Delegación de Colombia concede gran importancia a los países desarrollados y, particularmente, a la Comunidad Económica Europea.

A este respecto, me congratulo en manifestar que nos ha complacido mucho oír a nuestro amigo G. Desesquelles hablar en nombre de los diez países de la Comunidad Económica Europea, e inmediatamente después a dos distinguidos colegas y amigos representantes de dos Estados pertenecientes a esta misma Comunidad, quienes intervinieron dando muestras de un sano, constructivo y bien intencionado afán en favor de nuestra Campaña.

Si el tiempo me lo permite, al final de mi intervención voy a referirme a las observaciones del

Sr. Desesquelles. Ahora quiero decir algo con referencia a lo que nos ha dicho el Sr. P. Elmanowsky, Representante de Francia.

El Sr. P. Elmanowsky, con su competencia y experiencia comprobadas ampliamente, ha hecho una declaración lírica en cuanto a la imagen y a la foto que nos ha presentado sobre el tema, pero yo espero que el Delegado de Francia estará de acuerdo conmigo en que esa imagen, esa foto, no aparece en colores, no es ciertamente florida, ni siquiera es una foto en blanco y negro, es de un negro puro, indeleble. Por esto, nosotros pensamos que éste es uno de los puntos esenciales que debemos incluir en las conclusiones sobre este tema.

El panorama económico con que se inicia el Documento C 83/2, confirma el hecho lamentable de que la recesión económica sólo empieza a manifestarse en unos pocos países desarrollados, mientras que en los países en desarrollo, en la gran mayoría de nuestros países, las poblaciones siguen sometidas al hambre y a la malnutrición; es una situación que está ya tocando en lo insostenible, y que es completamente inaceptable en la Comunidad Internacional.

El suplemento 1 confirma que son evidentes los efectos negativos de la recesión, aún vigentes especialmente en los países en desarrollo. El primer párrafo del documento C 83/2 dice que el proteccionismo no ha disminuido. La delegación de Colombia considera que ésa es una afirmación tímida, porque el proteccionismo no sólo ha disminuido sino que han surgido otras formas de proteccionismo igualmente condenables que se manifiestan a través de un proceso incontrolado, convirtiendo el proteccionismo en un sistema deplorable que estrangula las economías de los países en desarrollo, como dijo el Ministro de Agricultura de Colombia, esta mañana en la Plenaria de la Conferencia.

El párrafo 4 del documento C 83/2 habla de la interdependencia; interdependencia entre países desarrollados y países en desarrollo, tema sobre el cual, parece que se han ocupado últimamente reuniones de alto nivel, tendientes a reconocer que, hoy como nunca, esa interdependencia debe ser necesaria.

Cuando leemos documentos como éstos, los delegados de Colombia tenemos necesariamente que concluir en que la interpretación que algunos países desarrollados dan a la manera como se cumple esa interdependencia, es algo curiosa; es una forma muy acomodaticia y hasta cínica de interpretar esa interdependencia.

La delegación de Colombia piensa que, desgraciadamente, la agricultura sigue sometida al libre y 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.

El párrafo 5 del documento C 83/2 dice que ha habido aumento de producción, y que a consecuencia de esos aumentos, hay grandes remanentes de cereales en 1983. Pero, ¿dónde están esos remanentes?; ¿quiénes detentan esos remanentes?; ¿cómo se van a usar esos remanentes?

La respuesta aparece en el párrafo 6 del mismo documento, al hablar del lado negativo según el cual los beneficios de esos aumentos de la producción se han distribuido desigualmente. El Gobierno de Colombia piensa que, como lo dijo el jefe de nuestra delegación, en relación con el manejo de las existencias de alimentos en el mundo, se está procediendo sin ninguna consideración social ni humana, con absoluta indiferencia por la suerte y la vida de millones de personas que padecen hambre y malnutrición.

Los Estados que poseen esas grandes reservas, las manipulan a su antojo a través de subvenciones y de otras asistencias para la producción, de tal modo que son ellos, solo esos pocos países, los que regulan las leyes de la demanda y de la oferta, los precios y las existencias.

El párrafo 29, en efecto, nos indica que de las existencias remanentes de cereales, solo 104 millones van a estar en los países consumidores, aunque sí soy consciente de que el párrafo 33 del suplemento 1 mejora esa distribución; pero basándonos en el conjunto de esas cifras, deberíamos llegar a la triste conclusión de que solo el 30 por ciento de esos excedentes, estarán en los países en desarrollo que somos el 90 por ciento de la población mundial.

Ya el colega de India y otros se han referido a la forma como esa excesiva concentración de reservas falsea la seguridad alimentaria mundial, porque todos sabemos que esas reservas no van a estar a disposición de aquellos países que las requieran y demanden en los momentos de crisis.

Los párrafos 9 a 14 del documento C 83/2 así como el párrafo 3 del suplemento 1 nos hablan de la situación alimentaria en el África subsahariana. Esa situación sigue siendo, como lo dijo el Director General, el gran escándalo de nuestro siglo XX. ¿Podremos acaso hablar de que no hay crisis alimentaria mundial si nos enfrentamos a estas cifras que realmente deben preocuparnos a todos? Hasta en América Latina y el Caribe, una de las regiones de países en desarrollo, que parece estar en condiciones menos desfavorables, la renta per capita que aumentaba desde 1978, ahora se ha estancado. Esto demuestra lo que hemos venido diciendo, y con lo cual queremos insistir nuevamente en una conclusión fundamental, y es la de que existe una crisis tan grave, aunque menos velada, como la que existió en los primeros años de la década de los setenta.

En el párrafo 5 del documento C 83/2 suplemento 1 se dice que son inciertos los efectos de las medidas de política en relación con los productos básicos de los Estados Unidos y otros países desarrollados. Ojalá los representantes de esos países explicaran en esta Comisión, en qué criterios, en cuáles consideraciones, ellos han basado esas medidas de política. Y la delegación de Colombia propone formalmente a esta Comisión que, en su informe, se incluya un párrafo en el cual se pida a esos países, que en la aplicación de esas medidas políticas se tengan esencialmente en cuenta las aspiraciones y las necesidades de los países en desarrollo.

Queremos referirnos brevemente a la declaración que hizo el distinguido observador de la Comunidad Económica Europea. Tómamos nota con satisfacción ciertamente relativa, de que han disminuido las magnitudes de las subvenciones que se aplican en el seno de la CEE, y de que se están introduciendo reajustes de políticas en la Comunidad y, si entendimos bien al observador de esa importante fuerza económica, él dijo que esos reajustes tenían en cuenta los intereses del mercado mundial. Nosotros quisiéramos pedirles a los diez representantes de gobiernos de esa Comunidad y al observador también, que transmitan a las autoridades de Bruselas el deseo y la aspiración de la delegación de Colombia de que en esos reajustes, no sólo se tengan en cuenta los intereses del mercado mundial sino las necesidades, las conveniencias, las aspiraciones y los derechos de los países en desarrollo.

J.B. JACKMAN (New Zealand): May I extend the congratulations of the New Zealand delegation to you, Mr Chairman and the Vice-Chairmen on their election to the Chairmanship of this Commission. My delegation also commends Professor Islam for his realistic perspective on the world food situation. New Zealand shares the deep concerns expressed by the Secretariat. The improvements in world food supplies in 1981 and 1982 are welcome, but we believe the foundations of those increases were very weak indeed, and we have little confidence that recent conditions will result in expanding production in the short term future.

Since we last met, the world economic climate has been less conducive to increases in world food production. Even if we are optimistic about a world economic recovery, there will be a time lag before investment recovers and the production response to that investment will take an even longer time to show itself.

The Secretariat has undertaken a valuable analysis of public expenditure on agriculture. The results of this analysis are presented for the period 1978 to 1982 in Table 8 on page 14 of the English text of C 83/2. The results are presented as an aggregate for the whole period. This is very valuable. However, my delegation wonders whether there has been a declining trend in real expenditure in the latter years of the period.

If the Secretariat is able to expand on this analysis, we would find their comments helpful to our assessment of the future prospects.

New Zealand attaches considerable importance to the work of GATT and UNCTAD in the field of world trade. We strongly believe that stresses within the international monetary system and related constraints on trade have reached critical proportions.

My delegation supports the initiative of the Director-General in the area of the appropriate price policies. In his opening remarks the Chairman observed that an analysis of a problem helps us to develop effective solutions. We believe an examination of price policy issues will be helpful in this way.

The New Zealand delegation believes that the best overall strategy is for a continued emphasis on production in the developing countries themselves, with parallel efforts to reduce the distortions which exist in world trade of agricultural products.

P. KANGA (Angola): Comme c'est la première fois que ma délégation prend la parole, je voudrais associer ma voix à celle des délégués qui m'ont précédé pour présenter à vous, et aux deux vice-présidents, mes félicitations pour votre élection. Nos félicitations s'adressent aussi au Secrétariat pour la qualité du document qui nous est soumis.

La conception de la sécurité alimentaire est claire; la garantie à tous d'une base alimentaire indispensable pour son bien-être, indépendamment des conditions naturelles et spécifiques de chacun. Nos pays se heurtent à plusieurs difficultés; les excédents de nos produits lancés sur le marché sont très réduits et insuffisants pour l'alimentation des populations urbaines toujours croissantes. D'où la nécessité de recourir au commerce international où nous rencontrons les problèmes de prix et aussi les effets négatifs du protectionnisme et des barrières commerciales qui doivent être bannis.

Les coûts de plus en plus élevés des produits fabriqués par les pays développés obligent les pays sous-développés, à cause de la détérioration des termes de l'échange, à vendre une quantité toujours croissante de ces matières premières, d'où certains pays sous-développés pour alimenter leur population sont obligés d'accepter un modus vivendi qui ne favorise pas la production vivrière.

Pour cela, nous pensons que pour garantir la sécurité alimentaire l'aide extérieure multinationale est indispensable pour renforcer les efforts nationaux pendant une certaine période.

Une question qui nous tient à coeur, bien que n'étant pas de la région, mais dont nous pourrions être victimes du jour au lendemain, c'est la peste bovine. Cette question a été longuement discutée au dernier Conseil de la FAO et nous tenons à renouveler ici notre appui aux décisions qui ont été prises: convocation d'une réunion de consultation des pays concernés suivie par les pays donateurs et présentation du Rapport à la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique qui aura lieu l'année prochaine au Zimbabwe.

Comme vous le savez, notre sous-région de l'Afrique australe est victime d'une grande sécheresse, qui, pour la première fois, comme le Directeur général de la FAO l'avait mentionné, a transformé les pays exportateurs en importateurs de céréales.

Mis à part les facteurs naturels, les pays de l'Afrique australe sont victimes des facteurs causés par l'honneur qui empêchent le développement de la production vivrière.

De ce fait, je suis certain que vous serez d'accord avec moi, que sans la paix nos paysans ne peuvent pas labourer la terre, et leur bétail ne peut brouter librement l'herbe ^{car} l'a clique raciste et belliqueuse des Sud-Africains, qui se disent défenseurs de la civilisation occidentale en Afrique, pratiquent la politique de la terre brûlée. C'est une des raisons pour lesquelles il est difficile d'équilibrer la sécurité alimentaire sans la paix.

Pour terminer, nous remercions la FAO de l'aide qu'elle apporte à mon pays et à la SADCC.

R. STEINER (Austria): Mr Chairman, late, but wholeheartedly, I wish to congratulate you on your election, and my best wishes also to the Vice-Chairmen.

Let me also state our appreciation for the comprehensive document on the State of Food and Agriculture 1983, before us, and the excellent introduction by Professor Islam.

I intend briefly to refer to two subjects of the Agenda Item. Very rightly, the Secretariat of the Organization has made a concerted effort to draw the attention of delegates from member countries again to the urgent need of sub-Saharan countries in Africa. The Director-General has found it necessary to convene tomorrow a donors' meeting and Commissions I and II are expected to accord to the subject the necessary attention.

The document The State of Food and Agriculture 1983 dwells in a very elaborate manner on the food and agriculture situation and the presented analysis is a thorough one, though not always conclusive.

A remark made in para 131 of the document before us related to the Sudan-Sahelian Zone seems to be significant. "The agricultural labour force is growing fastest in the group." This "group" is the Sudan-Sahelian Zone. "Land is available but is not being brought into cultivation at a corresponding pace so that the amount of land per person of the agricultural labour force is declining by 1.2 percent per annum. Whether this is because of a lack of technology permitting the expansion of land cultivated per person or because costs of opening up new land are increasing is not clear."

Mr Chairman, let us look back for a few moments to 1972-73. 1972-73 was a disaster period for the Sahelian Zone, and 10 years later the disaster seems to recur. I recall that in 1972-73 FAO became active through relief operations in the Sahelain Zone, through its newly established OSRO. OSRO then stood for Office of Sahelian Relief Operations. Simultaneously a multi-disciplinary effort was made within the UN family to establish a long-term rehabilitation programme for the Sahelian Zone.

FAO established, in 1975, a prospective study on the long-term development of the Sahelian countries and a number of legendary conferences followed successively. One seems to me significant, that was a meeting in Quebec in 1980 when one stated that out of the US\$ 7 billion that were regarded necessary for a rehabilitation programme for the Sahelian Zone in 1973, less than 60 percent actually entered the implementation phase. While the document before us indicates that for the period 1980 to 1985 US\$ 20 to 22 billion mainly in the form of investments, will be necessary one cannot hide the feeling that we all, and this is blame neither on the Organization, nor on anybody, but if it is a blame, then on all of us, that we are all seeking now a new method, a new approach and a new method of intervention.

Ten years after the Sahelian disaster, and at the moment when it seems to come back again, we have to ask ourselves very seriously: Was it an inadequate capital flow into the Sahelian Zone ? Was the concept of the rehabilitation programme realistic enough ? Was it based on a realistic assessment and on realistic assumptions with regard to the implementation ? Were the right conclusions drawn and or observed by donors and recipients alike ?

Mr Chairman, I do not expect an answer now, but we too have to be aware of the questions and possibly to find answers to them.

Let me now refer quickly to a second item which plays a vital role within international efforts to ensure and contribute towards regional and national food sufficiency, namely agricultural trade.

It is a fact that there occurred a deterioration in the net barter terms of many regions of the world. The deterioration was particularly pronounced in developing countries. Within the developed market economies, a fast rising productivity within the agricultural sector has led to a number of commodities to outputs far exceeding domestic demands. While part of that production enters the flow of aid resources for developing countries, an even much larger part is disposed of on the world market and subsidized conditions seriously distorting market prices and that seems to me a relevant point in the context of this afternoon's debate - seriously competing those exports of developing countries who have no public means at their disposal to compete effectively.

Developed countries will have to realize, that by doing so, they effectively cancel out genuine development efforts, be it in the form of technical assistance or Capital Aid that they are providing. There is still a long way to go for developing countries in this respect. Efforts are being made in a number of developed market economies to adjust and to let the production exceeding domestic demand enter the world market in a manner whereby access and conditions for developing countries are not impeded.

Mr Chairman, let me state the Austrian delegation's opinion that only when we firmly aim at this target will we be allowed to talk about a genuine effort towards a new economic order in the world.

The meeting rose at 17.55 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 55.

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.55 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

C 83/I/PV/3

Twenty-second Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt-deuxième session
COMMISSION I

22° período de sesiones
COMISION I

THIRD MEETING
TROISIEME SÉANCE
TERCER REUNION

(10 November 1983)

The Third Meeting was opened at 09.45 hours

José Ramón López-Portillo, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La troisième séance est ouverte à 09 h 45 sous la présidence de

José Ramón López-Portillo, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la tercera reunión a las 09.45 horas bajo la presidencia de

José Ramón López-Portillo, Presidente de la Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
1. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLÍTICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
6. World Food and Agriculture Situation: (continued)
6. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture : (suite)
6. Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo: (continuación)
- 6.1 State of Food and Agriculture, including:
6.1 -The Situation of Food and Agriculture in Africa (continued)
6.1 Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, notamment:
6.1 -Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en Afrique (suite)
6.1 El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación, en particular:
6.1 -La situación de la agricultura y la alimentación en Africa (continuación)

El PRESIDENTE: Se abre la tercera reunión de la Comisión I, que trata en estos momentos del tema relativo a la situación agrícola y alimentaria del mundo.

He de advertir a los Sres. Delegados que esta Comisión, en principio, continuará con sus trabajos a lo largo de toda la mañana. Por otra parte, he de avisar a aquellos delegados o funcionarios que vayan a asistir a la Audiencia Papal que deberán portar en cualquier caso el pase especial que el Vaticano proporcionó a tal efecto. Si por alguna razón no lo portaren, podrá ser, hasta donde sabemos, imposible poder entrar a dicha Audiencia.

En este momento contamos con una lista todavía larga de oradores, que me voy a permitir leer:

Sri Lanka, Reino Unido, Arabia Saudita, Noruega, Panamá, Nigeria, Pakistán, Grecia, Dinamarca, Sudán, Canadá e Israel.

Tiene la palabra la Delegación de Sri Lanka.

N.V.K. WERAGODA (Sri Lanka): First of all I must take this opportunity on behalf of the Sri Lanka delegation to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this Commission. I am sure under your chairmanship we should be able to conduct our deliberation in a very useful and time-saving manner. I also take this opportunity to congratulate the two Vice-Chairmen on their election, and to thank the Secretariat for the excellent documents that they have provided to us at this meeting on the important subject of the world food and agriculture situation.

Mr Chairman, we are all aware, and this document C 83/2 also highlights the problem of hunger and malnutrition faced by millions the world over. I do not want to get into a detailed discussion on this document but I will read one sentence which to my mind reflects on the achievements by the world community in tackling this problem. It reads, and I quote "There has hardly been any notable achievement in the battle against hunger and malnutrition during the last two years particularly in the low-income food-deficit countries".

Mr Chairman, we are gathered here to review this position and seek appropriate remedial measures. The causes of the situation are many and varied but they can be broadly categorized into two groups. The first is natural causes and the second is man-made causes. Natural causes, like floods, earthquakes and drought seriously endanger the food supply situation. Similarly, man-made causes like internal and international strife also play a devastating effect on the food supply situation. It was just yesterday that His Excellency the President of Sudan referred to the grave danger of desertification at the rate of 4 to 5 kilometers a year in the sub-Saharan Africa. These are matters which should be drawn to the attention of the entire world community though the calamity is confined to one region of the globe.

Yet another problem is the lack of resources of the poorer nations for food requirements, either due to worsening terms of trade or due to sheer drop in productivity of exports. Some developing countries are facing serious problems in the procurement of food requirement.

Mr Chairman, let me refer to a few of our experiences in Sri Lanka. Agricultural production in Sri Lanka is in the hands of the small farmer. We have about 1.6 million small farmers. The interests of these producers have been safeguarded by providing subsidized inputs like fertilizer, and improved seed materials and also by ensuring a guaranteed price for the farm produce. Massive investments have also been made in providing irrigation facilities and also in providing adequate training to farmers in water management and timely cultivation. Timely cultivation, Mr Chairman, is very important for us since we are dependent on the monsoon for our rain. We have also brought in institutional changes at village level to emphasize on farmer participation in the programming and implementation of agricultural development activities.

Mr Chairman, all these attempts I am happy to say brought in very satisfactory results during the last six years. We had a 46 percent annual improvement in agriculture as compared to a population increase of 1.7 percent per annum. If we are fortunate to maintain this trend, we shall be self-reliant in our food requirements in the very near future.

Mr Chairman, I must also mention that we have been concerned about the environment while concentrating on opening up land for food production. We in the tropics have to take serious note of this fact. With this in view, research and also propagation of the idea of zero tillage or what is called conservation farming has been undertaken. I am happy to say that we have had very good results in this area of work. Besides, we are further exploring other areas to improve our techniques of production whilst being in harmony with the environment. Mr Chairman, I think this is an important idea to be kept in mind in our attempts at food production lest with our anxiety in increasing food production we endanger the very basis of our existence.

M.C. WENNER (United Kingdom): On behalf of the UK delegation, Mr Chairman, I would like to congratulate both you and your Vice-Chairmen on your election to lead the deliberations of this Commission. I would also like to thank the Secretariat for a very succinct paper which covers many extremely complex issues in a very direct fashion. I think it is a tribute to the Secretariat that they have managed to compress many issues into such a usefully short paper.

Mr Chairman, there are not many comments we would like to make, just a few. While recognizing that there are some signs of improvements in the world economy, the general tone, we feel, of the Secretariat's paper is one of disappointment, even depression, that more progress in improving the world food and agricultural situation has not been made.

We can certainly see no room for complacency or a reduction in effort, but we do feel that the Secretariat has presented a very despondent view which perhaps, does not bring out a number of positive developments in recent years. For example, global food production has increased to the point now where world cereal stocks are well above the estimated minimum safe level. Also, although it is true that commodity prices have recently been generally low and have caused the export earnings of developed countries to suffer, the same low prices have been of benefit to food importing countries. Furthermore, considerable efforts have been made by the international community to improve agricultural trading relations. We share the Secretariat's disappointment that an integrated programme for commodities has not made as much progress as was hoped, particularly in the efforts to agree a new International Grain Agreement. However, we were most encouraged that at the GATT ministerial meeting in November 1982 a sub-committee on agricultural trade was set up to consider specifically problems in agricultural trade facing the world today. We, in the UK, look forward very much to hearing the results of this committee's deliberations.

The Secretariat's paper has not, quite rightly, dwelt on the problems facing the developed countries' economies but whilst this is not the place to examine them, their effects cannot be ignored or underestimated. Nevertheless in the context of world economy there are signs now that demand is slowly beginning to pick up which must be to the benefit of all countries. This brings me, Mr Chairman, to my second general point: paragraph 4 of the Secretariat's paper stresses the importance of interdependence between developed and developing countries. Just as the recognition of interdependence is vital in trading terms so is the message of interdependence and shared responsibility in developing and maintaining an adequate level of food and agricultural production. Developed countries must play their part in placing at the disposal of developing countries their experience and expertise, but at the same time, the developing countries themselves must ensure that maximum use is made of these resources through the development of national policies to encourage food and agricultural production. All too often, the good intentions of external development assistance are negated or frustrated by domestic policies. We are therefore most encouraged by messages such as contained in paragraph 43 of the paper.

I said earlier that there was no room for complacency or reduction of effort. This is particularly true of Africa, whose problems are highlighted in the paper. Here we agree with the Secretariat that the outlook is bleak and that there have been few signs of improvement. The Secretariat's comment on the parlous state of food and agriculture in Africa are sobering particularly when the salient statements throughout the Report are drawn together. These include a long-term decline of per caput food output, the need for food security emergency measures in 18 African countries and the need for accelerated cereal imports. Mr Chairman, we have additional, more detailed important comments to make on the particularly serious position in Africa, which we will hand to the Secretariat. May I say at this stage that as was stated in paragraph 196 of the paper, the need for a technological breakthrough in African agriculture is overwhelming. Such breakthroughs are of course always desirable but unlikely in the foreseeable future. Surely what is required first is an improvement in management efficiency to capitalize on the potential benefits of technology and improved management efficiency is required through the agricultural sector at all levels to utilize the resources already available.

At the technical level world wide, Mr Chairman, we are particularly concerned about the rapid destruction by man of the means of production through deforestation, desertification, salinization, water-logging, erosion and marine pollution. These are briefly mentioned in paragraph 13 but they will shortly have a more profound effect than certain economic factors. Serious as this may be, the statement is one of realism, and credit must be given to FAO for drawing these factors to our attention. Even the positive elements mentioned in the paper give cause for concern. For example, the food gains of developing countries have been based ultimately on unsustainable high input agriculture.

Finally, the benefits of increases in agricultural production or improvements in food storage or distribution are often overtaken by the adverse results of population growth. It is essential that governments be encouraged to consider this issue in conjunction with food and agricultural problems.

I would like to repeat that we will be handing a list of detailed comments to the Secretariat.

* In Section 1: Overall Assessment (paragraphs 1 - 13) it becomes evident (especially from paragraph 8) that financial difficulties (critical shortage of foreign exchange) have led to reduced use of agricultural inputs in many developing nations. A number of donors have sought to alleviate the worst effects through programme aid to the agricultural sector in a number of countries (Sudan, Kenya, Somalia, to mention a few).

Tucked away in paragraph 13 is the only reference in the whole paper to the ever present long term problem of soil erosion. The topic is, however, covered in the Reviews of the Field Programme (C 83/4) and the Regular Programme (C 83/8), and does have a critical bearing on the future State of Food and Agriculture. In Current Situation (paragraphs 14 - 78) the section of Food Availability (paragraphs 14 - 23), especially with reference to the drought in Southern Africa, is rightly given special mention (paragraph 18). Of 26 countries reporting food shortages, 16 are in Africa, thus highlighting the major problem area as sub-Saharan Africa. During the past 15 years per caput food production in Africa has declined (paragraph 25). Not surprising in view of the rate of increase in population in many countries exceeding the rate of increase in food production.

Under Pests and Diseases (paragraphs 36 - 38) it should perhaps be noted that the Greater Grain Borer Prostephanus truncatus (the Scania beetle) has now crossed the border from Tanzania, where it arrived in the late 1970s, into Kenya.

The call (paragraph 38) to build up national capacities to monitor and avert pests and pestilences before they become epidemic is endorsed and there are lessons to be learnt in this from the current rinderpest outbreak, which is commented on under Livestock.

From Fertilisers (paragraphs 39 - 42) it is noted (paragraph 40) how weakened commodity prices have reduced the profitability of using fertilisers. FAO's expertise in fertiliser programmes is second to none and there is a clear need for their assistance to devise regional and national strategies of fertiliser use that will direct attention to those crops, soils and areas where technical, logistic and economic forces enable the maximum benefit from fertiliser use to be realised.

Producer Prices (paragraphs 43 - 45) are acknowledged to be crucial in providing production incentives. The Director-General announced in 1982 that he had launched a comprehensive study of agricultural price policies that will not be finalised until Conference 1985. This is far too protracted a timetable for such an important topic.

Under Public Expenditure and Agriculture (paragraph 62) the move by FAO to monitor resource flows to agriculture is most welcome.

Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

Fisheries (paragraphs 66 - 72)

With essentially static fish catches and ever increasing costs of fuel, priority must be given to actions designed to increase, or at least maintain the profitability of, catching and marketing fish whilst maintaining high employment namely:

- a. reduce catching costs by maximising the use of sail, using smaller engines, and by testing the efficacy of fish aggregating services;
- b. Pay greater attention to the catch, ensuring there is no waste by insisting on good handling practice and by introducing schemes to utilise all the catch and product development will be an increasingly important element in this.

There is nothing new in these ideas as they have been put to this forum for the last 10 - 15 years, but there are now indications that FAO is really paying attention, as shown by the most recent COFI papers for the World Conference referred to at paragraph 72, and attended by fisheries specialists from all over the world.

Forestry (paragraphs 73 - 78)

Whereas other documents (C 83/3; C 83/4; C 83/8) show awareness of the over-riding importance of fuelwood famine, social forestry programmes, etc, this document (paragraphs 73 - 78) concentrates almost entirely on industrial forestry and the viewpoint of developed countries. This seems the wrong way round as, although such a comment would come better from a developing country, more attention must consequently be paid to the immediate concerns of the Forestry sectors of developing countries.

Livestock issues (comments for inclusion in debate)

One specific point related to the livestock sector is included in the section of the document headed Current Situation (paragraphs 14 - 78). This is the current rinderpest epidemic in Africa (paragraph 36). In addition, the sections on the effect of producer prices on production (paragraphs 43 - 45) and on Food Aid (paragraphs 58 - 60) which, surprisingly, omit to mention livestock products, cannot be allowed to pass without comment.

The rinderpest epidemic in Africa is an indicator of the degree to deterioration in livestock services which has taken place in many African countries over the past decade. Development assistance for rinderpest control in Africa should be offered as part of a programme to strengthen veterinary and livestock services, with special reference to field services. In addition to this emphasis on strengthening livestock field services, there is a need to improve diagnostic and vaccine production facilities. Development assistance is not, however, the long term answer. In the longer term, there is a need to convince governments of the importance of the livestock sector, thus helping to ensure that adequate budgets are allocated to livestock services.

In the section on pricing policy (paragraphs 154 - 156) and other sections of C 83/2, livestock is not mentioned, although this sector is as susceptible (or even more so) to market prices as the crop sector. Why should animals on the hoof be sold if prices are not realistic? The majority of livestock are kept by farmers practising mixed farming systems involving crops and livestock. Livestock sales or sales of livestock products (e.g. milk) are a rapid means of generating cash which can be available to improve crop production from, for example, the purchase of fertilisers, among other inputs.

The section in document C 83/2 on Food Aid (paragraphs 58 - 60) surprisingly does not consider dairy products. In some instances, food aid in the form of skimmed milk powder and butter oil has been used by recipient countries to develop a dairy processing infrastructure. However, there is a serious danger that food aid of this type will hinder the development of a dairy industry in the recipient country. As has already been mentioned, milk sales are one way in which the small farmers can generate cash income and, as such, should be encouraged.

Some Regional Issues (paragraphs 79 - 122)

1 Far East

A reduction in the rates of production growth on a per capita output basis are inevitable in stable production systems where land resources are fully utilised and population is increasing.

A "new generation of breakthrough" is unlikely to give the incremental production jumps experienced during the green revolution. Some increases in production are being realised by the utilisation of unsuitable or marginal hill land and the long term degradation likely to arise from this activity should be closely monitored.

In addition to the issues raised by paragraph 86 there are indications that in a number of countries of the region the introduction of improved agro-chemicals is being held up by extremely slow and outdated testing procedures. FAO should advise on this.

The importance of maintaining close surveillance of the deceleration of the growth in food production (paragraph 89) is recognised although it is not clear from this document what percentage of total world production comes from the Far East region to offset the heavy population density.

2 Latin America (paragraphs 92 - 102)

The account on Latin America recognises the economic problems in many countries, more especially the burden of foreign debts. Although better harvests in the region are recorded for 1982 the position of the small scale farming sector remains critical.

3 Near East and North Africa (paragraphs 103 - 111)

The alarming rise in sub-regional food deficits (paragraph 103) is becoming unsustainable and pricing policies and producer incentives do not seem to have had the intended effect. This is a particularly worrying issue since pricing policy adjustments are frequently chosen as key solutions by donors.

Note should be taken of the marked increase in capital intensive investments being made by the oil-exporting countries (paragraph 105) set against the need for labour intensive developments in non-oil-exporting countries of the region (paragraph 108). The tentative efforts at interregional cooperation (paragraph 109) are positive steps in the right direction even though only of recent date.

It is surprising to learn that the lack of bankable projects in non-oil-exporting countries is a constraint (paragraph 105) when there are tremendous needs in the whole area for improvement to irrigation systems, rehabilitation of saline and waterlogged areas and for afforestation and range improvements.

The Food and Agricultural Situation in sub-Saharan Africa (paragraphs 123 - 196)

This is the biggest section of the report as it rightly focuses on the problems of the most critically affected region. No mention is made, however, of the Pisani initiative covering Mali, Kenya, Zambia and Burundi. This is a major EEC initiative and the success or otherwise and the benefits from such a programme need to be known. Especially so if the schemes are worthy of support elsewhere.

Conclusions (paragraph 196)

Conclusion number two (paragraph 196) suggests that the need for a technological breakthrough in African agriculture is overwhelming. Such breakthroughs are, of course, always desirable but unlikely in the foreseeable future. Surely what is required first is an improvement in management efficiency to capitalise on the potential benefits of technology. An improvement in management efficiency is required throughout the Agricultural Sector, at all levels, to utilise the considerable resources already available. The particular improvements required are:

1. Farm Management
2. Management of extension services
3. Management of research and the interrelation between research-and extension
4. Marketing arrangements
5. National Pricing policies.

No doubt others will be added to this list.

M. M. AL-HAMOUD (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): Allow me at the outset to congratulate you Mr Chairman on your election as Chairman of this Commission and to wish you Godspeed in your work.

I would also like to thank the Secretariat and Dr Islam for the able manner in which he introduced the document. As the list of speakers is a very long one today, I shall be very brief in my statement.

Document C 83/2 has pointed out in its introduction that there are encouraging signs indicating that the economic stagnation has started to recede. International trade, on the other hand, has not shown any signs of improvement; neither have protectionist measures been reduced. The document also states that many countries are suffering from serious balance of payments problems, that interest rates remain high and that inflation is still a matter of concern.

Document C 83/2-Sup.1 in paragraph 18 points out that the number of countries suffering unusual shortages of food has reached 33 countries by September 1983. Most of these countries are from Africa.

The document also pointed out that a large amount of international support is required to provide additional aid in the form of food needed by the most seriously affected countries and to help them improve their agricultural infrastructure in livestock and agriculture sectors.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's sense of responsibility and its dual membership of the developing world and the international community prompted it to urge its fellow developing and developed countries to exert a greater effort in providing more resources for the development of the agricultural sector and for increased food output. These countries are also called upon to reform the present terms of trade in a manner that would achieve justice and benefit for all and which would create the appropriate environment for solving the problems of poverty and hunger for more than 800 million human beings. My country's delegation calls on the international community, especially developed countries, to endeavour to uphold those international organizations and institutions operating in the field of economic and social development and to seek to establish the basis of food security in the world.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's awareness of the serious nature of this problem and of its responsibilities towards the international community has led it to consistently provide aid through the channels of specialized organizations and technical agencies as well as through international financing institutions. Our participation the year before last has exceeded 7 per cent of Saudi Arabia's national income. This Committee is a technical one. We are currently discussing the state of food and agriculture in the world. However, as the agricultural adjustment adopted by the Organization has not yet yielded results, we think that every country should try to achieve self-development in its agricultural sector in order to reach the goal of food security. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has dedicated a great deal of attention to the agricultural sector, and results have been highly satisfactory. Over the past ten years despite a lack of adequate agricultural and water resources, we have recorded a growth rate of more than 5 percent in the agricultural sector. We have almost reached self-sufficiency in most basic food commodities in my country.

P.H. GRUE (Norway): On behalf of the Norwegian delegation, I want to stress some long-term perspectives connected to the actual State of Food and Agriculture. 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.

We consider the agricultural sector to be important not only for improving the degrees of self-sufficiency and the nutritional standards but also for 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.

Because of the significance of agriculture for the economy of developing countries, Norway considers it important to carry out a sound, effective and goal-oriented development policy. To reach this, it is necessary to have a long-term planning perspective showing the connection between objectives and means available. Through the study "To 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. We are of the opinion that 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. We think that such a broadened scope for these endeavours should therefore be of interest to other UN agencies such as UNIDO, ILO, etc.

In this connection, the Norwegian delegation especially wants to welcome the initiative taken by the African countries in the Lagos Plan of Action. This Plan represents a most valuable statement with a long-term perspective focusing on the importance of agriculture. The Norwegian authorities are furthermore particularly satisfied with the initiative headed by FAO to strengthen its activities with regard to analytical studies on the effect of pricing policies on increased food production. A very important prerequisite 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 for 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.

The Norwegian delegation considers the initiative taken by FAO to be a step in the right direction and hopes that further increased priority to economic and agricultural policy aspects will be given.

A. ACUÑA HUMPHRIES (Panama): A la delegación de Panama le satisface profundamente que sea usted, señor José Ramón López-Portillo, el Presidente de esta Comisión y que como tal este dirigiendo estos debates. Y nos complace profundamente porque en el tiempo que lleva como representante permanente de México ante la FAO, ha dado muestras de una gran capacidad y dinamismo. Como en otras oportunidades esta Comisión analiza el estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación y hemos podido contar con la orientadora presentación e introducción al tema por parte del Profesor Islam.

Por las limitaciones lógicas de tiempo, que nos supone el debate, conviene tratar los aspectos, que a nuestro juicio, son más relevantes.

Con relación al panorama económico general subrayamos lo expresado en el párrafo 2 del documento cuando sostiene que "se tiende más a destinar los fondos que se pueden encontrar y a las armas militares que a nuevas empresas o a prestar ayuda internacional".

Concedemos especial importancia a lo señalado sobre las preocupaciones inmediatas y a largo plazo, que establecen tres elementos intermezclados a los que se tiene que prestar gran atención para mejorar tanto la productividad agraria, la seguridad alimentaria y los ingresos rurales, de manera que se apoyen mutuamente e identifica estos tres elementos como el crecimiento económico no inflacionario, el estímulo del comercio, así como el mezclar eficazmente los recursos financieros nacionales e internacionales. Pero hay no sólo que prestar gran atención, como señala el documento, sino que avanzar mediante diversos mecanismos en la aplicación de estos elementos en forma concreta. Sobre estos mecanismos, contamos a la fecha con numerosas propuestas que hemos discutido ampliamente en distintas oportunidades en la FAO, que van desde directrices y orientaciones a la determinación de elementos para la concertación de convenios internacionales sobre productos básicos.

Por otro lado y debido a debates que se han dado durante estos últimos años en distintos grupos intergubernamentales, así como en los Comités más importantes y en el Consejo de esta Organización, sobre el problema de la alarmante contracción de los precios mundiales de exportación de alimentos y materias primas agrícolas, y la consecuente tendencia descendente de las relaciones de intercambio, es que apoyamos la realización de estudios analíticos sobre políticas de precios a nivel regional para que sea amplia y profundamente debatido en próximas Conferencias Regionales de la FAO. De estas discusiones estamos seguros que saldrán acciones que aceleren las soluciones que la comunidad internacional debe encontrar a estos problemas y que deberá, entre otras cosas, cambiar o invertir la tendencia consistente en disminuir la asistencia oficial al desarrollo, lo cual está muy por debajo del objetivo del 0,7 por ciento del PIB anual de los países oferentes y fijada por la estrategia internacional para el desarrollo. A esto se viene a agregar la nunca justificada disminución de la ayuda multilateral que se estima disminuyó en 1982 en un 4 por ciento.

Sobre el otro aspecto regardante a la aportación de recursos a la agricultura como lo es el de la ayuda alimentaria, apoyamos la estimación a que llegó el Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, en el sentido de que 20 millones de toneladas para alimentos para ayuda constituía una indicación útil de las necesidades de cereales para apoyar la balanza de pagos, los proyectos de ayuda alimentaria y atender los pasos de urgencia.

En relación a la parte del documento que trata sobre algunos problemas regionales nos ha parecido positivo tomar para cada región un solo tema principal, esto es debido a que la mayor parte del documento alude -como fue acordado- a la situación específica de África. Creemos que la discusión sobre temas regionales específicos permite concentrar más los enfoques y debates. Así tenemos que sobre el comercio internacional de productos agrícolas en América Latina y el Caribe (párrafos del 92 al 102) se destacan hechos como el de que esta región, tradicionalmente exportadora neta de productos agrícolas, ha visto sus importaciones agrícolas aumentar más rápidamente que las exportaciones durante los años 70; y que la relación entre estas exportaciones e importaciones disminuyó de 118 por ciento en 1961-71 a 115 por ciento en 1974-76 y desde entonces se ha estabilizado.

Se destacaba en la parte del documento sobre el comercio internacional de productos agrícolas en América Latina y el Caribe, y nosotros insistimos en ello, que el efecto negativo de esta situación está estrechamente relacionado con las corporaciones transaccionales en el comercio de los productos agrícolas y alimentarios.

Igualmente señala el documento en la parte relativa a América Latina y el Caribe, el hecho de que mientras las exportaciones agrícolas estuvieron casi estancadas entre 1970 y 1975, las importaciones aumentaron a razón del 9 por ciento anual durante los años 70. Así como han persistido aspectos estructurales desfavorables del comercio exterior como el de la concentración de este comercio en unos pocos mercados.

Otros aspectos relevantes de esta parte del informe son los insatisfactorios resultados del comercio intrarregional que en 1981 correspondió solamente al 10 por ciento de todo el comercio agrícola, apenas un poco mayor que hace 20 años, así como la alarmante disminución de los precios de exportación de productos importantes para la región tales como el azúcar (44 por ciento), cacao (20 por ciento), café (19 por ciento), maíz (14 por ciento) y carne (11 por ciento).

Con relación al comercio de los productos agrícolas en nuestra región, Sr. Presidente, merece consideración especial lo señalado en el párrafo 101, en el sentido que es incierto en varios países el grado en el que la vitalidad renovada de los mercados agrícolas del futuro puedan ir acompañados de mejoras correspondientes en la vida de los campesinos. Este aspecto debe ser tomado muy en cuenta en nuestros países en la determinación de estrategias, políticas, planes y programas nacionales.

K.B. DAVID-WEST (Nigeria): Mr Chairman, it is my honour and privilege to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this Commission, It is my sincere hope that under your able leadership the deliberations of this Commission will be successful.

It is a matter of regret that in this debate the problem of hunger and malnutrition is still as grave as it was several years ago. I do not wish to dwell on the reasons for this, as delegates are quite familiar with the subject, but the failure of our past efforts points to the need to review policies, strategies and programmes, both at national and international levels.

In Nigeria since 1979 the Federal Government has committed itself to a programme of self-sufficiency in food within this decade. The public sector expenditure allocation to agriculture has been increased accordingly to 15 percent to provide infrastructure facilities, increase input delivery, improve extension services and support other incentive programmes. These efforts have resulted in increased grain, fish and livestock production.

We are grateful for the assistance and support we have received from international organizations like the World Bank, FAO, etc., organizations which have financed a number of agricultural programmes in Nigeria.

Mr Chairman, we cannot conclude this discussion without drawing particular attention to diseases of animals and crops, drought, desertification, and erosion. In 1983 rinderpest caused the mortality of over half a million heads of cattle in Nigeria and deprived thousands of cattle farmers of their means of livelihood. It requires substantial manpower and material inputs to control about 350 sites of infection scattered all over the country and also to rehabilitate badly affected farmers. The numerous references to rinderpest in the FAO paper on The State of Food and Agriculture 1983 is well appreciated, and the Nigerian delegation supports the appeal to international efforts to control this devastating disease. It is my sincere hope that there will be favourable responses from the international community to start a continental action programme now.

Other diseases like trypanosomiasis and tick-borne diseases still constitute major constraints to livestock development.

The Lagos Plan of Action is a very concise document. We appeal to all African countries to make genuine efforts to implement the Programme. We also appeal for international support, which is necessary in order for us to realize the goals of the Lagos Plan of Action.

Mr Chairman, we must rededicate ourselves once again to tackling the problems of hunger and malnutrition.

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): First of all, our delegation would like to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on your election to the office of Chairman of this Commission. It is our confident hope that you will guide our discussions in an able and constructive manner. We would also profit from this opportunity to felicitate the distinguished delegates from Australia and Egypt on their election as Vice-Chairmen of this Commission.

We have been greatly impressed by the brief and succinct presentation of the global food situation by Professor Islam.

We would also wish to commend the Director-General for the document C 83/2 and C 83/2 Sup..1 which are a graphic and comprehensive appraisal of the state of food and agriculture in the world.

Several distinguished speakers who have preceded us have dwelt at length on the deteriorating world food situation. Therefore we would confine ourselves to a brief analysis of the current world situation in the background of efforts that my country has made in augmenting its agricultural and food production. We have carefully studied the documents presented to the Commission, and observe that grain crops were excellent during the last two years. They recorded a gain of 100 million tonnes in 1981, and increased by another 40 million tonnes in 1982, but geographically the increases were unevenly distributed. The share of developing countries in the increase was extremely modest and hardly adequate to keep pace with the population growth rate. Consequently, their dependence on food imports increased substantially in an environment where their purchasing power decreased greatly.

During 1983 as a result of a 13 percent drop in coarse grains, it is estimated that world cereal production will drop to 1605 million tonnes, 6 percent less as compared to 1982. It is feared that world cereal stocks, equivalent to 21 percent of annual consumption in 1982, could fall to 17 percent, which will be all right for one year, but beyond 1984 the situation will have to be carefully watched from the point of view of the stability of world food security.

The situation on the African continent is undoubtedly alarming, where in at least 22 countries severe drought has brought about a situation near to disaster. We commend the initiatives being taken by the Director-General to mobilise world support for the cause of our African brothers. The plight of low income food deficit countries is generally a cause of grave concern to us all. Shrinking markets, high interest rates, deteriorating terms of trade, protectionist barriers, mounting debts, and balance of payments problems have compromised their ability to buy basic foods for their needs. This is indeed a very sorry state of affairs which can be remedied only by creative foresight, as was mentioned by Professor Islam in his speech yesterday.

Therefore, my delegation is of the view that an increased flow of external assistance to the developing countries and accessibility to world markets will certainly help them out of the woods.

My delegation joins the other distinguished delegates to urge the affluent nations to help replenish the resources of IFAD and IDA so as to augment the flow of development assistance to the starving agriculture of the food deficit countries. We appreciate that the basic responsibility for the resolution of the problem of hunger devolves on the shoulders of the developing countries themselves, but in order that they may develop as soon as possible their potential in land and water, their national need will have to be augmented by external financial and technical assistance.

In Pakistan we attach high priority to the development of food and agriculture. About 33 percent of the development programme is devoted to agriculture, water, and rural development projects. Overall food grains production in Pakistan increased by 26 percent, from 12.86 million tonnes in 1977/78 to 17.44 million tonnes in 1982/83. Wheat, which is our staple diet, increased from 8.37 million tonnes five years ago to 12.39 million tonnes in 1982/83. After building up reserves of 1.6 million tonnes for national food security, we are in a position to export wheat to the extent of 500,000 tonnes. Similarly, rice production perked up from 2.95 million tonnes in 1977/78 to 3.45 million tonnes in 1982/83. Pakistan has emerged as the third largest exporter of rice in the world. Amongst coarse grains, the production of maize has increased to 1 million tonnes in 1982/83 as against a figure of 0.8 million tonnes in 1977/78. On account of increased sugar cane production during the past few years, 1.3 million tonnes of sugar was produced in 1982/83, against a domestic consumption of 0.85 million tonnes. As a result, sugar is not only freely available on the open market, but we have started to export this commodity. In 1982/83, cotton production increased from 4.39 million bales in 1981/82 to 4.84 million bales in 1982/1983. Export earnings from this commodity rose by 35.4 percent in 1982/83. All this has been made possible by bold economic, technological and institutional measures adopted during the past five years. The economic measures include, *inter alia*, rational pricing policies. In Pakistan, pricing policy is presently used as an important instrument for achieving agricultural development. One of the most important objectives in determining support prices is the provision of incentives to growers for increased production. The Agricultural Prices Committee keeps the support prices for major crops under constant review and the Government announces them in advance of the respective sowing seasons to enable the farmers to plan their sowing programmes. The Government also ensures that the price reaches the farmer.

Apart from all this, an elaborate national agricultural research system has been created so that the results of our research and knowledge are transferred to the farmer. Efficient and effective institutional arrangements have also been devised, aimed at the supply of certified quality seed, an adequate and timely supply of fertiliser, pesticides and credit. The supervised credit system takes the credit to the doorstep of the small farmer; it has also become a vehicle for the transfer of technology.

Nearly 10 years have passed since the 1974 World Food Conference took place, where noble resolutions were made to eliminate hunger from the face of the earth, but sadly, today, hunger and malnutrition are not diminished. Over 900 million people suffer from malnutrition, and 500 million are endemically suffering from hunger. This is a common human problem which requires sincere effort and urgent action so that the suffering of millions can be eliminated.

V. MOUZAKITIS (Greece): Mr Chairman, I would like to congratulate you, and your Vice-Chairmen, on being elected. I would also like to express the appreciation of my delegation to the Secretariat and to the staff of the Organisation for this excellent paper, The State of Food and Agriculture in 1983.

The document under discussion and its supplement gives a very comprehensive and constructive analysis of the most recent developments and problems in the food and agriculture sector, both globally and regionally. In general we agree with the findings in the document, so I am not going to make detailed comments on the various issues raised. However, I would like to underline some of the main findings which in our view need to be stressed. I will also refer more analytically to two issues, namely, international trade and the food and agricultural situation in the sub-Saharan region of Africa.

There are no very strong signs of recovery. It is unlikely that the prolonged and deep world recession will be overcome in the near future, even if in the coming months the leading developed countries succeed in overcoming present difficulties. The existing interdependency between developed and developing countries may act either as an accelerator or as a braking factor in the recovery process. Most probably the latter will occur if the strategy approaches adopted are not based upon correct policies for development in the developing countries, but these are based simply on the belief that the effects of recovery in the developed countries will be widespread via international trade.

As the document points out, in 1982 and 1983 the global food situation seemed to be reasonably satisfactory, but this constitutes only a general assessment of the present situation. If we look at the issue from a more segregated point of view the picture is drastically altered. The situation in Africa, and especially in the sub-Saharan region, remains grave. In the Far East, there seems to be a shift in the pattern of production from food crops to cash crops which, in the long run if this tendency prevails, can undermine the food security of the whole region.

The level of stocks, mainly cereal stocks, is expected to be reduced by the end of the 1983/84 crop year to a level of 17 percent of consumption compared with 21 percent for the previous year. Although such a reduction acts positively on an even distribution of cereal crops, it has the disadvantage of making world food security depend on the level of production for 1984. These developments can hardly be considered as positive.

Another matter I would like to stress relates to the reference in paragraphs 92 and 146 to the involvement of transnational or multinational corporations in the production and processing of agricultural products. In our view, this is a more general and serious issue related to speculation in world prices, among other things. A deeper examination of this problem in this document would have been useful.

I come now to a more or less controversial issue, namely, international trade in agricultural products. The document raises an old and well-known issue - that of the continued deterioration of the terms of trade for agricultural products. Obviously, this has serious negative effects for the developing countries, whose export earnings are greatly affected by their exports of agricultural products. Such a deterioration means simply; that there is a transfer of surplus value from the developing to the developed countries. The main reason for this - at least in our view - is the bias of the trade mechanism, stemming from and reinforced by existing international inequalities. This is why we do not share the view that liberal international trade is the vehicle for development. This does not mean that we are in favour of protectionism. Beggar-thy-neighbour policies make us all worse off. It is important to realise that protectionism is not effected only through tariff and non-tariff measures and subsidies, but also through indirect measures and often through the use of fiscal and monetary policies.

Furthermore, the agricultural sector, given its specific socio-economic and technical character, cannot be considered as exactly the same as the other sectors.

Lastly, I wish to refer to the acute problems of the sub-Sahara region of Africa. There is an urgent need to help these countries to overcome both their recent and long-standing difficulties. They need help to increase their level of self-sufficiency and to establish appropriate strategies for rural development. In this context, the international community could contribute by providing or strengthening the technical and financial assistance given to those countries.

E. HJELMAR (Denmark): Mr Chairman, may I join my predecessors in congratulating you and the Vice-Chairmen on your election?

We have a good basis for our discussion of the State of Food and Agriculture in the two documents introduced by Professor Nurul Islam. But we should be aware that it is necessary to have two documents issued with a month's interval to describe the current situation. The first document was issued as late as in August but that was before the results of the harvest in the northern part of the globe were known. One harvest in a part of the world can influence the food balance significantly. A record harvest in North America and Europe in 1982 was followed by a below average harvest in 1983. In the case of my own country, bad weather resulted in a reduction of the cereal crop by 20 percent.

These changes from one year to another should be a warning for us that we cannot base a long-term policy on the food and agriculture situation in one or two years. The statement in paragraph 31 of the supplementary document that "cereal stocks are expected to be smaller by the end of 1983-84 seasons" should not lead to panic reactions. It should be compared with the assessment in paragraph 4 of the same document that "globally there is no danger of any immediate shortage of market supplies". Furthermore we should note the statement of the Secretary of Agriculture Block on Tuesday, that the United States Government - I quote - "are preparing to bring most of the 20 million hectares taken out of production under the PIK programme back into production next year".

We must meet acute emergency situations with emergency measures but long-term concerns should be met with policy measures in the development field. This distinction is important also in the case of the sub-Saharan African countries which rightly are in focus under this FAO Conference. The current food and agriculture situation in these countries is alarming and calls for immediate emergency reaction.

But even more alarming are the prospects that the food situation in these countries may remain highly critical over the coming decades, as demonstrated in the food and population projections which we will discuss next week. That calls for more development aid to these countries and for rethinking of the national policy in the countries.

As regards the Danish development aid I can confirm that sub-Saharan countries already have a very high priority in the Danish development aid programme. To be quite concrete on the current situation, I may add that we expect that the board supervising the Danish development aid next week will agree to requests from Mozambique and Lesotho for extraordinary aid exceeding earlier commitments.

As regards national policy measures in the countries concerned, an attempt to explain the background for the situation is given in the section on Development Strategies in document C 83/2 where paragraph 144 states: "Yet many African countries at various times have adopted development strategies that favour industrialization, exports, and the urban sector at the expense of food production and small-farmer labour and government revenues."

An attitude towards the agricultural sector like the one reflected in the report is certainly not conducive to solving the food problem.

Another important element is the role of government in agricultural development institutions, mentioned in the next section of document C 83/2. Here we would draw attention to the importance of activating the rural population, for instance, by the establishment of farmers' organizations and farmer's cooperatives managed by the farmers themselves. Government intervention in this field does not always seem to be successful and self-reliance among the rural population is important and should be supported. Perhaps non-governmental organizations like IFAP could have a role to play here.

Price policies as referred to in paragraphs 154-156 are another important aspect. We note from paragraph 155 that several interacting sets of policies related to prices are discussed in sub-Saharan African. Here we miss an FAO analysis of the application of these measures and their effect on food production.

We note, however, from paragraph 156 that an FAO study of price policies and producer incentives is under preparation for the 1984 Regional Conference for Africa which might be more clear on this important matter and perhaps also indicate policy options.

H. MOHAMADI (Sudan) (original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, allow me to join other speakers in congratulating you on your election and the Vice-Chairmen on their election. I would also like to comment on the excellent nature of the documents prepared for this Committee, especially document C 83/2 dealing with the State of Food and Agriculture and document C 83/2-Sup.I. I would like to make a few brief comments on this subject.

We as a member of the developing community have hardly been affected by the current signs of economic revival in the world, though we are aware that such a revival has a trickle-down effect on the contrary, we find that matters are going from bad to worse in certain countries. This indicates that the signs of recovery perceived by some nations are very weak. Though it is generally believed that economic recovery will improve the terms of trade, increase investment and provide further work opportunities, we nevertheless do not see how such an economic revival may be achieved and how its gradual effects can affect other countries without a balanced and equitable growth in trade, improved financial and technical aid as called for by the international community.

We only hope that further constructive dialogue will enable us to overcome the present economic crisis which affects first and foremost developing countries, then developed countries.

The present state of food and agriculture in the world and its diminished inputs and negative aspects which were referred to in the document remain a source of concern for one and all. Despite what was stated in the Plenary Session two days ago, namely that aid will be forthcoming, and more specifically to Africa, and that production would be resumed on more than twenty million ha. the questions raised by world leaders and by analysts about the acreage reduction programmes to defend the interests of certain farmers and to overcome the problems of price instability are still unanswered.

This matter may require further follow-up by this Organization in order to examine its impact in the future. The Organization should also examine alternative solutions so that such a policy may not be resorted to in the future.

The delegation of the Sudan agrees with what was said in the main document, namely that the expectations for food and agriculture in many developing countries, despite the relative improvement that has occurred recently, are not a source of satisfaction for the reasons previously referred to. Those reasons concern mainly the adverse weather conditions in Africa and the spread of rinderpest disease amongst its livestock. However, we wish to point out that the necessary technical abilities to draw up the appropriate food policies and to prepare programmes are available to a reasonable degree in some developing countries, if not in all of them.

However, the lack of the necessary financial resources represents the main constraint amongst many others that impede the increase of food and agricultural production in the developing countries. But how could we explain the reason for the brain drain from developing to developed countries and to other richer developing countries?

If my memory does not betray me, some recent statistics have pointed out that the amount of experts that migrate to developed countries represents in overall terms the equal amount of aid provided by developed countries to developing countries. I do not remember the source of the statistics, but I remember reading it. I therefore wish here to stress the concern referred to in the document on intermediate and long-term prospects and more specifically the reference to the establishment of permanent networks to provide services in animal health and to combat crop pests, and more specifically in the traditional farming sector which is the main support for a majority of poor farmers in the developing countries. These farmers suffer from drought at some times and at other times from pests and other negative effects when weather conditions are favorable. Research activities must also be supported.

Here I would like to point out that we may not fully agree with what was stated yesterday in this Commission about the need to use traditional techniques, specifically in Africa, due to a lack of the necessary financial resources in such countries for the use of modern techniques.

We believe that if we wish to increase the acreage of traditional farmers, especially in the hard clayey soils, it is very difficult to do so with traditional methods. Therefore modern techniques must be resorted to, techniques that have been tested and have proved their validity, to reclaim such land and increase its fertility. These techniques will help to extend the acreage of land, increase incomes and reduce rural-urban migration. Furthermore, such techniques will help to reduce the pressure on the over-use of sandy soils of limited fertility which are more easily exposed to desertification, especially in Africa where population density on such lands is low.

Therefore we believe that we here must commit ourselves to developing and using rationally our natural and renewable resources. This must be done in a comprehensive and integrated manner in order to maintain the ecological balance.

Such a procedure would enable us to guarantee the continued yield of benefits from such resources for the present and future generations. We must not seek "quick income" solutions but rather those solutions that will help us to combat desertification and to improve land and increase output.

We hope that development aid, both bilateral and multilateral, will continue to be provided in order to reach the goals of the International Development Strategy. Such aid should help to create the appropriate conditions to combat poverty and hunger.

I here agree with what was said by the Indian delegation as to the proper and rational use of such aid in the interests of one and all. This must not be in contradiction with local and national policies and interests. I do not perceive any danger to such aid because of national policies, this was referred to by the representative of the United Kingdom today, especially if the purposes and goals are the same, namely to increase production and to raise the standards of living of the poor.

I would also like to express my agreement with what the delegate of India said, namely that the Organization must play a pioneering role in this field. We here wish to urge one and all to seek to renew the resources of those financing institutions concerned mainly with the poorer countries of the world.

I have a question about paragraph 184 and whether agricultural settlement schemes and the "ruralization" of industries ... etc. are totally unrelated to the demographic aspect of urban shift in high population density countries where population growth rates must be reduced or whether this applies to low population density countries. Thank you Mr Chairman.

D. G. AMSTUTZ (United States of America): Mr Chairman, The US delegation wishes to commend the Secretariat for the good job it has done in presenting a generally well balanced picture of the current state of food and agriculture.

Before doing that we wish to join the others in congratulating you and the Vice-Chairmen on your election, and as in the past we look to the Chairmen of the Commission to ensure that our discussions focus on the issues before us. We are confident that you will carry out your duties in the fair and balanced traditions of your predecessors.

We appreciate the Secretariat's practice, begun last year, of singling out areas of important concern to the world food situation for special attention. The special report on agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa helps provide an excellent orientation and appreciation of the complex and difficult problem faced by that region. As further indicated by Secretary Block in his statement to the plenary on Tuesday, the US will participate in Thursday's meeting on the situation in Africa and will provide an additional \$25 million in emergency food aid for needy countries there.

In its concern for the many difficult and chronic problems around the world that remain to be conquered, the report - and some interventions before this Commission - sometimes takes on what we think to be an unduly pessimistic tone, as in the statement that "there has hardly been any notable achievement in the battle against hunger and malnutrition during the last 2 years." Although some of the aggregate measures of per capita production and availability of food in the developing countries remain low, many of those indices over the past decade show a considerable improvement over earlier years. The performance in recent years gives no reason to relax efforts to improve the world food situation, but neither should it engender the kind of despair that only discourages further efforts, without kindling a spirit of renewed dedication to addressing the problems of hunger and malnutrition. For ourselves, we are encouraged by the recognition in food deficit countries of the importance of domestic policy and efforts by many countries to undertake difficult policy reforms.

The FAO supplementary report raises some concern about the availability of US exports of food in 1984. I wish to present the Conference with information which should allay those concerns. Although total US crop production fell more than 25 percent in 1983, the United States will easily be able to meet all its domestic and export requirements for agricultural commodities during 1983-84 Season, in part because of the very large carryover stocks from the bountiful 1981 and 1982 harvests. The sharpest declines in US production for 1983 were for coarse grains and oilseeds used mostly in livestock feeds. US wheat remains in very ample supply as does US rice. Severe drought conditions were responsible for about one-half of the decline in crop output, while acreage reduction programmes undertaken to offset severely depressed farm prices accounted for the remainder.

Although US wheat production is estimated to have fallen about 14 percent in 1983 from the previous year's record large crop, we expect that US wheat supplies during 1983/84 will very nearly equal last year's record high. US wheat stocks at the beginning of 1983/84 were at the highest level in our history, some 42 million tons. Wheat stocks are projected to decline only about 5 percent by the end of 1983/84 despite an increase in feeding of wheat to livestock. Of the projected 40-million-ton total reserves, about 41 percent is expected to be in our farmer-owned reserve, nearly 13 percent in Government inventories, and the remainder in freely available stocks. In short, the US is and expects to remain a reliable source of foodstuffs for all; we are fully prepared to meet all commercial and concessional food commitments and we have no concerns whatsoever about our continuing ability to do so.

The report on sub-Saharan Africa, particularly the patterns covered in paragraph 142 of the basic report, sums up very well some of the major issues to be considered in the agricultural development of Africa. Of special concern is the decline in many countries of the amount of land cultivated by each member of the agricultural labor force, even in some countries with generous land resources, and also the decline in several instances of productivity. We would like to see a further elaboration of the "various social and institutional" obstacles cited by the report. These problems will likely require considerable attention by the countries themselves to the agricultural and food policies, together with improved technology and farming practices, and control of particularly devastating animal and plant diseases.

The importance of agricultural policies, particularly price policies, in coping with food problems is, of course, not restricted to Africa. Thus, we were pleased to see the treatment of the influence of agricultural prices on food production contained in the section on "Producer Prices", paragraphs 43-45. We recognize the difficulties of data collection involved in such an analysis and welcome the Secretariat's efforts to expand its treatment of this subject. We also commend the Secretariat's expanded treatment of public expenditures on agriculture (paras. 62-65) in the basic report.

On the other hand, statements about transnational corporations (in paras. 92-95) seem partial and do not convey the positive good from private investments and private resource development that agribusiness provide. And we see little need for the FAO, as some have suggested, to duplicate work being done elsewhere by studying the operations of the transnational corporations in the agricultural area.

We look forward to the study of domestic pricing policies and agricultural production mentioned by Professor Islam in his introduction. The U.S. has long maintained that price incentives — pricing policy — play a key role, which we expect will be a significant conclusion of this study.

In his statement to the Conference, the Secretary of Agriculture, Mr Block, stressed efforts necessary to improve international efforts in the area of trade. The documentation before us amply documents the lack of dynamism in world agricultural trade in recent years. The document also points out the difficulties caused by trade barriers and the use, by some countries or group of countries, of export subsidies that deny markets to countries whose comparative advantage may be greater. While the effects of such policies affect all countries, as the Committee for Commodity Problems and the FAO Council have pointed out, the developing countries are particularly negatively affected. What are less well documented for this Conference are recent proposals by a group of countries that would expand existing protectionist measures to include taxes on vegetable and marine fats and oils and import restrictions on non-grain feed ingredients, such as corn gluten feed and citrus pulp. Equally important for the development of world agricultural trade is the lack of attention given by this same group of countries to proposals that would limit the use of export subsidies on agricultural products. We would second the comments of our Austrian colleague on the trade distorting effects of such measures. The use of export subsidies and protectionist measures is hardly consistent, Mr Chairman, with the stress laid at this Conference and in earlier meetings upon the need to expand agricultural trade and remove trade barriers. We urge those countries to join with other countries that are striving to promote more liberal trade in agricultural products, especially with a view towards improving the opportunities for the developing countries.

M. GIFFORD (Canada): Thank you, Mr Chairman. While I guess there is some conspiracy to the extent that Canada and the US are both speaking at practically the same time, I assure you as far as we are concerned there is no conspiracy.

However, first of all let me first congratulate you, perhaps somewhat belatedly, on your election as Chairman and secondly to congratulate the Secretariat for the documents before us. Particularly, the supplements which we found more balanced than the original document which, like some delegations have said, we found to be somewhat gloomy and perhaps too pessimistic. When there are glimmers of light those glimmers should be identified and spotlighted rather than being obscured by some of the more gloomier assessments.

First of all, Mr Chairman, let me just briefly comment on the Canadian situation before turning to the world. Largely as a result of adverse weather conditions, in eastern Canada production of the seven major grain and oilseed crops in 1983 is estimated at about 49 million tons, down 10 percent from the 1982 record. In 1983 exports of the major grains and oilseeds are projected to reach a record of about 30 million tons. However, we should note that Canadian agriculture was subject to a number of adverse developments in 1982, because Canadian agriculture, like agricultures in most developed countries is extremely capital intensive and therefore vulnerable to price fluctuations, cost inflation was particularly rapid in 1982 largely as a result of sharply higher energy prices and all-time record interest rates. The cost price squeeze was reflected in 1982 net farm income which fell by some 13.5 percent in 1982 as compared to 1981. However, the situation in 1983 has improved somewhat. We are estimating that net farming income will increase by some 3 to 4 percent over the depressed 1982 levels, as a decline in input costs is expected to more than offset a reduction in cash receipts.

In recent months we have seen a strengthening of feed grain and oilseed prices. However, livestock prices continue to be weak.

I will conclude the Canadian situation, Mr Chairman, by noting that the Government is in the process of introducing legislation into the House of Commons in order to strengthen the Canadian grain transportation system. I should note, Mr Chairman, in relation to some of the comments I am going to make later on, that this is a situation which is extremely politically sensitive.

We are talking about a policy that goes back to the year 1906, but I think it is relevant, Mr Chairman, that countries have to have the political will to address some of the sacred cow policies which permeate most of our agricultures, and if Canada is to continue to be a reliable and expanding supplier of grains to the rest of the world it is essential that we come to grips with the albeit difficult political situation involved in this context.

Turning to the international situation, Mr Chairman, we would agree with the Secretariat that the present world agricultural situation is mixed. Production declines in North America and Western Europe on the one hand, has slight increases in USSR, India, China and some other countries, on the other hand. Obviously, of particular concern is the continuing decline in per capita production in Africa. Nevertheless Mr Chairman as several other delegations have indicated the distressing situation in Africa in particular, should not be allowed to obscure the fact that some, and perhaps many, developing countries continue to make solid progress in expanding their domestic agricultural production.

Mr Chairman, I think it is also relevant to note in passing that we should recall our basic economics, that when you do have rapid economic growth in a country, particularly at the early development stage, you would expect a rapid increase in imports, because of the rapidly expanding domestic demand caused by economic growth, will obviously result in food demand outstripping the capacity of the domestic agriculture to supply the food. Therefore, Mr Chairman, although I recognize that over the last two or three years very few countries have been in a position of being able to describe their economic performance as rapidly expanding, nevertheless if we take a longer term perspective, say over the last ten years, it can be fairly said that in some cases in some developing countries the sign of an increase in imports is not a signal of failure, it is a signal of success and that fact is often obscured. Of course, Mr Chairman, I recognize by saying this that obviously many developing countries today are in a precarious economic situation, and in these cases food import growth is an indication of either adverse weather conditions, inappropriate agricultural policies or the cumulative effect of an insufficient priority being accorded to the agricultural sector.

However, Mr Chairman, we find it encouraging that there is a growing recognition that a strong agricultural sector is a necessary condition for sustained economic development and this is now becoming conventional wisdom.

I am also pleased to note in Canada our development assistance programmes have long recognized that the agricultural development is a necessary condition to the economic development in the developing countries and we are aiming by 1985 that 45 percent of Canadian development assistance will be directed towards agriculture and rural development. At the same time, Mr Chairman, an ever increasing proportion of Canadian aid is being directed towards Africa both for short-term relief and long-term development.

Mr Chairman, I would now like to conclude by talking about interrelationships and trade and I must admit Mr Chairman, that I was somewhat surprised at a comment made by an earlier speaker who said, if I can paraphrase it very roughly, that this is not the place to discuss the policies of developed countries and by implication all we should be talking about are the agricultural policies and the agricultural problems of developing countries. I find that a somewhat incredible statement given the fact that I thought this was supposed to be a Food and Agriculture Organization Conference and obviously when we talk about food and agriculture in the world context we talk not only of the developed countries, developing countries, we also talk about the essential planned economies, and of course the relevance of the developed countries to world agriculture is primarily in terms of the impact on trade of the domestic policies of the developed agricultural world. Therefore, both the developed and developing countries share a common objective in seeing trade and agricultural products becoming free and all forms of trade measures, both tariffs and non-tariffs, being brought under more effective international discipline.

In this context, I would like to make a brief reference and a brief plug for the work of the GATT Committee on trade and agricultural products which several delegations have already noted came into being as part of the 1982 GATT ministerial meeting of November 1982 and is presently undertaking an examination, and I think an important thing to note is that this is not a report that is simply going to examine trade measures and their associated domestic policies but it is also going to be a report that is going to contain recommendations as to how to improve the international agricultural trading environments, and hopefully that report will be completed by the summer of 1984 with the advantage of submitting this report to the contracting parties of the GATT in November 1984, and at that time the contracting parties of the GATT will have to take a decision as to whether to initiate negotiations on the recommendations contained in the Committee's report.

I think it is also worth noting in passing that in contrast to earlier discussions in the GATT regarding agriculture which I have been involved in over the last 15 or 20 years, I think it is fair to say that this time around, countries are not defending the status quo, are not defending doctrinal positions, but there appears to be an increased recognition that the trade measures, particularly of the developed countries which are distorting world agriculture, are a direct function of the forms and types of domestic agricultural policies and more importantly, not the technique of support but the level of support.

So although I am an economist by training and therefore a member of the dismal profession, I am also an agriculturalist, and therefore as a farmer I tend to be an optimist and I think that things could come out of the GATT over the next couple of years. Obviously, we will not reach Utopia but I think there is a possibility that some limited but meaningful progress can be made and that a number of countries on both sides of the Atlantic and around the world are working in that direction.

C.-E. ODHNER (Sweden): I think that the main importance of this discussion is to try to analyse why the deterioration of the agricultural situation in many developing countries has taken place and to find suggestions and discuss possible remedies. I shall venture to make a few points of analysis and recommendation.

I have four points of analysis. The main reason for the deterioration is that we are all now in the austerity trap. That means that the inevitable economic restrictions deprive us of much of the means for development and investments that should have increased production and productivity and therefore reduced the need for future austerity, and it deprives us of the demand necessary to promote investment, growth and employment. We are in a vicious circle. The present upturn in the business cycle is mainly limited to the United States so far; for the rest of the industrialized countries, prospects are still rather poor.

This austerity stems from the need to fight inflation and reduce budget deficits in the industrialized countries and to improve external balances and limit debts in the developing countries. Through international economic interdependence, these efforts are reinforcing each other in a vicious circle, successively reducing demand and prices.

My second point is that there is an interesting shift in the emphasis from problems of production to problems of distribution of available resources and to trade and prices. A main problem will be to find methods to reconcile a necessary short-run expansion of food aid to drought-stricken countries, especially in Africa with the longer-run work of expanding local production to attain self-sufficiency. The study of price policy underway should be given primary importance. But this shift in emphasis should not detract interest from continuing production efforts.

Another main problem is the destabilizing effect of the great swings in world market prices on efforts to strengthen local production.

The fourth point is the shift in demand from traditional local food to more sophisticated imported products that might become a growing problem in some countries.

As to my recommendations, I also have four points.

The question is, what can be done about the austerity trap. To get out of it would demand a degree of economic coordination between the dominating industrialized countries, which still seems to be very far off. The crucial question is whether the present repression of inflation and inflationary expectations in some big countries would prove durable when demand and employment increases. I very much doubt that, and I fear that inflation and restraint will return rather soon in these countries. We shall have to adapt to a situation with weak international demand, therefore.

My second point is that a very important role will have to be played by pricing policy in the food-deficient countries. The study of pricing policies should be centered on finding methods to reconcile food aid with the necessity of stimulating the expansion of local production.

FAO has a very important role of developing and monitoring such methods. A close cooperation with the World Food Programme and also with UNCTAD will be appropriate in this respect. Such methods might have to overtake the principles of free trade. Countries with problems of food deficiency will often have to shield their local production from competition from abroad which would make it very difficult to build it up and increase it sufficiently.

My third point refers to the impact of swings in world market prices on local production. There are two levels of action. An internal price system might be developed so as to shield the products from those swings. This, however, demands quite sophisticated systems and control of foreign trade. The other level is international agreements for primary products which are presently in more or less total disarray. In the longer term it is essential that FAO collaborates with UNCTAD to resume productive work in this field. The role of the multinational corporations must be closely watched in this context.

My last point is that the shift in tastes and demand in many countries following urbanization will have to be taken as a fact. This will demand a restructuring of local production to meet the new demands as far as technically and economically possible, but it is also important to see to it that such shifts are not unduly stimulated by selling new products at subsidized or world market prices out of line with prices of local products. A well balanced price policy also shows here its importance.

H. S. BAR-SHAI (Israel): Mr Chairman, on behalf of the delegation of Israel, I should like first of all to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Commission. I am sure that you will lead this forum toward instructive and important conclusions.

I should also like to thank the Secretariat for the very comprehensive and very to the point documents C 83/2 and C83/2-Sup. 1. These documents sum up very succinctly and effectively the present world food and agricultural situation.

Like many world countries, Israel has been affected by the continuous world recession, and my government looks for ways and means to remedy this situation. Believe me, it is not an easy task. It goes without saying that tariff and non-tariff barriers should be lowered in order to facilitate international trade, enabling developing countries access to developed markets and giving them a better chance to improve their usually negative balance of trade. Countries should be urged to hasten negotiations and bring about fast and positive results through the UNCTAD, GATT and other frameworks. All this to be on top of steps towards more liberalization which have to be taken by many countries, themselves.

The forecast of lower stocks for basic foods is very alarming, meaning that countries like Israel and other developing countries will have to pay rather more for their basic food requirements, as we know from experience with other commodities, and less for their strivings and plans towards self-sufficiency.

We have in the past suggested in former conferences the setting up of an international crop insurance system to cover against natural disasters. We have also suggested the setting up of regional reserves for staple commodities which will regulate supplies and prices for the benefit of all concerned, and we renew our suggestions on these points.

I agree with my Egyptian colleague that development is the key to eventual self sufficiency in food supply. This can be done by applying systems and means of production suitable and compatible to the capabilities of the farmers involved. Not every country and every farmer has the same possibility of solving these problems. This should not always be on a grand scale, as is done sometimes, mainly to the benefit of the big equipment manufacturers, but on a scale which takes into account the know-how and capabilities of those who have to do the work itself - the farmers.

Israel's agricultural cooperation with many developing countries is based on this 'concept, and we are ready to share it with more countries. I believe that development in agriculture, like other fields, should be brought about by gradual processes, as everyone can progress only at his own rate.

This is not to detract from the important and urgent necessity of a new international Marshall Plan, as was suggested on Monday by Dr Kreisky in his celebrated McDougall Memorial Lecture, which belongs to the general infrastructure or what we call "macro" level, and which can at a later stage be a basis for a further stage of faster development in agricultural production, but the first, stages in the meantime should be suited to the requirements and capabilities of the farmers themselves.

I have one last point. Page 16 in document C 83/2 - Sup. 1 compares public expenditure on agriculture in relation to agriculture's share of the gross domestic product. This is a very illuminating survey, although not complete. It shows that out of 31 countries mentioned in this survey - see Fig. 1, page 17 - only in four countries did agriculture's share of total public expenditure exceed its share of total gross domestic product. In four more countries agriculture's share of total public expenditure was over half its share in the total GDP. We should take into account that the share in public expenditure includes also international agricultural aid to this or other dimensions.

First of all, I should like to join my New Zealand colleague in urging the Secretariat to conclude the survey in order to get a clear and better picture of what happens in other countries and areas of the world. However, the picture of 23 out of 31 countries allocating less than half of the share in public expenditure which agriculture deserves, especially when dealing with the lives of children and the less privileged, speaks for itself.

May I propose that the FAO resolves to call upon the governments of the world to put agriculture and food production higher in their priority lists, giving them their fair share within their public resources, allocating annually growing shares of their budgets, both in nominal and real terms, so as to help solve the acute problems of hunger and malnutrition and supply more means for development and growth in food production.

ABDUL WAHID JALIL (Malaysia): May I first, on behalf of my delegation, join other speakers in congratulating you and the Vice-Chairmen on your elections.

My delegation has listened with keen interest to the statements of the various distinguished speakers, and one fact has come out clearly. While it is indeed rejoicing to know the positive side of the significant increase in global food production, the benefits of these production gains have been unevenly shared, and it is not certain that this state of abundance will continue.

Conscious of its' moral and humanitarian obligations towards the eradication of poverty, hunger and malnutrition, the world community has contributed a great deal of effort and resources in the past, but the situation demanded that much more should be done if the goal was to be achieved. Otherwise there would continue to be starvation and malnourishment, even if there was improvement in the food and agricultural sector. The degenerating food and agricultural situation in many developing countries, particularly those in Africa and Asia, needed the continuous support of the international community, as well as the sincere efforts of the countries themselves. Whether or not the prospect for world food supply was going to be grim would also depend on how each of us faces up to the realities of today and makes the necessary sacrifices.

We are all aware that efforts to increase food and agricultural production were more pronounced and complex in the developing countries, mainly due to the lack of resources, technical and financial, to enable them fully to exploit the available resources in their own countries. They needed assistance to help them plan and develop their resources, to help them plan their infrastructural requirements, and implement their development programmes in an increasing food and agricultural productivity.

In this respect FAO had played a leading role in providing the necessary assistance and expertise required for such development, while member governments themselves take firm commitments and efforts in their overall agricultural and food development programme.

The impact of FAO's programmes and projects and those of other agencies dealing with food and agricultural development and their importance to the developing countries was reflected by the increasing demand from the developing countries for these agencies to support them in their priority projects, which kept increasing year after year. Intensifying efforts and revised priorities in many developing countries meant that more assistance from the international community was needed. If this assistance could continue to be given, the efforts of the developing countries could go a long way towards overcoming the precariousness of the present food situation. The importance of international commodity trade in the development of all countries has been expressed repeatedly in many fora in the past. My delegation concurs with the delegation of the United States, and all those others who have spoken against protectionism and called on countries to open up possibilities for trading without imposing further barriers.

Finally, we realise the world economic and financial situation affects every one of us today, particularly in the developing countries. However, the continuing presence of a serious world food situation should not restrain us from giving our continuing support to the development of this sector, so vital for the survival of mankind in the world today. Any implication of a lack of support, and worse still, any withdrawal from the effort we have all agreed to make, will only result in a feeling of betrayal. Again, it is our moral obligation to continue to play our role, and to provide necessary funds so that the programme in the developing countries, so vital for the survival of the poor in those countries, can be carried out.

M. HERSI BAHAL (Somalia): Mr Chairman, my delegation extends its congratulations to you upon your unanimous election to the Chairmanship of this Commission. We wish you every success in guiding the Commission in its deliberations.

The situation of food production in Africa is very grave, due to calamities beyond our control, while the effects of the Sahelian drought which occurred in the 1970's still persist - rainfall in the last two years has been so erratic that production of crops and raising of livestock have once more taken a negative trend. While vast irrigation potential exists in Africa, the extend of irrigation for crop production is minimal. In view of this, we are dealing with a situation whereby over 90 percent of the farmers pursue dryland farming.

In order to mitigate the food shortage in Africa it is of paramount importance that the international community should respond favourably to the appeal launched by the Director-General by extending emergency food assistance to the hard-hit countries of Africa. While we appreciate the concern voiced by the industrial countries with regard to the chronic food shortage in Africa, it would be very much more useful if they could extend concrete action to help us surmount the current hurdles to food production in Africa.

My delegation notes with deep appreciation the keynote speech made by Dr Kreisky in that third world countries can only implement their infrastructural projects when they are provided with massive aid. More than at any other time in the past the will to work towards agricultural development exists today in Africa, but the tools with which to work are either missing or in short supply. The attainment of the green revolution in some parts of Asia in the 1960s was the result of concerted international effort geared to a particular situation. The time is ripe for Africa to work out an action programme aimed at increasing basic food crops such as maize. The introduction of a package-deal programme encompassing high-yielding varieties of seeds, input materials and appropriate technology would result in a long-lasting achievement in the production of food in Africa. In this international community, trade between the industrial countries and the primary producing countries is readjusted in an equitable way and no saving can be made available for the procurement of foreign components so essential for the agricultural development of developing countries. Our concern for the attainment of a just and permanent solution for the current international programme should continue in a mutual way. It is only when the purchasing power of the primary producing countries is increased that the economies of the industrial countries will flourish.

Over the last six years, my country has become the host to thousands of refugees. In order to meet the basic necessities of these refugees, Somalia has diverted a major portion of her resources to solving the plight of these people. We are particularly grateful to the donor governments, the international organizations like the World Food Programme, and non-governmental agencies who generously provided food assistance as well as shelter materials for these refugees.

Last but not least, my delegation is fully satisfied with the outstanding way in which the Secretariat prepared the working document before us.

F.T. GOES DE OLIVEIRA (Brasil): La delegación de Brasil está de acuerdo con los puntos principales que están siendo discutidos en esta Sala. Sin embargo, hay algunos aspectos que necesitan ser considerados. A mi juicio, no es necesario, no basta solamente producir alimentos en el mundo, no basta aumentar la producción de alimentos solamente. Es necesario, sobre todo, que se tenga una distribución racional más equitativa de los alimentos en el mundo; y para esto, hay algunos puntos básicos que deben ser considerados. Principalmente, lo que se reporta a la facilidad de los países en desarrollo en participar del comercio internacional.

Las barreras del comercio son, de cierta forma, muy perjudiciales al aumento de la producción de alimentos en el mundo. Esta producción es de fundamental importancia, y por eso es muy importante que los países en desarrollo adopten medidas fuertes de revisión de su política agrícola, sobre todo con respecto a la producción y comercialización de productos agrícolas.

La FAO, como el gran forum de debates de asuntos de agricultura en el mundo, tiene una misión muy importante, me parece, junto a los países en desarrollo en el sentido de que estudie las principales medidas de política agrícola para que esos países puedan efectivamente participar más democráticamente de los mercados internacionales. Solamente de esta forma, de esta manera, es posible inducir a una mayor producción de alimentos. A este respecto, yo quería señalar, registrar la realización de un Seminario sobre Política Agrícola que se debe hacer en Brasil, en diciembre, con la colaboración de expertos de la FAO. Es una oportunidad en que nosotros debemos estudiar, con mucha atención, las principales medidas de política agrícola del país para que podamos aumentar la producción efectivamente de nuestros países, teniendo en cuenta la posibilidad de mejor entrar en el comercio internacional.

Esta es una recomendación que yo gustaría de dejar a la dirección general de la FAO, a los presidentes y a los directores que componen esta Mesa para que la FAO emprenda, junto a los países en desarrollo, un trabajo efectivo de revisión, de ayuda de revisión de las políticas agrícolas de esos países.

E. MAMMONE (Italie): C'est la première fois que la délégation italienne prend la parole dans la première Commission et je voudrais vous féliciter, vous et les deux vice-Présidents, pour votre élection.

Comme à l'habitude, la FAO nous a présenté un document fort intéressant, clair, et exhaustif sur ce point de l'ordre du jour. On y trouve même, dans sa forme très synthétique, un examen approfondi sur les productions, les consommations, les échanges en produits alimentaires. Malheureusement, le tableau qui en ressort est, cette année, assez inquiétant. En face d'une augmentation mondiale de la production agricole de 2,1 pour cent en 1982, on constate, pour la deuxième année consécutive, une réduction de la production agricole dans les pays moins avancés. Le document C 83/2 nous parle d'importants stocks céréaliers, tandis que dans le supplément ce taux est modifié à cause des mauvais résultats de la récolte 1983 dans l'hémisphère nord. Tout de même, dans ce domaine, il est rassurant de lire qu'il n'y aura pas danger de pénurie et, d'autre part, les Etats-Unis nous ont encore plus rassurés sur ce sujet, surtout que la réduction des stocks est manifestement plus marquée dans les pays exportateurs que dans les pays importateurs.

Toujours dans le document C 83/2 on lit que les pays moins avancés ont consacré au secteur agricole, dans l'ensemble de leurs dépenses publiques, une plus forte proportion que le restant des autres pays. Cela est très intéressant et donne un énorme plaisir à le lire, mais tout de même, l'objectif de leur autosuffisance alimentaire est encore très lointain. Il faut encore compter sur un gros effort international d'aide.

D'autre part, hier soir, nous avons entendu, par le délégué de l'Inde qui a connu la révolution verte, que cette révolution est arrivée au sommet sauf pour d'autres interventions dans le secteur de l'irrigation, etc.

En ce qui concerne plus particulièrement l'Afrique, nous avons apprécié l'effort que la FAO a fait pour étudier et surveiller la production et l'offre alimentaire dans les pays d'Afrique qui ont été les plus touchés par de dramatiques pénuries alimentaires. L'Italie a été toujours consciente de la situation très grave qui se manifeste en Afrique, elle a été toujours aux limites de ses possibilités vis-à-vis de ces pays. Nous avons fait et nous faisons un gros effort, non seulement pour offrir l'aide alimentaire à ces pays, mais aussi pour les aider dans des projets de développement de caractère multilatéral.

M. STRACHAN (Jamaica): Mr Chairman, permit me on behalf of the Jamaican delegation to congratulate you on your election to the Chair. I would also like to express appreciation for Professor Islam's opening remarks and for the excellent documentation prepared by the FAO.

It is disturbing to note that food production continues to decline in Latin America and the Caribbean in an alarming way. This is against a background of a steep decline in prices of agricultural commodities in 1982 which has resulted in a further deterioration in the balance between prices of agricultural products and those of other major training products. Even when there has been a decline in the price of some critical products such as fuel and fertilizer, the economic recession being experienced in most developing countries in the region has made it impossible for the farmers in these countries to benefit from these price reductions.

The immediate effect of this decline in production has been an increase in the import of food items in many countries. At the same time, because the more developed countries are also experiencing the effects of the economic recession, this has led to a deteriorating climate for the promotion of international economic cooperation. It should be noted that although the UNCTAD Conference from 6 June to 3 July 1983 adopted a number of resolutions in the areas of commodities, trade, finance and development, no comprehensive programmes to revitalise development cooperation were adopted, although support was reiterated for several programmes. The Common Fund for commodities which is considered an important element for the promotion of commodity agreements and for financing commodity development programmes has not yet entered into force although 64 countries, accounting for over 40 percent of the directly contributed capital have ratified the agreement. 90 countries, accounting for two thirds of the Fund's capital are required to ratify the document before the Fund becomes operational. Let us hope that there will be speedy action by the remaining countries.

It is encouraging to note that the GATT contracting parties at their ministerial meeting last year reached agreement to bring agricultural trade more fully into the GATT framework and decided to establish the Committee on Trade and Agriculture. The Committee, which has already started work, is examining tariff and non-tariff barriers as well as the operation of GATT with respect to subsidies affecting agriculture, especially export subsidies. It is to be hoped that these deliberations will lead to meaningful conclusions.

Turning to the area of external assistance to agriculture, it is most discouraging to note that the level of assistance reached in 1981 was still nearly 40 percent short of the internationally agreed estimates of annual requirements. It is even more disheartening that the concessional component is also declining.

Both bilateral and multilateral assistance contributed to this decline which is an indication of the hardening terms of agricultural development activities in developing countries. I need hardly point out that many countries are already in a very critical situation with respect to debt servicing and that any further escalation of interest rates can only be viewed with alarm.

In conclusion, while it is reasonable to say that the depressed state of agriculture in many developing countries, particularly Latin America and the Caribbean, can be improved by initiatives and developments at an international level, this will have to be reinforced by appropriate action at the national and regional level. Such actions must surely embrace the recommendations outlined in document C 83/2. I will not itemise these but in closing I recommend that this Commission give detailed attention to proposals which could lead to meaningful implementation of those recommendations.

EL PRESIDENTE: Las delegaciones de Siria, Portugal y Etiopía no estuvieron presentes para formular sus declaraciones oralmente; de manera que se les solicita a estas delegaciones que entreguen por escrito sus declaraciones, de manera que se puedan incluir en el verbatim de esta Comisión, así como contemplarlas dentro del Reporte, que en su oportunidad aprobaremos.

Les anuncio también que la delegación de Lesotho hizo ya entrega por escrito de su declaración.

Por último, deseo informar a los Sres. Delegados que la Secretaría me comunica que Tailandia ha proporcionado también, de forma escrita, su declaración, la cual será comprendida dentro del verbatim a los efectos pertinentes.

Si no hay alguien más que quiera hacer uso de la palabra, le solicitaré al Sr. Dr. Islam que presente sus comentarios relativos a este subtema 6.1.

M. SALAMEH(Syria) (original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, at the outset, I have to congratulate late, as well, all the Committee Secretariat for the introduction. The two documents before us are perfect in terms of the comprehensiveness and precision with which they tackled the state of food and agriculture in the world, and shedding lights on the points of weakness in the food and agriculture situations, and in pointing out the action needed from the international community to achieve a sound agricultural and food situation.

Mr Chairman, the study of the food and agriculture situation leads into such details as can be really considered a food balance, and go beyond the mere total quantities of production, consumption and the utilization of food and agriculture, to include more accurate framework which define levels of hunger and malnutrition. It is the framework of the consumption of nutrients such as energy and proteins as indicators of malnutrition and food deficiency diseases. These matters could be tackled in this report and in such similar technical reports that are prepared on the basis of the findings of food consumption surveys. 1/

M.A. CORREIA DE PINHO (Portugal): Le Programme d'aide alimentaire a fait, dès sa création, des stocks d'aliments, surtout de céréales, destinés à faire face à des situations d'urgence, dans n'importe quelle partie du monde.

Les laits en poudre sont parfois utilisés, ainsi que les conserves de poisson. Il est intéressant de souligner que cette dernière recommandation a surgi après la proposition de la Commission portugaise de la FAO pour son utilisation dans le Programme d'aide alimentaire.

Bien sûr que les céréales, le lait en poudre, certains types de conserves de viande ou de poisson et aussi quelques graisses peuvent constituer les réserves d'assurance alimentaire mondiale, mais il faut préciser que tous les aliments doivent obéir aux caractéristiques suivantes:

- Transport facile
- Stockage facile
- Temps de stockage prolongé
- Avoir un minimum d'eau de constitution
- Distribution facile
- Confection culinaire rapide

C'est évident que seulement les pays qui ont excès de production de certains aliments peuvent contribuer pour les stocks du Programme d'aide alimentaire; cependant il y a beaucoup de gouvernements qui pourraient constituer dans leurs propres pays des stocks de certains aliments, ne recevant comme aide alimentaire que les aliments en manque, indispensables à l'alimentation pendant la période d'urgence.

Chaque pays, pour avoir son stock, devrait avoir fait une étude sur le régime alimentaire d'urgence des différents groupes étagés de la population, pour que le gouvernement ait une idée exacte de la qualité et de la quantité d'aliments basiques nécessaires à la survivance de sa population.

Relativement au Portugal ces études ont déjà été faites par un technicien de la Commission portugaise de la FAO.

Il est aussi nécessaire que les pays étudient la valeur nutritionnelle de quelques aliments natifs, déjà en usage, mais desquels on ignore avec précision la composition.

1/ Statement inserted in the Verbatim records on request.

Au Mozambique, par exemple, on produit une graminée - la MAPIRRA (Sorghum) - dont la farine est excellente, mais dont on ne connaît pas encore exactement la valeur nutritionnelle. Ce produit est en train d'être étudié à l'Institut national de recherche à Lisbonne, par demande du Département du travail du Gouvernement du Mozambique.

Cependant, la création de ces stocks d'assurance ne sera vraiment efficace que si, dans les locaux où ils seront constitués, existent les conditions indispensables au stockage de ces produits.

Ainsi qu'on le réfère dans le Programme ordinaire 1982-83 les pertes de produits agricoles après les récoltes sont très élevées et les mauvaises conditions de stockage des produits fait augmenter le volume de ces pertes, soit dans les produits de production locale, soit dans ceux qui sont importés, surtout à cause des ravageurs, des insectes, des maladies et de l'excès d'humidité dans ces produits lors de leur récolte.

Nous trouvons aussi qu'il serait nécessaire d'identifier les pertes et de localiser les zones du circuit où elles sont plus intenses, afin de les réduire dans la mesure du possible, de même que nous considérons qu'il serait souhaitable d'améliorer les moyens de distribution des aliments, pour permettre que les aides alimentaires d'urgence puissent atteindre le plus grand nombre de personnes possible et non seulement celles qui se trouvent plus proches des stocks.

Il est également très important de faire accompagner la distribution d'instructions concernant la façon d'utiliser les aliments lorsqu'ils sont exotiques ou se présentent sous une forme différente.

Le lait en poudre, par exemple, est quelquefois consommé comme une bouillie de maïs avec des conséquences qui peuvent être très graves pour la santé et donc créer une réaction négative à sa consommation, parce que les gens croient que le produit est de mauvaise qualité, quand en réalité c'est parce qu'il a été préparé d'une façon déficiente.

En conclusion, il est fondamental que les populations soient conscientes de la nécessité de créer beaucoup de stocks d'assurance alimentaire, constitués d'une part par les aliments de production nationale et d'autre part par les aliments provenant de la contribution internationale, afin de permettre d'avoir un régime de survivance approprié. ^{1/}

GETACHEW TEKLE MEDHIN (Ethiopia): Mr Chairman, allow me to congratulate you and the Vice-Chairmen on being elected to chair this Commission. I would also like to congratulate Professor Islam for his brief but clear introduction of the subjects contained in the document.

Mr Chairman, my delegation has reviewed the document C 83/2 with great care and it is in full agreement with its assessment of the world food situation in general and that of sub-Saharan Africa in particular. The previous speakers have repeatedly said that the food problem in LDC African countries is very disturbing. Many speakers have also discussed the food situations which I don't want to go over again.

Mr Chairman, the document has been successful in bringing out the problem of food and it has created awareness of the food situation to the world community at large. I don't add much to this general situation. However, I would like to make a few specific points. Mr Chairman, to close the widening gap between food demand and production in African countries, three possibilities can be mentioned.

1. Increase production through intensive use of inputs such as fertilizer, improved seed, chemicals and other inputs.

- Because of increasing price of fertilizer and decline in foreign exchange earning of non-oil exporting developing countries the fertilizer consumption is declining. Hence, no increase in yield through this means.

-Because of inadequate attention given to agricultural research in the developing countries new innovations such as high- yielding, disease and drought resistance varieties are not available to boost production.

-Similar to that of fertilizer, chemical costs are also too high to be used by farmers of developing countries to save their crops from destruction by disease, pests and parasites.

^{1/} Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.

2. Increase production through extensive production.

- Most of the areas which are not currently under cultivation have problems which developing countries cannot solve easily.
- Most of the areas are infested with human and animal disease.
- Needs infrastructural development.
- To develop this area large investment beyond the ability of the LDC countries is needed.

3. The third way to reduce the food gap is by reduction of the post-harvest loss which comes close to 30 percent of the total production.

Mr Chairman, if some improvements are made in the areas reiterated above, the African food situation would have had a different face. Making such an improvement, my delegation believes, is within an easy reach of the world community. This is true if there is a genuine understanding and appreciation by the developed countries to the socio-economic problems of the developing countries of the world.

Mr Chairman, the developed world often reacts fast when emergencies, man made or natural, arise anywhere. My delegation urges that the industrialized countries should react in the same manner to assist the agricultural development programmes of the developing countries. 1/

S.J. KAO (Lesotho): Mr Chairman, as this is the first time that my delegation takes the floor in Commission I, I take the opportunity to congratulate you and your two Vice-Chairmen on your unanimous election to those positions. I further take the opportunity to commend the Secretariat for the good quality of the documentation we are using.

This Commission on this first item of its agenda is addressing itself to the most important responsibility of this Organization, i.e., the state of food and agriculture in the world. Paragraph 24 of document C 83/2 states "In per caput terms, production still has failed to increase during the past 5 years".

Mr Chairman, that is a very serious indictment on the part of those responsible for development of the capacity of the human race to feed itself, and a challenge to this Organization and member countries. Further, paragraph 180 of the same document states "A technological gap also indicates the failure of agricultural research to interact with farming systems, managerial capacities and local support services." The point that I call for support is that increase in food production can be done by farmers and no one else: thus emphasis should be on the farming systems and managerial capacity of farmers. It is the awareness, commitment and training/education of farmers that must be given priority. This is the first major change in the policies of agricultural development that is called for. Without this redirection of policy, Member Nations, particularly developing countries, will not be able to take full benefit of the resources placed at their disposal to produce food.

In 1980-81, Lesotho launched a food self-sufficiency programme which directed its efforts to the elements mentioned above, i.e., farming systems, managerial capacity and support services. The result was a five-fold increase in yields. FAO has had the opportunity to evaluate this programme and its report is positive.

Paragraph 39 refers to decline of production and consumption of fertilizer. The operational relationships of foreign exchange, international trade, international indebtedness, unemployment between developing countries and industrial countries have been very ably addressed by His Excellency Bruno Kreisky. I can only call on developed countries to reassess the situation and facilitate food production.

In most forums like this one, there is endless call for incentives including producer prices. This matter is addressed in paragraph 43. We look forward to the results of the study of agricultural price policies which the Director-General has launched. However, at this stage, I merely want to bring to the attention of this meeting that there is a vicious circle in balancing the interests of the producers and those of the consumers. To date, the emphasis has been to protect the consumer. That policy has not benefited either side. Thus, my suggestion is to provide producer incentives in the form of remunerative prices and the effects would be increased production and employment -even the landless would provide wage labour in agriculture.

1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

Last but not least, Mr Chairman, let me refer to food aid. "Man shall live by the sweat of thy brow". Food aid should be used as an instrument of development. While some countries use food for humanitarian causes to save the life of the abject poor, others use it as an instrument of foreign policy to coerce the poor and hungry nations to accept certain ideologies. I call on this Organization to condemn that action and to ask such countries in the name of sanctity of human life and in the name of humanity to refrain from such actions. 1/

N. SRISURAK (Thailand): May I join the previous speakers in congratulating you, Mr Chairman, on your election to the high office of the Commission I.

Mr Chairman, the overall world food situation at present is not as critical as it was in the early 1970s. But it is a fact that many developing countries are facing serious problems of food shortages and malnutrition, particularly in Africa. However, the years 1981 and 1982 were by far the most difficult years for world agricultural commodity trades. The sharp and widespread decline of commodity prices on the international market during 1981 and 1982 below the cost of production, have brought about serious repercussions on the economies of both developed and developing countries. However, the situation in 1983 has ushered in a brighter world economic outlook characterized by a partial economic recovery in some major industrial countries and a moderate recovery of world market prices of some agricultural commodities.

Mr Chairman, our agriculture has been one of the most dynamic in south-east Asia. Between 1960 and 1981, Thai agriculture grew annually at over five percent. This growth enables us to reduce rural poverty substantially. Our capacity to produce food for others has been curtailed by the severe drop in their purchasing power, due to the collapse of the markets for their traditional products. Furthermore, our farmers were seared by drought in the first half of 1983. They were swamped by floods a month ago. However, in 1983 aggregate agricultural production is expected to increase at the rate of 3.2 percent higher than the 1.5 percent growth in the last year. Output of fishery, livestock and crops is to grow at the respective rates of 10, 4 and 1.9 percent. The 1.9 percent increase in crop production was due mainly to the drought at the beginning of the planting season which had caused a delay in the planting process of several crops. Production of the first crop of rice and maize was slightly affected at the beginning of the season. However, rainfalls became more regular since June resulting in an expansion in planted acreage of both crops. Outputs are estimated to be 16 and 3.6 million tons for paddy and maize respectively or an increase of 6.0 and 14 percent over previous years. Tapioca output is estimated to be 21 million metric tons in 1983. As for sugar-cane, output decreased as result of the drought at the beginning of 1983 which had affected both latoons and newly planted sugar-cane stalks. It is believed that the output of sugar will be 19 million metric tons of cane. To achieve the above targets we have carried out various programmes, namely price support schemes, insurance facility for high risk crops, the reduction in prices of fertilizers, development of water resources, rural job creation programmes, monetary incentive measures and export promotion policy. 1/

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): I have only a few queries to respond to and we are very grateful to delegates for the various suggestions and comments they have made which will certainly help us with our future work, especially in writing our expanded and fuller version of The State of Food and Agriculture.

We are also grateful for various appreciative remarks which delegates have made on our rather detailed analysis this year, as distinct from other years, on regional aspects of performance of various regions in the sphere of food and agriculture. We intend to continue this work at regular intervals, especially in respect of the medium-and long-term aspects of developments in food and agriculture in various regions of the world.

Mention was made by a few delegates of the relative neglect of social and institutional constraints; an analysis of these constraints is in our treatment of the regional sections in The State of Food of Agriculture. This is indeed an important issue, we have however analysed these aspects in greater depth in another document which will be considered by this Commission later on under a different agenda item. That is the Progress Report on the Implementation of the WCARRD Programme of Action.

In at least some of the Regional Conferences next year, we will also have a discussion on the implementaton of the WCARRD Programme of Action in respect of those specific regions. This will provide an opportunity for going into greater detail on the discussion of social and institutional constraints in the field of agricultural development.

1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

A few comments were made as to whether the Secretariat document adequately emphasized the positive aspects of the food and agriculture situation. Specific reference was made to two issues: one is the discussion on the level of cereal stocks and the second is on the positive aspects of falling prices of food and agricultural commodities.

The level of cereal stocks, as was recognized by almost all the delegates in their interventions, was indeed high at the end of the 1982/1983 season. However the supplementary document also mentions the developments expected at the end of the next season where the level is expected to go down from 21 percent today, to 17 percent of annual consumption, due to cutbacks in production as well as the result of the drought. So we continue to be caught in the regular well-known cycle of periods of high output and low prices, followed by falling output and higher prices.

The second issue raised was whether we have emphasized enough the beneficial effect of low prices, but the facts indicate that the beneficial effect of low import prices for developing countries has been more than offset by the greater fall in their export prices. The terms of trade have been very depressed, as all delegates have recognized. Moreover, the fall in prices in the usual manner, especially where the price has fallen below the cost of production, has discouraged production and would result in lower output and higher prices next year, in the next season.

On the issue of public expenditure on agriculture, questions were asked as to whether there was not a decline in the latest years for which figures are available in public expenditure on agriculture in developing countries. As we have indicated in the document, public expenditure both in current and real terms, went up for the 57 countries for which we have data available, from 1978 to 1981. For the year 1982 there was indeed a decline, but of course there are differences in patterns among different regions and in one region it even declined in other years.

This decline in 1982, of course, was associated with the decline in overall public expenditure due to well-known reasons, currently depressed conditions and falling revenues in the developing countries. Moreover, I think it will be interesting to mention that public expenditure on agriculture as a proportion of total public expenditure has remained more or less unchanged, with slight variations, over the whole period of 1978-1982 at about 7 percent. So the decline in 1982 in absolute levels, either in current or constant prices, is associated more with the overall decline in public expenditure as a whole.

Delegates have been informed in various past sessions how difficult we have found it to collect data on public expenditure on agriculture in developing countries; over the years we have made rather strenuous efforts to collect this data, but with limited success. What is needed now is for the developing country members to set up their own system of collecting this information and for FAO - and as far as FAO is concerned we are ready to be of assistance within the limits of our resources -to help the countries to set up this system of collection and analysis of information on public expenditure in agriculture.

We explained earlier how difficult, indeed almost impossible it is to collect data on private investment in agriculture. Let alone the developing countries, it will be difficult enough for the developed countries.

Several delegates have mentioned the need for analyses of the role of trans-national corporations in the field of agricultural production, trading and distribution. This subject was discussed in several FAO committees in the past year or so, including the discussion in the Council meeting in June 1983. In the Council report, as delegates will recall, the Secretariat informed the Council that FAO would keep in touch with other United Nations bodies working on transnational corporations and would inform the members of its investigation research' in this respect. We have already initiated contacts with other United Nations bodies including United Nations Centre for Transnational Corporations, UNCTAD and others working on various aspects of the work, of the activities of Transnational Corporations. We hope to prepare in due course an objective review paper summarizing the present state of analysis and information on transnational corporations working in the field of food and agriculture. We hope this paper would not only reveal the present state of information and analysis based "upon the work of others as well as would strive to identify the gaps in analysis for the information of the members.

One question was raised earlier in the debate as to the timing of the publication of the Fifth World Food Survey and suggestion was made that the Secretariat should try to advance the date of the publication of the Fifth World Food Survey which is now scheduled for 1985. I have to inform the Commission that the work involved is rather extensive. It not only includes a revision of the earlier work on the estimation of calorie requirements, based upon earlier FAO/WHO Expert consultations, but also analysis and additional statistical information and improvement in the terminology. All this work is underway and we do not think it will be possible to finish the work in 1984. We hope still to undertake the publication sometime in 1985.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias Dr. Islam, si no hubiera ninguna cuestión que en estos momentos algún delegado deseara poner ante esta presidencia, me permitiré intentar un resumen de las discusiones celebradas sobre este subtema 6.1, pero antes de ello consulto a esta Comisión si hay alguien que desee hacer, en estos momentos, uso de la palabra.

Bien señores, en ese caso les quiero informar que hemos culminado los debates sobre este subtema 6.1. Estoy seguro de que han sido de provecho y les informo de que 38 delegados de países miembros hicieron uso de la palabra, y me permito a continuación intentar concluir con la difícil tarea de hacer una síntesis de la enorme multitud de temas aquí tratados.

El resumen que presento lo hago con el conocimiento de que será tan sólo indicativo para la elaboración del informe y que de ninguna manera, mejor dicho que no necesariamente, deberá prevalecer en su redacción.

Se destacó aquí la utilidad de los documentos C 83/2 y del C 83/Sup.I como material de trabajo claro y breve.

Se actualizó y precisó información relativa a los esfuerzos productivos en la agricultura, distribución y acceso a los alimentos en regiones y países y se solicitó profundizar en los análisis incluyendo estudios sobre la función de las corporaciones transaccionales.

Mayor información objetiva y amplia se necesita en este sentido. Se hizo referencia a la desalentadora situación y perspectivas de la agricultura y la alimentación, con más fracaso que éxitos, que enfrentamos ahora una profunda crisis, con un comercio internacional deprimido y una mejor participación de las economías en desarrollo y particularmente de su agricultura.

Se expresó preocupación sobre cómo salir de la trampa de la recesión y algunas referencias al respecto se hicieron.

Se confirmó la vinculación entre la crítica situación económica internacional y sus diversos efectos en las diversas fases de la cadena agrícola y alimentaria.

Se insistió en la necesidad de avanzar hacia un nuevo orden económico internacional, pero subrayo que a pesar de ello ha habido pocos logros en ese sentido, que los organismos internacionales relativos a comercio y desarrollo no han tenido avances significativos, y que los problemas bélicos y otras distorsiones se han exacerbado. Todo ello abate la seguridad alimentaria, principalmente porque la paz es su condición indispensable. Se dijo que no se ha avanzado tampoco en el establecimiento de acuerdos internacionales de productos alimentarios básicos, en especial los cereales.

La dependencia creciente de la importación de alimentos en países en desarrollo, debida a la insuficiencia de la producción local, y con los efectos relativos al empleo, el ingreso y la productividad rural, así como en la formación de los hábitos de consumo de manera indeseable, afecta las balanzas de pagos de esos países, compromete el uso de divisas, de por sí caras y escasas, e incrementa el peligro de menores niveles de alimentación y nutrición de la población.

La producción de alimentos y de la agricultura decreció en un 1 por ciento aproximadamente en 1982, principalmente debido a las reducciones en la oferta de alimentos (-8 por ciento) causada en buena parte por una caída del 14 por ciento, aproximadamente, en la producción de cereales en países desarrollados.

Se insistió en que los gobiernos pusieran mayor interés en incentivar la producción local, buscando una mayor autosuficiencia alimentaria y en incorporar a ello programas agrarios y de desarrollo rural, así como adecuadas políticas de precios y esfuerzos para incrementar la productividad por campesino.

Asimismo se destacó tener en cuenta el equilibrio de los ecosistemas, la necesidad de repoblación forestal y el fortalecimiento de las áreas de temporal. Se subrayaron las dificultades para aumentar las exportaciones agrícolas y la contracción de los ingresos derivados de ellas, que fue mayor que la asistencia externa dedicada a la agricultura. El origen principal de dicha contracción deriva principalmente de un proteccionismo que no ha cedido por lo que se solicitó insistentemente en liberalizar y democratizar más los mercados.

Sin embargo, esta situación se complica por la inestabilidad de precios y de los propios mercados, con el deterioro de los términos de intercambio para los países en desarrollo, con la presencia de empresas transnacionales y su posible función negativa o positiva en su caso, y con las dificultades financieras y monetarias que se enfrentan. Se dijo también que problemas naturales como el deterioro económico, variaciones climáticas y catástrofes naturales en general hacían muchas veces fluctuar la oferta agrícola de muchos de los países en desarrollo, y también de los desarrollados.

Se manifestó preocupación por la concentración de la producción y de los excedentes alimentarios en pocos países, y por la política de reducción de superficie cultivada y de reservas mundiales, y la dependencia creciente de la seguridad alimentaria respecto a las decisiones de esos pocos países. Se solicitó conocer sus políticas y la necesidad de tomar en cuenta los intereses de los países en desarrollo. Se recordó sin embargo y también, que existe la intención de ampliar las áreas de cultivos en esos países en los próximos años y que los excedentes de cosechas anteriores permitirían garantizar ahora, como en el futuro, las necesidades de reservas y el cumplimiento de los compromisos comerciales. También se manifestó que se debería condenar todo condicionamiento político para el acceso a los alimentos. Se expresó preocupación por la fluctuación de insuficiencia de las reservas alimentarias y la necesidad de distribuirlas más equitativamente. Asimismo, que la asistencia para el desarrollo agrícola y alimentario se ha estancado y que, por tanto, se requiere de un mayor esfuerzo de cooperación internacional entre los países del norte y del sur, y también entre los países en desarrollo; es decir entre el sur y el sur.

Se subrayó que el objetivo debía ser apoyar organizada e integralmente la producción, disponibilidad y acceso a los alimentos. Muchos países destacan los importantes esfuerzos productivos y distributivos que están realizando. Se subraya también el difícil equilibrio de las políticas de precios que deben atender ingresos rurales, capacidad adquisitiva de los consumidores y producción de excedentes deseables en el comercio internacional.

La ayuda alimentaria ha enfrentado los reveses del comercio internacional y el manejo de los excedentes como mercancía y/o ayuda.

Los objetivos de ayuda alimentaria en 1982/83 permanecieron por abajo de lo establecido, por lo que se sugirió que la Comisión elevara tal objetivo de 10 a 20 millones de toneladas. Se exhortó a los países donadores a responder a las necesidades de ayuda de los países en desarrollo y a incrementar sustancialmente los fondos de asistencia para el desarrollo agrícola y alimentario. Se planteó la posibilidad de que por parte de varios países en desarrollo se incrementara la ayuda no sólo en especie sino en dinero, y también se expresó por otros países la necesidad de una mayor ayuda.

Se puntualizó que por lo menos en algunos casos, los esfuerzos adicionales de ayuda rebasaban de manera importante los incrementos de gastos militares, aunque se mencionen que los gastos militares eran exorbitantes comparados con los de asistencia y ayuda. Se declaró que la ayuda alimentaria no debía ser utilizada para fines políticos, y se condenó el uso de alimentos como instrumento de presión política.

Se expresó preocupación por el creciente problema de los refugiados en el mundo que, como sabemos, llega ya a 10 millones de personas, la mitad de las cuales se encuentran en África y que, por lo general, todas ellas absorben una buena proporción de la ayuda alimentaria total de emergencia.

Se insistió en reforzar el FIDA para que no se colapse y mejorar y reaprovisionar la RAIE que tiene un papel humanitario. El reaprovisionamiento de las reservas deberían incrementarse sustancialmente.

Hubo consenso sobre el imperativo de reforzamiento de la ayuda alimentaria, comercial y financiera al continente africano, en particular Sub-Sahariana.

Se puso énfasis en dar seguimiento al Plan de Acción de Lagos y se habló de tratar el problema integralmente, con especial atención en el desarrollo rural y en el progreso tecnológico, en el control fito y zoonosológico y en la lucha contra la erosión, pues la inseguridad alimentaria en ese continente no se ha reducido.

Los programas de rehabilitación, muchas políticas tomadas y esfuerzos diversos no han tenido el éxito deseado en ese continente, por lo que se destacó de manera muy enfática incrementar la cooperación internacional y política de desarrollo, que comprenda desde la producción, empleo, ingresos y tecnología, hasta los problemas de balanza de pagos, financiamiento, moneda, ecológicos, geopolíticos y aun los militares.

Se habló asimismo de reforzar los esfuerzos de la FAO para ampliar y profundizar en el conocimiento de la situación agrícola alimentaria mundial, y en particular de África.

Se exhortó también en favor de la asistencia al diseño de políticas relativas a la superación de la problemática de la inseguridad alimentaria.

Si no hay ninguna observación por parte de ninguna Delegación, esta Presidencia levanta la Tercera Sesión de la Comisión I, y les ruega a todos que estemos aquí puntualmente a las 14.30 horas para iniciar los debates relativos al Subtema 6.2 de nuestra Agenda.

The meeting rose at 12.30 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 83/I/PV/4

Twenty-second Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt-deuxième session
COMMISSION I

22° período de sesiones
COMISION I

FOURTH MEETING
QUATRIEME SEANCE
CUARTA REUNION

(10 November 1983)

The Fourth Meeting was opened at 15.05 hours

Jose Ramon López-Portillo, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La quatrième séance est ouverte à 15 h 05, sous la présidence de Jose Ramon López-Portillo, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la cuarta reunion a las 15.05 horas, bajo la presidencia de Jose Ramon Lopez-Portillo, Presidente de la Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE
(suite)
I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLÍTICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION
(continuación)
6. World Food and Agriculture Situation: (continued)
6. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture: (suite)
6. Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo: (continuación)
- 6.2 Progress in Implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen World Food Security
- Re-appraisal of Concepts and Approaches
6.2 Etat d'avancement du Plan d'action visant à renforcer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale
- Réexamen des concepts et des approches
6.2 Progresos realizados en la ejecución del Plan de Acción para reforzar la seguridad alimentaria
- mundial - Reconsideración de conceptos y planteamientos

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores, esta presidencia ve que hay suficientes delegaciones, por lo cual damos comienzo a nuestra cuarta sesión de trabajo. En esta ocasión trataremos, el punto 6.2 de la Agenda, relativo a los progresos realizados en la ejecución del Plan de Acción para Reforzar la Seguridad Alimentaria: reconsideración de conceptos y medidas.

Los documentos que sirven de base para los trabajos para este subtema son el C 83/20, el C 83/20 Corr.1 y Corr.2, cuya versión existe actualmente en inglés.

Este es un importante tema de la Agenda de esta Comisión y quisiera ahora invitar al Dr. Nurul Islam, Subdirector General del Departamento de Política Económica y Social, para que presente el subtema.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social policy Department): World food security has been a major concern of FAO since its inception. Since the world food crisis of the early seventies and the World Food Conference of 1974, it has caught and held very wide attention, and has given rise to a large number of attempts - by governments, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organisations as well as individuals - to remove some of the existing insecurity in this vital area.

Some progress has been made, especially in following up the Plan of Action adopted in 1979. But as document C 83/20 points out, progress has been slow, remaining limited to certain areas, and only some aspects of the problem. It is therefore hardly surprising that with the passing of time, there has been a growing sense of frustration, if not despair, surfacing not only in the Committee on World Food Security but also in many other fora, on the part of all those who are attempting to contribute to a lasting solution to this vital problem.

It was against this unsatisfactory background that the Director-General proposed that the Committee on World Food Security should reappraise the whole concept of world food security and consider new approaches relevant to the 1980s. Accordingly earlier this year, the Director-General's report on a reappraisal of concepts and approaches was placed before the Eighth Session of the Committee, whose report was then considered by the FAO Council.

Let me say that the Director-General is greatly encouraged by the consensus which has already emerged, in the first round of the discussions, regarding a broadened concept of world food security, and on some of the areas on which action is required. As delegates know, the new approach adopted by the Committee on World Food Security focuses on three main components: the adequacy of food supplies and production; maximising stability in the flow of food supplies; and the security of access to supplies. This broader concept was endorsed by the FAO Council, and it has also been strongly supported by the World Food Council and the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations which called for the widest possible implementation of the new concept by the international community and appropriate bodies of the United Nations System.

We sincerely hope that at the next stage, it will be possible to reach a consensus on the introduction, over a period of time, of certain improvements in the existing food security arrangements to achieve these three aims, and to agree on a series of practical steps which could be taken in the near future. The Director-General has not yet finalised the proposals which he will submit to the Committee on Food Security in 1984, as he intends to take full account of the views of the Conference, as well as of the Committee on Food Security and the Council. I would, however, like to mention some general points to be borne in mind when considering future action.

First, it is universally accepted that action at the national level is the basis for improved food security, particularly in the low-income food-deficit countries. Ways must be urgently found to step up the growth in their food production, to increase their food supply stability, and to improve access to food by the large numbers of malnourished. An integrated approach to these various forms of action can be achieved through the formulation of national food security programmes, systems or strategies. As a means of reinforcing FAO support for national efforts, the Director-General is now considering the feasibility and modalities of a food security action programme within FAO, along the lines sketched out in his first report.

Secondly, it is clear that there is increasing scope for, and interest in, action at the regional level as a support to national efforts. The diversification and expansion of intraregional trade, collaboration in the production and distribution of inputs, the sharing of research facilities, joint water management, and cooperation in training, extension, and early warning systems, are a few of the fields in which regional and sub-regional action might strengthen food security, either directly or indirectly. The support being given by FAO to such regional efforts has been commended by the Council, and this support will continue to be given.

Regional action is all the more important as it may be able to make up, at least in part, for delayed action at the global level. Global measures will, of course, continue to be of crucial importance for lasting food security, but it is only realistic to recognise that they will take time to mature before they can become operational. The Director-General's report contains a number of wide-ranging proposals, but it is clear from discussions in the Committee on Food Security and the FAO Council that a lot of further work will be necessary before a consensus can emerge. It is, therefore, important that consultations should be continued in order to identify points of agreement and to initiate action on the critical issues. In the Director-General's view, part of these efforts should be directed towards improving existing arrangements to ensure that the poorest and most vulnerable countries have access to the food supplies they need when circumstances are adverse. The present critical food supply situation in many African countries gives yet another illustration that the international community is still far from having reached even this very modest goal.

The need for trade liberalisation, the importance of increasing the flow of development assistance and food aid, replenishing the resources of the multilateral development institutions, maintaining and improving the International Emergency Food Reserve - these are all measures which remain central to the achievement of an effective world food security system.

The Director-General's first report to the Committee on World Food Security stressed the need to draw on the knowledge and ideas to be found among non-United Nations Organizations and institutions as well as individual researchers involved in the study of world food security. We have accordingly made plans to hold such a symposium in 1984 on "new directions in thinking on world, regional and national food security issues".

Finally, as regards institutional implications, the Director-General welcomes the widespread support in both the Committee on Food Security and the Council for a strengthening of the Committee on World Food Security within its existing terms of reference. The Council has urged "all international agencies and institutions dealing with food issues to cooperate closely and coordinate their efforts.... keeping in mind the revised and broader concept as adopted by the Committee on Food Security."

In conclusion I would like to re-emphasize the prime importance attached to food security as a major issue - if not the major issue - facing governments during the remainder of the eighties and beyond. There are no easy formulae for strengthening world food security. Nonetheless, it should be possible to move a few steps closer to the, as yet, distant goal of food security on which world social and political stability so vitally depend. This can be done by continuing the process of designing a more effective system in new directions, while progressively improving the arrangements which are already in place. The Director-General trusts that the Conference will react to his proposals in this spirit.

EL PRESIDENTE: En nombre de toda la Comisión agradezco al Dr. Islam su ordenada y clara presentación y destaco la importancia de estos temas y la necesidad de precisar o corroborar la dirección de las estrategias de seguridad alimentaria y, por tanto, de los trabajos de la FAO en esta materia para los próximos años.

En particular, se pone a su consideración el concepto revisado de seguridad alimentaria mundial, que deberá merecer toda nuestra atención.

Otra cuestión está referida a las estrategias a nivel nacional, regional y mundial para alcanzar los objetivos de seguridad alimentaria que, como bien indica el Dr. Islam, quizá sea el objetivo más importante que tienen que afrontar no sólo los gobiernos sino también la humanidad.

Otro asunto es la discusión del importante papel que la FAO juega para examinar y proponer ideas a nivel técnico relativas a la consecución de la seguridad alimentaria a los tres niveles señalados, y la adecuada cooperación entre organizaciones internacionales y regionales, así como las posibilidades y modalidades de un programa de acción de seguridad alimentaria dentro de la FAO y de un mayor apoyo a la RAIE, y principalmente el fortalecimiento del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria.

Finalmente, llamo su atención sobre la conveniencia de continuar estudios especiales por parte de la FAO sobre los problemas de largo plazo y la crisis actual de los países africanos, y sobre la importancia de reforzar asimismo los mecanismos de coordinación regional para la seguridad alimentaria y el respectivo apoyo de FAO.

Destacó finalmente el interés que pudiera tener esta Comisión en el fortalecimiento del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria.

Ahora deseo informar a los Sres. Delegados que la moción presentada por Venezuela, y que mereció el apoyo de catorce países, relativa a una resolución sobre el concepto de seguridad alimentaria mundial, será estudiada en el Comité de Resoluciones hoy por la noche y eventualmente se pasará a esta Comisión mañana por la tarde para su estudio.

Tienen solicitado el uso de la palabra Francia, India, Argelia, Yugoslavia y China.

Comenzaremos, pues, con la Delegación de Francia. Francia tiene la palabra.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): Monsieur le Président, en l'absence momentanée du représentant de la Grèce qui a d'ailleurs pris la parole en tant qu'Etat assumant actuellement la présidence de la communauté européenne, c'est à l'Etat suivant de prendre la parole pour une question d'ordre communautaire. Aussi, c'est à ce titre, M. le Président, si vous êtes d'accord et si nos collègues sont d'accord, que je vous demanderai de donner la parole en priorité à M. l'Observateur de la CEE qui exprimera au nom des Etats membres le point de vue de la communauté sur cet important problème. Merci M. le Président!

G. DESESQUELLES (CEE) La situation alimentaire demeure critique dans de nombreux pays en développement. La malnutrition dont souffrent de larges couches de population est un des problèmes majeurs auxquels doit faire face le monde actuel. Malgré des efforts souvent considérables entrepris au plan national comme au plan international, et qui ont permis de réaliser des progrès en ce qui concerne l'alimentation dans certaines régions du monde, la situation d'un grand nombre de pays en développement s'est aggravée, au détriment bien souvent des populations les plus défavorisées.

Compte tenu de la croissance démographique, du manque de progrès réalisés dans le domaine du développement socio-économique en général et du développement rural en particulier, alors que les besoins alimentaires croissent, la production vivrière par tête, la production agricole par tête et la croissance du PNB par tête ont régressé dans ces pays au cours des années 1970 à 1980.

Etant donné ces résultats économiques insuffisants, la communauté et ses Etats membres ont été amenés à réaffirmer les politiques de développement qu'ils ont mises en oeuvre pendant les deux dernières décennies et à adopter certaines mesures nouvelles dont nous espérons qu'elles permettront de contribuer plus efficacement à l'amélioration de la situation alimentaire des pays en développement, et en particulier des plus démunis d'entre eux.

La CEE est d'avis que la lutte contre la faim doit être menée concrètement par la lutte contre la pauvreté. Ayant accumulé une grande expérience dans le domaine du développement rural basé sur l'évolution de notre propre agriculture et sur 25 ans de coopération intensive avec les pays en développement, le principe essentiel qui nous guide est l'importance du développement de la petite paysannerie et des couches rurales pauvres. La communauté a élaboré un plan de lutte contre la faim dans le monde, fondé: sur des actions d'urgence destinées à parer au plus pressé en mettant en oeuvre une aide alimentaire immédiate; sur des actions dites "thématiques" visant à sauvegarder le patrimoine naturel des pays en développement; mais fondé principalement sur l'appréciation que la faim ne sera pas résolue à coup d'expédients temporaires mais par une logique de développement coordonnée et maîtrisée. Permettre la capacité de produire, développer la création de techniques adaptées aux besoins, former des hommes capables de gérer et d'orienter la production, tels sont les fondements de la mise en oeuvre des stratégies alimentaires.

C'est dans ce sens que la CEE a offert à quatre pays africains son appui et celui de ses Etats membres pour la mise en oeuvre des stratégies alimentaires. A une réunion récente, le Conseil des ministres de la CEE a réaffirmé les principes à la base de son initiative et souligné en particulier le rôle clé à jouer par le dialogue politique avec les pays en développement sur la base de sa politique souveraine.

Dans l'esprit de la CEE il est essentiel que l'approche soit stimulée et dirigée par le pays concerné et que d'autres donateurs soient encouragés pour participer à cette initiative.

Les pays concernés doivent mettre au point leur propre stratégie après un diagnostic sans complaisance qui aura établi les contraintes existantes et leurs conséquences. Les programmes adoptés en corrélation avec la CEE permettront ainsi de considérer la coopération comme une association de véritables partenaires plutôt qu'une relation "assistants-assistés".

Véritables partenaires, cela veut dire que le copilotage des stratégies alimentaires rendra responsables la CEE et les pays concernés de la réussite d'une action entreprise en commun.

L'objectif est d'accroître la productivité des sols et de diversifier les productions; la stratégie est d'organiser l'agriculture pour qu'elle puisse répondre aux besoins des populations d'une part, mais qu'elle permette un dépassement de l'autosubsistance d'autre part.

Il faut inciter le paysan à produire mais aussi lui donner les moyens et les raisons de produire plus en l'assurant qu'il pourra vendre sa production. Mais cette incitation ne suffira pas. Des mesures complémentaires devront être prises pour soutenir et accompagner la dynamique ainsi créée. Il faut permettre aux agriculteurs de vendre leurs excédents pour acheter de quoi améliorer leur système productif, de quoi améliorer la commercialisation, le transport, l'équipement des villages et l'installation des commerces.

Comme le Conseil de la FAO l'a reconnu à plusieurs reprises, la faim et la malnutrition peuvent être éliminées dans la plupart des pays par un accroissement des productions alimentaires. Il n'empêche qu'un certain nombre de pays en développement ne peuvent porter leur approvisionnement en denrées alimentaires au niveau convenable qu'en recourant à l'importation. Pour leur sécurité alimentaire, les pays en cause sont donc tributaires de leurs recettes d'exportation.

La communauté européenne applique d'ores et déjà pour sa part divers arrangements et accords prévoyant un traitement préférentiel des importations en provenance des pays en voie de développement. En vertu de ces différents accords et arrangements, et en particulier de la Convention de Lomé, la grande majorité des importations en provenance de ces pays les moins développés - dont les populations souffrent de la faim ou de la malnutrition - entrent dans la communauté sans acquitter de droits.

Les effets de ce traitement préférentiel apparaissent clairement dans une étude récemment publiée par l'OCDE sous le titre "Echanges agricoles avec les pays en développement". Cette étude montre notamment que si l'on considère l'ensemble des pays industrialisés, c'est la CEE qui importe, par tête d'habitant, le plus de produits agricoles en provenance de pays en développement.

La CEE a poursuivi ses efforts tendant à améliorer les conditions d'accès à son marché, en ce qui concerne les importations en provenance des pays les moins développés. Toutefois, la plupart des produits exportés de ces pays entrant déjà dans la communauté en exemption de droits, les possibilités d'amélioration sont restreintes.

La CEE estime qu'il existe une marge de manoeuvre plus étendue pour accroître les exportations des pays les moins développés vers les autres pays industrialisés, en particulier les pays à commerce d'Etat et les pays récemment industrialisés, mais aussi vers d'autres pays en développement.

Outre les améliorations concernant les conditions d'accès aux marchés d'exportation, la communauté internationale peut contribuer à la sécurité alimentaire des pays en développement grâce à des solutions permettant de stabiliser les flux commerciaux internationaux et les prix du marché mondial pour les produits dont dépendent les recettes d'exportation de ces pays.

A cet égard, la Communauté a noté avec satisfaction que, lors de la VI^e CNUCED, il a été adopté par consensus une résolution invitant les gouvernements concernés à discuter, dans le cadre du Conseil international du blé, dès sa prochaine session, de la reprise, aussitôt que possible de la Conférence des Nations Unies pour la négociation d'un nouvel arrangement international destiné à remplacer celui de 1971, nouvel accord qui contribuerait au fonctionnement efficace du marché international du blé en tenant compte des intérêts des PVD.

La CEE pourrait prendre également acte avec satisfaction des progrès réalisés au cours des récentes négociations relatives à un nouvel accord international sur le sucre. Etant donné la grande importance que revêt ce produit pour les recettes d'exportation de certains des pays en développement, nous pensons qu'un nouvel accord pourrait grandement contribuer à améliorer la sécurité alimentaire des pays en cause.

Je voudrais également évoquer le problème de la stabilisation des recettes d'exportation. Comme vous le savez, la Communauté est très favorable au système de stabilisation des recettes d'exportation, elle l'applique depuis maintenant 9 ans à l'intention des pays de la Convention de Lomé. Ce STABEX sert d'exemple et de référence pour toute progression dans ce domaine. C'est pourquoi la Communauté abordera ce problème avec une attitude ouverte et constructive, notamment dans le cadre de la négociation de Lomé III actuellement en cours.

En ce qui concerne plus particulièrement les mesures envisagées contenues dans le document C 83/20, la Communauté Economique Européenne et ses Etats membres rappellent qu'ils peuvent marquer leur accord sur le concept élargi de la sécurité alimentaire, que toutefois les propositions, notamment en ce qui concerne les mesures à l'échelon mondial et les questions de caractère institutionnel sont de nature préliminaire et qu'elles devraient être analysées de manière approfondie ultérieurement.

Voilà, Monsieur le Président, les observations que la Communauté et ses Etats membres désireraient faire connaître, tout en rappelant l'importance qu'elle attache au développement de politiques internationales visant à accroître la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

R. C. GUPTA (India) : We would like to compliment the Secretariat for the very useful and clearly worded document entitled "Progress in Implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen World Food Security - Re-appraisal of Concepts and Approaches".

We are also happy to listen to a very concise and convincing presentation by Professor Islam.

I would also like to thank the EEC for a very clear presentation of the initiatives that the Community has taken in furthering agricultural production and self-reliance in developing countries and some of the least developed countries.

The FAO has been grappling with this problem for a number of years now. In 1974, the Organization presented an International Undertaking on Food Security with the hope that a New International Grains Agreement was round the corner. But when it did not materialize for half a decade, a five-point Plan of Action was presented. Unfortunately for us, as the efforts to find a solution to the problem of world hunger and malnutrition, continued the problem has assumed still larger proportions, and with the passage of every day, every month and every year, we have more and more hungry, malnourished and destitute people amongst us.

The revised concept presented by the Director-General is a new ray of hope. It contains certain, innovative ideas. I would like to refer to it as a more comprehensive concept and approach, because as our understanding of the problem increases, we realize that various issues are interrelated, that food security is an all-encompassing concept, and the new concept presented by the Organization and the Director-General really reflects the depth of understanding, vision and concern of the Organization for solving this long-term problem.

As Professor Islam just now referred to, the three salient features of the objectives of the new approach, that is adequacy of food supplies and production, stability in food supplies and markets and security of access to supplies. We find the concept of security of access to be perhaps the most important aspect in the sense that though there may be abundance of food supplies in certain areas in certain countries and the world at large as we have now, but on account of lack of immediate access, we have had famines and hunger, and we have to ensure that the poorest country, the poorest community and the poorest man is provided with security of access.

I am reminded of what was stated by the great saint and political philosopher of our time' Mahatma Gandhi. He said that in all our actions we have to ensure the interest of the last man in the queue, the poorest of the poor, and if what we do benefits that last man, we should have satisfaction that we have done something positive.

All our planning and progress must start from below, and it is only then that we will reach others. The theory of the trickle-down effect is a myth which has been exploded, and we have to start planning from below. We find it particularly attractive that the new concept and approach include all factors that have bearing on capacity of both country and people to produce and purchase food.

This would include agriculture and rural development, food production particularly in the low-income food-deficit countries, purchasing power of the poorest strata of the population, food reserves, functioning of national and international food markets, foreign exchange needs of importing countries, trade liberalization, financial resources and technical assistance, flow of funds and arrangements to meet emergency needs, and lastly but importantly, the avoidance of diffusion of responsibilities among the various fora, various organizations dealing with this subject. The new approach, to our mind, appropriately lays emphasis on national, regional and global action for this purpose. Of particular interest we find the emphasis on trade flows and policy of liberalization. We feel that the solution to the problem of world food security lies not so much in aid as in trade, and it is only through liberalization of trade that we will be furthering the cause of world food security.

While action at national level is by far the most important, the countries have to follow policies which give incentive to producers and thereby encourage larger production, and particularly in our context, the emphasis on the small and marginal farmer, because in most of the Asian countries, we have reached the agricultural frontiers, there is no capacity or possibility of extending areas under agriculture and if it is done, it will be at the cost of degradation of the ecology which is already fragile in these areas, so what we need to do is to increase the productivity of the existing agricultural areas and particularly of the smallholders, because there lies the maximum potential. For increasing production at the regional level, we agree to the need for harmonization of policies of countries within the same region, taking full advantage of the complementarities and exchange of information, solving transport bottlenecks and so on.

We are particularly disturbed by a comment made last evening in Commission II by one of the member countries trying to minimize the importance of Regional Offices of the FAO. We feel that these Regional Offices play a very crucial and important part in harmonizing the policies of the countries, in bringing them closer and furthering the cause of World Food Security, and we feel that these offices are important for us, for developing countries, and they should be strengthened, more and more, functions should be decentralized, they should be given more powers, more initiative and that is how they can serve the needs of these countries.

In the context of global action, the concept or approach refers to financing, technical assistance, food aid and emergency assistance. We find it particularly disheartening, as I submitted yesterday, also, that the quantum of food available through food aid convention and through IEFR is grossly inadequate considering world hunger at the moment, and there is urgent need to enhance the floors set down in 1974, because the need has increased. We have to cope, we have to keep pace with the changing times. Yesterday I have already referred to the problems of replenishment of IDA and second replenishment of IFAD, which is a fairly difficult picture in the field of international financing and I do not propose to repeat them. We feel that the new approach is tentative still in certain fields because certain very complex issues posed in this approach like World Food Security Fund, World Food Security Compact, etc. need detailed examination, detailed consultation, refinement and coming to a practicable proposition in all these areas. To conclude, we support the revised or comprehensive concept, and we feel that if implemented, these approaches would further the aims of the International Development Strategy and will help in heralding a New International Economic Order.

We agree heartily that World Food Security is a necessary condition of peace.

H. BENATTALLAH (Algérie): Nous nous sommes abstenus de prendre la parole sur le document "Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture" parce qu'il était difficile de ne pas souscrire à une évaluation qui porte au-delà d'une échéance conjoncturelle, mais aussi, et surtout, parce que cette évaluation constitue le soubassement de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale abordée par le document qui nous occupe à présent.

Ce n'est pas une évaluation de conjoncture dans la mesure où les préoccupations de moyen et long termes figurant du paragraphe 10 au paragraphe 13 renvoient la problématique du développement dans ces complexes interactions nationales et internationales et au difficile dosage des options politiques.

La problématique du développement renvoie à son tour aux problèmes de structures dans toutes leurs composantes. Et c'est de cela qu'il s'agit en réalité. Depuis la vingtième session de 1979, hormis des variations de certains indicateurs de niveau des prix, des niveaux de production ou des stocks, il n'y a pas eu d'éléments nouveaux ou décisifs concourant au renversement des tendances, c'est-à-dire une avancée réelle des transformations ou au moins à un allègement des facteurs bloquant le développement.

En fait, le contexte mondial, qu'il soit en phase de croissance ou de récession n'empêche pas l'aggravation de ces tendances. En 1979, comme en 1981, (je me réfère aux conférences bien entendu) on a admis que l'amélioration des récoltes, même dans les pays en voie de développement, conjurait dans l'immédiat le risque d'une nouvelle crise alimentaire mondiale. Cette année aussi, on mesure l'amélioration relative par référence à une situation de crise immédiate.

De même, le recul de l'aide alimentaire de l'assistance extérieure au secteur agricole par rapport aux besoins estimés, la réduction de la part des pays en développement dans les recettes mondiales des exportations agricoles, la dépendance accrue des approvisionnements alimentaires extérieurs, le remplacement ou la substitution des aliments de base traditionnels par des céréales importées, la forte concentration des stocks, dans le noyau réduit des grands pays producteurs, les politiques protectionnistes de certains pays développés, les graves hypothèques pesant sur la conclusion d'un nouvel arrangement international sur les céréales, la stagnation des niveaux de production des pêches, la répartition des terres, les tendances démographiques, la Réserve d'urgence, tous ces éléments en se détériorant signifient bien qu'il y a en dernier ressort un problème de structures non résolu et qui rejoint à son tour la problématique d'un nouvel ordre économique international.

En 1979 on a relevé l'insuffisance des mesures prises depuis 1974 pour appliquer l'engagement international sur la sécurité alimentaire et la Conférence a approuvé le Plan d'action en 5 points du Directeur général pour contribuer à combler les lacunes en attendant la conclusion d'un nouvel accord sur les céréales. Mais c'est un programme intérimaire.

En 1981 on a admis la nécessité d'un réexamen des stratégies, plans et programmes de production alimentaire, ainsi que les politiques économiques et démographiques. Ce réexamen est effectivement une exigence. Mais il véhicule néanmoins des risques potentiels de déviation étant donné le rôle prépondérant que des pays donateurs entendent jouer dans la formulation des stratégies alimentaires nationales, introduisant ainsi un mécanisme supplémentaire de conditionnement des réformes économiques et sociales par le biais de l'aide alimentaire.

Cette année, un diagnostic sensiblement en accord avec celui des deux dernières conférences, débouche sur une approche davantage globalisante et dont les prémisses se retrouvent au point 10 de la Résolution 3/79 de la vingtième session de la Conférence.

Il importe peu de s'attarder à s'interroger sur le caractère innovateur des composants de la motion révisée de sécurité alimentaire, ni de rechercher, comme cela était souvent le cas, l'ancêtre ou le promoteur originel de concept.

Il est probable qu'une action de cette dimension peut développer une dynamique propre, qui aura ses limites bien sûr, mais s'intégrera dans l'effort global de restructuration des relations Nord-Sud.

Il ne s'agit pas, et nous l'entendons ainsi, d'une réponse unique et standardisée face à des phénomènes complexes qui se différencient selon les latitudes.

Cette diversité nous rappelle par exemple, le rôle inégal des firmes multinationales sur les marchés des produits selon les continents. Que l'Amérique latine soit devenue depuis peu un importateur net de produits vivriers n'est certainement pas sans lien avec le taux de pénétration des multinationales dans ce continent. Au cours de la dernière session du Comité des produits, une délégation avait déclaré qu'il était vain de rechercher un accord pour la maîtrise des marchés si l'on éludait la volonté de ces mêmes forces de marchés. Celles-ci ne sont pas (et cela est bien connu) bien disposées vis-à-vis des objectifs de stabilisation du flux d'approvisionnement et de l'accès aux approvisionnements alimentaires. Nous estimons, dès lors, nécessaire, d'intégrer le rôle de ces multinationales dans l'affinement de l'approche du concept de sécurité alimentaire mondiale prévue pour l'année prochaine.

Enfin, pour terminer, et en ce qui concerne les mesures institutionnelles et le rôle du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire, la délégation algérienne a déjà fait connaître son sentiment qui n'a pas changé depuis la huitième session du CSA.

M. ZJALIĆ (Yugoslavia): First of all I would like to commend the Secretariat for their preparation of this excellent document and Professor Islam for his brief but comprehensive introduction.

My delegation considers this Agenda item as one of the most important issues to be discussed and decided upon at this Conference. Food security has been the focus of attention of our member governments for many years, also of many international fora and of this Organization itself. We have not much reason for satisfaction with the achievements made in strengthening world food security, although a number of actions have been taken since the World Food Conference. The plan of action endorsed by the Twentieth Conference of FAO has offered broad possibilities for national and international undertakings. Results in its implementation, particularly those of special interests for the position and food situation in the low-income food-deficit countries, such as flow of resources for food security programmes, flow of resources for development, level of food aid, stability of, and access to, markets in large-scale periods of food shortages, are limited and generally unsatisfactory. We see a particular problem in the fact that there is still no mechanism for ensuring the stability of cereal markets as one of the most important markets in the food sector, nor for guaranteeing the access of low-income food-deficit countries to needed supplies.

The FAO Council at its June Session this year, endorsed the report of the Director-General of FAO on World Food Security. The Ministerial Meeting of the World Food Council endorsed the new and integrated concept, and ECOSOC at its second regular session this year, called for the widest possible implementation of its broader concept of world food security by the international community and by appropriate bodies in the UN system.

Basic characteristics of this concept are contained in the Conference document C 83/20 and were very ably introduced by Professor Islam, so I need not go into details but only emphasize its comprehensiveness and recall three main points.

This concept is aimed at ensuring production of adequate food supplies, maximizing stability in the flow of food supplies, and security of access to supplies at national and individual levels.

My delegation endorses this concept and calls for its partly gradual or partly immediate implementation, depending on the characteristics of measures and general consensus upon some proposals which have been achieved.

For this reason we think that governments should take special measures at national, regional and international levels in order to achieve these three main goals.

Taking into account the previous food security situation in many countries, indebtedness and monetary situation, decrease in export terms of developing countries, it is necessary to provide assistance to developing countries not only in designing but also in executing their national food security programme as a base for a global food security and including increase in resource flow and adequate level of food aid as estimated by the Committee on Food Aid.

Another important point is liberalization of trade, especially in products of export interest of developing countries, which is one of the foundations of food security. We consider that this Conference should urge all relevant fora to adopt and implement appropriate measures aimed at effective liberalization of trade, particularly in products of export interest of developing countries. These groups of actions can be undertaken immediately.

As for regional action, we think it is encouraging to note increased regional cooperation in food security, but it should not necessarily be limited to regional food reserves. In accordance with past experience, and in accordance with the revised concept of food security, it should encompass cooperation in food production, mutual trade, rural development, and so on.

Finally, Mr Chairman, as for further action, my delegation considers that it is necessary to continue with the activities by FAO and other international fora, not only in defining and in an attempt to find consensus on some still open questions, like institutional arrangements, which in our opinion are of less importance than substantial measures contained in their concept, a consensus on which can be achieved rather easily in the near future, but also in implementing essential parts of the new concept. We should like to invite the Director-General to continue with his efforts and also to introduce necessary changes in the programmes and activities of FAO so as to support national efforts and to promote international cooperation in food security and implementation of the new concept.

ZENG XIANRONG (China) (original language Chinese): We feel it is desirable to consider the problem of world food security while we discuss the food and agricultural situation. Last year the cereal output decreased in some of the developing countries. It is estimated that this year again the world cereal production will be lower than that of last year. Faced with this reality, our deliberations of world food security here today bear immense realistic significance. May I now offer a few comments on this subject:

Firstly, the FAO has summed up the progress and problems of world food security in the last ten years and analysed the causes and consequences of inadequate food supplies in many countries. A host of facts show that we at times find the situation of world food security worsened and at times ameliorated. Its instability is directly linked with the situation of harvests, for production provides material basis for food supplies. Without such a condition there can be no guarantee for world food security. At the same time, we think that the question of food distribution and trade is also very important. If this question cannot be properly solved, certain regions will suffer food shortages even if more food is produced. As it happens today, some countries possess large quantities of surplus grain while hundreds of millions of impoverished people in many other countries are starving. This has further proved that in seeking a solution of the food problem, there must be a considerably strong economic foundation. The same is true in every country, which should guarantee adequate food supply for all consumers and above all provide them with material access to buy the food they need. We have noted with interest that the new concept of world food security initiated by the Director-General last year not only attaches importance to material factors, but also puts emphasis on the economic aspect. We consider that this is a more comprehensive concept with definite objectives. We would like to reaffirm our appreciation for it.

Secondly, we find that proceeding from this new concept, document C 83/20 further points out that world food security must be achieved by the following three aspects: acceleration of production, stability of supply and guarantee of the people's access to food. The document has put forth an integrated strategy including measures for food production, trade, reserve, aid and rural development. This is a well meditated approach and coincides with the practice of some countries. However, as is referred to in paragraph 29 of the document, in order to realize the above-mentioned three strategic objectives, there needs to be "long-term economic and social development", which calls for hard work in the years ahead. Taking into consideration the urgent needs and existing conditions of many developing countries, we think that in order to reach these objectives, we should grasp the key link, proceed in the order of priorities and follow a step-by-step approach.

Thirdly, document C 83/20 also highlights measures to be adopted at the national, regional and global levels for the ultimate realization of world food security. As the details of these measures involve the terms of reference of many sectors, we feel that they need to be further studied. Nevertheless, we believe that considering the existing circumstances at the present, action at the national level is the crucial link. Therefore, regional and global actions should be geared to promote national actions and assist from all sides to realize the goals set at the national level. At the same time, relevant regional and global actions should also be gradually carried out in accordance with the principle of "equality, mutual benefit and voluntary participation".

Fourthly, the issue of world food security has already attracted the attention of the international community. Some international agencies concerned have offered constructive suggestions. This is a welcoming sign. Paragraph 62 of the document has quoted a conclusion contained in the report of the last session of the Council in this regard. We agree with it and hope that all relevant international organizations will strengthen their cooperation and conduct full consultation and strive in a common effort for the gradual realization of the ultimate goal of world food security.

A.H.M. ABDUL HYE (Bangladesh): First of all, I would like to congratulate the staff who have worked on the preparation of Conference document C 83/20. I would also like to congratulate Professor Nurul Islam on his brief but very lucid presentation of the paper.

The decline in food production of 3.6 percent in both Africa and the Near East, the 1.9 percent decline in the less developed countries since 1980, and the current grave food situation prevailing in sub-Saharan Africa bring into sharp focus the urgent need to make substantial progress in world food security. The inability of many of the low-income food countries to import food because of balance-of-payments difficulties heightens the seriousness of the problem and should engage member countries, particularly the developed food-surplus countries, in a search to find a satisfactory arrangement for world food security. This must be achieved on the grounds of humanity, in the interests of world peace and the stable growth of world economy.

It is in this context that the Bangladesh delegation supports the wise concept and new approaches under which the object of the world food security situation has been underlined- to ensure that all people at all times have both physical and economic access to the basic food they need.

Three lines of action have been envisaged under this new approach: a) increasing production;

b) ensuring stability of supplies, and c) ensuring access to available supplies, both by countries seeking to procure their requirements on the international market and by people within a country seeking to buy the food they need. We consider these elements as constituting a comprehensive approach to world food security. The new approach calls for the taking of specific measures both at national and international level, in a concerted manner. In assigning distinct roles for every member country and international organization, the new concepts and approaches offer the hope that after years of frustration active steps towards lasting progress can at last be taken.

In Bangladesh the concept of food security has been carefully evolved into the following characteristics: a) ensuring adequate domestic supplies of food grains; b) market stability and c) accessibility of food supplies for those who need the food, and d) maintaining optimum conditions for food security. A short-term aim was food aid held in nationally held food stock reserves, but during a previous period this was done by quick mobilization of external resources procurement by way of commercial purchases, utilization of the International Monetary Fund facility for compensatory financing and liberal response to food aid by bilateral and multilateral donors and availability of bilateral commodity loans. of no less importance in this regard is the ability of the government to deliver available food speedily to crisis locations.

Hence, removal of constraints like insufficient infrastructures in terms of port handling, up-country transportation, warehousing, and distribution facilities are considered essential and have been given top priority by the Government. Like many other developing countries frequented by periodic food shortages, Bangladesh has given priority to food security infrastructure development by way of expanding warehousing facilities, modernizing storage, transportation and handling facilities, identification, implementation of consumer price policies, with possible welfare elements, and the setting up of distribution networks which can reach the most remote areas and groups.

Last but not least, necessary steps have been taken in Bangladesh to improve the information system and inventory control mechanism. With regard to the production component of world food security, global measures are needed to assist countries experiencing serious difficulties in the development of their food sector, notably the low-income food-deficit countries. To accelerate production several forms of action are possible. One such action has been taken in Mali where funds generated by the sale of food aid have been used to subsidize the procurement and distribution of grain.

There can be several other forms of action. Price incentives can be given only when there is produce to sell. But there are numerous occasions when natural calamities destroy crops. The disposable income of farmers becomes precariously low and the only way to get out of the problem is for them to physically dispose of their farming assets. One action to save the farmers from depleting farm capital and to help production of the next crop is to go for an intermediate position between emergency relief and long-term development assistance.

The package might be as follows: generate counterpart funds by the sale of food aid in addition to that which has been used for food for work, vulnerable group feeding, and so on; use the funds for development activities like road maintenance, repair of small bridges and culverts, improving the market place and so on - this will have the advantage of providing immediate relief for the poorest of the poor and will provide basic minimum security as well as building the urgently required physical infrastructure.

My delegation suggests that World Food Programme be entrusted with developing a profile along the special lines that I have mentioned to help the world food crisis.

Action at regional level should continue in the form of support for national effort. Realizing their common interest, countries should be able to spread the risks and reduce the cost of food insecurity through regional arrangements.

The broadening of the concept of world food security should facilitate the broadening of the areas of regional action in respect of trade, production of inputs, sharing of research facilities, and so on. The measures required at a global level has been set out in the first part of the Conference document C 83/20. These measures, which also appear in the International Development Strategy of the United Nations, remain central to the world food security system and can be delayed only at the cost of human misery and instability in the functioning of the world economy.

I. MARINCEK (Switzerland): I would like to express my thanks to the Secretariat for the valuable picture it has presented of the state of food and agriculture in the world. It gives a critical but not a desperate picture. Poor production conditions in agriculture are poor working conditions in agriculture. My delegation has noted with satisfaction the growing recognition of the importance of production incentives, particularly those for small farmers, reflected in the many statements made by delegates from the developing countries. In this connection, my country welcomes the initiative of FAO in carrying out the analysis of the agricultural and price support policies of a number of developing countries. We know it is a complex task to introduce policies of stronger production incentives. External assistance can make an important contribution to this endeavour.

However, production incentives will often not be sufficient, if they are not supported by measures to facilitate the access to land and markets, and to improve the availability and supply of inputs, credits and training, measures which also take into consideration the local context. The longstanding experience and expertise of FAO in agricultural development will undoubtedly help to make a most valuable contribution to these efforts. Only if both production incentives and supportive measures are applied together will the farmers be able to develop their potential, a potential generally supposed to be substantially higher than today's actual output.

A.R. PIRES (Cap-Vert): Monsieur le Président nous serons très brefs. Nous tenons à remercier d'abord le secrétariat général pour la présentation claire et précise du document C 83/20. Nous ne voulons pas ici répéter ce que d'honorables délégués ont dit; nous tenons à dire que pour nous la sécurité alimentaire constitue la clé du problème et par conséquent nous ne pouvons pas féliciter et appuyer sans réserve le concept des approches révisées présenté par le Directeur général de la FAO.

Par ailleurs, nous croyons qu'une coopération régionale et sous-régionale s'impose pour résoudre dans le contexte régional le problème de la sécurité alimentaire. C'est pourquoi nous, les pays, peut-être avec la FAO, nous avons entamé dans ces régions l'étude de la question des zones de sécurité alimentaire dans lesquelles nous formons beaucoup d'espoir.

Certes les efforts nationaux, la volonté politique des Etats au niveau des pays s'imposent, mais il faudra que les pays qui ont des moyens aident les autres à concrétiser leur volonté politique. Je vous remercie Monsieur le Président.

H.A. AL-GHAMDI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): In the name of God the Merciful and Beneficent, thank you, Mr Chairman, and I would like to thank the Secretariat for the document on the progress in the implementation of the plan of action to strengthen world food security, the reappraisal of concepts and approaches and your aim from all this to realize the desired goal. I would like also to thank you for affording me the opportunity to speak before the Commission.

Fellow participants in this Conference have given enough recommendations and proposals which they deem appropriate for food security, and all these recommendations and proposals aim at combatting hunger. I do not have much to add, however, I would like to reiterate what has been mentioned and to take into consideration all the statements, because this would have beneficial effects on the amelioration of conditions in the poorest countries.

We have studied the relevant documents in this issue and I would like to commend those who prepared the documentation because it has been comprehensive and covers the situation at present and action for the future. The review has been supported by figures. What is a source of concern for us is the plight of developing countries, in particular the African developing countries, in view of the shortage of resources and potential. We have to take conditions in these countries into consideration because hunger and poverty have been the result of natural catastrophes which are beyond their control, such as drought and the like. We support the proposal of the Director-General in document C 83/20 which has included all the guidelines for production and for securing the constant stability of supplies, especially as a result of fluctuations in production and markets. Also there is mention of access to available supplies both by countries seeking to secure their requirements on the international markets and by people within a country.

The measures referred to by the Director-General and those relating to the national level are very important because work on the national level is of paramount importance for food security, especially for the low income food deficit countries.

On this occasion, like other participants here, I hope that all countries will enhance their resources for the development of agriculture, to provide for food security in order to reach self-sufficiency. I would like to refer in this regard to the fact that we in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are working for better development in the field of agriculture and its improvement and we are exerting maximum efforts in order to reach self-sufficiency in foodstuffs with support and incentives from the government to producers and farmers. This should be realized in the near future.

All that is undertaken in addition to our attention to forests because forests cover a big area in the Kingdom, over 1 million hectares spread over the valleys and hills, in addition to the artificial and man-made changes with a view to introducing new varieties which are suitable for the environment and are of economic value. We are also working to develop forests after they have been felled haphazardly. Attention shall be given to forest side by side with agriculture in order to be a future cornerstone for the development and prosperity of the kingdom and its economy.

This short glimpse should urge countries, especially the poorest countries, to try gradually to improve their agriculture, forests and fisheries, to stop the exodus of rural people and to provide them with enough incentives to develop their production.

B.H. KATANI (Tanzania): On behalf of my delegation, Mr Chairman, I would like to congratulate you on being elected Chairman of this Commission and I also congratulate the Vice-Chairmen.

I would also like to congratulate the FAO Secretariat who have made available excellent documents which have been very useful in highlighting the main issues. I am quite convinced that one area in which it is important to reverse the downward trend of food production is to have an agricultural policy that defines the directions for improved food production. The policy should clearly define the level of investment that is required to generate the impact that is often expected of the sector. Very often we speak of the agricultural sector being the main, most important sector both in GDP and as a foreign exchange earner but the percentage of financial resources is much less than what is actually allocated in document C 83/2-Sup.1, page 17.

The policy should also be to give incentives to producers through better prices. But high prices for their own sake will not bring the dramatic increased production if other related services like improved seeds and the adequate and timely delivery of fertilizer, proper storage and efficient transportation of output from the farmers are not made available.

The point I am emphasizing here is the need to provide the farmer with the complete package that he requires. Taking one component at a time without linking it with other components may not make the farmers increase production.

Sometimes the occurrence of infestation of pests has been a big check on increased production. In Tanzania recently there has been an outbreak of grain borer which has largely affected maize production. While in 1981 the pest was identified in four regions, in 1983 the pest^{has} spread

into 11 regions. The loss has ranged from 30 percent to 90 percent. According to experts it is likely that the grain borer has the potential to spread into other countries. Although our Government has taken steps to halt its spread, we have not succeeded, due to the poor foreign exchange which our country now faces.

FAO has made several attempts to get the donors to finance the foreign exchange, for which we are grateful, but unless we get financial assistance we shall fail to contain the spread, thus making food aid inevitable in the affected areas.

I would appeal to FAO to continue with its plans to help governments to prepare the national food strategy which was successfully prepared in Tanzania. The document has been of great assistance to the Government of Tanzania in spelling out in detail the necessary investment required to achieve our objective of self-reliance.

As a result of the national food strategy and the agricultural policy which were adopted in 1983, the percentage of development funds in the sector has been increased from 10 percent in the past to 24 percent in 1983. Other changes have been implemented to make farming more attractive.

Y. HAMDY (Egypt) (original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, my country has taken part in the Seventh Session of the Committee on World Food Security and at that time my delegation made various comments, it has also approved the report of that session upon its discussion in the Council.

If I may, I would like to make some comments on the document which has been presented to us. My delegation would like to express its satisfaction with the implementation of the plan of action to strengthen world food security and particularly the participation of 72 countries, 12 developed countries and 60 developing countries, for the establishment of cereal stocks. 98 countries have also established national policies for food security stocks and have also therefore been working in this area.

My delegation would also like to support the efforts that have been made by the Food and Agriculture Organization to ensure that the necessary financing is made available on a bilateral basis and through the trust fund for the various projects which have been prepared. In all, there are some 60 projects of this type which have been prepared recently. We would also like to support all regional efforts which have been made by this Organization and by developing countries to establish the food self-sufficiency and self-reliance which is embodied in the establishment of the Regional Commission which deals with food security in the Indian Ocean and the Pacific. We hope that similar commissions can also be established in Africa and the Near East.

My delegation has expressed its satisfaction in regard to the efforts made by the Director-General of which we took note in the report to the Committee on World Food Security. My delegation would like fully to support the new and revised concept of world food security, based on a continuing review and study of the adequacy of food supplies so as to try and stabilize the fluctuation of prices.

We would also like to support the measures proposed in paragraph 25 and following paragraphs in the document before us and we would also support the idea of the establishment of a fund on world food security. We hope that further details will be made available to us in this regard.

I would like, Mr Chairman, to propose to the Conference the adoption of a resolution by which the new concept of world food security can be adopted and approved and that it can be a basis for the construction of new food security policy. My delegation hopes, Mr Chairman, that quick and effective measures can be taken, particularly considering the very serious crisis being faced by African countries, particularly those in the south of the Sahara. We hope that these countries will be able to overcome the barriers which exist to increase food production in their country. We also feel that greater interest and concern should be given to research, as well as the support of other organizations working in the field of food security. Thank you very much.

H. LAUBE (Austria) (original language German): Mr Chairman, thank you for calling me to speak. I would like to congratulate you on your election and I should like to say to Professor Islam that I am most grateful to him for the document which he has provided.

On reading the document one finds oneself thinking of one or two general considerations which I should like briefly to address myself to now. Food policy is a component part of any modern agricultural policy. Supplying populations with an appropriate supply of high quality food and raw materials at appropriate prices is a prime element of our policy concerns. Guaranteeing and promoting the necessary policy matters is something which we must give our increased attention to and we are not concerned simply with obtaining optimum food from the nutritional point of view, but also maintaining its component parts. Maintaining a wide variety of foodstuffs presupposes, of course, many conditions being met by agriculture, and the prime concern of international food and agriculture policy in which Austria makes its contribution within the FAO, is the making available of sufficient foodstuffs. The worldwide nutritional situation despite indubitable progress in recent years is still difficult, and given demographic increases and ascertainable environmental damage with widespread pollution must give us great concern.

The worldwide food situation is characterized by over nutrition in certain areas with all that that entails in certain industrialized countries and by under nourishment with all its consequences in many developing countries. Decades of endeavor to improve the food situation throughout the world have still not eliminated the imbalance which exists, and which will have to be eliminated if political and social tensions are to be alleviated. We should bear in mind with a world population of about 4.4 billion that most of the poor people in the world are in the underdeveloped world. Thank you very much.

M. SALAMEH (Syria): Mr Chairman, the revision of the concept of food security so as to be more appropriate is a propitious step taken by the Director-General of the Organization and we would like to congratulate him for his initiative. We hope that this will be supported by all member countries. We in our turn see that the realization of this concept would be best realized by taking the following steps: 1. This concept should permeate all the programmes and projects proposed in the Work Programme of the Organization. 2. It should be reflected in all the areas of agriculture and food in the post and pre-harvest stages or from the process of agricultural production until that of consumption. This concept would require experiments and field research on familiar and neglected crops. It should be supported by surveys on food and consumption. This is all undertaken in order to consolidate the efforts with a view to combating hunger and malnutrition on planned bases and that planned implementation should be undertaken by each country individually, and on the international level as a whole.

C. MOURAD (Liban) (interprétation de l'arabe) : Le document étudié C 83/21 est l'un des documents les plus importants de la présente session de la Conférence car il traite d'un problème qui intéresse de plus en plus les gouvernements, les individus et les peuples, à savoir la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Assurer la sécurité alimentaire pour les pays en développement n'est pas moins important que leur sécurité politique et stratégique. Voire, la sécurité alimentaire est en fin de compte la base même de la sécurité sociale, économique et politique d'un pays en développement. Assurer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale relève d'une responsabilité internationale commune. Il est certain que la collaboration de la communauté internationale avec ses organisations et ses gouvernements est la seule garantie pour atteindre ce noble objectif. Le Directeur général de la FAO, lors de la dernière session du mois d'avril du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, avait présenté des propositions. Nous avons suivi par la suite la discussion de ce rapport lors du Conseil et nous voulons rendre hommage à l'accueil réservé à ces propositions par le Conseil. S'il y a eu des divergences sur telle ou telle de ces propositions, cela est normal, compréhensible et même logique. La délégation de mon pays estime que malgré ces divergences nous pourrions finalement nous mettre d'accord et arriver à un consensus sur la plupart de ces propositions lorsque nous aurons plus tard l'occasion de les étudier au sein du CSA. L'importance de ce sujet nous impose la nécessité d'aider le Directeur général de la FAO dans les efforts qu'il entreprendra à l'avenir et il est du devoir de cette conférence de tracer, dès maintenant, les lignes à suivre. La délégation de mon pays souhaiterait que l'on adopte ici une résolution approuvant cette tendance; résolution que nous sommes disposés à soutenir. Pareille résolution devrait reposer sur ce qui suit :

1. L'approbation de certaines propositions du Directeur général par le CSA et le Conseil devrait être suivie par les mesures nécessaires pour leur mise à exécution.

2. La nécessité de demander au Directeur général de présenter les données et les renseignements complémentaires sur les propositions qui n'ont pas encore fait l'objet d'un accord afin qu'elles puissent être présentées au CSA lors de sa prochaine session en 1984.

3. La nécessité d'exhorter les pays donateurs et les pays nantis afin qu'ils aident les pays en développement à mettre en exécution leurs programmes nationaux relatifs à la sécurité alimentaire, et de demander à la FAO de fournir toute l'aide possible aux pays en développement à cet effet.

4. La nécessité de revoir le mandat du CSA et de l'adapter à la nature de l'étape prochaine, surtout que la sécurité alimentaire mondiale a maintenant un nouveau concept et une nouvelle dimension.

5. Demander aux pays donateurs et nantis d'augmenter leur aide en nature et en espèces, à tous les Programmes de l'Organisation liés à la sécurité alimentaire : le programme pour la prévention des pertes après récoltes, la RAIU et le programme d'aide à la sécurité alimentaire.

6. Afin que toutes les organisations et agences du système des Nations Unies ne dilapident pas leurs ressources et leurs énergies en des travaux et activités faisant double emploi ou contradictoires, elles seront requises de coopérer entre elles et de coordonner leurs travaux et leurs activités, compte tenu du rôle de pionnier et d'avant-garde joué par la FAO en matière de sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

En présentant ces éléments je suis heureux de réitérer le désir de la délégation de mon pays d'être parmi le groupe des Etats qui souhaiteraient que la Conférence adopte une résolution en ce sens.

B. FURNESS (United States of America): The Director-General's proposal for improving world food security provoked a very lively discussion at the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). There was widespread agreement on a number of issues, particularly those at the national level. However, many of the proposals, particularly at the global level, elicited sharp differences of opinion, and, at times, opposition.

In the CFS there was wide-spread agreement on the usefulness of most of the Director-General's proposals on action at the national level. We can all agree with the Director-General that action at the national level is "the indispensable basis for improved food security". We believe this area should be the main focus on future FAO work on improving food security. Particularly promising areas include national food strategies, management of national food stocks, increasing food production, improving production incentives, and greater emphasis on crops other than grain and increasing rural development and incomes. These are the areas where FAO has the technical competence to make a significant impact.

The CFS and the FAO Council did agree that there are a number of potential areas at the regional level for further work. We believe these include improving existing regional communication and information networks, joint development projects, intra-regional trade, sharing of research facilities, and cooperation in training and extension. However, we and others at the 1983 CFS cautioned against excessive expectations concerning the practical implementation of regional food security schemes and pointed out some of the numerous problems in regional and sub-regional reserve proposals. Therefore, we believe that FAO should go slowly on such reserve proposals, which should be considered only on a case-by-case basis as to their feasibility and their cost-effectiveness. Furthermore, action at the regional level should continue to be fostered as a support to national efforts, rather than prefigure possible arrangements at the international, world-wide level.

As made clear during past discussions, the United States has serious problems with a number of substantive and institutional proposals at the international level.

Without dwelling on the details, the United States has questioned, and in some cases opposed, proposals for (a) a new convention to replace the International Wheat Agreement or alternative proposals, (b) a food options scheme, (c) proposed changes in the International Emergency Food Reserve, (d) prepositioning of food aid, (e) a code of conduct for national agricultural support measures, (f) consideration of liberalization and/or extension of the International Monetary Fund's Compensatory Financing Facility, (g) the various proposals on the Food Aid Convention, (h) development of long-term strategies for specific commodities, (i) a world food security compact, and (j) a world food security fund. We see no need for a code of conduct for agricultural trade outside of the GATT, which is the only multilateral organization with a mandate for trade negotiations.

On the other hand, the US is willing to consider eventual proposals for a food security action programme. We believe that programs should be financed by voluntary contributions, as in FAO's action programmes on prevention of post-harvest losses.

The United States supports the Director-General's planned symposium for non-UN organizations, institutions and individuals on "New Directions in Thinking on World, Regional and National Food Security Issues".

We believe that proposals for strengthening the CFS within its existing mandate are worthy of further elaboration. However, we see no need or justification for establishing an FAO Food Security Council or CFS bureau, a more central role for the CFS in bringing together the elements in the food security system, or the CFS making recommendations to the WFC and CFA through the FAO Council.

In conclusion, we are encouraged by the clear consensus that emerged on a broadened concept of world food security. This by itself should help governments review their present programmes and policies, and to help them to take what steps they consider necessary to improve national food security.

The Director-General stresses -- and we agree -- that World Food Security is an issue of the utmost importance to the international community. The Director-General also stresses the need for urgency in building an effective global system for building food security. With this in mind, we hope that his proposals to the next CFS will stem from those that have received a consensus.

M.C. WENNER (United Kingdom): We, like the speakers before us, feel that the questions of World Food Security are extremely important and central to our consideration of the improvement of food and agriculture in the world. We were very glad to participate in the discussions of the Director-General's report both at the CFA and at the Council in June.

As we have already stated, we were grateful to him for preparing his review including his suggestions for improvements in the present system, which seem to us to require a certain amount of rationalization. We, as all other delegations, gave full support to the new revised concept, and we are particularly pleased to see that it was to cover such things as marketing and local price strategy, and in the emphasis to develop a viable local agricultural system.

However, as others before us have stated, we share some of the doubts already expressed about a number of the proposals which seem to us to add to rather than reduce the complexity of the present system, particularly at the international level. Proposals for a Fund and Compact and so forth would in our view duplicate work already being done by the development banks, the WFC and the Committee on Food Aid Policies. We did note, as is indicated in the paper, that there was no consensus within the Committee on Food Security in favour of these new proposals, although it was agreed - and we were part of that agreement - that they should be considered further. We would certainly look forward very much to hearing and receiving the development of the Director-General's ideas on these proposals further. My colleague from the United States has made a number of pertinent comments on those proposals which did not receive general consensus but which should be elaborated on at future meetings. We had understood that it was the intention of the Committee on Food Security to look into the question of institutional implications. However, these were discussed in some detail. We would therefore re-state our opinion that a review of this kind impinges very much on the areas of competence of other bodies, in particular the International Wheat Council, the World Food Council and the World Food Programme. We certainly agree that the CFS is entitled to look at these questions, but decisions effecting the mandates of other bodies should be taken by their own governing councils.

We, to turn to more technical matters, are sometimes concerned about stocking policies. We fully accept the need for a reasonable level of stocks and we are pleased that carry-over stocks this year are so high. We think, however, that what is needed is a mix of measures in a national food strategy, including inter alia a sensible food stocking policy. We think that there should be adequate incentives to farmers for local production and a well-planned trading policy to give the best possible return in international markets. We agree that national actions are the basis for improved food security, and we would like to distinguish here between the concepts of "self-reliance" and "self-sufficiency". For some countries, self-sufficiency is impossible and for others it is not desirable. What we need is a mix giving the best economic return for the largest number of people possible.

These are the only comments I would like to make. As I say, I would like to repeat that we look forward to hearing the development of the Director-General's proposals and we would hope that the many detailed comments that we made both at the CFS and at the Council and now here in the Conference will guide the Director-General in his work.

J. DE DIOS OSUNA (España): Quiero agradecer a la Secretaría de la FAO la realización de este documento y muy particularmente al señor Islam por su precisa información que considero de suma utilidad para este debate. El documento marca unas líneas claras de posibles actuaciones para mejorar la seguridad alimentaria mundial, nuestra delegación en su intervención de ayer se refirió fundamentalmente a los aspectos que se desarrollan en este documento.

Por otra parte, muchas de las delegaciones que han actuado en turnos anteriores han desarrollado puntos concretos y se han extendido en el análisis del documento, por lo que solamente quiero hacer hincapié en un punto que consideramos de suma importancia. Concretamente el punto 22 en el que se indica la necesidad de ampliar la atención que hasta ahora se ha dado a los cereales en la seguridad alimentaria mundial a todos los alimentos básicos. No todos los sistemas agrológicos son adecuados para la producción de cereales, por lo que la autosuficiencia sólo podrá alcanzarse en esas zonas mediante la intensificación de la producción de alimentos básicos adecuados a su medio. Pero la intensificación de esta producción debe pasar por la aplicación de tecnologías idóneas. En general, las técnicas de producción existentes han sido desarrolladas en países avanzados y están, por tanto, más orientadas hacia la producción de cereales.

Por otro lado, estos alimentos, por su mayor contenido hídrico son más perecederos que los cereales. Será preciso también desarrollar técnicas de conservación de alimentos adecuadas a estas producciones. La creación de la Dirección de Fomento de la Investigación y la Tecnología será un paso importante, pues entiendo que deberá prestar una atención preferente al desarrollo de estas tecnologías.

Por último, quiero hacer patente que en este mundo cada día más pequeño, los hábitos de vida van cambiando y acercándose cada día más, quizás por mimetismo, a los países más desarrollados.

Este fenómeno se observa más agudizado en los hábitos alimentarios, en los que influyen indudablemente las campañas de marketing llevadas a cabo por compañías multinacionales con grandes recursos financieros, y entendemos que inciden en el consumo de alimentos por ellos producidos.

Entendemos que las acciones encaminadas a incrementar las producciones de estos alimentos deben complementarse con campañas de orientación de la demanda para que los consumidores dirijan sus preferencias hacia ellos.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Al considerar este tema de la Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, la delegación de Colombia piensa que hay que reconocer al Director General de la FAO la misión futurista, acertada y realmente positiva y eficaz como ha procedido en este campo. En efecto, desde hace varios años, cuando el Consejo Internacional del Trigo se durmió acerca de toda posibilidad de reiniciar las negociaciones para adoptar un nuevo acuerdo internacional sobre cereales, el Director General comprendió entonces las dificultades de esa situación, y la inconveniencia de permanecer con los brazos cruzados ante la ineficiencia del CIT y propuso el plan de cinco puntos, al amparo de cuyas orientaciones y directrices muchos países han logrado hoy avanzar hacia la seguridad alimentaria mundial. Luego, el CIT siguió aletargado y sólo fue capaz, en un gran esfuerzo, de prolongar el viejo, caduco e inútil acuerdo de 1971. Acuerdo que es apenas un código de buena conducta, una serie de tiernos consejos paternales porque no contiene cláusulas económicas ni disposición ninguna sobre la forma de constituir las reservas, ni referencia mínima a los precios que es uno de los problemas fundamentales en este campo.

Cuando decimos esto no entendemos la posición recientemente expresada por una respetable delegación que ha dicho que sigue oponiéndose a algunos aspectos fundamentales del informe del Director General, pero esa delegación no dice por qué también se sigue oponiendo en el seno del CIT a que se reanuden las negociaciones para lograr un nuevo convenio verdaderamente positivo y eficaz, un nuevo acuerdo internacional sobre cereales.

El párrafo 1 de este documento dice que no parece probable que se reanuden las negociaciones en un futuro próximo en el seno del Consejo Internacional del Trigo. Quisiéramos preguntarle, por su conducto señor Presidente, al señor Parotte, secretario ejecutivo del CIT, si está presente en la sala, como solemos verlo con frecuencia, que nos diga cuáles son las causas que siguen teniendo dormido al CIT, porque esto nos interesa particularmente. Están pasando muchos años, como dije en una ocasión: "Han pasado cien años de soledad" y creemos que el CIT está a punto de obtener, como lo propuso la delegación de Colombia en otro foro, el premio Nobel de la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

Entonces, ante esa situación de dilación permanente injustificada, el Director General ha elaborado el documento más importante y positivo que se haya producido en el seno de las Naciones Unidas. Ese documento contiene un nuevo concepto ampliado y revisado sobre la seguridad alimentaria mundial. En primera instancia lo discutimos en el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial y llegamos al acuerdo unánime de aprobar, sin discusión, la parte del informe referente a esas propuestas del Director General, de manera que por eso discrepamos de aquellas delegaciones que aún, obcecadamente, insisten en sus puntos de actitud contrarios a este valioso informe.

Luego, el Consejo de la FAO refrendó esos importantes conceptos y ya se evaluó el informe del Director General que adquirió dimensiones políticas mucho más amplias, al ser acogido favorablemente por el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación, por el ECOSOC y por la propia Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas. Después, no podemos negarnos a esta Conferencia que es nuestra propia Conferencia, a nuestro máximo organismo que es la FAO cómo podemos negarle la ocasión de que sea consecuente, de que sea coherente con los órganos rectores y haya algunos colegas que impidan la adopción unánime de esos principios que benefician directamente al mundo en desarrollo.

Seguimos apoyando esas iniciativas del Director General porque el párrafo octavo de este documento dice que la distribución real de existencias es muy irregular, conforme a lo que todos conocíamos. La excesiva concentración de las reservas en unos pocos países no garantiza ni siquiera el mínimo margen de la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

Hemos dialogado mucho en foros diversos sobre esa concentración de reservas. Algunas veces oímos a los voceros de los países desarrollados decir que les cuesta mucho el mantenimiento de esas reservas, y como creemos que son sinceros les hemos propuesto fórmulas alternativas para buscar los medios de movilizar, siquiera progresivamente, esas reservas hacia los países en desarrollo que las necesitan, pero nada se ha logrado hasta la fecha.

Por eso, compartimos el párrafo 16 de este documento que dice que "numerosas medidas acordadas en los foros internacionales no se han aplicado eficazmente en la práctica". Para corroborar esa frase, del párrafo 16 bastaría referirnos al caso del Fondo Monetario Internacional.

Cuando reclamábamos la asistencia financiera y técnica para que los países en desarrollo logren establecer reservas adecuadas, se nos dijo entonces que se iba a intervenir ante el Fondo Monetario Internacional para que se estableciera un servicio especial, un servicio cerealero. Sabemos que solo cinco países del mundo en desarrollo, solo cinco países pudieron hacer uso de ese servicio cerealero. En efecto, el párrafo 10 de este documento confirma esta limitación de países que han podido hacer uso de ese servicio y dice el párrafo 10 que el Consejo Ejecutivo del Fondo está revisando ese servicio.

Nosotros creemos que una de las funciones esenciales de esta Comisión debe ser consignar en nuestro informe un llamado al Fondo Monetario Internacional para que revise ese servicio, pero a fondo, con criterios realistas y pragmáticos, para que elimine las limitaciones que actualmente tiene ese servicio, para que ese servicio sea operativo y pueda ser utilizado ampliamente por los países en desarrollo.

Luego, en el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación, surgió la propuesta, aprobada con entusiasmo en un determinado momento, de las reservas alimentarias propiedad de los países en desarrollo. Ahora ya, en los documentos del SMA esa propuesta ha desaparecido por completo. Esto confirma la carencia, la absoluta carencia de voluntad política con que actúan los grandes países productores en el campo de la seguridad alimentaria mundial. En efecto, desde 1974 quienes tuvimos la satisfacción de asistir a la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación nos complacimos de haber adoptado allá metas sobre las reservas que nunca se han alcanzado, que jamás se van a cumplir.

También nos han extrañado en el debate sobre este tema algunas referencias de oposición a los sistemas regionales de seguridad alimentaria mundial. Nosotros creemos, con todo respeto para los colegas que se oponen a la acción regional, que este campo lo conocemos mejor nosotros, quienes representamos a los gobiernos que están en los países y en esas regiones donde pasamos esos problemas. Por ejemplo, en América Latina y el Caribe el Sistema Económico Latinoamericano, el SELA, ha creado recientemente el Comité de Acción sobre Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, con sede en Buenos Aires, Argentina, y nosotros estamos satisfechos y creemos que ese Comité, a través de ese organismo importante, puede ser eficaz y beneficioso para nuestros países. Pedimos que en este informe se incluya también la solicitud de apoyo en todos los órdenes para el Comité de Acción de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial en la Región de América Latina y del Caribe.

En Asia, el ASEAN del grupo de cinco países productores de arroz fue uno de los primeros ejemplos. Y el ejemplo de Asia y América Latina y el Caribe puede ser seguido por otras regiones. Entonces, no entendemos por qué puede expresarse oposición a queseinte greunaacción regional dereservas en favor de la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

T. OKAMOTO (Japan): I, on behalf of my delegation, would like to congratulate the Secretariat for the concise and analytical document C 83/20 which summarizes the progress made in the implementing of the Plan of Action to Strengthen World Food Security, a re-appraisal of the concepts and approaches as well as the future action in this field.

With regard to the Plan of Action on world food security, we are pleased to note that there is a steady and positive progress being made. Paragraph 7 of the document states that "there are at present 72 countries which have adopted explicit national cereal stock policies. In addition, the EEC, six other developed and ten developing countries report that they follow stock practices which enable them to attain the objectives set out in the International Undertaking and Plan of Action."

It is indeed a great progression if we recall the situation before the world food crisis, where there was almost no stock policy in any country. There are the tangible results of the efforts made by each country and the initiative taken by FAO in leading and guiding these countries.

As for the collective self-reliance effort of the developing countries, we appreciate the activities of CILSS, SADCC and SELA. We also welcome the establishment of "FAO Regional Commission on Food Security for Asia and the Pacific".

FAO's expertise and knowledge should be fully utilized in assisting these activities.

With regard to "a reappraisal of concepts and approaches: the Director-General's report and the reaction of the CFS and Council", my delegation does not feel that there is much need to add additional comments to this Conference as we have already made some comprehensive comments on specific issues in the Director-General's report in the course of a long and energetic discussion at the last CFS meeting.

We support the new concepts of world food security as they enable us to have a comprehensive approach in establishing world food security. However, at the same time, we should all recognize that the establishment of world food security depends upon the steady and continuous efforts of countries and international organizations involved.

In this connection, we would like to again emphasize the importance of well designed coordination of the international organizations within their respective mandates.

Finally, my delegation would like to request that the Secretariat distribute the revised Director-General's report well enough in advance of the Ninth CFS Meeting so that we may have sufficient time to study it carefully.

G.V. GANTCHEV (Bulgaria): The Bulgarian delegation has familiarised itself with document C 83/20 and finds it well drafted and well worded. Therefore, we fully support it in principle. In order to save time I do not intend to dwell on the points which we entirely endorse and which concern the question of food security and the relevant FAO plan of action. I will just mention a few things which, in the view of my delegation, could be considered from a slightly different aspect.

We are convinced that the efforts of each country to become self-reliant in food, so far as dynamic conditions permit, should be the main policy concern. Therefore, as far as the five points of the Plan under paragraph 6, page 1, are concerned, we place the fifth point first, because we cannot agree that "the use of international criteria for the management and release of national stocks" is the most important thing in the endeavour to attain global food security. These stocks should first be produced, and only then distributed. We believe that the main accent of the agricultural policy of each country should be on the production of larger quantities of and more diversified food products in order to meet the local demand and to produce eventual export.

I should also like to make my stand on a question we deem to be rather important. I refer to paragraphs 15, 16 and 17, on page 3, which deal with the expansion of world trade.' We believe this is of extreme importance for world food security. We believe that the land should be put to the practice of discrimination in export possibilities of the developing countries, of sanctions in trade and on the policy of diktat and interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states. Therefore, we fully support the proposals regarding this question in the Report.

I conclude by expressing the full support of my delegation to the document submitted.

The meeting closed at 17.20 hours

La seance est levée à 17 h 20

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.20 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/I/PV/5

C

Twenty-second Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt-quième session
COMMISSION I

22° período de sesiones
COMISION I

FIFTH MEETING
CINQUIEME SEANCE
QINTA REUNION
(11 November 1983)

The Fifth Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours

José Ramón López-Portillo, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La cinquième séance est ouverte à 10 heures, sous la présidence de
José Ramón López-Portillo, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la quinta reunión a las 10.00 horas, bajo la presidencia de
José Ramon López-Portillo, Presidente de la Comisión I

I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)

I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)

I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLÍTICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)

6. World Food and Agriculture Situation: (continued)

6. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture: (suite)

6. Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo: (continuación)

6.2 Progress in Implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen World Food Security - Re-appraisal of Concepts and Approaches (continued)

6.2 Etat d'avancement du Plan d'action visant à renforcer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale - Réexamen des concepts et des approches (suite)

6.2 Progresos realizados en la ejecución del Plan de Acción para reforzar la seguridad alimentaria mundial - reconsideración de conceptos y planteamientos (continuación)

EL PRESIDENTE: Buenos días señores delegados, comenzamos hoy nuestra quinta sesión de la Comisión I, les anuncio que ha sido ya distribuida la propuesta o el proyecto de resolución sobre el concepto revisado de seguridad alimentaria, moción que hizo en la segunda sesión de esta Comisión la delegación de Venezuela a nombre también de otras delegaciones. Esa notificación fue turnada a su vez al Comité de Resoluciones, el mismo que ha presentado la propuesta que ustedes seguramente tienen en sus manos.

Señores, la lista de oradores es la siguiente: Australia, Cuba, Tailandia, República Federal de Alemania, México, Francia, Países Bajos, Argentina, Congo, Corea, Polonia, Sudán, Nicaragua, Zambia, Chipre, y Pakistán.

Tiene la palabra la delegación de Australia.

G. MACKAY (Australia): The Australian delegation regards this as one of the very important items before this Commission.

We endorse the redefinition of the concept of food security as outlined in the Director-General's report to the Committee on Food Security and as subsequently endorsed by both the CFS and the Council.

Australia recognizes the importance of food security, particularly to food deficit developing countries.

We look forward to receiving early details of the Director-General's specific proposals on his proposed improvement to existing food security arrangements and on the practical steps he envisages being taken in the near future.

Australia agrees on the necessity of countries' adopting appropriate domestic policies and, where necessary, re-appraising and revising them in order to stimulate the food and agricultural sectors.

We agree that the FAO study on pricing policies has the potential to assist countries to identify where policy changes are needed.

We look forward to this item being discussed next year in the various regional conferences and we would certainly expect it to be a major focus in our own Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific.

I should like to make a comment on pricing policies. To be effective, they will have to encompass a much broader range of matters than is connoted by the word "price" alone. Prices will be effective in guiding production and the use of resources only if there are efficient and effective markets and market institutions both for input and output. Market institutions will need to be scrutinized and any impediments to their effective operation removed.

Australia forward to seeing the Director-General's findings on the further action that needs to be taken to enhance the future prospects of sub-Saharan Africa.

We endorse the objectives of cost effective solutions aimed at improving supply stability at the national level in all countries. We support the objective of improving the quantity and quality of diets for the chronically malnourished, including particularly improved access to food supplies by the poorest countries.

Australia has previously confirmed its support for the development of national strategies aimed at the short term and long term problems of the food sector. We continue to endorse the development of such strategies, whether they are called food sector strategies, national food security programmes or by some other name.

The strengthening of regional ties which can assist countries to improve their food security is supported by Australia. To this end, we welcome the establishment of the FAO Regional Commission on Food Security for Asia and the Pacific and the Action Committee on Regional Food Security by the Latin American Economic System. I would draw attention to the fact that Australia participated in the inaugural meeting of the Asia Pacific Food Security Commission earlier this year.

Australia has regularly endorsed the 10 million tonne food grain aid target, and will this year contribute 50 000 tonnes of grain to the IEFRR.

We support the full replenishment of those IDA and IFAD resources. We have some questions about the Director-General's proposals for the liberalization of the IMF cereal import facility. We are certainly prepared to examine any specific proposals, but we feel that the IMF is really the appropriate forum for consideration of that matter.

Mr Chairman, you raised at the outset the matter of the resolution. I am not sure if I fully understood what you said on that, and I am unclear as to what the procedure is that is to be followed with that resolution. I would just register that we have some thoughts on possible amendments to the draft resolution. We could pass the text of our suggested amendments to the sponsors of the resolution, if that is the appropriate course to follow.

EL PRESIDENTE: Efectivamente señores, se ha entregado un proyecto de resolución para su estudio y consideración. De manera que si es factible solicito que se manifiesten en torno a ello y si es admisible dicho proyecto que también lo hagan saber.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): Je me réfère simplement au sujet auquel vous venez de répondre et je désire demander une précision complémentaire.

Est-ce que vous voulez, dès ce matin, que l'on aborde la question de la résolution, ou au contraire est-ce que l'on ne pourrait l'aborder que cet après-midi? Ceci pour une raison très simple, du côté communautaire, nous avons déjà des amendements à présenter, mais ils sont encore à taper et à dactylographier; c'est pour cela que nous préférierions ne parler sur le sujet de la résolution que cet après-midi. Voilà.

EL PRESIDENTE: Agradezco mucho a la delegación de Francia sus comentarios.

Por supuesto, la idea de esta Presidencia es que cuanto más pronto podamos ultimar este asunto mejor. Es decir, que entre la sesión de ahora de la mañana y la de la tarde pudiéramos darlo por terminado, y de esa forma no tendríamos que discutir posteriormente sobre tal asunto.

Si la Comunidad, así como cualesquiera otros países pudiera presentar sus observaciones cuanto antes, sería mejor para todos, y de esta manera la discusión que pudiera celebrarse esta tarde en torno a sus observaciones podría estar ya organizada.

Les agradezco mucho su colaboración.

La delegación de Colombia pide la palabra también para una cuestión de orden. Puede hacer uso de ella.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Sr. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Esta delegación apoya plenamente lo manifestado por el Sr. Presidente.

Estimamos que a fin de avanzar en nuestro trabajo, esta misma mañana, cuando se agote la lista de oradores, debemos iniciar el estudio del proyecto de resolución.

Estoy seguro de que los colegas de la Comunidad disponen de apoyo logístico suficiente para preparar las propuestas que estamos dispuestos a considerar.

EL PRESIDENTE: Recojo con mucho gusto las observaciones de la delegación de Colombia y solicito de la Comisión que realice sus mayores esfuerzos para proceder en la forma que ha indicado.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

G. MACKEY (Australia): Mr Chairman, I apologize for intervening again. May I suggest that the countries with amendments to suggest have them prepared and handed to the Secretariat so that you can introduce them for discussion specifically on the resolution at an appropriate time during the day.

EL PRESIDENTE: Quisiera hacer una observación a la Comisión, y es que desearía que las delegaciones que pudieran pasasen por escrito lo antes posible sus observaciones, a fin de que si podemos terminar con nuestra lista de oradores esta mañana a buena hora, pudiéramos entrar también a discutir este asunto hoy por la mañana, y por la tarde acordar las conclusiones respectivas.

Agradezco a todos su cooperación en torno a este asunto.

Concedo definitivamente la palabra, en espera de que no tenga que volver a interrumpirla, a la Sra. delegada de Cuba.

G. SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Esta delegación de Cuba vive muy de cerca el tema de la seguridad alimentaria mundial y participa activamente en las reuniones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria de la FAO.

Como miembros del Consejo hemos apoyado también las acciones emprendidas por la FAO para tratar de resolver este acuciante problema.

Estamos muy de acuerdo, Señor Presidente, respecto a que este asunto merece efectivamente prioridad. Y naturalmente nuestra Organización, y en especial el Director General, le han dado y le están dando, tal prioridad. Como bien se plantea en el párrafo 15 del documento C 83/20, el concepto ampliado y revisado de seguridad alimentaria mundial que ha propuesto el Director General, hay que considerarlo en función de los antecedentes de la evolución que se produce a partir de la crisis alimentaria mundial de los años setenta.

Como se recordará, la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación aprobó una serie de recomendaciones de máxima importancia para el logro de la seguridad alimentaria.

Las más importantes a nuestro entender se referían a la adopción de medidas para ayudar a los países en desarrollo a incrementar su producción de alimentos como mínimo en un 4 por ciento anual y al establecimiento de un objetivo de al menos de diez millones de toneladas de cereales al año en ayuda alimentaria.

Esto ha sido repetido tantas veces, Señor Presidente, que parece que hablamos de historia antigua, porque desafortunadamente esas metas no se han cumplido, y en la situación actual resultan absolutamente escasas.

Asimismo, numerosas otras medidas acordadas en diferentes foros internacionales, como el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, el Consejo de la FAO, el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación y el ECOSOC, entre otros, en la práctica no se han aplicado, como se ha reconocido en el propio documento.

Todo esto, unido a que en muchos países no se ha cumplido internamente el papel que les corresponde en pro de la seguridad alimentaria, ha conspirado para que los progresos deseados hacia la consecución de una seguridad alimentaria en un sentido amplio no se hayan logrado.

Estimamos que efectivamente el incremento de la producción de alimentos, la estabilidad de los suministros y la garantía de acceso a los mismos -aspectos todos incluidos en el nuevo concepto de seguridad alimentaria propuestos por el Director General- son indispensables para lograr que la misma pueda ser considerada desde una perspectiva global y en un amplio contexto institucional.

En el párrafo 23 del documento que analizamos se plantean una serie de medidas concretas que, de ser cumplimentadas a escala regional, nacional e internacional, nos acercarán al cumplimiento de los objetivos propuestos, indicándose también la relación existente entre la seguridad alimentaria y muchas de las medidas contenidas en la Declaración de Principios del Programa de Acción de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural.

La delegación de Cuba reitera su apoyo al nuevo concepto de seguridad alimentaria y a las nuevas medidas propuestas, y recalca que uno de los principales objetivos inmediatos debe ser el enfoque integral del problema de la seguridad alimentaria en los países más pobres; y por descontado que damos nuestro apoyo a todas las medidas de estrategia referidas a los países africanos.

Esperamos que el Simposio que se celebrará en 1984 sobre nuevas direcciones en la consideración de las cuestiones de seguridad alimentaria mundial, regional y nacional, aporte aspectos decisivos para el logro de seguridad alimentaria, y sobre el desarrollo, tema sobre el cual tal vez la Secretaría pudiera darnos más información de la que aparece en el párrafo 85.

Por último, Señor Presidente, esperamos que todos los organismos e instituciones internacionales que se ocupan de los problemas alimentarios coordinen sus esfuerzos a fin de evitar superposiciones de tareas, respetando como es lógico, sus respectivos mandatos y esferas de competencia. Y también esperamos que se logre finalmente el progreso deseado para obtener el objetivo común de conseguir un sistema viable de seguridad alimentaria que incluya el concepto amplio y revisado que, repito, mi Delegación apoya sin reserva alguna.

Señor Presidente, mi Delegación ha estudiado la resolución sobre Seguridad Alimentaria que se nos presenta en el documento C 83/LIM/20, y estimamos de manera plena que es el mínimo que debe aprobar esa Comisión y la Conferencia misma sobre este importante tema.

La Delegación de Cuba, consecuente con la posición que ha mantenido con relación a la seguridad alimentaria, se adhiere a los copatrocinadores de la misma, y está dispuesta a cooperar al éxito de la resolución con las enmiendas que puedan ser propuestas por otros distinguidos delegados.

N. SRISURAK (Thailand): My delegation attaches great importance to document C 83/20 as a means of providing measures for an improved food security system. The document also highlights those food security problems which are very difficult to handle because of variations in the amount of food produced and in the price of food commodities. Moreover, the problem is made more difficult by protectionism. In this context, FAO and other international agencies such as GATT and UNCTAD should play a key role in making sure that no new tariff barriers are imposed on trading in food products.

In our opinion, to maintain food security one must take the following things into account - first, food production; second, the distribution of food commodities; third, that there is a fair price for the consumer, and the farm gate price must be taken into account in relation to increased production of food products, and fourth, the government's food policy must be carried out.

Food production is an integral and important part of food security, and is the first stage of socio-economic development. One must plan how to increase food production, taking into account, inter alia, people's needs. Our experience shows that for food production projects one must forecast, and such projections should begin at a low level. Rural people need guidance in expanding food production for domestic consumption. In this context, we must have integrated action from all the various agencies involved, which should work together in such a way that the various projects can be brought to a successful conclusion.

Food distribution is a key component of food security. One must remember that some areas are more suitable than others for producing food. Farmers can produce food for domestic consumption; they do not want to produce more food if there is no market in which to sell it. In this connection one must consider how best to produce food for those who need it at a reasonable price both for the buyer and the seller. At this stage we have to consider the various facilities such as transportation, storage, marketing, fair selling prices, and the means whereby the food can reach the market. We must plan well, and rural people must participate fully. If this is done, it is our hope that there will no longer be any food shortage for the poor.

E. SCHRODER (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): The question of increasing world food security has gained increasing importance in the last few years at international level. Not only the agenda of the last session of the World Food Council in New York, and the motto of the last World Food Day which was held world-wide are clear signs of it. This was also reflected by the profundity and intensity of the discussions at the last session of the Committee on World Food Security. The proposals made by the Director-General of FAO in document CFS/83/4 have animated discussions considerably and have clearly broadened the approach to considerations. The Conference document C 83/20 represents an accurate report of the course and results of the Eighth session of the CFS. My delegation supports the approach outlined by the Director-General for a global and integrated solution. This broad approach which is in line with the basic principles of the cooperation of the Federal Republic of Germany with developing countries, an approach which endeavours to improve the food situation and food security through integrated measures of agricultural development. The most important element in this connection is - as has also been stressed by the CFS - to increase food production in the countries concerned. The Federal Government therefore, gives priority promotion to appropriate efforts by the developing countries themselves which for example, through improving the agrarian structure and land tenure, training and extension, the making available of credit, cooperative organization and in particular, through more efficient methods of production, storage and distribution of agricultural products, make a specific contribution to an improved and more secure supply of food for all sections of the population. The Federal Government attaches particular importance to adequate producer prices, and to intensifying efforts to combat harvest losses occurring before, during and after the harvest. These national measures, forming the core element of an increased food security, and for which the national food strategies are a suitable way, must be supplemented both according to the proposals of the Director-General and also according to our own ideas by regional and also global measures. Regional measures offer themselves in particular in the case of joint storage, training, agricultural research and a swift exchange of food commodities in emergencies. Measures on a global scale are, *inter alia*, food aid, technical and financial aid and measures to promote trade.

In discussing the concrete measures suggested by the Director-General of FAO to enhance food security at a global level and in the institutional field, there were partly considerable differences of opinion at the last CFS session. Some of the misgivings and doubts which we voiced at that time on particular proposals in document CFS 83/4 continue to exist for my delegation. Some of the proposals made required further elaboration and clarification and hence were not discussed in depth. Thus, the CFS decided to ask the Director-General to submit a revised report for the next CFS session, focussing on areas in which early agreement appeared a possibility. This should not affect the elaboration and clarification of other proposals which could be pursued on a medium- and long-term basis.

My delegation recommends that this procedure decided on by the CFS and endorsed by the Council of the FAO at its Eighty-third Session be the procedure followed. We would be grateful to the Director-General if he could submit a new report to the next CFS session according to the above recommendations. In view of the requested detailed elaboration which will already contain technical details, we suggest this be drafted early enough to enable all relevant officers in the capitals to discuss it.

As regards the question of the draft resolution now available to us, my delegation may wish to speak again later on, but that is all for now.

R. GUADARRAMA SISTOS (México): La delegación de Mexico extiende su felicitación a la Secretaría de la FAO por la preparación de los documentos de base, y agradece asimismo al Dr. Islam por la precisa y sugerente presentación que hizo del tema.

El enfoque integral y globalizador del concepto de seguridad alimentaria mundial propuesto por la FAO favorecerá, sin lugar a dudas, el avance en el establecimiento de objetivos, diseño de estrategias, precisión en los mecanismos y acciones, así como en los compromisos que en materia de producción, disponibilidad y acceso de alimentos, se realizan a nivel nacional, regional y mundial.

Por los acuerdos recibidos en otras ocasiones y en otros organismos, y por considerarlo una sólida lógica y necesaria para la humanidad, nuestra delegación espera que esta Conferencia respalde y endorsee el concepto de seguridad alimentaria mundial propuesto por el Director General.

Estamos, asimismo, con la delegación de Colombia respecto a que es incomprensible la resistencia de algunos países en la aceptación de la seguridad alimentaria, en vista de que también cancelan todas las otras salidas.

Sr. Presidente: para el logro de la seguridad alimentaria mundial, el nuevo concepto pone, adecuadamente, la prioridad en el nivel nacional y en el apoyo a la producción, suministro y acceso a los alimentos básicos, recomendando la reactivación de todos los recursos disponibles del país. Nuestra delegación considera necesario integrar las políticas de reforma agraria y desarrollo rural, así como las de conservación ecológica en las medidas nacionales propuestas para el logro de la seguridad alimentaria. Recomendamos también ir más allá de la producción, para tratar toda la cadena de actividades alimentarias.

México tiene amplia experiencia en este sentido, y recientemente ha puesto en marcha el Programa Nacional de Alimentación (PRONAL) dentro de su Sistema Nacional de Planeación, que tiene como objetivo la seguridad alimentaria nacional y la soberanía alimentaria a través de la reactivación e integración adecuada y realista de las actividades de la cadena alimentaria. Podemos afirmar en este foro, que el esfuerzo de México por lograr su seguridad alimentaria está en marcha.

La seguridad alimentaria en el ámbito regional, pensamos que debe basarse en el principio de complementar actividades alimentarias entre los países de la región, a partir de criterios de equidad en el usufructo de dichas actividades, y eventualmente, en la creación de reservas alimentarias y los acuerdos de productos convenientes. Tal es el principio que norma el diseño de las estrategias regionales de desarrollo alimentario por parte del CASAR para América Latina, que apoyamos entusiastamente.

Nos unimos también a Colombia en cuanto a que somos nosotros los que más sabemos y nos interesamos en la continuación de reservas y mecanismos de seguridad alimentaria. Insistimos también en que la FAO apoye y convoque ese tipo de esfuerzos en otras regiones y subregiones del mundo.

La cooperación intra e interregional debe apoyar los esfuerzos productivos y de integración de las actividades alimentarias, el intercambio de insumos productivos y tecnologías, así como el complemento recíproco de los mercados para colocar excedentes que permitan la reactivación económica de las actividades alimentarias.

Deberá también contar con todo el apoyo de los gobiernos e instituciones internacionales. Es esta la forma más efectiva de promover el acceso de las poblaciones a los alimentos que requieren; la estabilidad de suministros se verá reforzada y no sustituida. El establecimiento de sistemas de información regional respecto a cosechas, consumos y excedentes, y responsabilidades compartidas en la formación de reservas regionales son un complemento indispensable.

En el plan mundial, la seguridad alimentaria sólo es concebible con un esfuerzo de fortalecimiento agrícola y alimentario. En este terreno hay un gran avance en el tratamiento de la seguridad alimentaria mundial, al reconocerse que las dietas de las poblaciones de los países del mundo, no están compuestas por idénticos alimentos, y que éstos corresponden a particulares condiciones climáticas, agronómicas, económicas, culturales y aun históricas. Las diferentes dietas obligan a atender con igual prioridad la diversidad de alimentos que está acostumbrada a consumir la población de cada país, y por tanto, los sistemas de producción que lo permiten.

Reiteramos que el apoyo internacional para el logro de la seguridad alimentaria mundial será más efectivo en la medida en que se dirija a la reactivación de las actividades alimentarias a nivel local, pues ésta repercute directamente sobre el ingreso, y consecuentemente, sobre la capacidad de acceso de la población y de los países a los alimentos que requieren.

Debe impedirse, por tanto, la profundización del carácter asistencial de ésta y de los programas de ayuda y la creciente dependencia externa de alimentos. En este sentido, es imperativo resaltar la necesidad de apoyar el Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola para la segunda reposición de sus fondos.

Respecto al acceso, es importante subrayar que los países tendrán acceso a los alimentos que requieren, en la medida en que los produzcan o a través de sus exportaciones, obtengan las divisas para adquirirlos. En este último caso, insistimos en liberalizar los mercados y dismantelar las barreras proteccionistas, que afectan principalmente a los productos de exportación de nuestros países, principalmente de productos tropicales y el uso desleal que países y empresas hacen para competir con nuestras producciones y excedentes.

En este sentido, nos referimos a las intervenciones de varias delegaciones que han manifestado interés en profundizar en el estudio de empresas transnacionales para el diagnóstico adecuado y la formulación de políticas en la materia. Queremos poner a consideración de esta Comisión, la conveniencia de organizar un Seminario para analizar el papel desempeñado por estas empresas transnacionales.

Insistimos tanto en la estabilización de los suministros de alimentos y el establecimiento de reservas internacionales de alimentos que contemplen apoyo técnico, financiero y económico y su adecuada distribución geográfica, respondiendo prioritariamente a las necesidades de los países más necesitados. Apoyamos por eso, el fortalecimiento de las reservas de emergencia (RAIE) para que puedan cumplir con eficacia sus objetivos, teniendo presente la creciente necesidad de alimentos para refugiados.

Es indispensable apoyar el Plan de Acción sobre seguridad Alimentaria Mundial con las medidas propuestas dentro del nuevo enfoque de la seguridad alimentaria mundial. Esta delegación considera necesario hacerlo para dimensionar así, adecuadamente, las actividades referentes a las reservas de cereales, los programas de asistencia y los planes de autosuficiencia comprendidos en el PASSA, dejando así de contemplarlo como una medida provisional.

México busca el establecimiento de convenios internacionales de alimentos como los del trigo, azúcar y otros que contengan cláusulas económicas para la estabilización de los precios internacionales, tomando en consideración la constitución de reservas en la materia. Ello, indudablemente, favorecerá el reforzamiento del mercado internacional permitiendo mayor acceso a las exportaciones de los países en desarrollo.

El fortalecimiento de nuestro Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria es necesario para una mejor coordinación con el GATT y la UNCTAD en la materia. Es indudable el beneficio que nos reportaría la supervisión de los progresos en producción de alimentos y la ayuda concedida con ese fin, así como también el fomento a la cooperación económica y técnica entre los países en desarrollo y desarrollados. Miramos, con mucho interés, avanzar hacia el Convenio sobre la Ayuda Alimentaria.

Finalmente, la Delegación mexicana comparte la propuesta hecha por la delegación de Venezuela y apoyada por India, España y otras, para elaborar una Resolución en materia de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, en la que se destaque el apoyo de la comunidad internacional a los esfuerzos nacionales en la materia, en vista de contar con el proyecto de resolución examinado por el Comité de Resoluciones el día de ayer, esta Delegación propone la discusión de la misma en el curso de nuestras deliberaciones.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): Je voudrais simplement rappeler que la délégation française, lors du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire et lors du Conseil, a été amenée à examiner le rapport du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire et, conformément au paragraphe 43 qui figure dans le rapport du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire, je note: "Le Comité a adopté la notion élargie de sécurité alimentaire mondiale considérée dans une perspective globale et dans un ample contexte institutionnel." Nous acceptons ce texte. C'était le point de départ. A partir de là il y avait un certain nombre de mesures, d'une part au plan national, ensuite au niveau régional et enfin à l'échelle mondiale. Comme il ressort du document, nous acceptons les mesures au plan national; nous acceptons les mesures au plan régional. En ce qui concerne les mesures à l'échelle mondiale, comme il est rappelé dans le rapport du Comité, comme cela apparaît aussi dans le document C 83/20 qui sert de base à nos discussions, comme enfin M. Nurul Islam l'a rappelé dans son intervention de présentation et nous a signalé qu'au niveau mondial les différentes solutions qui ont été envisagées soulevaient encore des différences d'appréciation, que le travail restait à approfondir, que c'était une oeuvre de longue haleine compte tenu des vues différentes des uns et des autres, nous pensons qu'il est nécessaire que le Directeur général reprenne ces propositions, comme il s'y est d'ailleurs en quelque sorte engagé au mois de mars dernier lors de la réunion du CSA, et que nous en rediscutions ultérieurement. Nous lui faisons confiance sur ce point.

De même, en ce qui concerne les aspects institutionnels, nous considérons tous, je crois, que la question reste ouverte. Voilà essentiellement ce que j'avais à vous dire sur ce point. Tout ceci se traduira finalement par un projet de résolution que nous avons eu ce matin officiellement, pour lequel je vous ai déjà annoncé, dès le début de la séance, que la Communauté européenne aura quelques amendements à présenter. Je vous dis tout de suite qu'à mon sens ce ne sont pas des amendements de fond et que ce ne sont pas des amendements qui devraient soulever de grandes difficultés. Alors, dans le courant de la journée, nous pourrons vous donner ce texte et je suis même en ce moment en train de réviser de manière précise où doivent s'insérer, pour le texte français, les nouveaux mots et ceux qu'il convient de supprimer.

A. RUSSCHEN (Netherlands): Since this is the first time that my delegation has had the floor in Commission I, we wish to join previous speakers in congratulating you, Mr Chairman, on your election as Chairman of this Commission. I would also like to express the appreciation of my delegation to the Secretariat of FAO for the documentation prepared for the Conference, in particular those documents concerning the Agenda items covered by this Commission such as, for example, World Food Security.

Referring to the statement delivered by the head of the delegation of the Netherlands, the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr BRAKS, in which special attention was paid to food security, and in addition to what has been said on the subject by the representative to the Commission of the European Economic Community on behalf of the Community and its Member States, allow me, Mr Chairman, to present the following observations as our contribution to the discussions in this Committee. As to the progress in the implementation of the plan of action to strengthen world food security, the Committee on World Food Security concluded at its Eighth session in April 1983 that the objectives have only partly been achieved. Although progress has been made, it is especially the low-income food-deficit countries that have difficulties in meeting their import requirements and there is still no guaranteed excess of these countries to their required supplies.

In his report to the Committee on Food Security and the Council, the Director-General has proposed a broadened and revised concept of world food security which was accepted by the Committee and the Council. Under this 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 food they need. This broadened and revised concept needs an even more integrated approach to the food security problems in the countries concerned. The important components of this integrated approach are stock and pricing policy measures and also international financial and technical support. The revised concepts on world food security as it is presented in the present documentation, and has been presented already to the Committee on World Food Security, is welcomed and is supported by my delegation. We must, however, remember that it is generally recognised that the improvement of food security in developing countries is in the first place, a matter for those countries themselves.

To translate this approach into specific policies, programmes, and projects, the Committee on World Food Security has recognised that action will be needed on a wide front, including all factors that have a bearing on the capacity of both countries and people to produce or purchase food.

This action Mr Chairman, is seen as taking the form of specific measures at national, regional, and global level. As it is the common theme of the reports of the Director-General, the Committee on World Food Security and the Council that action at national level is the indispensable basis for improved food security, especially in the case of low-income food-deficit countries, I will concentrate in my intervention on food security at a national level, and the role that the FAO could play in this connection. This is the same approach, Mr Chairman, we gave to the Committee on World Food Security.

The concept of national food security programmes as introduced in the document, covers to a large extent national food strategies. This concept is now commonly known. Although there are long-term objectives, the measures to be taken in national food security programmes will be of a short- and medium-term nature. Such programmes are not just a list of projects but they contain policy measures in which the projects should fit. In the document it is suggested that the FAO can play an important role in existing food security risk countries, in designing and implementing the national food security programme. It is also suggested that the FAO would develop a strong diagnostic ability in the framework of a food security action programme, and that it would develop country project portfolios and act as a catalyst for aid commitments and for their coordination. We would like to support this new approach. In fact, also the present approach of the Food Security Assistance Scheme with which we have as a major donor now substantial experience. It is not only formulating projects and arranging for their financing, but it is supplying the already expert assistance to governmental institutions working in the field of food security. The Netherlands is financing a number of such instances. This type of assistance relates, however, to food security in a narrow sense. The interesting new approach will broaden the field of institutional support and would include more policy aspects and more production-oriented measures.

Mr Chairman, such a task is certainly not an easy one and it would require an increase in FAO's field capacity. Field capacity not in the form of staffing the field projects but on a more continuous basis. In fact, it would mean a strengthening of the FAO country offices with know-how in the different disciplines covering the broader area of the new food security concept. This would mean a further decentralization of activities and services from FAO Headquarters to the member countries, and in addition, a re-allocation of existing activities outside Headquarters. We do realize, however, that such new activities and set-up could only be taken up on the explicit requests of the recipient countries. But, we would certainly welcome such a development, provided that FAO would be able to furnish adequate teams of the required expertise in the different fields of food security.

To characterise the position of FAO once more in this approach, it is the role of a broker who is able to acquire the confidence of the recipient countries, the donor countries as well as of the multilateral donors. But, and this is an important question, what about the financial consequences of such an approach? As I pointed out before, such a new set-up would mean in fact, a decentralization of FAO, and therefore in our opinion should be financed from the Regular Budget. The priority of such a new set-up should therefore be seen in relation to other forms of decentralization which, perhaps, are less effective. Increases in the regular budget will not be acceptable in the foreseeable future. Of course, it is obvious that a new set-up could only be realized gradually. Bearing in mind that the reappraisal of approaches to world food security is in itself a gradual process which may well extend over several years. But, for a modest first step on the road to such a revised structure we feel that, given the extraordinary importance of the subject, the resources can be found, for instance through an initial voluntary contribution by donor countries. So far, Mr Chairman, the considerations that my delegation would like to make on the Director-General's report are as we gave them in April of this year in the Committee on World Food Security. May I repeat the questions we raised in the Committee on World Food Security which, according to my delegation, should be answered first: are developing countries willing to invite FAO to play the above-mentioned role?; equally important, is FAO prepared to take up the role in the new partnership with both recipient and donor countries in which real policy dialogue on food issues can take place; and is FAO prepared to make organizational adaptation which, in fact, would mean a decentralization of its activities; are the donors, both bilateral and multilateral, prepared

to accept FAO in this new role? We should have the answers to these questions before we know that we really can embark on this new undertaking which, in our opinion, could become the sixth point in FAO's plan of action. Thank you Mr Chairman.

D. WHITE (Argentina): Al ser ésta la primera intervención de mi país en esta Comisión, permítame felicitarle por su designación. Es para mi delegación muy grato verle a usted dirigiendo nuestros debates.

En segundo lugar, quisiera manifestar nuestro reconocimiento a la Secretaría por haber elaborado un documento tan objetivo. Decimos esto porque además es una excelente síntesis de las partes sustanciales del documento que debatimos desde hace casi un año en el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, refleja muy bien el consenso logrado en esta oportunidad y en el 83° período de sesiones del Consejo. También queremos dejar constancia de su realismo en el tratamiento de los temas en que no hubo acuerdo.

La posición de mi país es bien conocida. En cuanto evento internacional se trató el tema y hemos apoyado este nuevo enfoque. Para los que no han asistido a la reunión plenaria, debido a que cubren las labores de esta Comisión, deseo comentarles que nuestro Secretario de Agricultura, máxima autoridad de mi país en la materia, también se refirió en este sentido al nuevo concepto ampliado de la seguridad alimentaria mundial en su intervención del día de ayer.

Antes de referirnos al proyecto presentado por Venezuela, que apoyamos, quisiéramos tratar algunas cuestiones del documento C 83/20.

Nosotros otorgamos gran importancia a las medidas regionales para mejorar la seguridad alimentaria. Perdone mi insistencia, pero estimamos que es una buena ocasión para referirnos nuevamente al CASAR, es decir Comité de Acción para la Seguridad Alimentaria Regional en el ámbito del SELA.

Quisiéramos que en el informe de esta Comisión quedara destacada esta experiencia de cooperación Sur/Sur como un esfuerzo de, por el momento, 12 países de América Latina y el Caribe en pos de una autosuficiencia alimentaria dentro de un marco más amplio que la seguridad económica regional.

Dentro de este orden de ideas es de agradecer doblemente a la FAO sus planes de trabajo conjunto con el CASAR y por participar en el Programa de Cooperación Económica entre Países en Desarrollo.

No es el caso referirnos aquí a los avances del CASAR, ya que pensamos que esta experiencia será analizada profundamente en Bucarest al tratarse el capítulo de agricultura y alimentación del Programa de Acción de Caracas, esto será en febrero del año próximo y luego lo haremos en el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria.

También quisiéramos referirnos a un punto en que el anterior período de sesiones del Consejo llegó a un acuerdo tal como se señala en el párrafo 48 cuando se dice que "una de las principales bases para establecer la seguridad alimentaria era un comercio de exportación libre y en expansión."

Esta es una cuestión básica para garantizar el acceso a los suministros de alimentos y también lo es para el crecimiento y desarrollo de los países exportadores de alimentos.

Apoyamos en este sentido que se estudie la manera de liberalizar el acceso a esos servicios de financiación de importaciones de cereales del Fondo Monetario Internacional y compartimos la idea de que se amplíe a una serie más amplia de productos básicos e incluso de insumos agrícolas.

Proponemos además que las operaciones realizadas con la utilización de este servicio del Fondo Monetario Internacional, sean efectuadas con productos básicos e insumos provenientes, prioritariamente, de países en desarrollo.

Esperemos que el Director General tenga en cuenta esta propuesta al continuar examinando el tema.

Decíamos al principio de nuestra intervención que el proyecto de resolución presentado por Venezuela era muy bueno. Es sensato, realista y permite seguir trabajando en forma objetiva y de manera coordinada en todos los organismos que tienen diversos grados de competencia en la cuestión.

Por lo tanto, queremos darle apoyo y expresar nuestra confianza en que sea aprobado sin dificultades.

J. NGOULOU (Congo): Pour commencer mon propos, je tiens à vous adresser mes félicitations les plus sincères, à vous qui avez accepté de diriger les travaux de notre Commission qui, aujourd'hui, traite sous votre haute responsabilité de la question fondamentale de l'humanité tout entière, à savoir la sécurité alimentaire dans son nouveau concept.

Mes remerciements vont également à l'endroit du Professeur Islam pour son travail très laborieux.

Le concept élargi et révisé de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, proposé à notre examen, m'amène, à la lumière de la conjoncture économique globale du monde qui aujourd'hui affecte la plupart des pays à faibles revenus et à déficits alimentaires, à m'appesantir sur un certain nombre de faits non moins importants.

En effet, l'objectif ici défini du concept de la sécurité alimentaire - à savoir production stabilisée et accès aux approvisionnements - passe par un réaménagement des structures politico-économiques des pays en développement.

A mon humble avis, chaque pays en développement doit bâtir son plan de développement agricole en mettant l'accent sur les produits vivriers de première nécessité, en vue de parvenir dans un avenir relativement court à une autosuffisance alimentaire.

C'est là que se situe la volonté politique dans l'optique de la croissance de la production vivrière; ces pays doivent aussi mettre en place des mesures incitatives à l'augmentation de la production. Je sais combien nos pays en développement ont du mal à développer leur secteur alimentaire. La conjoncture extrêmement aiguë dans laquelle nos budgets subissent les plus graves contraintes mondiales, nous obligent à réduire considérablement le volume de nos investissements dans l'ensemble des secteurs vitaux de notre économie.

C'est ici que j'en appelle à l'aide bilatérale et multilatérale, pour un apport en moyens financiers et en assistance technique des pays nantis aux pays démunis. Je suis de plus en plus convaincu que si une attention toute particulière n'est pas apportée en direction des pays pauvres dans les formes d'aide visées plus haut, l'avenir de la sécurité alimentaire sera sombre. Les pays développés détiendront dans leur majorité les plus grosses réserves céréalières et les pays en développement, pauvres, seront de plus en plus démunis. Et la faim fera son chemin dans ces pays.

Monsieur le Président, les mesures préconisées dans ce nouveau concept par le Directeur général de la FAO dans ce document 83/20 reçoivent notre entière satisfaction et nous attendons les études sur les politiques des prix que réalise la FAO. La nature importante de la sécurité alimentaire dans le monde m'amène à formuler le souhait de voir cette activité intégrée dans le programme quotidien de la FAO. Je vous remercie Monsieur le Président.

SE-IK OH (Korea, Republic of): First of all, I would like to extend my congratulations to you on your election to the Chairmanship of this Commission.

And I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Secretariat for its excellent preparation of the document C 83/20.

As mentioned in the documents C 83/2 and C 83/20, food production in many developing countries is insufficient. The storage facilities, foreign exchanges to finance additional food imports, and the food aids to needed countries are also inadequate.

Moreover, some meteorologists predict that world food production would be decreased with the unexpected changes in the weather conditions we frequently have nowadays.

In this context, I believe we cannot over-emphasize the importance of world food security, and I especially accentuate some aspects in relation to this.

Firstly, the Government of the Republic of Korea fully recognizes and implements the national food stock policies in order to safeguard the national food security position.

I am pleased to report to this Commission that now we operate a national food reserve system of 1.4 million tonnes of food grain to improve our readiness to meet acute and large-scale food shortages. We have also tried to improve the infrastructures by repairing storage facilities and by expanding some of our harbour facilities including harbour elevator systems.

Secondly, I would like to support the position that it is quite necessary to firmly establish regional level cooperative bodies that can indeed provide food security.

Therefore, I would like to suggest that the FAO future works should place more emphasis on such programmes, and that we should devote ourselves to producing some more actions in this field.

Thirdly, as correctly indicated in the documents, there remains a special need for concentrated assistance to the low-income food-deficit countries. This is a matter of high priority, although the world economy is in recession and the countries are all in a quite difficult situation financially.

Under the present conditions, in my view, the food aid and the financial assistance could be made differentially, according to the regional level needs. The accommodation of funds should take into account the conditions of food supply and demand and development capacities.

Fourthly, the Government of the Republic of Korea is in position to fully support the Director-General's view that the concept of "World Food Security" should be explained. In the past, many countries carried out their food supply and demand policy mainly with reference to grains and the production aspects. But now, many kinds of crops, such as tubers, root crops and beans, especially, are available as a substitute for grains cultivated.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that a world-wide collective assistance system for food supply and demand stabilization is necessary to save millions from starvation and malnutrition.

Our "Plan of Action on World Food Security" should be developed to the point of being a concrete, positive plan. The world waits on our judgement in terms of action, not words.

Z. GROCHOWSKI (Poland): Mr Chairman, the problem of world food security has been discussed in several international fora since 1974. It will shortly be ten years since discussions have been started, and the practical results achieved are certainly short of expectation. We consider all FAO initiatives in this matter very timely and useful, as they brought the problem of food security to the attention of governments, scientists and the general public. The importance of this issue is now generally recognized and a number of governments have taken at least initial steps towards assuring food supplies in cases of natural disasters. The ensuing discussions have been instrumental in the identification and clarification of a number of intricate problems encountered, both on the national and international level.

The status of complete food security has never existed as yet and we doubt that it can be achieved in a short period of time. The dependence of man on the vagaries of weather and results of natural calamities will be extremely difficult to eliminate. However, in our opinion all efforts directed to this end should be continued and supported.

The proposal of the Director-General calling for a reappraisal of concepts and approaches is fully supported by my delegation. It will probably be a long process requiring time and effort before something will be achieved. Still, we feel it is worthwhile to analyze all possible angles, and to keep this matter before the eyes of governments.

We do not have any specific solutions in mind, but we would like to express our opinion on two aspects of the problem now under discussion. Firstly, we doubt whether it will be possible to obtain at present a guarantee of the exporting countries to supply grains to needy countries at a special price. This issue might possibly be discussed and if agreed to, incorporated in a New International Grain Agreement, if and when it will be concluded.

Secondly, we feel that as long as food supplies are used as a political weapon, self-sufficiency in food is of paramount importance. Therefore, efforts to increase indigenous crop production and to reduce dependence on imports, should be continued and strengthened. We might add that we have undertaken important decisions aimed at the implementation of this policy in my country.

Finally, I would like to mention that FAO activities in the field of food security carried out through FSAS, are in our opinion highly commendable and should be continued and expanded.

H. MOHAMADI (Sudan) (original language Arabic): Thank you, Mr Chairman, for giving me the opportunity to comment on this important topic relating to Progress in the Implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen World Food Security - Re-appraisal of Concepts and Approaches, contained in document C 83/20. I should like to concentrate in brief, in order to save time, on the revised and new concepts and approaches which have been proposed as a natural result of the many drawbacks and the modest positive developments that have been achieved since 1974, these have been referred to in paragraphs 1-15 in the document under discussion.

Here it is necessary, first of all, to commend this good, honest and responsible initiative undertaken by the Director-General, and we should like to congratulate him in this respect.

There is a near consensus in accepting the expanded concept of world food security and its clear and precise objectives, as was clear from the deliberations of this Committee so far, and the deliberations in the Council and in the CFS. Therefore, we can reflect it in the proposed draft resolution.

Likewise there is near consensus on the general specific measures that can be taken at national and regional levels, though we would rather see the Organization undertake more detailed studies and specify more specific guidelines for each region in relation to its conditions in order to support regional food security and to discuss these guidelines in regional conferences in 1984.

As for the measures proposed on the global level, which must never be neglected, so far as their direct impact on both national and regional levels is concerned, such measures have led to divergence in points of view, although, despite the fact that this divergence might be temporary or of an institutional nature, we can consider this as a healthy phenomenon to reach better means and ways in order to achieve the objectives which have been agreed upon in order to implement the standard world food security concept.

Therefore, the delegation of the Sudan thinks that there is nothing against undertaking detailed studies in order to crystallize and clarify these measures and to carry out consultations about them, especially relating to security, ensuring stability of supplies on the global level, and to take coordinated measures. We hope that the International Wheat Agreement would be undertaken and would be signed. As for the measures relating to the International Food Emergency Reserve, the delegation of the Sudan endorses the proposal of the Director-General relating to exchanging views in the CFS and to studying the matters related to food reserves and to locating them in strategic points to be used in emergency situations. This study might alleviate the doubts that were aired in the CFS, in addition to the consultations relating to food aid and proposals in order to improve the Food Aid Convention which is scheduled to be renewed in 1986.

We can achieve an agreement on all the proposed resolutions and more studies and reviews on the measures proposed by the Organization relating to the Programme of Action, the Fund and a Compact for World Food Security.

The delegation of the Sudan endorses the expansion of the terms of reference of the CFS instead of creating new organs, together with closer cooperation among all international organizations working in this field, and this is called for not only on this issue but on all the activities of the Organization at all levels.

Finally, Mr Chairman, the delegation of the Sudan endorses what has been said by the distinguished representative of Lebanon.

N.E.MUMBA (Zambia): Allow me, Mr Chairman, to say a few words on this very important topic. Much has already been said by many delegations. It is, therefore, not my intention to repeat what they have said. Nonetheless, the Zambian delegation supports the widened concept of world food security as proposed by the Director-General.

We wish to pay tribute to the Director-General for this revised concept of world food security. We particularly welcome the idea that food security should not cover grains only. It must cover all types of food, including tubers and pulses, because in some areas these are important foods.

World food security would be meaningless if the food was not made easily available to the poorest of the poor. It is important to ensure, therefore, that the food is well spread throughout the world.

We wish also to pay tribute to those who have prepared document C 83/20. This document is well written and is very clear.

Lastly, I wish to say that Zambia supports the resolution to pursue further the question of a new concept on world food security, together with the necessary measures to be taken.

H. ZANNETIS (Cyprus): Being members of both CFS and the Council, the Cyprus delegation has closely followed all discussions relating to Progress in Implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen World Food Security - Re-appraisal of Concepts and Approaches and the proposal of the Director-General to strengthen the CFS. All these discussions are well summarized in document C 83/20, for which I would like to commend the Secretariat.

The new concept on world food security has since April 1983 been supported by the Council and ECOSOC and has been stressed by a lot of speakers both here and FAO and in other fora. I believe that hardly anyone would not agree 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. This should not be merely a wish. Positive and drastic measures should be taken to increase production, especially in the low-income food-deficit countries, along with measures to ensure stability of supplies. The ability of needy people to have access to available food should also be ensured.

In order to facilitate the foregoing, measures should be taken by individual countries themselves, but coordination is also important between countries of the same region and on a global level.

In his report on world food security to the CFS in April 1983, the Director-General has made a number of suggestions in general terms aiming at the establishment of a world food security system. These suggestions refer to the establishment of an FAO Food Security Action Programme, the establishment of a World Food Security Fund and a World Food Security Compact. We agree with the importance of, and the necessity to undertake, such measures, and we look forward to seeing the specific proposals of the Director-General which will be submitted to the CFS in 1984 on these items.

During the discussions in the CFS in 1983 and later in the Council in June 1983, this delegation gave its support to the proposals of the Director-General to strengthen the CFS within its terms of reference. We agree with the suggestion that the Committee should play a more central role in the food security system, as outlined in paragraph 64 of the document under review. We do not believe that this role contradicts or interferes in the work of other specialized bodies or organizations. We underline, of course, the need for close cooperation and coordination with these institutions with a view to avoiding duplication of tasks and waste of resources.

EL PRESIDENTE: Voy a proceder a la lectura de la lista de delegados que desean hacer uso de la palabra, que es bastante extensa: En primer lugar Pakistán, y después, Finlandia, Somalia, Canadá, Jordania, Sri Lanka, Camerún, Turquía, Malasia, Uruguay, Guinea, Nicaragua, Dinamarca, Peru, República Popular Democrática de Corea, Nueva Zelandia, Indonesia, Malí, Venezuela, Suecia, Marruecos, Emiratos Arabes Unidos, Suiza y Mauritania.

Como ven los Sres. Delegados, vamos a enfrentarnos a un largo debate.

Tiene la palabra la Delegación de Pakistán.

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): First of all, I would like to congratulate the Secretariat on the presentation of an extremely lucid and succinct document bearing on the revised concept of world food security.

We have carefully studied the document presented before us. My delegation welcomes and endorses the revised concept of world food security to achieve the ultimate objective of ensuring that all people at all times have both physical and economic access to the food they need. This concept has also been endorsed by the World Food Council at its Ninth Ministerial Session and the ECOSOC at its second regular session in 1983.

Our approach at the national level is already in line with the broadened concept. We have given incentives to farmers by improving the infrastructure for irrigation, transport and storage, better farm management, a stronger support service for research, extensions input delivery, credit and marketing. Efforts are also being directed to maximizing the productivity of the farmers and to providing employment in rural areas for the landless. A systematic set of measures has been introduced for meeting the shortfalls in cereal crops by building up food reserves, and to improve the income of consumers so they may be able to purchase their required food grains.

We, in Pakistan, have not only augmented our food production for domestic consumption, but have also built sizeable reserves for national food security. It may be of interest to you, Mr Chairman, that through the Islamic Laws of Zakat and Ushr we have further improved the accessibility of the needy and poor to the basic food they need. Comprehensive lists of such needy people are prepared by the committees constituted at grass-root level.

We also endorse regional and sub-regional cooperation to promote and give an impetus to global food security. This cooperation will also foster support for national efforts. We not only strongly supported the creation of the Regional Commission on Food Security for Asia and the Pacific Region, but have actively participated in its first meeting held recently in Bangkok. My delegation is of the view we should strive to strengthen the establishment of a food security system not only at regional and sub-regional level, but also within the framework of the Organization of the Islamic Conference member countries. Besides, due emphasis also needs to be placed on the diversification and expansion of intraregional trade collaboration in the production and distribution of inputs and the sharing of research facilities, joint water management, and cooperation in training and expansion. These are only a few of the areas in which regional cooperation can be strengthened. There could be many more.

On a global level, of vital significance is the political will and determination to evolve and practically implement a viable food security system. My delegation is of the view that urgent and sincere steps need to be taken to achieve the 10-million tonnes target set for the IEFRR with a financial window. We would also like to see an early replenishment of the IDA and IFAD resources. The declining trend of the UNDP funds also requires to be reversed. The IMF cereal-lending facility needs to be liberalized. We deeply appreciate the steps being taken by the Director-General of FAO in mobilizing support for the alleviation of hunger in Africa, and to increase the accessibility of food-deficit countries to the basic food requirements.

In conclusion, as regards the proposed resolution on world food security, we support its adoption and hope that it will elicit unanimous support. It is my confident hope that we will examine it with an open mind and carry on our discussions in a pragmatic and constructive fashion.

A. LUTZ (Finland): Since at the last meeting of the CFS held in April this year we had the opportunity of commenting fully on the Director-General's Report on World Food Security, we would like at this juncture to dwell on world food security in very general terms.

Firstly, we wish once more to thank the Director-General for his very comprehensive report in which all the essential elements of world food security have been mentioned. We welcome the general acceptance of the new concept of world food security which, we think, rests now on more solid ground.

The first objective of the new concept is to ensure to all people at all times both physical and economic access to the basic food they need. As national governments and international organizations we must see that famine and malnutrition are eliminated. Only after that will we have food security. The fight against famine and malnutrition is a tremendous task.

According to the FAO estimate, about 10 percent of the total world population of 4 600 million can be considered severely malnourished. Only after solving this problem can we talk about securing adequate food supplies at all times for all people, so let us begin by helping the less privileged of the world. Their case should be tackled first. We should first determine the areas where famine exists and which are the areas prone to famine. Information is already available in this respect, but not enough. Therefore, we would like to see set up by this Organization a nutrition unit linked tightly to the planning of the action programme for world food security. The next step would be to define methods to alleviate suffering and to prevent its reappearance.

Since the basic reason for malnutrition is poverty, lasting effects can only be achieved by eliminating poverty. The WCARRD programme of action is therefore crucial for the alleviation of poverty and we would like to stress its importance also in relation to world food security.

Finally, I reiterate the importance we place on the clear division of labour between the organization and programmes in the United Nations system in dealing with this complex issue. Every effort should be made to avoid duplication of work or rivalry between the international institutions. There is plenty of room for coordination and all forces should pull together to fight against hunger in the world and to work for world food security.

On this subject, we agree in principle with the draft resolution, but we think that "the fight against famine and malnutrition" should be included. Therefore, I propose that paragraph 3 a) should read: "to give priority to efforts to fight against famine and malnutrition, to increase food production in the developing countries," - and then the paragraph carries on. I will leave it to the Resolution Committee to find the right words in the right place, but I think this is a matter we should keep in mind.

M. HERSI BAHAL (Somalia): Mr Chairman, I have to congratulate Dr Islam for the outstanding presentation of this important topic, namely World Food Security, before us. The concept of world food security should be viewed against the background of the millions of people who are not fortunate enough to have the basic necessities of life.

Our delegation views with the utmost appreciation the effort made by the Director-General in framing an improved world food security system which would result in a global approach in combatting hunger and malnutrition.

In the last two decades the problem of food and hunger has been the main preoccupation of international communities. While the FAO Plan of Action in increasing food production has brought tangible results by way of research activities, the fight against pests and locust invasion and the improvement of the local support institutions, no breakthrough is yet in sight in increasing the yields of major food crops, particularly on the African scene.

It is the view of the Somalia delegation that efforts should be exerted in suitable applied research programmes on irrigated and rainfed crops. The implementation of appropriate research activities, coupled with the extension service, along with market incentive programmes for the farmers would break the present impasse in food production.

In the course of modernizing our agriculture, we cannot turn the clock back in resorting to traditional methods at a time when the social values of our farmers in using modern techniques have changed for the better. In this regard it is important to acknowledge the scarcity of foreign exchange in procuring the essential materials and equipment for agricultural development.

I would like to express my Government's gratitude to the Government of the United States of America for the use of the Commodity Import Programme in which provisions for the purchase of farm inputs and essential spare parts for farm machinery are made available.

I think this is a classic example where a rich country has devised an action programme aimed at helping a country with a shortage of foreign exchange.

Lastly, our delegation shares the views expressed in the draft resolution submitted by Venezuela, Bangladesh, India and Mexico.

N.C. MACDONNELL (Canada) : Food security remains a vitally important subject. The record of the last decade shows that some progress has been made. At the same time we still have a long way to go before we can ensure that, in the words of the Director-General, "all people at all times have both physical and economic access to the basic food they need".

This is why we were able to endorse the revised concept of world food security at the Eighth Session of the CFS. We particularly welcome the emphasis on production and distributional or access aspects of the concept, and we are heartened by Professor Islam's statement in his introduction yesterday that action at the national level is the basis for world food security.

We have long believed that the key to food security lies in developing countries increasing their food production capacities with the active support of the international community.

We are pleased that a large number of other delegations have expressed similar views. There appears to be a broad consensus on measures to be taken at the national level.

Regional efforts are certainly worth considering, especially when they complement and support activities at the national level. We would echo the remarks of some delegations that care must be taken to ensure the cost effectiveness of regional efforts, especially reserve proposals. At the international level the CFS considered a wide variety of proposals, and there were considerable differences of opinion, I recall. I do not propose to repeat the comments which my delegation made at that time, but I would note that we have serious concerns about proposed changes to the IEFER, the prepositioning of stocks, preferential prices, and the proposed Compact and World Security Fund. At the same time, we fully support efforts to enlarge the IEFER and ensure adequate replenishments of IDA and IFAD.

An issue of major importance is the access which countries can obtain at the international level, in other words their ability to buy any necessary food imports. I would like to second the comment of our Indian colleague who said yesterday that trade liberalization is the key here.

I would like to comment briefly on some of the institutional questions which have been raised. We are prepared to examine proposals to strengthen the CFS within its existing terms of reference. However, we would not wish to see changes which would encroach on the mandate or terms of reference of other institutions active in the food sector.

We believe that all the international agencies and institutions involved in food issues must cooperate closely and coordinate their work in order to attain maximum effectiveness. Nonetheless, we believe strongly that this must be done by the institutions operating strictly within their respective mandates, in order to retain coherence within the overall system.

Finally, I would like to echo the comments of other delegations in urging that the follow-up which the Director-General may propose be concentrated on matters where a consensus has already been reached, or where it appears likely in the near future. This will allow for the most productive use of our time and give our work a manageable focus.

I would just like to note that we have already submitted an amendment to the proposed draft resolution to the Secretariat.

T. NASSAR (Jordan) (original language Arabic): From the beginning we did not expect that all the proposals of the Director-General would enjoy unanimous approval by the CFS during its deliberations on these proposals in its session held in April 1983. We expected the same when the Report of the Committee was referred to the Council of the Organization afterwards. The reason behind this is that these proposals were general in nature, therefore the discussions on these proposals, either in the CFS or in the Council, were also of a general nature.

In addition to this, the majority of the members of the CFS are also members of the Council of the Organization. It is natural that the Director-General of the Organization, together with the Secretariat, have mentioned on more than one occasion that the purpose of submitting these proposals is to put them for general discussion and not to take definitive resolutions regarding the proposals.

Nevertheless, we consider that the results of these discussions in the Committee and the Council were generally positive and there has not been at any time any definitive rejection of any of these proposals. However, there have been some queries and questions.

Among the positive phenomena, we find that the members of the Committee and the members of the Council have welcomed and endorsed the new concept of world food security. They have endorsed measures that countries individually can take in this respect. They have also endorsed some measures which can be taken on the global level, and all these are undoubtedly positive phenomena which should be referred to.

The approval by the Committee, the CFS, and the Council of part of the proposals of the Director-General of the Organization is not an end in itself, but it is a beginning in the right direction. Therefore we believe that the Director-General of the Organization should be encouraged to follow up the implementation of these proposals and he is called upon to submit clarification, further and new information on the other proposals which did not enjoy unanimity in the CFS and the Council, in particular relating to the Programme of Action on World Food Security.

For the Conference to adopt a resolution in this regard would undoubtedly strengthen the efforts of the Organization, considering it a pioneering international organization in the UN system.

The delegation of Jordan would be pleased to be among those delegations adopting such a resolution, bearing the following in mind:

Firstly, to welcome what has been agreed in the CFS and the Council regarding the new concept of world food security and to authorize the Director-General to undertake follow up measures.

Secondly, to urge international organizations and donor governments to provide assistance to developing countries in order to formulate and implement their own programmes of food security, taking into consideration the assessments by the Organization and the World Food Programme of the particular needs of these countries.

Thirdly, to request the Food and Agriculture Organization to continue providing its assistance to developing countries in the formulation of their measures for food security, either on a regional or sub-regional level.

Fourthly, to request the Organization to provide detailed information and clarification to the CFS so that it can be deliberated on in its forthcoming session regarding proposals on which the Committee has not yet reached a consensus.

Fifthly, to urge donor countries and other countries as well to provide additional assistance in cash and in kind to the following programmes: prevention of food losses; international emergency food reserves, and the food security assistance scheme.

Sixthly, taking into consideration the fact that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations is the pioneering international organization in the field of world food security and that it assumes a leading role in this respect, the Conference may urge international organizations and institutions concerned to cooperate and coordinate their actions with the Organization in order to avoid duplication or contradictions, because this will do harm not only to these organizations, but also to the developing countries.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my thanks to the Secretariat for the preparation of this important document under consideration which is characterized by precision and clarity. I would also like to thank my colleagues who have spoken before me, because their observations generally have spared me going into a lot of detail.

Likewise, I took the opportunity of asking for the floor for the first time in this committee to extend my congratulations to you Mr Chairman, and to the two Vice-Chairmen, and we wish you all success in guiding the deliberations and we pledge our full support in this respect.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias señores, les ruego que nos permitan que en estos momentos el señor Delegado de Perú haga su declaración en vista que es Vicepresidente de la Plenaria y tendrá que asistir en pocos momentos a dicha sesión. De manera que si usted deslota tiene en abien le daré la palabra al señor Delegado del Perú.

J. GAZZO FERNANDEZ-DAVILA (Perú): Agradezco la deferencia especial que han tenido todos mis compañeros de delegaciones en concederme este privilegio, pero es que estoy un poquito atareado como Vicepresidente por eso me he pegado esta esca pada.

Quiero ante todo facilitar al Sr. Presidente por lo acertado de la conducción del debate, que ya le es característico, y a toda la Mesa. Este tema es verdaderamente interesante, siempre me ha fascinado y creo que los problemas realizados para la ejecución del Plan de Acción para reforzar la Seguridad Alimentaria tiene gran relación y concatenación con una serie de conceptos.

Hace muchas décadas que venimos hablando del fantasma del hambre y de la malnutrición en el mundo. Si bien hemos tratado de controlarlo y de dominarlo, debemos reconocer, con toda lealtad, que se ha hecho mucho, pero se ha logrado muy poco. Esto quisiera decir, quizás, que hasta ahora no ha tenido la orientación adecuada y que debería revisarse sus bases filosóficas.

Por suerte nuestro Director General, Dr. Saouma, con la sabiduría y dinamismo que le caracteriza, diría que ha encontrado la brújula, que ha encontrado la orientación buscada, pues sus nuevos conceptos de seguridad alimentaria están teniendo un efecto alertador que hemos notado, ha despertado conciencia y está inclusive cambiando actitudes, y podríamos decir que se ha vuelto en un nuevo dogma. Nuestro ilustre Embajador de Venezuela ante la FAO, Dr. Hernández Carabaño había hecho un comentario en un libro que publico en el 80 que se llamaba "Seguridad alimentaria: un reto a la democracia". Resulta, señor Presidente, que si bien, a menudo, nuestros países se esfuerzan tremendamente en aumentar sus áreas agrícolas y su productividad en algunos productos agropecuarios para los cuales la ecología del país, debido justamente a sus ubicaciones geográficas, como lo son la longitud, la altitud y la latitud, les otorgan considerables ventajas económicas comparativas sobre otras áreas productoras del mundo. Estos países, principalmente, son países del tercer mundo y hacen un gran esfuerzo para aprovechar estas características ecológicas especiales para producir algunos productos agrícolas de características de clima subtropical y tropical. Sin embargo, nos preocupa mucho que algunos países desarrollados se esmeran en producir sustitutos naturales y/o sintéticos, usando incluso las tecnologías más sofisticadas, y estos productos sintéticos o sustitutos naturales compiten en el mercado mundial con nuestros productos agrícolas, obligándonos a usar estas áreas de las cuales nos han desalojado para la producción de otros cultivos, para los cuales no tienen actitudes agroeconómicas nuestros países, empujándonos hacia el uso irracional de nuestros recursos.

Mi país fue autosuficiente alimentariamente hasta la colonia y sólo debido a la occidentalización exagerada de sus hábitos alimentarios y al abandono justamente de sus principales cultivos alimenticios autóctonos, se ha vuelto tremendamente dependiente, perdiendo en cierta medida, justamente, su seguridad alimentaria que depende hoy largamente de la importación de una amplia gama de productos alimentarios que crean serios desbalances en nuestra balanza de pagos al no tener nuestros productos agrícolas, ni nuestros productos mineros, ni nuestros productos metálicos, ni nuestros productos pesqueros los precios justos internacionales que fueron proyectados cuando se concertaron la mayoría de las gestiones de adecuamiento externo, que hoy al no obtener los precios originales están afectando grandemente a la capacidad de pagos de nuestros países. Creo que el caso del Perú es el caso de la mayoría de los países del Tercer Mundo .

Para terminar, quisiera ilustrar que la dinámica política de nuestro actual Ministro de Agricultura, el Ingeniero Juan Carlos Hurtado, ha hecho más eficiente la utilización de cuatro institutos descentralizados que ha creado en su Ministerio. Esto ha permitido eliminar cuestiones burocráticas al poder ejecutar estos institutos los programas en el campo, sin autorización adicional de ningún dispositivo ministerial. En el aspecto de seguridad alimentaria que es muy importante, señor Presidente, hemos creado las reservas nacionales alimentarias, pero las hemos basado en tres grandes componentes: primero, reservas transitorias, que aseguran a la población un abastecimiento mínimo de 90 días, de los 6 principales alimentos básicos que constituyen la canasta alimentaria popular, preferiblemente a base de productos locales si los hubiera, o si no proporcionando oportunas importaciones, y de la canasta de alimentos básicos cuando existan en el país. Segundo, se ha creado una reserva ampliada permanente de otros productos alimenticios adicionales a aquellos de la canasta popular, y de aquellos productos autóctonos para los cuales se tienen actitudes de producción con ventajas comparativas. Tercero, hemos creado unas reservas coyunturales con participación de todas las componentes del proceso productivo, o sea del Estado, los productores y comerciantes otorgándose créditos suficientes, oportunos y blandos a través del banco agrario del país.

Yo creo, señor Presidente, que este tema que estamos tratando es tan importante que se debe sintetizar en tres acciones como bien se dice: la producción, la seguridad de los suministros y el acceso a los recursos disponibles. Podemos decir que si bien es una declaración teórica, justamente hay muchos factores manejados por los países desarrollados que se oponen al cumplimiento de estos tres prefijos, porque en la producción hemos visto que apenas producimos exitosamente la caña de azúcar en condiciones económicamente comparativas, sale la fructuosa del maíz, salen los famosos sorgos ataríficos de climas templados y entonces, prácticamente, nos prestan dinero para mejorar las fábricas de azúcar, y después nos ponen un sustituto, lo cual indudablemente es un arma de doble filo.

De manera que podemos decir que indirectamente se oponen a que nuestra producción sea racional, usando el suelo para su ecología.

La seguridad de los suministros también es muy incierta porque son muy grandes las oscilaciones de precios en el mercado, y el famoso convenio del trigo sigue siendo un saludo a la bandera, porque hasta ahora no se ha logrado llegar a él.

La cuestión del acceso a los recursos disponibles es algo vergonzoso. Es muy triste que cuando hay tanta hambre en el mundo precisamente a algunos países les sobren alimentos. Y esto, señor Presidente, no le hace ningún honor al ser humano.

Algunos países como el nuestro no tienen la producción agrícola necesaria para atender a sus necesidades. Disponemos de algunas materias primas y de ciertas producciones determinadas, que antes nos permitían adquirir alimentos y bienes de equipo. Citaré un ejemplo dramático.

Hace quince años, con el valor de la exportación de 35 toneladas de azúcar se adquiría un tractor. Pues bien, hoy día, necesitamos exportar 90 toneladas de azúcar para pagar el mismo tractor.

Es evidente, señor Presidente, que en el orden internacional hay algo que no camina y que es necesario hacerlo andar, porque no se trata exclusivamente de países desarrollados o de países en vías de desarrollo, se trata de toda la humanidad.

Estoy seguro de que los países van a revisar sus políticas y de que son conscientes de que lo que he expuesto es la pura realidad.

El PRESIDENTE: Voy a leer la lista de oradores: Sri Lanka, India, Camerún, Túnez, Malasia, Uruguay, Guinea, Dinamarca, República Popular Democrática de Corea, Nueva Zelandia, Indonesia, Malawi, Venezuela, Marruecos, Suecia, Suiza, Emiratos Arabes Unidos, Mauritania, Nigeria, Mozambique, Nicaragua.

Esta mañana hemos indicado que convendría que se enviaran por escrito a la Secretaría los comentarios de las distintas delegaciones en relación con el Proyecto de Resolución sobre el concepto de seguridad alimentaria.

A la vista de que varias delegaciones han hecho entrega por escrito de sus comentarios -Australia, Finlandia y Canadá- y por otra parte que Venezuela, India, México y Bangladesh son las delegaciones que promovieron dicho proyecto de resolución, esta Presidencia estima que podríamos proponer que se estableciera un grupo de contacto entre estas delegaciones y, por supuesto, aquellas otras que desearan participar también.

Esto con objeto de que por la tarde tuviéramos ya algunos comentarios organizados en relación con esta importante materia.

¿Hay algún comentario que hacer al respecto? ¿Alguna otra delegación quisiera unirse a este grupo de contacto?

En ese caso esta Presidencia suplica a las siguientes delegaciones en principio, que tengan a bien reunirse a la mayor brevedad para que hoy por la tarde podamos tener un avance para la discusión del proyecto de resolución sobre el concepto de seguridad alimentaria.

Voy a dar lectura de las delegaciones que en principio han de formar este grupo de contacto:

Australia, Francia, Finlandia, Canadá, Venezuela, Bangladesh y México.

¿Alguna otra delegación desea unirse a este grupo de contacto?

Las delegaciones de Indonesia y de los Estados Unidos de América también manifiestan su deseo de formar parte del grupo de contacto.

Bien, Señores, pedimos a estas delegaciones que se reúnan al finalizar los trabajos de esta quinta sesión y se pongan de acuerdo para el debate que deba tener lugar antes de que termine la sesión de hoy por la tarde, y puedan presentar oportuna y organizadamente sus comentarios.

N. V. K. WERAGODA (Sri Lanka) : We have gone through this document C 83/20 under consideration in relation to the subject of food security. The Sri Lanka delegation is happy to endorse the contents of this document and support the proposed course of action in ensuring World Food Security.

When the negotiations for setting up a New International Grains Agreement failed in spite of repeated efforts in February 1979, the interim proposals to have a Five-Point Plan of Action to promote World Food Security made by the Director-General of FAO was recognized by both the developed and developing countries as the only positive proposal made so far to avert a repetition of this crisis. This was quite evident, as 72 countries, both developed and developing, have adopted to date National Cereal Stocks policies. Similarly, 16 countries have adopted stock practices which will make it possible for them to achieve some of the objectives set out in the International Undertaking agreed to by countries in 1974, but these measures fall short of the main target of maintaining minimum safe levels of basic cereal stocks for the world as a whole. They do not replace National Food Security programmes as such.

It is in this context that we welcome the proposals made by the Director-General of FAO in connexion with the new concepts of world food security which had been considered by the Committee on World Food Security at its Eighth Session and also by the FAO Council at its Eighty-third Session held this year. It is true that the subject of world food security should receive high priority at a world forum of this nature. However, we should not forget the fact that the most appropriate and effective measure of security would be at the national level. It is for that reason the Sri Lanka delegation, whilst endorsing the contents of the document, would like to emphasise National and Regional Food Security. Achievements on National Food Security rest largely on National Food Strategies. Our experience has shown that it is very necessary to adopt appropriate domestic policies to boost production. Price policies is an effective instrument in providing the necessary incentives for higher production. Also, the provisional necessary infrastructures for farming communities to deliver the goods help in increasing production. It is in this manner that we can achieve that which we consider the most important Resolution adopted in the World Food Council, namely, the developing countries should organize themselves to increase food production by at least 4 per cent per annum. I am happy to say that Sri Lanka has been able to keep to this target during the last six years.

It is also necessary to explore the possibilities of regional cooperation in ensuring food security. As you are aware, Mr Chairman, the Asian Region has already taken the initiative in this matter. Whilst talking of food production, it is also necessary to emphasise the stocks. Insofar as carry-over stocks are concerned, for the last six months we have been talking about a figure of 21 per cent of stocks being available, but we now learn that these stocks will be reduced to 17 per cent within a year. If this is so, I think we have to be cautious, otherwise the system of World Food Security we are going to build up will encounter serious problems.

When we emphasise National Food Security and self-reliance, it is also pertinent to note that there are some countries that just cannot meet these requirements due to no fault of their own. The reasons are very often beyond their control. Food aid has to be harnessed in such circumstances. In ensuring food security, it is also necessary to provide adequate facilities for timely distribution and availability of food to the needy. It is often said that in certain countries, food is available but the needy do not have the purchasing power to procure it. It is like the torments of Tantalus.

It is in regard to this situation that the Sri Lanka delegation makes special reference to the Director-General's proposals in paragraph 55 of document C 83/20. As borne out in the discussions which took place in the CFS and the FAO Council, it may be necessary to have further discussions to clarify some of the measures, but we wish to emphasise that while further deliberations may be necessary to clarify issues, they should not be prolonged, because the need for a nationally-agreed— upon-plan of action is vital and cannot be postponed. We were led to this ever-present danger as far back as 1974 in the wake of the severe food crisis. We have delayed long enough, almost a decade. What is urgently required is for us to take some concrete action to fully avert a repetition of the events that took place in 1974. We are not out of the woods yet.

The majority of the delegates in the Plenary have quite rightly drawn our attention to the precarious situation prevailing, in Africa particularly. Africa is not the only continent. There are many pockets of such crises in Asia and Latin America, though the extent of the seriousness varies from country to country. The Sri Lanka delegation also takes this opportunity to state that we endorse the draft resolution provided to us on the subject this morning.

I wish to end by referring to the concluding remarks in document C 83/20 which reads : "At present, cereal stocks are high and prices are low. There is little awareness of the urgent need to build a more effective global system for food security. Yet postponement of decisions would be a serious mistake." I hope we will not commit this serious mistake.

A.G. NGONGI NAMANGA (Cameroon): Mr Chairman, since this is the first time my delegation has taken the floor in this Commission, permit me to congratulate you on your election to the Chair. I am confident that you will direct our deliberations in a most effective manner and that we shall reach some concrete conclusions. I wish also to congratulate the two Vice-Chairmen who were elected to assist you.

The Cameroon delegation requests your permission, Mr Chairman, to make a few comments on Document C 83/2, the State of Food and Agriculture, before discussing the document before us, since we have not had the opportunity to do so as we were unavoidably occupied, but our comments will be brief on that document.

Document C 83/2 is a very well-prepared document. It is much better than similar documents presented to previous sessions of this Commission in that it has moved from just broad generalities to specific critical situations affecting the different developing regions.

On sub-Saharan Africa, this delegation wishes to join those which have spoken before to deplore the current situation and ask for immediate concerted efforts on the part of the international community to overcome the food emergency. In this connection, the Cameroon delegation applauds the serious efforts made by the Director-General of FAO to bring this critical situation to the attention of the international community and his untiring efforts to raise additional food aid, financial and technical resources for the benefit of the most seriously affected countries of Africa. The generosity of donors is greatly appreciated, and we urge those in a position to do so to make additional voluntary contributions to the IEFRR or bilaterally to meet the urgent needs of some 22 African countries.

The current situation in Africa is the result of the inability of African countries to meet the challenges of the weather and plant and animal diseases through the development of appropriate technology. Its solution requires both emergency action and a long-term programme to build up the capacity of the sub-Saharan countries to tackle the complex problems associated not only with agricultural development but also relating to general economic development.

Let me make a few last comments on document C 83/2. The serious outbreak of rinderpest in Africa is a major threat to the livestock industry of the entire continent and other regions. This delegation endorses the recommendations made by the Eighty-fourth Session of the Council on the modalities of execution of a Pan-African rinderpest campaign. We are confident that the Director-General will, in conjunction with the heads of other concerned agencies and African governments, take all necessary action to launch the Pan-African rinderpest campaign in the near future. We do hope that the valuable emergency assistance FAO has been giving through TCP will be continued.

It has come to our attention that some delegations have already made comments in Commission II on the inappropriateness of Regional offices. We would like to say that this delegation does not share that view. How do we tackle the problem of rinderpest without regional action? Or the problems of desertification or those of regional food security schemes?

Having said this, this delegation is of the opinion that the African regional presence of FAO could be made both functional and more effective than is the case presently, especially if one takes into consideration language problems, the great distances to be covered and the diversity of the sub-region. The Cameroon delegation urges the Secretariat to reflect on these issues and make some proposals to the next Regional Conference.

Now, turning to document C 83/20, the Cameroon delegation wishes to congratulate the Secretariat for an excellent document summarizing the debate which took place during the Eighth Session of the CFS.

The concept of food security is probably as old as organized human society. Man has always strived to ensure that he has enough to eat not only today but also tomorrow and the day after tomorrow. The methods used to attain this noble objective have changed over time, and as times have changed, the need to review and redefine the concepts and modalities has increased.

The Cameroon delegation therefore welcomes the Director-General's study which reviewed and reappraised the concepts and approaches to World Food Security. The Cameroon delegation supported the revised concept at the Eighth Session of CFS, and we reiterate our support here. We urge that this Commission should support the revised concept, which has three elements: a) physical availability of supplies through higher production; b) stability of supplies through national and international preparedness measures; and c) economic access to food supplies.

The Cameroon delegation reiterates its support of the measures at national and regional levels as approved by the Committee on World Food Security and endorsed by the Eighty-third Session of the FAO Council. On the global measures, this delegation supports those aimed at 1) strengthening the IEF and raising the target to some 1 million tonnes; and 2) suggestions made on trade issues which would improve and stabilise the export earnings of developing countries. We of course realise that the details of trade issues are better handled in GATT and UNCTAD.

On the institutional implications of the Director-General's report discussed by the Committee on World Food Security, this delegation supports the strengthening of the role of the Committee on World Security within its current terms of reference, and that other concerned institutions, be they of the UN system or not, should continue to make positive contributions towards the search for world food security without undue duplication.

I should like to make a few final remarks on future action. The Cameroon delegation supports the Council decision calling on the Director-General to work out more details on ideas such as a Food Security Compact, Food Security Action Programme and World Food Security Fund. We look forward to discussing these issues at future sessions of the Committee on World Food Security and at the next session of the Conference.

Finally, Mr Chairman, the Cameroon delegation reiterates its support for a special programme for Africa, an idea which was approved by the Committee on World Food Security at its Eighth Session and endorsed by the Council at its Eighty-third Session. It is only through a concerted action over a long term that the food security situation of Africa can be substantially improved. We look forward to discussing the follow-up report at the Ninth Session of the Committee on World Food Security.

R. SENTÜRK (Turkey): Mr Chairman, allow me to start by congratulating you and the Vice-Chairmen on your election and by expressing our compliments to Mr Islam for his excellent introduction to this important agenda item.

We realise that the global food situation has turned out to be different in these days relative to that which prevailed in the 1970's. Production of major cereals has reached a record level resulting in accumulation of reserves even above the level required for world food security.

We observe with concern, however, that major increases in production have been achieved in food surplus developed countries, while the food situation in developing countries has further deteriorated due to low level of production increase, as opposed to high population increase. Also, decreases in the foreign exchange earnings of the developing countries have led them to face a critical situation of weak demand for food commodities which caused large stocks in the major food-producing countries.

In order to find a solution for this unbalanced situation among the developed and developing countries, we believe that new arrangements on international agricultural trade can play an important role for the benefit of both sides.

Apart from this, my delegation believes that the food security situation should be handled at both national and regional levels.

Here I would like to point out that during the discussion at the World Food Security Committee meeting in April 1983, the definition of food security outlined by the Director-General has to be considered as an appropriate and comprehensive approach. Developing countries have to carry out the necessary arrangements in order to facilitate the collective self-reliance in food commodities among themselves. In addition to these arrangements, international support should be made available for cooperative arrangements among developing countries in the field of regional food reserves.

It is in this context, Mr Chairman, that my delegation greatly appreciates and supports the new programmes proposed by the Director-General, Mr Saouma, aimed at the strengthening of FAO's role in providing international assistance to developing countries within the framework of food security.

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores delegados: Como he anunciado, se solicitó la creación de un grupo de contacto integrado por los siguientes países de los que me voy a permitir dar la lista a continuación: India, Bangladesh, México, Australia, Finlandia, Canadá, Francia, Colombia, Venezuela, Indonesia, Estados Unidos de América y Grecia a nombre de la Comunidad Económica Europea. También Kenya solicita estar en el grupo de trabajo, así como Malasia.

Les ruego que no se apunten más porque, de otra manera, vamos a tener que estar todos presentes, y entonces vamos a convertir el grupo de trabajo en la propia Comisión. Mientras menos delegaciones haya mejor. Lo que se busca es representatividad y eficiencia.

En relación a la hora y el lugar de la reunión, la Secretaría me informa lo siguiente. A las 14.30 horas se puede disponer del Salón de la India, pero en este caso, la reunión sería sin interpretación; lo subrayo, sin interpretación. Si los señores delegados estuvieran de acuerdo o fuera posible que fuera sin interpretación, se celebraría a las 14.30 horas. Me indica la delegación de Francia que no sería posible, y en ese caso, la reunión se podría celebrar a las 17.30 horas de hoy, en la tarde, en el lugar que nos anuncie la Secretaría. Y en ese caso, por supuesto, habría interpretación.

Entonces, proseguiremos hoy, a las 14.30 horas, con la siguiente lista de oradores: Malasia, Uruguay, Ghana, República Popular Democrática de Corea, Nueva Zelandia, Indonesia, Malí, Venezuela, Marruecos, Suecia, Suiza, Emiratos Arabes Unidos, Mauritania, Brasil, Nigeria, Mozambique, Nicaragua y Kenya.

Señores delegados; se suspende esta quinta sesión de la Comisión I y nos vemos a las 14.30 horas.

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/I/PV/6

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Twenty-second Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt-deuxième session
COMMISSION I

22° período de sesiones
COMISION I

SIXTH MEETING
SIXIEME SEANCE
SEXTA SESION

(11 November 1983)

The Sixth Meeting was opened at 14.50 hours

José Ramón López-Portillo, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La sixième séance est ouverte à 14 h 50, sous la présidence
de José Ramón López-Portillo, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la sexta sesión a las 14.50 horas, bajo la presidencia de
José Ramón López-Portillo, Presidente de la Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
6. World Food and Agriculture Situation: (continued)
6. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture : (suite)
6. Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo: (continuación)
- 6.2 Progress in Implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen World Food Security - Re-appraisal of Concepts and Approaches (continued)
6.2 Etat d'avancement du Plan d'action visant à renforcer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale - Réexamen des concepts et des approches (suite)
6.2 Progresos realizados en la ejecución del Plan de Acción para reforzar la seguridad alimentaria mundial - reconsideración de conceptos y planteamientos (continuación)

EL PRESIDENTE: Se abre la Sexta Sesión de los trabajos de la Comisión I, y comienzo por informarles de que el grupo de contacto se reunirá en la Sala de Alemania, C-269, a las 17.30 horas.

La Secretaría ha recibido comunicaciones por parte de las siguientes Delegaciones en relación con el Proyecto de Resolución presentado a esta Comisión.

Estas Delegaciones son Australia, Finlandia, Canadá, Suecia, Suiza, y la Comunidad Económica Europea a través de Francia.

Como ven los Sres. Delegados, tenemos frente a nosotros una larga lista de oradores que a continuación me permitiré leer, y les suplico desde ahora que moderen lo más posible el tiempo de sus exposiciones, porque abrigamos la intención decidida de terminar hoy con los debates en torno al Subtema 6.2 de nuestra Agenda.

Las Delegaciones son las siguientes: Malasia, Uruguay, Guinea, Dinamarca, Corea, Nueva Zelanda, Panamá, Indonesia, Malawi, Venezuela, Marruecos, Suecia, Suiza, Emiratos Arabes Unidos, Mauritania, Brasil, Nigeria, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Kenya y El Salvador.

Ahora concedo la palabra a la Delegación de Malasia.

ABDUL WAHID JALIL (Malaysia): It is always difficult for the first speaker in the afternoon session to maintain the same enthusiasm and momentum of discussion as we had before we broke for lunch. Anyway, I hope the lunch break will have given us more food for thought on this very important subject.

It is recognized that the concept of world food security suffers from inadequacy, particularly in terms of ensuring the availability of food to food deficit developing countries. Therefore there is every justification for reappraising the concept of world food security.

Malaysia is in full agreement with the proposal of the Director-General of FAO to revise the concept of world food security, particularly in respect of production, stability of supplies and accessibility to available supply, both by countries needing the supply as well as by the people within the countries. In the past food security initiatives have been concentrated on food grain, that is staple crops like rice and wheat. These initiatives have not resolved fully the food security problems of all food deficit developing countries because not all those countries have grain as their staple food. Therefore, in order to ensure that global, regional and sub-regional food security initiatives cater for the needs of all food deficit developing countries, efforts must now be made to concentrate not only on grain staple but also non-cereal staple such as tubers and roots.

While it is considered appropriate at the national level to implement the three components of world food security, that is inadequacy of supply, stabilizing of flow of supply and access to supply, it is to be recognized that developing countries may not have the necessary capacity, expertise and the capital to ensure that these components are effectively carried out. External assistance from international agencies in terms of finance and expertise might be desired for developing countries with very limited foreign exchange resources.

The measures proposed for the regional level are considered appropriate but what is desired is more concerted efforts among the member countries concerned. The example of ASEAN emergency rice reserve should also be followed by other regions in the world. This regional measure might not be practical in cases where the countries concerned are chronically food deficit. In other words, the reserve supply of staple food should come from the member countries and not from the countries outside the regional grouping.

At the global level, food security could be ensured through a wide range of food programmes as well as financing facilities for food by food importing, by low income and food deficit countries. Malaysia, while not classified under this category, supports the two principal measures, namely the assistance of IMF facilities to meet increasing food importing bills of food deficit and food importing countries, and to develop a system of preferential price arrangement for food importing and food deficit countries.

While it is easy for developing food deficit countries to formulate stock policy as part of world food security programmes, it is sometimes beyond the means and capacity of the countries concerned to stockpile food reserves due to the lack of warehousing facilities. In this connection IFAD and other financial institutions which provide loans on concessional terms should be requested to provide the necessary funding for this purpose.

Malaysia strongly supports the efforts of the international community to work together closely in implementing the measures outlined in the document. In this connection Malaysia further reiterates its concern over the lack of coordinated efforts in implementing the World Food Programme. In this connection agencies within the United Nations system and other agencies should work out a formula to work together to implement the world food security measures.

In the course of implementing the possible measures proposed in the paper, the need for an effective/ monitoring system should be developed both at the regional and global level. A secretariat should be set up at the regional level with the concurrence of the member countries concerned. At the global level, FAO being the specialized agency dealing with agriculture and food, should be charged with the responsibility.

Finally, in view of the importance of this subject, my delegation welcomes the proposal for the joint draft resolution on world food security. We therefore look forward to the final form of the resolution after the deliberation of the Contract Group. I am sure the Group will come up with a resolution that will receive the approval of us all.

Po OLMOS MORALES (Uruguay): Con la oportunidad de nuestra primera intervención en esta Comisión, queremos expresar nuestras congratulaciones por haber sido usted elegido Presidente de esta Comisión. Extendemos nuestras felicitaciones también a los Sres. Vicepresidentes.

Por otra parte, esta Delegación de Uruguay desea expresar su reconocimiento a la Secretaría de FAO por la presentación de los documentos referentes a la situación de la alimentación y de la agricultura en el mundo, así como a la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

Queremos también expresar nuestro reconocimiento por la brillante exposición del Profesor Islam que sirvió de marco de referencia a nuestros debates.

En relación con el tema que nos ocupa, el 6.2 de nuestro temario, Uruguay desea expresar su apoyo al concepto ampliado de seguridad alimentaria presentado por el Director General a la última reunión del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria.

En ese aspecto, los conceptos de ampliación de rubros en materia de seguridad alimentaria, que no sólo abarcan a los cereales sino a otros elementos básicos para la existencia de la población de muchas regiones del mundo, nos parece que reflejan fielmente el concepto de la seguridad alimentaria, no sólo en cuanto a la ampliación propiamente dicha del concepto en su contenido, sino en cuanto al acceso efectivo a los alimentos por parte de todos los pueblos por lo que hace a sus posibilidades de consumo.

Señor Presidente, mi Delegación, como lo han hecho otros colegas, quisiera también expresar la estrecha relación entre la seguridad alimentaria mundial y el comercio internacional.

En este aspecto, la situación de los países exportadores de alimentos ha sido en los últimos años tremendamente distorsionada por la existencia de prácticas proteccionistas, de trabas en el mercado internacional, que no solamente han afectado a los mecanismos tradicionales, trabas arancelarias, sino también en los últimos tiempos por la aplicación de subsidios por parte de países desarrollados o por organizaciones de los países desarrollados que han distorsionado la comercialización de algunos capítulos básicos, como es el caso de los productos lácteos y cárnicos.

Respecto a esto, nuestra Delegación desea manifestar que no existirá una auténtica seguridad alimentaria mientras subsista ese tipo de prácticas, que en primera instancia puede parecer que pueden ir en beneficio de países en situación de déficit alimentario, pero que en última instancia no constituyen un mecanismo favorable para que los países en desarrollo productores de alimentos puedan no solamente satisfacer sus necesidades, sino además trabajar activamente a fin de resolver el problema del hambre en el mundo.

Nuestra delegación en este punto apoya el estudio propuesto por el Director General sobre políticas nacionales de precios agrícolas, que anunciara el Profesor Islam para ser consideradas en las conferencias regionales del año próximo y en el Período de Sesiones de la Conferencia de 1985.

Estimamos que este estudio aportará elementos muy valiosos sobre los aspectos de comercialización en el marco de los productos agrícolas y alimentarios.

De todas maneras, los esfuerzos que se han desarrollado a nivel de otros organismos como el GATT, a través del Comité de Productos Agrícolas, o de UNCTAD, merecen nuestra especial atención, y esperamos que en esos foros se dedique también por su parte especial atención a los problemas del comercio internacional de productos agrícolas.

En relación con el proyecto de resolución presentado por algunos países en esta Comisión, nuestra Delegación desea manifestar su apoyo a tal proyecto de resolución.

En primer lugar, queremos poner de manifiesto que a nuestro juicio dicho proyecto refleja el concepto ampliado de seguridad alimentaria, que compartimos y en segundo lugar expresar nuestra adhesión a los programas y a su ampliación sobre el plan de asistencia de seguridad alimentaria, pasando por el programa de prevención de pérdida de alimentos y otros programas de acción, que se han abordado a través de la acción de la FAO, de la asistencia bilateral tendentes a ampliar las posibilidades de la seguridad alimentaria.

Estamos también de acuerdo con respecto a las metas de ayuda alimentaria establecidas para 1985, y con la ampliación de los recursos para el fomento de las reservas alimentarias internacionales de emergencia.

Con respecto a la resolución planteada, mi Delegación solamente desearía establecer una pequeña salvedad. En el párrafo cuarto, que se refiere a la liberalización del comercio internacional, nos gustaría que se suprimiera la expresión "ulterior", porque consideramos que no debe estar condicionadas en el tiempo las medidas que puedan atender o que puedan instar a una liberalización efectiva del comercio internacional de productos agrícolas.

Desde el punto de vista del análisis general del tema, estos son Señor Presidente, nuestros modestos comentarios.

H. MENDS (Ghana): Mr Chairman, my delegation would like to offer a brief comment on the Director-General's revised concept of world food security. As has been stated in document C 83/20 and more eloquently discussed by the delegations that spoke this morning, the persistent food production problems of developing countries which face acute food shortages, mostly in Africa, have heightened international attention for increased agricultural production, and, indeed, a more integrated approach to world food security.

My delegation is in full agreement with the proposals for an improved system of world food security. While it is quite easy to accept the various continents' measures at the national and regional levels, it is also logical to understand the crucial need for measures at global level for the necessary food security impact to be attained. We would, therefore, urge all those countries who have difficulties with some aspects of the proposed global measures and to assist in sorting out the kinks for the system to operate as a package. In this connection, we stress the importance of a more liberalized IMF food facility, a larger IEFER and a strengthened FAO influence and active leadership role in food security matters under the guidance of the Committee on World Food security. We believe that the existing terms of reference of CFS are broad and flexible enough to be accorded the confidence and prominence in the role it should play under the broadened concept of world food security. Like our colleagues from Cyprus and Cameroon, we do not think that the activities of CFS conflict in any way with those of the other institutions, such as the World Bank, the World Food Programme, and the World Food Council.

We fully concur with the statements made by India, Bangladesh, Mexico, Cuba and Cameroon amongst others. Mr. Chairman, considering what has been achieved under Resolution 3/79 on world food security adopted by the Conference in 1979, we believe that the proposed Resolution, which has been passed by the Resolution Committee, is a vital linking instrument and accordingly has my delegation's strongest support for our consideration and unanimous adoption.

E. HJELMAR (Denmark): As the representative of the European Community made a general statement yesterday on the views of the European Community, I can make my statement brief, as you asked, and concentrate on two main points.

The first point is in the new concept of world food security, which we endorse. One of the aims of the concept is the securing of adequate food supplies. The necessary quantities must be available but we must not forget the quality, that is the nutritional aspect. The food available should have a nutritionally acceptable composition. Malnutrition must be prevented as well as famine. In connection with food supplies from other countries local food traditions should be respected. I realise that this is a problem which the World Food Programme is very well aware of in its programme. These are only two aspects of the nutrition problems which should be kept in mind. The Nordic countries have, however, got the impression that FAO could be more aware of the nutritional problems. In fact I have not succeeded in finding the word "nutrition" mentioned in the progress report before us. Norway has, therefore, this morning presented a statement on that point in Commission II, on behalf of the Nordic countries. The Finnish proposal this morning and an amendment to the draft resolution on world food security also reflected this impression of something missing in the working programme of FAO.

My second point is on the institutional implications referred to in paragraphs 58-65.

As mentioned in the documents, there were diverging reactions in the Committee on World Food Security on some of the proposals of the Director-General. I would like to stress that the implications of new ideas which change the balance between existing international organizations must be considered carefully. It is not very fruitful that the different organizations compete on the responsibilities. It is cooperation that is needed and not competition.

Those are the two points I would make under this agenda point, Mr Chairman.

LI HYOK CHOL (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): As this is the first time for our delegation to speak in this Committee, I would like to warmly congratulate you on your election to the chairmanship of this Commission. I also express the appreciation of my delegation to the Secretariat, for the preparation of the excellent document before us. The revised concept of world food security of the Director-General is a most correct response to the existing world food situation.

The report of the Director-General to the Eighth Session of the Committee on World Food Security is, indeed, a document of great importance in promoting the world food security. I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our full support to the revised concept, and all the proposals of the Director-General, including the measures at national, regional, and global levels. We also support the proposal to strengthen the effectiveness of the CFS within its existing mandate.

Mr Chairman, the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea shares the view that the actual problem of world food security today is the negligence, or the negative attitude of some countries, towards the world food problem. In this connection, my delegation feels that the technical and economic cooperation among the developing countries should play an important role. The result of the North/South negotiations so far, required to put more stress on the economic and technical cooperation among the developing countries.

It is our view that collective self-reliance of the developing countries should be given priority in our effort to combat hunger and starvation in the world. There exists many countries in the developing world, who have obtained valuable experience in the rural and agricultural development, and others have abandoned natural and human resources. When the North/South cooperation is encouraged and all this potential is pooled together effectively, we would have a really prosperous Third World.

The developing countries must learn from each other; support each other and march forward together.

Finally, I would like to put on the record the full support of my delegation for the draft resolution presented to the Conference in document C 83/20. We think that the contact group meeting this evening can produce a good draft acceptable to all.

G.J. BOXALL (New Zealand): The Director-General has asked for the guidance of this Conference on the direction of work for world food security in the next biennium. My delegation commends the Director-General for the constructive initiative he has taken through seeking a broader approach to world food security. New Zealand has already supported the broader approach in the committee on food security and in the council, and we reaffirm our support today.

We desire progress. This, however, will be slow. It is important and we have the responsibility to proceed in the best and most appropriate manner. We should not sacrifice effective progress for the sake of expediency.

The New Zealand delegation appreciates that there is an undeniable need for a dependable system of world food security. This requires effective economic prescriptions which would safeguard the interests of both developing and developed countries alike.

The Director-General has recognised the parameters in which progress can be achieved. He has proposed measures at the national, regional and global levels. In my delegation's view, the most effective way to proceed at this early stage is at the national level. It is not my intention to delve into the many interesting prescriptions detailed by the Director-General on this matter in his report. There are very many valuable areas identified where developing countries, with necessary support where required, can focus their immediate action.

At the national level we see opportunities for FAO to extend its work in several areas. We believe there should be a continuing emphasis on establishing the nutritional status of vulnerable groups. Denmark mentioned this point earlier. At the same time we believe countries should be encouraged to make contingency plans which attempt to anticipate the actions which will be necessary in a food crisis. While these contingency plans could not be expected to anticipate an actual emergency - by definition these are unpredictable - we believe they will help to improve crisis management and may well form a basis for regional co-ordination.

The role developed countries can play is a large one. Cooperation is essential. In particular, we would like to endorse the Director-General's call in his report for a greater liberalisation of trade. Trade is the engine of growth. Unfortunately, world trade in agriculture is declining. Terms of trade have declined and access to markets is restricted.

We spoke on this matter at the last meetings of the CCP and Council and in the Plenary of this Conference. I will not enumerate those well-known points here, just to say that the need for greater liberalisation and increased trade is essential to world food security.

The developing countries must also respond in a positive way by focusing their attention on increasing production and the ordering of priorities to suit their own circumstances, in line with the suggestions made by the Director-General in his Report.

Regional cooperation is also essential. At this stage we would merely note that the Regional Commission on Food Security for Asia and the Pacific has met, and we hope progress can be forthcoming from this initial base.

We endorse the Director-General's call for cooperation among the various agencies involved with the diverse aspects of world food security. The key word is cooperation. New Zealand believes that consensus is best achieved by emphasising activities on which there is a clear consensus while continuing our efforts to reach a common understanding with other international agencies. In this regard, we therefore support the Director-General's approach, as outlined in paragraph 164 of the original document CFS 83/4.

In concluding, the food problem faced by many developing countries is enormous. The need for effective food security is essential. We are pleased that some progress is being made. It is in the areas where a consensus has been achieved or is likely to be achieved in the near future that the New Zealand delegation considers that emphasis should be placed and efforts intensified.

E. HERAZO DE VITI (Panamá): La delegación de Panamá reitera su apoyo al nuevo concepto revisado y ampliado de la seguridad alimentaria mundial, aspecto éste que fue vasto y profundamente discutido, primero por el octavo período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, y segundo, por el 83° período de sesiones del Consejo de esta Organización.

Esperamos pues que igualmente, esta 22ª Conferencia de la FAO apruebe el nuevo concepto ampliado sobre seguridad alimentaria con sus tres objetivos fundamentales, concernientes a la producción, la estabilidad de los suministros y el acceso a los recursos disponibles, tanto por parte de los países que buscan satisfacer sus necesidades en los mercados internacionales, como de las poblaciones de los países que tratan de comprar los alimentos que necesitan.

Y sobre este particular, resaltamos lo expuesto en el párrafo 22, y que fue aprobado por el Consejo, en el sentido de que este enfoque debe extenderse para que abarque todos los alimentos básicos, con inclusión de las raíces, los tubérculos, las legumbres, los plátanos y los aceites comestibles, así como los demás alimentos esenciales complementarios, y no sólo los cereales para consumo humano.

Con relación a las medidas concretas para el logro de esta seguridad alimentaria mundial, nuestra delegación no tiene dificultad en aceptar las medidas que se proponen a nivel nacional, y esto porque estamos plenamente convencidos que estas medidas son la base indispensable y fundamental para la seguridad alimentaria universal.

Sobre las medidas, tanto a nivel regional como mundial, insistimos en que éstas son necesarias y complementarias a las primeras. A este respecto, vale la pena recordar que en declaración a esta Conferencia y en muestra de su sabiduría como estadista, el Dr. BRUNO KREISKY nos expresó su firme convicción de que la comunidad internacional no puede estar ajena a comprometerse activamente en la solución de estos problemas. Firmemente creemos que con una dosis de buena fe en el análisis de las medidas propuestas, se puede llegar exitosamente a acuerdos sobre el particular, como bien lo señala el documento C 83/20 en su párrafo núm. 79 y 87.

Es por esto, que exhortamos a las delegaciones que tanto en el CSA como en el Consejo han demostrado cierta reticencia, reticencia ésta que no nos ha quedado del todo claro, las exhortamos a que la depongan constructivamente en aras de la solución permanente y definitiva de los problemas de la seguridad alimentaria mundial, que es el gran reto a que se enfrenta la presente generación.

Deseamos además resaltar algunos aspectos que, a nuestro juicio, son determinantes para la seguridad alimentaria, ya que de su interrelación pueden surgir fórmulas para el cumplimiento de gran parte de los objetivos propuestos. Entre éstos, señalamos, de manera particular, la búsqueda de nuevos tipos de cultivos o de culturas zootécnicas; y en esto juega un fundamental papel el uso universal de los recursos genéticos y de técnicas de producción cónsonas con las necesidades sociales, políticas y económicas del medio ambiente al cual son destinadas; lo mismo que su aplicación en la incorporación de áreas marginadas de manera real y efectiva en la economía productiva de los países.

Resaltamos también la necesidad de realizar esfuerzos interregionales en la formulación de políticas agrarias, comercialización, sanidad agropecuaria, lucha contra las pérdidas postcosecha, y uso y comercialización de los fertilizantes.

SUGENG AMAT (Indonesia) : Speaking for the first time on behalf of my delegation-, I would like, Mr Chairman, to congratulate you and also the vice-chairmen for having been elected to this important post in Commission I. We also wish to thank Professor Islam and his staff for having prepared the highly valuable documents for this Commission's consideration.

Indonesia considers this subject of Progress in Implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen World Food Security as one of the most important items on the agenda of this Twenty-second Session of the Conference. We would like therefore to submit our comments and views on the many important aspects of world food security as contained in the Report presented by the Secretariat. In doing so, we would also like to present a brief review of projects made in promoting food security at the national level, that is, in Indonesia, as well as at the sub-regional level, that is, ASEAN.

First of all, my delegation concurs in the overall assessment of the current world food situation and prospects or the "setting", so to say, as presented in paragraphs 15 through 17 of document C 83/20 and which serves as a basis or starting point for this Commission's deliberations on the subject.

While it is certainly gratifying to note that no fewer than 98 countries have already adopted national food policies or followed corresponding stock practices, as stated in the document, these actions at the national level do not add up to a system capable of maintaining a minimum safe level of basic cereals stock for the world as a whole. This is indeed a matter of great concern to my delegation, especially if one takes into account the highly disturbing prospect of world food security in this decade of the 80s.

Available data indicate that the world food economy has been subject in an increasing measure to instability of supplies, demand and prices, which has been damaging to both developed and developing countries and is extremely detrimental to the food security of the low-income food-deficit countries. There is also evidence which suggests that the world food situation has tended to become and is becoming even more vulnerable and fragile.

It is against this background of a world economy becoming increasingly volatile that the absence of an international mechanism capable of reducing price fluctuations in the world cereal market and of ensuring access for low-income food-deficit countries to needed supplies in terms of global shortages is most regrettable and disturbing. And with no prospects for the possible establishment of such a mechanism in the foreseeable future, it is highly important that the Five-Point Plan of Action on World Food Security proposed by the Director-General, endorsed by the Council and the Conference and supported by the WFC, be further strengthened.

My delegation is very much appreciative of the many constructive ideas and proposals that the Director-General has presented in this respect. First of all, we wish to endorse the broadened concept of world food security which emphasizes that the ultimate objective of such food security should be the ensuring that all people at all times have both physical and economic access to the basic food they need. This is, in my delegation's view, a fundamental concept. It recognizes that, while much progress may have been achieved by several developing countries in accelerating food production increases, and even in securing a stable supply of food throughout the year at stable prices, the fact remains that significant parts of the population still do not have enough to eat simply because they lack enough income to buy the food they need. Such a situation exists at the international level where many low-income food-deficit countries do not have economic access to whatever food is available on the world market.

We further agree that, in addition to cereals, increasing emphasis should be given to other basic foodstuffs, like maize, soybeans, groundnuts, etc., with a view to achieving a more balanced diet and also to reducing dependence on one basic food or on one staple grain.

In evaluating the progress achieved in increasing production and expanding food consumption, Agricultural Ministers of Asia and the Pacific at a consultative meeting in Manila earlier this year agreed that one underlying factor for such progress is the fact that many of the countries have succeeded in adopting an integrated food strategy approach, strengthened by, first, support at the highest political levels for food policies within the context of national development; second, a more or less rapid diffusion of new technologies among others, thanks to the active participation of the farmers and farm communities in the development process. This latter is clearly reflected in the Intensification Programmes as adopted in Indonesia, not only for rice but also for other food crops, and even livestock and fisheries, and which rely increasingly on participation and decision-making by the local community and which are reviewed every year. Floor prices for basic commodities, sufficient to provide incentives to producers, are essential in such programmes. As a matter of fact, just two weeks ago our Government announced the increase of floor prices for paddy, effective as of February 1984, the beginning of the main harvest season, by almost 15 percent, to \$170 per ton while at the same time the price of urea has been maintained at the subsidized level of some \$93 per ton.

The promotion of a more diversified pattern of production and consumption, as increasingly emphasized in our national development, is greatly influenced by our ability to develop the most appropriate pricing policy for this basket of food commodities. Its success is also determined to a large extent by our ability to increase productivity or yields per hectare of such commodities, in particular maize and soybeans. Furthermore, the introduction of appropriate food technology is considered of great importance also. These are all fields where external technical assistance could be most useful indeed.

With regard to the role of international trade of agricultural commodities, my delegation is very much concerned about the worsening terms of trade and erosion in export earnings capacity of the low-income food-deficit countries, especially due to the collapse of commodity prices in recent years. We therefore not only regret but deplore steps or measures being taken by certain industrialized countries which would have the effect of increasing further the barriers to a freer access of such commodities to their markets. We strongly suggest that this Conference address a strong appeal to these developed countries that no new trade barriers be created but that, on the other hand, serious efforts be made to reduce existing restrictions.

With regard to action at the regional level, I would like first of all briefly to inform this Commission of the cooperative undertakings among the five ASEAN countries to increase our common self reliance in the food sector. There is, first of all, the so-called ASEAN Food Security Reserve, to which the distinguished delegate of Malaysia has earlier made some reference. This ASEAN Food Security Reserve is now in its fourth year of operation. There has so far been no need to draw on the emergency rice reserve of 50 000 metric tons, in spite of floods and droughts which have plagued our agriculture during that period.

This is mostly thanks to satisfactory crops, by and large, and to a further strengthening of national stocks. Even so, a comprehensive study has been commissioned recently by the ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture on the AFSR, taking into account all possible factors which can have an impact on food production and supplies in the region and on the optimal level of reserves that should be maintained. Such factors include weather, prices, nutrition requirements, storage, transportation, etc. FAO/UNDP assistance in the execution of such a comprehensive study could be most useful indeed.

Other ASEAN undertakings which support regional food security include the undertaking of an ASEAN Crops Post Harvest Programme, with assistance from Canada, the USA, the Netherlands and Australia, the establishment of an ASEAN Food Handling Bureau in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia with considerable substantial assistance from Australia; the establishment of a Centre for Irrigation System Management for ASEAN; and other programmes. We welcome the creation of the FAO Regional Commission on Food Security for Asia and the Pacific and express the hope that this Commission will be able to promote a more action-oriented programme and facilitate and accelerate the translation into concrete activities of the many resolutions and agreements already adopted at various international fora with regard to food security. This Commission is also expected to contribute to further strengthening the countries's capabilities in such fields as weather and crop forecasting, the gathering of market information and intelligence, etc.

We welcome in this respect FAO's initiative in sponsoring a workshop on technical cooperation among national food grain agencies in the region of Asia and the Pacific. After the first workshop held in Indonesia in December 1982, a second workshop is scheduled to be held in the Philippines, possibly in December this year. We hope that through these periodic meetings and consultations among heads and senior representatives of national food grain agencies in the region active and fruitful TCDC programmes will be developed, contributing to a more efficient operation and management of national food agencies and to regional food security as a whole.

Mr Chairman, there are several other important aspects of the Plan of Action on which we would like to comment but not wishing to take too much of this Commission's limited time, I would like to conclude by saying that Indonesia deeply appreciates the efforts of those delegations who have taken the initiative in drafting a resolution on world food security which we are in general ready to support. Whatever comments we have on this draft will be presented later in the evening when we shall be participating in the work of the Contact Group meeting at 5.30 today.

M. DIALLO (Mali): Prenant pour la première fois la parole à cette Commission, la délégation malienne est très heureuse de vous féliciter, vous même et les vice-présidents, pour votre brillante élection à la présidence de la Commission I de cette Conférence générale de la FAO. Aussi, et par la même occasion, elle souhaite une fois de plus la bienvenue aux nouveaux membres admis au sein de l'Organisation.

Leur arrivée sera, nous en sommes sûrs, d'un renforcement certain pour la lutte commune contre la faim et la malnutrition dans le monde.

Notre pays, le Mali, partage parfaitement avec la FAO et son dynamique directeur général, le Dr. Edouard Saouma, tous les concepts et approches pour la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, et particulièrement celle de l'Afrique et de sa région sahélienne.

Notre pays, constamment confronté aux méfaits d'une sécheresse persistante, déploie à ce sujet tous les efforts pour sécuriser son agriculture et réussir un développement rural harmonieux par les moyens :

- de la maîtrise de l'eau
- de l'équipement conséquent de l'agriculture,
- du désenclavement rural,
- de la participation paysanne

C'est donc à juste titre que notre pays met ici l'accent sur la nécessité qu'il y a de porter la plus grande attention sur les solutions aux problèmes combien aigus de la désertification, du sous-équipement paysan, des épizooties, notamment la peste bovine qui menace nombre de régions africaines et contre laquelle la communauté internationale doit engager dès les prochains mois des programmes véritables d'eradication totale.

En ce qui concerne particulièrement la sécurité alimentaire, la délégation malienne tient à attirer l'attention sur la stratégie alimentaire élaborée et adoptée par le Gouvernement du Mali en août 1982. Les huit principes d'action de cette stratégie sont les suivants :

- Premièrement, prise en compte et valorisation des zones écologiques du pays;
- Deuxièmement, réduction des goulots d'étranglement et valorisation de potentialités;
- Troisièmement, action sur les mentalités;
- Quatrièmement, création des conditions favorables pour que les paysans se maintiennent dans le milieu rural;
- Cinquièmement, définition pour les activités productives d'un niveau technique assurant leur pérenité;
- Sixièmement, concentration des moyens et de l'action de l'Etat sur les points cruciaux en laissant l'initiative privée jouer son rôle pour le reste;
- Septièmement, tenir compte des implantations régionales soudano-sahéliennes, et
- Huitièmement, se donner le temps de réussir.

Une telle stratégie, qui intègre totalement toutes les données essentielles pour le développement des productions agricoles et alimentaires, ne demande à notre avis, que soutien et renforcement de la part des donateurs pour le plus grand aboutissement de l'objectif d'autosuffisance alimentaire.

S'agissant donc de la résolution qui nous est proposée, la délégation pense qu'elle est parfaitement justifiée et doit faire l'objet d'un consensus général. La délégation malienne approuve aussi le programme de coopération technique et, à ce propos, remercie le Directeur général de la FAO, ainsi que la communauté internationale de l'appui efficace qu'ils ne cessent d'apporter à l'agriculture du Mali en général et à sa sécurité alimentaire en particulier.

A cet effet, elle en appelle toujours à leur bonne volonté pour encore renforcer et soutenir cette solidarité internationale pour vaincre la faim dans le monde.

B. MONTIEL ATENCIO (Venezuela): Hemos estudiado con detenimiento el documento C 83/20, objeto de este debate, que recoge el resumen de las propuestas del Director General en su informe al pasado Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, el resumen de las reacciones que de las mismas provocaron al CSA y al Consejo que luego se realizó, y las medidas sugeridas para el futuro.

Intervenimos en esta ocasión para reiterarle el apoyo que ya dimos al mismo informe cuando éste se discutió, con la convicción de que sólo la voluntad política y económica de todos los países aquí representados hará posible el aprovechamiento de este esfuerzo que está haciendo la FAO y su Director General para darle a la seguridad alimentaria su verdadera dimensión.

Sólo con la actitud positiva y la toma de conciencia de los países desarrollados de la necesidad y conveniencia de trabajar unidos para lograr la justicia social internacional, podremos salir adelante de esta grave situación económica y alimentaria mundial, y sólo así será posible una evolución adecuada de las propuestas de cambio o de reforzamiento contenidas en el informe del Director General, especialmente las que corresponden al nivel mundial.

Como siempre, hemos sostenido que el mayor esfuerzo corresponde a los mismos países en desarrollo, América Latina ya ha dado los pasos hacia adelante en la gran tarea, no valdría la pena repetir aquí lo que ya han referido nuestros compañeros latinoamericanos sobre el CASAR; a nivel subregional el pasado julio, el Consejo del Acuerdo de Cartagena, el Pacto Subregional Andino, firmó el convenio "José Celestino Mutis" sobre agricultura, seguridad alimentaria y conservación del ambiente que tiene en cuenta todos los sectores que aparecen recomendados en el párrafo 78 del documento C 83/20.

Igualmente, otras regiones ya han suscrito sus respectivos acuerdos, claro que ello es solo un complemento útil que no puede sustituir a los programas de seguridad alimentaria nacional.

Nuestros gobiernos son conscientes de esta realidad y ese compromiso con los países y con la humanidad siempre guía nuestras políticas. Actualmente se está elaborando en Venezuela un plan agrícola a largo plazo. Tenemos fe en que esto permitirá a Venezuela alcanzar una mejor situación en cuanto a autoabastecimiento alimentario, lo cual contribuirá en algo a la autosuficiencia subregional y regional.

Así pues, consideramos que si todos estamos de acuerdo en este nuevo enfoque, si somos conscientes de los recursos con los cuales se puede disponer y trabajamos en consecuencia a la urgencia de la situación, seguiremos avanzando en esta difícil tarea.

Para concluir, esperamos que esta Comisión apoye y apruebe sin dificultad el proyecto de resolución sobre seguridad alimentaria por nosotros expresado, ya que el mismo no es más que el reflejo del apoyo que todos aquí le hemos dado al nuevo concepto de seguridad alimentaria.

A. SAISSI (Maroc): Je vous remercie et je voudrais vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président, pour votre élection à la présidence de notre Commission. Il serait superflu de souligner la valeur, l'intérêt et la portée de ce document élaboré par la FAO à propos de l'alimentation dans le monde. Il constitue à juste titre un appel à la conscience mondiale pour une action concertée et urgente en ce domaine. Nous constatons que la conjoncture internationale fait varier d'une année à l'autre les indicateurs technico-économiques relatifs à cette question, mais sans pour autant faire évoluer les problèmes de fond posés par la question alimentaire mondiale qui demeure donc totale.

La solution progressive de cette question doit être en fait fondée sur une stratégie qui doit se consacrer à lutter contre les contraintes structurelles qui s'opposent à la réalisation d'une réelle sécurité alimentaire universelle tant qualitative que quantitative.

L'approche adoptée à cet égard doit tenir compte du fait que, sans une solidarité agissante de la part des différents pays du monde, leur adhésion volontaire et dynamique (en vue de la cohérence et de l'harmonisation des différentes actions à entreprendre, et d'une intégration des données de cette approche aux plans nationaux de développement et au plan directeur mondial à mettre sur pied à cet égard) serait vouée à l'échec.

Les nouveaux concepts révisés de sécurité alimentaire prônés par la FAO pourraient constituer à notre sens un premier jalon sur cette voie. Mais je voudrais souligner que le concept de sécurité alimentaire ne s'oppose pas sur le plan national à la notion de stratégie alimentaire. Les mêmes impératifs les sous-tendent et les mêmes objectifs en constituent la raison d'être. Ils sont en fait complémentaires. Je voudrais préciser à ce propos que le Maroc est en train d'élaborer une étude de stratégie alimentaire.

Je pense que sur le plan national cette stratégie de développement de la production alimentaire doit être basée sur une approche volontariste privilégiant la promotion économique et socio-culturelle du producteur et son intégration aux circuits économiques, le faisant ainsi bénéficier des mêmes droits et avantages reconnus aux autres agents économiques.

Cette orientation fondamentale devra être sous l'angle du développement de la production alimentaire concrétisée par l'élaboration de plans de développement sectoriels à long terme, projetant des programmes d'action intégrés couvrant tous les aspects d'accroissement de la production de chacune des denrées alimentaires de base, étant à préciser que le choix de ces denrées alimentaires doit découler des potentialités de production propres aux pays car la structure de consommation est basée sur des normes nutritionnelles, rationnelles, doit impérativement à notre avis s'adapter à la structure de production du pays et non le contraire. Le succès de ces programmes d'action demeurera cependant tributaire des politiques d'accompagnement à appliquer tant en ce qui concerne les prix, les circuits de commercialisation, de conservation, de stockage que de recherche et de financement.

Sur le plan régional et international, je pense que nos efforts dans le cadre d'une amélioration de l'ordre alimentaire mondial actuel doivent être axés sur les points suivants (je citerai notamment les principaux à notre avis) :

Premièrement: la nécessité de développer parallèlement à l'augmentation de l'aide alimentaire l'aide à la production, dont l'objectif est précisément de favoriser l'amélioration des productions agricoles des pays en développement et de réduire ainsi progressivement leur dépendance vis-à-vis de l'extérieur en matière alimentaire.

Deuxièmement: le renforcement de l'aide financière et technique consentie aux pays en développement notamment ceux ayant des potentialités agricoles importantes de façon à améliorer quantitativement les disponibilités alimentaires mondiales.

Troisièmement: la mise en place de mécanismes régionaux comportant la conjugaison des efforts des pays en développement concernés en matière de production et de réserves alimentaires

Quatrièmement: la suppression du protectionnisme, car la libéralisation des échanges internationaux est de nature à éviter l'étouffement des économies encore jeunes des pays en développement qui luttent déjà sur le plan interne contre des contraintes physiques, techniques et sociales pour assurer l'élan de leur développement économique une base sûre et saine.

Cinquièmement: la nécessité impérieuse d'augmenter "l'aide alimentaire d'urgence" en raison du contexte alimentaire mondial actuel marqué notamment par des pénuries locales souvent dramatiques.

Sixièmement (je désire parler de la FAO elle-même) : le renforcement des moyens d'intervention de la FAO au niveau notamment de ses représentations régionales, c'est là un dispositif d'assistance qui a prouvé son efficacité et son impact.

Je ne voudrais point terminer sans évoquer le problème de la pêche qui doit constituer une composante importante de l'alimentation mondiale.

Le développement de la pêche ne peut perdre de vue la nécessité d'exploiter de façon rigoureusement rationnelle les différentes espèces halieutiques. Toute stratégie nationale de développement à bâtir à ce propos, tant en matière de production que de promotion de la consommation du poisson, ne peut produire ses efforts que si une coopération internationale est mise sur pied, coopération fondée sur la recherche concertée des moyens et voies appropriés en vue d'assurer la sauvegarde des ressources halieutiques. Il est souhaitable à cet égard que la Convention sur le Droit de la Mer, qui sera prochainement signée, tienne compte des aspirations des états côtiers du Tiers Monde et que la création de zones économiques exclusives puisse profiter réellement aux pays en développement riverains des côtes.

Claes-Erik ODHNER (Sweden): The Swedish Delegation supports the revised concept of food security as suggested by the Council. We can also broadly support the main points of the proposed draft resolution, but we feel that as it now stands it is a little lopsided. There has been general agreement here in this Committee during the discussion that the basis of food security in the medium - and long - term is always on local production in the various countries. This draft resolution gives little attention to measures on a national level. Most of it is devoted to national food aid actions. There should be a better balance for developing necessary levels nationally. There is one thing which I think is important in this respect but which is not mentioned at all in the draft; that is national pricing policies.

I note from an intervention made during discussion of the previous subject on the agenda that there has been an important shift in emphasis in the discussion from problems of production to problems of distribution of available resources. This is not to say that problems of production are not important, but it is not sufficient to ensure that there are possibilities for selling potential production. It is necessary to ensure that products are brought to market and that the pricing policy as such is one that will stimulate production. Therefore, my delegation proposes an addition to the draft amendment. We propose another paragraph inserted between paragraphs 5 and 6, or possibly somewhere else in the draft.

I will read it out for you: "further requests the Director-General early to complete the current study on food price policies and, on the basis of this result and available experience, develop methods to assist low income food deficit countries to elaborate pricing policies and develop marketing facilities which will secure an expansion in marketing of local production in the face of necessary short-term food assistance and combine stable and remunerative prices to producers with prices for low income consumers which secure their access to basic food supplies."

The text has already been handed to the Secretariat.

I. MARINCEK (Suisse): Au début de la Conférence il a été convenu que le nombre de Résolutions devait être limité au strict minimum. La sécurité alimentaire est certainement un thème central de la Conférence qui mérite une résolution. Ma délégation l'a déjà souligné dans sa déclaration à la plénière. Je remercie donc les délégations du Venezuela, du Bangladesh, de l'Inde et du Mexique pour avoir pris l'initiative en nous proposant un texte.

Cette proposition ne contient rien que je ne pourrais pas souscrire mais je ne suis pas tout à fait d'accord avec les accents mis qui diffèrent substantiellement du Rapport du CSA. Concrètement, j'aimerais davantage souligner le rôle et la responsabilité centrale qui incombent aux gouvernements nationaux concernés pour les initiatives, les politiques, l'exécution et la coordination des mesures envisagées, comme il est également postulé dans l'excellent document de Conférence C 83/20. L'accent du texte proposé est trop mis sur l'assistance extérieure qui, aussi importante qu'elle est, ne peut finalement être que complémentaire. Pour ne pas être malentendu, je vous rappelle que mon pays honore ce rôle complémentaire en soutenant financièrement depuis des années le PASA et le PPA et nous avons l'intention de continuer notre assistance à ces Programmes:

Un autre point qui mériterait d'être mieux mis en évidence dans la Résolution concerne les politiques d'encouragement à la production dans le domaine des prix, marchés et crédits. De plus, il me paraît essentiel qu'on mentionne les mesures supplémentaires qui peuvent être nécessaires pour assurer que les politiques d'incitation à la production deviennent accessibles à un nombre maximum de bénéficiaires. Ces mesures supplémentaires doivent notamment assurer l'accès du petit paysannat aux facteurs de production et à la terre.

A.A. ABDULAZIZ (United Arab Emirates) (Original language Arabic): As this is the first time I have taken the floor, it is my pleasure to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, and your Vice-Chairmen on your election to these high offices. I would also like to thank the Food and Agriculture Organization for the excellent nature of the documents presented to us.

We in the United Arab Emirates do not expect to reach self-sufficiency only on the basis of agricultural production., We have therefore attached a great deal of importance to all elements likely to strengthen world food security. Although our agricultural output has increased by 7 percent over the past 5 years, this only provides us with 25 percent of our needs. This is also due to the fact that the population has increased as a result of labour immigration, which has led to a multiple increase in the amount of food imported over the last few years.

We have cooperated with the Gulf Cooperation Council to establish a strategic food reserve for grains We cooperate with the Arab group of countries in setting up several projects for the development of livestock resources and agricultural production., Through these we hope we will be able to achieve the greatest degree of self-sufficiency on the Arab level. However, we still hope that a new Grains Agreement will be concluded shortly to ensure a minimum of food security in the world and to increase the amount available for food aid, especially emergency food aid.

To encourage production in developing countries, first we hope that we shall be able to lift the customs barriers set up by the developed countries in the way of agricultural exports from the developing countries.

Secondly, we hope that FAO will be able to act the coordinating agency between the various executing funds and international organizations in the area of development in order to avoid duplication and to achieve maximum efficiency.

Thirdly, the expansion of terms of trade between producing and developing countries is necessary as low terms of trade compared with the volume of production are one the main reasons for the monopoly exercised by certain countries in international trade. Thus the terms of trade between both groups of countries must be expanded.

Fourthly, to increase food supplies in developing countries, research should not only concentrate on cash crops but also on those locally consumed crops of importance for the developing countries concerned.

A fifth element is to take into account the need to expand the production of fertilizers and their use to increase production.

We therefore call upon FAO to encourage developing countries to take this factor into account There are about 500 million people in the world suffering from hunger due to lack of these fertilizers.

The sixth element concerns the necessary attention to be accorded by FAO to the field of plant genetic resources and the provision of improved species of grains for increased production and yields, as well as to research through Regional Offices due to its importance in achieving food security.

Finally, we believe that food security does not mean increasing production in the developed countries but in the developing countries

We approve the new concept of food security.

M.S. OULD BAH (Mauritanie): Comme la délégation mauritanienne prend la parole pour la première fois, je ne manquerai pas l'occasion au nom de cette délégation de vous féliciter, ainsi que vos adjoints, de votre brillante élection à la tête de notre Commission. La délégation mauritanienne adresse également ses vives félicitations au Secrétariat pour la qualité du document C 83/20 qui, de notre point de vue, est clair, bien écrit, proposant des solutions concrètes aux problèmes, combien nombreux et variés, posés par la faim, la famine, la malnutrition à travers le monde.

Une partie des solutions proposées s'adresse aux gouvernements des pays dont les populations sont concernées partiellement ou totalement par les déséquilibres qualitatifs ou quantitatifs de leur repas quotidiens.

A ce propos, je porte à votre connaissance que quelques-uns de nos gouvernements africains, dont celui de la République islamique de Mauritanie, font déjà ce qu'ils peuvent en ce qui concerne l'encouragement à la production, l'intensification de la production dans la mesure du possible, la constitution des stocks, la suppression de taxes pour encourager les éleveurs et les producteurs à mieux produire, etc., etc. Mais la sécheresse a bouleversé complètement tous ces programmes notamment dans les pays africains au sud du Sahara et qui sont pour le moment impuissants à procurer à leurs populations les quantités d'énergie et de protéines nécessaires pour une vie normale pour ne pas dire une survie. En première conclusion, la République islamique de Mauritanie appuie le document soumis à la Commission. Cependant, elle suggère qu'à l'avenir compte soit tenu du fait que la sécurité alimentaire ne peut pas s'exprimer seulement en termes de céréales.

Aussi est-il besoin d'affecter aux légumes, fruits, protéines animales (élevage, pêche), la place qui leur revient respectivement. En effet pour ne prendre que l'exemple de l'Afrique, surtout au Sahel, disons que l'élevage est à l'heure actuelle véritablement menacé par les effets destructeurs d'une sécheresse sévère et persistante avec son cortège de misères physiologiques et de maladies telluriques venant compliquer le tableau déjà complexe de la pathologie, en ce qui concerne la peste bovine, la péripneumonie contagieuse des bovidés et j'en passe.

La République islamique de Mauritanie donc appuie sans réserve la proposition qui a été faite par deux pays africains déjà en faveur de la campagne panafricaine d'eradication de la peste bovine.

En dernière conclusion, la délégation mauritanienne félicite le Directeur général de la FAO pour ses efforts inlassables en faveur et de l'aide d'urgence et du processus de développement des pays les plus pauvres Elle souhaite vivement que la voix du Directeur général soit entendue par les pays riches, qu'ils soient développés ou non, en vue d'une meilleure coopération et d'une meilleure solidarité internationale De toute façon l'écoulement des produits manufacturés rencontrera à moyen et surtout à long terme des difficultés sérieuses si le développement des pays sous-développés n'est pas soutenu par les propriétaires de ces produits manufacturés.

Ms. A. SALGADO SANTOS (Brazil): As this is the first time that I take the floor in this Commission, I would like to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on your election as Chairman of this Commission. I am sure that under your wise guidance the work of the Commission will be very successful.

My delegation would like to express its support for the new concept of world food security as proposed by the Director-General in document C 83/20. We found especially adequate a broadened concept of food security, as adopted by FAO, considering there is no mechanism for ensuring the stability of cereal markets, nor for guaranteeing the access of low income food deficit countries to needed supplies. In this context, the main objective of world food security is to ensure to all people at all times both physical and economic access to the basic food they need. This will be achieved only if the international community decides to face the problem, taking into account the production of food itself and consequently the ensuring of the stability of supplies, and the guarantee of access to available supplies.

The Brazilian delegation would also like to reiterate what was said in the Eighty-third Session of the Council of FAO, that we focus special attention on the aspects of food production and the access of agricultural production to the international market. In addition, other measures must be taken in order to enable the countries to work in better conditions to achieve food security. In this way, trade liberalization and easier access to financial resources and technical assistance are objectives also to be reached to enhance food security.

R. TREMINIO (Nicaragua): Nuestra delegación felicita a usted por su elección como Presidente de esta Comisión. Asimismo, felicitamos a los señores vicepresidentes electos. Con la dirección de usted, confiamos en resultados y resoluciones viables para el mejoramiento de la situación alimentaria mundial.

El documento C 83/20 plantea situaciones de medidas y políticas que todavía no han sido operativizadas en relación a. la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

Los cinco grupos de medidas que constituyen el fundamento del Plan de Acción para la Seguridad Alimentaria, son en realidad bases que requieren un análisis profundo de sus perspectivas reales. La situación alimentaria y nutricional del mundo exige mayores esfuerzos, recursos, voluntad e interés de todos los países y estados para crear la constitución de un Sistema de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional Mundial.

Ello implicará establecer mayores compromisos que coadyuven a una cooperación efectiva entre los países desarrollados y los en vías de desarrollo. Esto determinaría también la posibilidad de una participación regional en el contexto del manejo y conocimiento de la problemática de los pueblos en relación a su alimentación. Y de allí partir para diseñar bases equitativas de distribución y asignación de ayudas alimentarias.

También es preocupación de nuestra delegación, que los esfuerzos iniciados, a través de los diferentes organismos deberán fortalecerse. Cabe así reconocer el papel que juegan la FAO y el Programa mundial de Alimentos, tanto en la asistencia para responder a circunstancias de emergencia como en su participación en proyectos de desarrollo. También mencionamos aquí, nuestra preocupación por la falta del cumplimiento de los compromisos adquiridos para la primera reposición de fondos del Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola, y hacemos un llamado más, al mayor contribuyente del FIDA para que cumpla con su compromiso.

El Informe del Director General de la FAO que señala la aplicación de políticas nacionales de reservas de alimentos en 98 países, implica en mayor o menor grado, un avance satisfactorio del Plan de Acción. Ello significa que ya existe una voluntad, conocimiento y conciencia de la problemática alimentaria. Sin embargo, es necesario impulsar con prioridad y urgencia, la formulación de mecanismos que integren las medidas y políticas del Plan de Acción.

Nicaragua, el Pueblo de Sandino, se apoya en los principios y conceptos de FAO sobre seguridad alimentaria. En Nicaragua hemos ya iniciado programas integrales de acción de amplia participación popular.

Las medidas y acciones más importantes, lo constituyen el acceso de los campesinos y productores a la tierra y a los servicios de crédito, asistencia técnica, capacitación y organización; el desarrollo de programas de subsidios a los agricultores en el uso de insumos como semillas mejoradas y fertilizantes; tasas de interés diferenciales para los pequeños productores; programa de entrega de tierras a campesinos sin tierras; precios a los productores en función a costos reales de producción y riesgos naturales; servicios de mecanización a productores individuales y organizados; precios de subsidios a los consumidores. Actualmente nuestro país eroga en subsidios aproximadamente unos 85 millones de dólares; el desarrollo de zonas o polos cooperativos con servicios integrales de crédito, acopio, mecanización, asistencia técnica y abastos populares.

Nuestra delegación reafirma su coincidencia de criterios con el nuevo concepto de seguridad alimentaria expresado en el informe que el Director General de FAO, sometió al 8º Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria. Sin embargo, consideramos importante incluir como elemento de definición, el aspecto nutricional en su naturaleza de equilibrio apropiado de la situación alimentaria del hombre.

Dado que el concepto permite un desarrollo aplicable a largo plazo, creemos necesario además, que el problema nutricional en su contexto general, determina una base prioritaria y de derecho universal del hombre.

El concepto de seguridad alimentaria ampliado en la naturaleza del concepto de la nutrición humana, sentaría los principios de integralidad para contrarrestar el hambre y la desnutrición.

Es nuestro deseo expresar también la importancia del elemento de estabilidad mundial y regional en la operatividad de una estrategia de seguridad alimentaria.

Es característica insoslayable, la paz; como lo ha mencionado nuestro Jefe de Delegación en la Plenaria; sin ella, no es posible que nuestros pueblos se armonicen y aúnen esfuerzos y recursos para luchar contra el hambre y la desnutrición.

Nicaragua, país que lucha por la paz, busca las bases sustantivas de desarrollo económico y social, en equidad y justicia popular. Nuestro pueblo se enfrenta hoy en día, a defender su revolución y a construir una sociedad justa. La lucha contra el imperialismo nos ha convencido, una vez más, que una paz de derecho basada en la defensa de la soberanía y autodeterminación de nuestros pueblos, determina la capacidad misma de los pueblos para lograr la paz duradera y un desarrollo socioeconómico justo y equilibrado.

Para finalizar, reafirmamos también nuestro apoyo al fortalecimiento del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria de la FAO, dentro del contexto de sus propias atribuciones.

I.P. ALVARENGA (El Salvador): Nuestra delegación participó activamente en las discusiones del principal tema que discutimos en este momento, cuando fue tratado en el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria. Sería, a nuestro juicio, inútil volver sobre los argumentos, sobre las ideas expresadas en esa oportunidad.

Sintéticamente, podemos reiterar nuestro apoyo al nuevo concepto de seguridad alimentaria. Estamos en favor de las medidas propuestas a nivel nacional, regional e internacional por la FAO, y creemos que, a la mayor brevedad posible, debe ponerse en práctica aquel sector, aquel conjunto de medidas sobre las cuales se ha encontrado un consenso en los diversos foros internacionales.

Pensamos que el documento base sobre seguridad alimentaria presentado por el Director General, debe continuarse discutiendo, como en el mismo se había adelantado, hasta lograr el mayor acuerdo posible sobre los puntos centrales del mismo, y luego mantener el diálogo abierto sobre aquellas cuestiones en las cuales no se logre un consenso.

Específicamente, manifestamos nuestro apoyo al Proyecto de Resolución que se nos ha presentado sobre seguridad alimentaria, e incluso, iríamos más adelante pese a que estamos conscientes de que, dentro del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, se planteó que el auspiciado reforzamiento del mismo debería realizarse dentro de sus actuales términos de referencia. No obstante a ello, insistimos, iríamos más adelante hasta pedir que el Consejo analice la posibilidad de reforzar las funciones del Comité, incluso considerando la posibilidad de modificar sus actuales alcances.

Para terminar, nosotros hemos manifestado en repetidas oportunidades, la inconveniencia de convertir un foro como la FAO en un centro de discusiones políticas. Estamos, sin embargo, contentos de las expresiones que se formulan en favor de la paz, dado que nuestro país se encuentra, por cierto, en una situación de violencia que es auspiciada, financiada desde países vecinos, de los cuales nos complace saber que están en favor de soluciones democráticas y justas para todos.

S. JANNEH (Gambia): Thank you very much Mr Chairman. First of all, I must congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this assembly. Mr Chairman, I come from a region, the Sahel, where the issues before us are more pertinent, more relevant perhaps than to any other region. As some of us might know, the Sahel is a region which has been repeatedly hit by drought since the early 1970's and we have had occasional food crises in the region which have only been alleviated by huge injections of food aid.

Our countries and our governments have been working hard towards the realisation of food self-sufficiency and food security. We are under no illusions about the strategic and crucial role of agriculture in our national economies. We are under no illusions about the need to increase domestic agricultural production. We are under no illusions about the urgent need to feed ourselves and to achieve national food self-sufficiency and food security. We are under no illusions about the fact that the ultimate responsibility for feeding our people and achieving economic growth and development rests squarely on ourselves. But, Mr Chairman, with the best of wills in the world, one just cannot grow crops and produce food without water.

We have heard that the United States this year had a drought, and if the great United States who is the world's technological giant cannot avert drought, I cannot see a way in which these regions of Africa, with our low level of technological development and economic impoverishment, can do much to alleviate our situation.

We support the Director-General's programme, the new approach on food security. We hail this as a document of great importance, as a document of great substance and one which we hope will have the backing of the international community.

Now, as I said earlier, regarding our situation in the Sahel, the fact that we have had to resort to food aid from the international community has been necessitated by drought, and it is no choice of ours. I can assure you, Mr Chairman, there is no dignity in going round with hat in hand begging for food. We would sooner be self-sufficient in food than to ask for it from other countries. Our governments in the sales organization are given great priority to increase the production. Alongside this food shortage, we have also suffered drops in our volume of exports, and in addition, we have been faced with increasing food import bills, and this has ravaged our economies which are very seriously exacerbated by the international recession and world-wide inflation, and some of our countries and our governments are in a very precarious situation indeed.

In the Gambia, my Government has taken some very positive steps towards achievement of food security and food self-sufficiency. We have drawn up a national food strategy and food security plan, and in our second five-year development plan, food production is at the forefront of the efforts in the agricultural sector. The Government has in the past and is still offering remunerative prices to farmers for their farm produce. It is having to subsidise some essential farm inputs such as seeds, fertilizers and farm implements. We have tried to introduce animal traction so that farmers can expand with larger acreages and do timely cultivation of their operations in the field. We are involved in serious adaptive research so we can screen suitable crop varieties for our various ecological conditions, and we are intensifying our extensive efforts to assist farmers in adapting appropriate technical production packages. We are also establishing a national seed multiplication programme which will bulk varieties for sale and distribution to farmers.

We therefore support very much the new food security programme before us drawn up by the Director-General.

M. MUKOLWE (Kenya): We agree with the conclusions of the Committee on World Food Security on the Director-General's broadened concept which the FAO Council endorsed. Since we have earlier on touched on this issue at the first intervention and again at item 6.1, we shall only highlight a few issues.

The problem of food security is a problem of poverty. Therefore, food production efforts must exist in tandem with other measures to raise the purchasing power of the rural as well as the urban communities.

The World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development due to be discussed must take into account the overall concept of world food security. With this in mind, the special roles played by groups of women and youth, particularly children, in developing countries in food production, food administration and family nutrition must be given due attention.

Since youths form about 50 percent of the country's population, their potential is definitely of great importance and should be fully utilised. They are also the same groups that need to stress the balanced nutrition because they do adult work and are the people who are going to produce food for the country in future.

We also feel that land policies should be such that they encourage food production as it has been discussed over and over. Policies aimed at increasing food production have tended to favour cereals alone. As mentioned by other speakers, diversification should be the essence, especially in developing countries. In this I have in mind crops like roots and tubers, as some members have already mentioned or in passing I mentioned, and also pulses and indigenous vegetables which are normally put aside in favour of any new introductions or of foreign introductions.

Food aid is an essential component of food security. Food aid, apart from being directed against hunger, should also be used to stimulate food production. We therefore commend the World Food Programme for their projects in this direction, including the triangular transaction scheme which delegates here know very well.

For timely planning of food aid projects, resources of those organizations directly involved need to be replenished in time and the targets set met in time as well as coordination of efforts among international organizations in their approaches to food problems.

Then on stock policies of poor countries, they must answer questions like 1) stock levels, 2) how they will be achieved, and 3) how much will come from domestic consumption and how much will come from outside, also, administration and management of stocks.

There are also difficulties which may be experienced in running a stock policy on regional, sub-regional or even national levels and should be defined before anything could be done, like procedures for procuring funds to purchase food from domestic and external markets. Building reserve stocks is not easy, even when market prices are low because of the scarcity of foreign exchange. This is an area where we welcome the activities of the IMF facilities.

It is my hope and that of our country that the draft resolution before us as it is now in the contact group will come out with an acceptable text.

L. SMITH (Barbados): Mr Chairman, first, since this is our first intervention in this Commission, I would like to congratulate you and the other elected members on your election to guide the activities of this particular Commission.

At this time, I would like to say that the Barbados delegation supports fully the concepts of world food security and feels that the idea of world food security, which is based on national food production, as opposed to the earlier concept, has seemed to predominately focus on the idea of world food security which has through Grain Convention buffer stocks appeared to concentrate its focus on the countries which are already producing surplus stocks rather than on countries which need it to improve the agricultural output, and therefore to ensure their own security by production. The new concept, we feel, is realistic and is in keeping with the desires of the under-developed countries to be in full control of their resources. We feel that this policy, new approach, is not only desirable at the national level but is also desirable at the individual level where the concept is appropriate in terms of either producing food you require or producing other agricultural commodities which will give access to acquisition of those commodities you need to add to your normal nutrition. We feel, however, that in this context greater emphasis should be placed on the transfer of capital resources from the various other sub-sectors to the agricultural sector. We are well aware that in many developing countries there are considerable social, financial and political influence gaps between the urbanized and the rural areas. As a result, we feel that there must be greater political will to ensure that there is a transfer of internal capital flows from one sector to the other.

Similarly, we are aware that, since the production resources of most undeveloped countries - or of most countries, for that matter - are held by the indigenous population, there is a difficulty in being able to attract external financing in support of developing the necessary infrastructure on which further agricultural development can take place. We feel that this is a dilemma which must be given careful thought, both by the FAO experts as well as by national policy-makers. Although we might look at things such as pricing policy, which is a way of transferring capital from one sector to the agricultural sector, and whilst we might look at several other means, we feel that a determined effort must be made to ensure that transfer of capital goods towards agricultural development and towards creating greater national food security is an area which should be given special thought because of the nature of the problem that is facing developing national agricultural resources.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, ¿algún otro delegado desea hacer uso de la palabra? Si es así señores, simplemente reiterar que aquellas delegaciones que no pudieron estar presentes, es decir; la delegación de Nigeria y la delegación de Mozambique podran entregar sus declaraciones por escrito para que sean consideradas en el verbatim y en el informe de esta Comisión.

H. LAUBE (Austria) (original language German): On behalf of the Austrian delegation I would like to express our thanks to the FAO Secretariat for the preparation of document C 83/20 which refers to the Plan of Action to Strengthen World Food Security. This document analyses in a precise and distinct form the efforts at national, regional and international level to improve world food security. The document also contains proposals for future activities and urgent measures and arrives at conclusions.

Permit me to deliver the following statement related to document C 83/20 on behalf of the Austrian delegation.

Austria agrees with the text and the conclusions of the document. The FAO Council and the Committee on World Food Security have repeatedly declared during this year that the world food problem can be relieved by a rapid increase of food production in the developing countries, particularly those countries with low income and food deficit. The envisaged target of an increase of production of 4 percent has unfortunately not been achieved and the latest growth rates of 2 to 3 percent are far below this level, although in some developing countries considerable progress has been achieved. The urgent necessity to increase food production in developing countries has also been stressed in the FAO Study: Agriculture Towards 2000. The enormous efforts of developing countries to increase their production in order to achieve a high degree of self sufficiency and to become independent of food imports must be supported by all of us. Only then will it be possible to implement the Plan of Action to Strengthen World Food Security.

The food deficit countries should give highest priority to the agricultural sector in their development plans, they should apply modern production techniques, improve their extension and training services, initiate necessary investments and improve their facilities for storage, transport and marketing. In all these efforts the developing countries must be able to count on the support of the international community.

In addition to the required increase of food production it is of special importance to establish an international coordinating system of national grain reserves. As there are still some unresolved issues it will be necessary that the Committee on World Food Security will deal with these problems at its next meeting.

In addition to the efforts of the developing countries the international community of states should continue its endeavours to contribute to world food security.

Austria is actively engaged in the Food Aid Agreement, the World Food Programme and the International Emergency Food Reserve.

With regard to the World Food Programme the statement of voluntary pledges every two years has proven to be useful and is in line with the procedure adopted by the United Nations system. The Austrian delegation is of the opinion that in order to economize administrative costs and reduce the number of international meetings efforts should be undertaken to hold simultaneously the pledging conferences for the World Food Programme and the International Emergency Food Reserve.

Finally I would like to stress again that Austria welcomes the Plan of Action to Strengthen World Food Security of FAO and will endeavour as it has done in the past to support all promising actions at the bi- and multilateral level which will improve world food security.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): We are very grateful to the distinguished delegates for their wide-ranging comments on the multifaceted aspects of world food security. The Director-General will certainly take into account the views and comments of the distinguished delegates while submitting his next report to the Committee on Food Security early next year further elaborating and refining many of the ideas which were of a preliminary nature in the earlier report.

Many delegates have mentioned the need for elaboration of the suggestions contained in the Director-General's report on FAO's Food Security Action Programme. As I indicated in my introduction, the Director-General is indeed considering the feasibility and modalities of such a Food Security Action Programme within FAO.

The distinguished delegate from the Netherlands made some very interesting suggestions in respect to the formulation of national food security programmes, including preparation of a portfolio of projects, with a view to FAO's acting as a catalyst for attracting resources as well as coordinating their implementation. We shall certainly be exploring his suggestion in greater detail. In fact, it is in conformity with some of the ideas put forward in the last report. However, the distinguished delegate from the Netherlands in this connection has made a specific suggestion regarding decentralization of FAO staff experts from the Headquarters to the country offices for the purposes of such formulation of such programmes at the country level. I should like to illustrate the problems that we should face in following through the implementation of such a suggestion. As distinguished delegates may be aware, we have more than 90 country representations. In some cases, one representative covers more than one country: that is why we have about 90. If we take even a very limited number of countries and look at the staff strength in one or two of the sections in Headquarters which will be intimately involved in such a task and try to allocate them to the country offices, we can see that the situation would be very difficult or almost impossible. For example, we have in the Crops and Grassland service about 12 professionals ranging from P-5 to P-3 levels. In the Food Security and Food Aid Group and Food Security Assistance Service we have about 10 professionals. In Marketing and Credit we have about 8. Distinguished delegates will readily see the problem we shall face if we want to scatter this very limited number of experts in the country offices, accepting that the result will be the total denuding of the Headquarters staff members. This illustrates the enormity of the problem in following through the suggestion.

Reference was made to the need for studies to identify undernourished populations and vulnerable groups for designing suitable nutrition intervention methods. This is indeed, of course, a regular part of our activity while designing programmes at the country level.

As far as a general review of the state of undernutrition in developing countries is concerned, including analyses of the causes and consequences of persistent undernutrition, as the distinguished delegates are aware, we have already undertaken, and have under way now, a study called a Fifth World Food Survey. This is a revision of our earlier Fourth World Food Survey, published in 1977, and will go into considerable detail in quantifying, on the basis of the new analysis, new methodology and new data, the state of undernutrition in the developing world and analyses of its consequences in the light of new data and new analyses.

Reference was made to the roles of transnational corporations again in this session in the production, marketing and trade of food and agricultural products. As the distinguished delegates are aware, this issue was also discussed on the earlier agenda item on the state of food and agriculture and I did respond by saying that we hope to undertake a review of the state of information and analyses available in other UN agencies on the role of transnational corporations in the field of food and agriculture. We have already made contact with other UN bodies which are involved in studying this subject.

A suggestion has also been made that in addition to this we should possibly hold a seminar. My response is that after this review is completed and distinguished delegates have been able to examine the results of the review, they would be in a better position to identify the scope and nature of such a seminar, if one is to be held at all.

The distinguished delegate from New Zealand stressed the importance of regional activities in the field of food security. I can express the hope that all developed and developing countries not already members of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific, in which region New Zealand belongs, would be able to join as soon as possible in order to maximize the effectiveness of this Commission and facilitate cooperation not only amongst the developing countries in the region but also between the developed and developing countries in the region of Asia and the Pacific.

Additional information was sought on the proposal in the report on a symposium on food security which the Director-General has decided to hold in the next biennium. It is expected that this symposium would be held in the fall of 1984, around September or October, and, as distinguished delegates are aware, the experts will be from non-United Nations organizations and institutions and will be individual researchers, independent research experts. The idea is to benefit from their advice, from the results of their own research and thinking, on some of the new ideas which have been put forward in the Director-General's report, and to invite them to make new suggestions, since a lot of research is being done outside the governmental or intergovernmental agencies on this very vital and important subject.

I could illustrate a few of the points on which one would like to have new ideas or even re-examination of old ideas, such as the relative importance of reliance on national stock as against imports as a way of meeting shortfalls in domestic production. What will be the optimum combination between the two? Is the instability of food supplies and the prices going to be greater in the 1980s and 1990s than it was in the 1960s and the 1970s? How, in what ways and to what extent could regional approaches and cooperation on food security link up with national and global measures? This is just to illustrate some of the ideas on which we think we could possibly benefit from research results and thinking of independent experts.

Several delegates have referred to the pricing policy study which the Director-General has undertaken, the results of which will be submitted at the time of the 1985 FAO Conference. Indeed, its role in the broader concepts and context of food security is great, and we agree with the emphasis which has been placed by several delegates on this aspect of food security, the role of pricing policy in expanding production and stabilizing food supplies.

Many delegates have expressed the need for trade liberalization as a major component of food security. In this connection I should like to remind the Commission that the FAO Conference did indeed adopt a comprehensive resolution in 1979 on agricultural protectionism which made a series of recommendations, and these are kept under review by the Committee on Commodity Problems and the FAO Council.

The linkages between trade and food security have recently been stressed again by the Council.

Mr Chairman, I think I have exhausted the points I wanted to comment on.

EL PRESIDENTE: Antes de intentar resumir los trabajos de estas sesiones relativas al Subtema 6.2 de nuestra Agenda, deseo preguntarles si tienen alguna observación o comentario que hacer en torno a las cuestiones que ha tratado el Dr. Islam.

Ya observo que Suecia desea hablar. Tiene la palabra.

C.-E.ODHNER (Sweden): I have just a short question. I would like to know whether the investigation into pricing policies is going on now, or whether it is planned. I would also like to know when the results are expected to be available.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): The interim report, the preliminary study, is ready; this will be considered by an expert consultation meeting this December, immediately after this Conference. In addition, we shall be submitting separate documents for the pricing policies in each of the Regional Conferences, relevant to the issues and problems in each region. As delegates will recall, these Regional Conferences will take place next year -1984.

Then, our comprehensive study - which will cover the global study, revised on the basis of the present expert consultation to be held in December, plus the deliberations, decisions, etc. of the Regional Conferences, and their comments - the final revised study will be submitted to the meeting of the Committee on Agriculture in the early part of 1985. Subsequently it will be submitted to the FAO Conference in 1985.

This is the time schedule we intend to carry through. The Director-General hopes that this process will mean that at each stage we shall have the benefit of the advice, comments, results of lessons learned and experience of member countries to enable us to revise, enrich and to expand the study.

A.H.M. ABDUL HYE (Bangladesh): I have just come in so I missed the comments and observations made by Professor Nurul Islam, but from what I could gather from his concluding remarks, it appears to me that the discussion is on pricing policy. During the discussion on world food security, we have been talking about and attaching great importance to pricing policy. But it seems to me that we are placing too much emphasis on pricing policy as an incentive to increase production in the developing countries in particular. In this connection, I would like to reiterate the views already expressed by the delegate of Australia, if I am not mistaken, when it was pointed out that without removing market imperfections and rigidities, in particular in the agricultural commodities market, pricing policy may not be effective enough to provide the desired incentives to producers.

In view of this, it is not enough to undertake a study on pricing policy with regard to agricultural commodities, side by side with the presence of market imperfections which indicate the free flow of forces in the market, to create a balance between the demand and supply, and to provide incentives to the farmers. It is also necessary to undertake a study of market imperfections and the way to remove them so that any pricing policy which is adopted by a country produces the desired result. In this connection, I would like simply to illustrate what I have said by an example - that in many countries, particularly developing countries, there is a substantial difference between the farm price and the consumer price, which implies there is a large number of intermediaries who influence the prices in between the farm and the market price. Therefore, unless we tackle the issue of this market imperfection, merely to have a sophisticated study of pricing policies may not be very useful.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): Simplement quelques mots sur ce dont on vient de parler: les études de prix et de commercialisation.

En ce qui concerne les études de prix, je me souviens que dans le rapport du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire, dans le document de présentation, il y a eu en quelque sorte un consensus général concernant cette étude sur les prix.

En ce qui concerne la commercialisation, je n'ai pas souvenir qu'on la trouve dans les textes en question; mais cela peut être un oubli de ma part.

Toutefois, sans m'opposer évidemment à des études de ce genre, je pense qu'il serait bon de se souvenir que la CNUCED a déjà entrepris de très nombreuses études sur la commercialisation des produits; je crois même, pour les produits alimentaires, que certaines études particulières par produit ont été faites. De plus, un autre organisme - plus exactement le Centre international du commerce CNUCED/GATT - doit avoir fait quelques études sur la commercialisation en matière de produits agricoles; cela fournit des renseignements pratiques aux pays en développement, peut-être même aux pays développés, sur les politiques d'exportation de denrées.

Autrement dit, si on doit faire quelque chose ici à la FAO, ne répétons pas ce qui a déjà été fait par ailleurs et faisons auparavant un inventaire pour voir ce qu'il y a véritablement lieu de faire.

El PRESIDENTE: Quedan recogidos sus comentarios, Sr. Delegado de Francia. Ahora, si no hay ninguna otra observación, desearía intentar realizar la difícil tarea de hacer un resumen de la importante discusión que hemos tenido en torno al tema 6.2, tema interesante, primordial de nuestra Agenda de Trabajo.

He de advertir que mis comentarios son meramente indicativos y que no necesariamente deberán prevalecer en la redacción del informe correspondiente.

Hicieron uso de la palabra sesenta y tres delegaciones. Algunas de ellas entregaron por escrito sus declaraciones, que serán tomadas en cuenta para los efectos del *verbatim* y del informe del Tema 6.2 de nuestra Agenda.

Varias delegaciones se refirieron a la crítica situación alimentaria de los países en desarrollo y a la crisis en general por la que atraviesa el mundo entero. Y hubo acuerdo en que la lucha contra el hambre es la lucha contra la pobreza, y que esa lucha es la única fórmula para rescatar no sólo la dignidad humana, sino también la dignidad de las Naciones.

Por ello se puntualizó la trascendencia del concepto de seguridad alimentaria, que respondía al fracaso de las negociaciones en torno a un convenio internacional de cereales, así como a las necesidades imperantes en el mundo en estas materias.

Se puso énfasis en que una acción integral debiera llevarse a cabo en todos los frentes: el de la producción, disponibilidades y acceso de alimentos para la población. Los tres forman parte de la cadena que permitirá a naciones, regiones y al mundo llegar a una eventual seguridad alimentaria. Hubo definitivo consenso en el apoyo al concepto revisado de seguridad alimentaria. Se subrayó, sin embargo, la importancia de reconocer que este nuevo concepto llevaba a un conjunto de medidas y de acciones que no necesariamente estaban plena y claramente definidas, por lo cual, se solicitó a la FAO avanzara en este sentido.

En relación a las propias medidas de acción, hubo acuerdo total en destacar la importancia, la relevancia de la acción a nivel nacional. Se subrayó la utilidad de planes y estrategias de autosuficiencia, dando prioridad al esfuerzo de producción y productividad, principalmente entre los pequeños productores, y encadenando este esfuerzo al resto de las acciones alimentarias, y fijando, así lo manifestaron algunas delegaciones, objetivos de tipo nutricional para la población.

Algunas delegaciones propusieron el que los gobiernos insistieran, así como la asistencia internacional pusiera atención, en el desarrollo de los servicios de infraestructura, almacenamiento, transporte, organización e investigación en materia de alimentos.

Se enfatizó en que debían dársele importancia a otras actividades conexas a la alimentación, concretamente a la producción pesquera, a la reforestación, al control o la prevención ecológica, al detenimiento de los procesos de erosión, así como al control de plagas y de enfermedades que tanto afectan las posibilidades de producción y de alimentación en ciertas zonas del mundo, particularmente en el Africa Subsahariana.

Hubo acuerdo en que la básica condición de todo esfuerzo de seguridad alimentaria mundial, debía estar basada, precisamente, en los esfuerzos de producción, de productividad, distribución y acceso en los países, por lo cual se exhortó a los gobiernos a que pusieran el máximo énfasis en torno a estas cuestiones.

Varias delegaciones hicieron referencia a los esfuerzos que sus propios países estaban realizando para alcanzar niveles superiores de seguridad alimentaria en el ámbito regional. Se destacó la necesidad de fortalecer la cooperación técnica, la información, así como también acuerdos comerciales. Se mencionó la necesidad de constituir reservas para apoyar la seguridad alimentaria regional. Se mencionaron, en ese caso, los esfuerzos del CASAR en América Latina y del ASEAN en el caso de Asia.

Sin embargo, se precisó que debían hacerse estudios, caso por caso, de eficiencia y de viabilidad de estas políticas o estrategias. Algunas delegaciones contestaron en torno a ello, que los más interesados y que podrían dar respuesta a estas cuestiones, serían las propias regiones y sus países.

Se hizo notar también que era deseable que los excedentes para la constitución de las reservas regionales, se hicieran sobre la base de la producción de los propios países, y que dependieran en la menor medida posible de la importación de alimentos del exterior.

Sobre las medidas a nivel internacional, se señaló, en general, que debían estudiarse más a fondo para poder llegar en un futuro a conclusiones más precisas. Se destacó, sin embargo, la importancia de fortalecer algunos mecanismos internacionales, tales como la RAIE, y la posibilidad de ampliar y fortalecer la operatividad de los servicios del Fondo Monetario Internacional. En ese sentido, hubo general acuerdo en relación a que debía hacerse un esfuerzo de liberalización de los mercados, en vista de que el proteccionismo, las barreras arancelarias y no arancelarias, afectaban directa o indirectamente la posibilidad de realización de esfuerzos de seguridad alimentaria en los países, y que inducían a los países en desarrollo a limitar sus posibilidades de obtención de divisas por la vía de las exportaciones.

Asimismo, se destacó el que los términos de intercambio habían sido negativos para los países en desarrollo, y que en ese sentido, había también que hacer un esfuerzo para estabilizar y equilibrar mercados, de manera que pudiéramos llegar a situaciones internacionales de mayor justicia y equidad. Algunas delegaciones hicieron en este sentido, referencia a la necesidad de avanzar hacia un nuevo orden económico internacional.

Por otra parte, se manifestó *ql* que, si bien debía actuarse a nivel internacional, también era importante avanzar en la determinación de medidas que se complementarían a nivel nacional, y que la cooperación internacional, en ese sentido, debía permitir a asistentes y asistidos llegar a una situación de colaboración mayor. La FAO, en todo caso, podría seguir estudiando las medidas de tipo internacional que pudieran permitirnos, en un futuro, precisar la estrategia. En ese sentido, muchos países resaltaron la importancia del Programa de Acción y la necesidad de apoyarlo; aunque se advirtió que no se habían dado los avances deseados. Se expresó que debían establecerse prioridades más claras en función de una planeación más viable del Programa de Acción, y que la condición primera de todo avance, debía ser ese esfuerzo nacional al que nos hemos referido, así como la precisión más clara de prioridades.

Aunque la mayoría de los países apoyaron las políticas de reserva previstas por el Plan de Acción, se advirtió que la concentración de excedentes en pocos países hacía peligrar la propia seguridad alimentaria mundial, y que mayor atención debían merecer para esos países, la movilización de esos excedentes hacia el mundo en desarrollo. Se expresó que no siempre se respetaban los criterios internacionales para la administración de las reservas, y que su distribución real presentaba irregularidades.

Algunos países apoyaron el Convenio sobre Ayuda Alimentaria, y expresaron su preocupación por su prórroga, así como por la meta de reservas actualmente establecida que, a todas luces, resultaba insuficiente. Se subrayó que los programas de asistencia del Plan de Acción tienen una cartera de proyectos limitada, y qué hay que apoyarlos más.

La Comisión destacó la importancia crucial de la asistencia externa y la ayuda alimentaria hacia países en desarrollo con el propósito de permitirles alcanzar sus objetivos de seguridad alimentaria. Se destacó, finalmente, que dicha asistencia debería permitir una formulación que favoreciera la ejecución de políticas nacionales de seguridad alimentaria.

Varios delegados subrayaron la importancia de acuerdos para estabilizar el comercio internacional de alimentos. En ese sentido, se hizo referencia a los escasos progresos realizados en el establecimiento del Convenio Internacional del Trigo, que deberán tener en cuenta, en todo caso, los requerimientos de la seguridad alimentaria mundial. Se mencionó también la conveniencia de un Acuerdo Internacional sobre el Azúcar. Muchos delegados destacaron la necesidad de reducir, como lo había mencionado, las barreras arancelarias; y en ese sentido, se planteó la oportunidad de priorizar las exportaciones provenientes de los países en desarrollo.

Finalmente, algunas varias delegaciones hicieron notar la conveniencia de fortalecer el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, aunque se hizo notar que, en todo caso, deberían respetarse las funciones de otras organizaciones internacionales que trataban la materia, y que una mayor y mejor coordinación entre ellas debía ser factible en el futuro.

Para concluir, varias delegaciones manifestaron su apoyo al proyecto de Resolución presentado por Venezuela, a nombre de la India, Bangladesh y México.

Hubo cuatro delegaciones que, por escrito, enviaron a la Secretaría sus comentarios. Y en función del interés que en torno a esta cuestión manifestó la Comisión, se constituyó un Grupo de Contacto que se reunirá en breves momentos, en ocho minutos, en la sala Alemania. La idea, señores, es que conforme a los resultados de este Grupo de Contacto, el próximo lunes esta Comisión pueda conocer el nuevo Proyecto de Resolución sobre Seguridad Alimentaria.

Quiero finalmente advertir que estoy plenamente consciente de que no he podido recoger aquí, la totalidad de los comentarios, y que quizás no le di el énfasis debido a ciertas cuestiones. Sin duda, señores, el Comité de Redacción hará el trabajo apropiado. En ese sentido, les agradezco mucho su atención y si no tuvieran ustedes ningún comentario, desearía dar lectura a la lista de países que asistirán al Grupo de Contacto, en el salón Alemania; estos serían: India, Venezuela, Indonesia, Estados Unidos, Grecia, Kenya, Malasia, Francia, Canadá, Finlandia, Australia, Bangladesh y México. ¿Hay algún comentario que quisieran proponer?

H. LOPEZ DE MORAL (Colombia): Colombia había manifestado su interés en participar en la reunión de este Comité. Al no oír el nombre mencionado, me atrevo a sugerirlo.

EL PRESIDENTE: Tiene usted toda la razón. Lo he omitido, pero está efectivamente incluida. C.-E. ODHNER (Sweden): Mr Chairman, earlier today you mentioned Sweden as a member of the Contact Group but now you have excluded us. Was that unintentional?

EL PRESIDENTE: Hasta donde tengo yo entendido, jamás mencioné a Suecia dentro del Grupo de Contacto. Pero si la delegación de Suecia desea estar presente, yo creo que no habrá ningún inconveniente para que lo haga, en vista de que ha presentado, por escrito, algunos comentarios. Con mucho gusto, Suecia estará bien acogida en ese Grupo de Contacto.

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
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Twenty socond Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt-deuxième session
COMMISSION I

22º período de sesiones
COMIS
ION I

SEVENTH MEETING
SEPTIEME SEANCE
SÉPTIMA SESION

(14 November 1983)

The Seventh Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours

José Ramon López-Portillo, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La septième séance est ouverte à 10 heures, sous la présidence

de José Ramon López-Portillo, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la séptima sesión a las 10.00 horas, bajo la presidencia de

José Ramon López-Portillo, Presidente de la Comisión I

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 FAOMO
Homenaje al Sr. Arrhenius F.M. DE FREITAS,
Representante Permanente del Brasil ante la FAO

EL PRESIDENTE: Antes de comenzar nuestros trabajos, quiero manifestar con profundo dolor, en nombre propio como Presidente del Grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe, así como sin duda en nombre de todas las delegaciones que asisten a esta Conferencia, la muerte de nuestro compañero y amigo el Representante Permanente del Brasil ante la FAO, el Ministro Sr. Arrhenius F. M. de Freitas.

Solicito que guardemos un minuto de silencio.

One minute of silence

Une minute de silence

Un minuto de silencio

Paso la palabra a la delegación del Brasil.

A. SALGADO SANTOS (Brazil): Thank you, Mr Chairman. I should like to thank you as well as this Commission, for the sympathy expressed. Mr de Freitas was not only a great colleague of mine but a personal friend for over twenty years. The Brazilian Government deeply regrets his death, having lost an exceptional and valuable officer.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias. Es indudable que todos los presentes tenemos igual sentimiento.

I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)

I. PRINCIPALESTENDANCESETPOLITIQUES EN MATIERE D' ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE
(suite)

I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION
(continuación)

7. International Agricultural Adjustment:

7. Ajustement agricole international:

7. Reajuste Agrícola Internacional :

7.1 Fourth Monitoring Report

7.1 Quatrième rapport de situation

7.1 Cuarto informe sobre la situación

7.2 Revision and Updating of Guidelines

7.2 Révisionetmijourdeslignes'orientation

7.2 Revisión y actualización de las orientaciones

Les anuncio que la primera reunión y sesión de trabajo del Comité de Redacción de nuestra Comisión I, se celebrará hoy día 14 a las 18.00 horas, también en el Salón de Alemania.

La lista que compone dicho Comité es la siguiente: India, como Presidente del Comité de Redacción; Afganistán, Australia, Camerún, Colombia, Francia, Hungría, Kenya, Países Bajos, Nicaragua, Tailandia, Estados Unidos de América y la República Popular Democrática del Yemen.

Les anuncio asimismo que las candidaturas para la elección de los Presidentes y Miembros del Comité del Programa y del Comité de Finanzas tendrán que estar presentadas hoy antes de las 12.00 horas. Los formularios respectivos se encuentran como anexos al Documento CL 85/2 y tendrán que entregarse en la Oficina del Secretario General de la Conferencia, Oficina B-202.

Todos los formularios deben ser cumplimentados y firmados por el Delegado del país cuyo candidato presenta para su nominación.

EL PRESIDENTE: Pasamos ahora al Tema 7 de nuestra Agenda: Reajuste Agrícola Internacional, integrado por dos subtemas, el 7.1 Cuarto Informe sobre la Situación, y el 7.2 Revisión y Actualización de las Orientaciones y los Objetivos del Reajuste Agrícola Internacional.

En vista de la inseparable interrelación de estos dos subtemas y conforme a lo que fue planteado por el Comité General de esta Conferencia, les solicito traten ambos subtemas de manera conjunta. Los documentos preparados por la Secretaría de la FAO sobre estos puntos son el C 83/21 y el C 83/22 respectivamente.

Paso ahora la palabra al Dr Nurul Islam para que introduzca el tema.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): As you have just mentioned, Mr Chairman, I will introduce both the documents together on agenda items 7.1 and 7.2.

Document C 83/21 is the fourth biennial report on progress in International Agricultural Adjustment. Let me first recall that the basic purpose of International Agricultural Adjustment is to be an input into agricultural policy harmonization at the international level. The eleven policy guidelines adopted by Conference in 1975 represent a consensus statement of goals and policy approaches at national and international level. FAO member governments have agreed to take into account these goals and policy approaches in formulating their own policies.

I will now go quickly over the main findings of our investigations concerning progress in IAA under the eleven guidelines. Since these guidelines are now proposed to be reviewed and up-dated, a subject to which I will return later, this year's progress report focuses on achievements and failures over the period since the adoption of the guidelines.

The 4 percent food production growth rate of the developing countries advocated in Guideline 1 continues to be an elusive target, notwithstanding some progress achieved during 1974-82 compared with the record in earlier years. A slow-down in population growth helped to raise the growth rate of the per capita food production to 1.0 percent p.a. On the negative side, progress was very unevenly distributed and the number of countries with declining per capita food production continues to be very large, particularly in Africa.

Guideline 2 calls for increased resource allocations to agriculture. Here the record is mixed. The longer-term growth of 10-11 percent p.a. in fertilizer consumption of the developing countries was interrupted and a small decline occurred in 1981/82, due mostly to the unfavourable overall economic environment, notably the declining prices in many primary commodities, budgetary retrenchment and balance of payments difficulties. Data inadequacies prevent a full investigation of the flows of financial resources, but available data indicate rapid increases in expenditure on agricultural research. By contrast, agriculture continues to receive a share in total national investment which is well below that warranted by the importance of the sector. Amongst the countries for which data on planned public expenditures were available, 24 recorded an increase - some of them as high as 15 percent per annum - whereas 13 recorded a decline as low as -8 percent p.a. Two-thirds of the countries spent no more than 10 percent of their total planned public expenditure on agriculture.

In relation to Guideline 3 on producer incentives and rational use of resources, real producer prices for major food commodities which were rising in the first half of the 1970s did not maintain this trend in the second half. Other agricultural commodities fared better for a time, following increases in international prices in the immediate post-1975 period before the onset of sharp declines in more recent years. In many developed countries the degree of support to domestic production continued unabated during the second half of the 1970s: structural surpluses in some sectors, e.g. dairy, sugar, etc., posed serious policy problems, both domestic and international.

Concerning Guidelines 4 and 5 on nutritional standards, integrated nutritional policies, etc. the data show that for the developing countries as a whole per capita calorie supplies improved somewhat and coverage of 100 percent of average calorie requirements was achieved. But, as in the case of food production, progress has been very uneven with several countries experiencing declines. Nearly 60 percent of the developing countries' populations (excluding China) still live in countries with per capita calorie supplies well below average requirements. An increasing number of countries are in the process of adopting nutritional policies and incorporating nutritional considerations into their agricultural and rural development projects with the assistance of FAO. While this is an encouraging development, there are still serious weaknesses in implementation.

The gains in per capita calories of the developing countries were based, inter alia, on rapidly growing food imports. Overall, there has been no clear-cut tendency for countries with weak balance of payments to favour domestically produced food at the expense of imported food, as advocated in Guideline 6. Regional self-sufficiency in basic food continued to decline, except in the Far Eastern region.

In relation to Guidelines 7 and 9 on agricultural trade and agricultural export earnings of the developing countries, the data show that the volume of world agricultural exports did indeed accelerate in the second half of the 1970s until it was halted by the world economic recession. However, such improvement reflected significantly the increased food exports of the developed market economies and the increased imports of both the developing countries and of the developed centrally planned economies. Developing country agricultural exports grew much more slowly in volume terms and their export earnings declined in both 1981 and 1982, due mostly to drastic falls in their export prices. These developments reflect both the world economic recession, internal weaknesses in the agricultural sector of the developing countries themselves and failure to achieve any real progress in liberalizing access to markets.

Some progress was achieved in enhancing the world food security situation as Guideline 8 advocates. But such progress has been slow and remained limited to certain areas. World cereal stocks rose at the end of the 1982/83 crop year to 21 percent of world annual consumption, but they are expected to decline to below 18 percent by the end of the crop year 1983/84, due to acreage limitations and to unfavourable weather in the major exporting country. The stocks held by the developing countries have remained nearly constant at around 100 million tons and, by implication, they have declined as a proportion of their annual consumption.

External assistance to agriculture continues to be well below the target of \$8.3 billion annually at 1975 prices which, according to Guideline 10, was to be achieved in the period 1975-80. However, commitments did increase from \$ 3.5 billion in the mid-1970s to \$ 5.3 billion pa in 1980 before falling back to \$ 5.1 billion in 1981.

In the area of food aid, cereal shipments have tended to stabilize at around 9.0 million tons annually, some 10 percent below the target of 10 million tons indicated in Guideline 11. Forecasts for 1983/84 are for a still lower level, 8.7 million tons. In the meantime, cereal deficits of the developing countries continued to increase and the proportion of imports covered by food aid declined drastically. Failure to achieve any real progress in food production and consumption in many countries, particularly in Africa, means that food aid requirements will continue to increase in the foreseeable future. Estimates for 1985 put these requirements at 20 million tons annually, more than twice present levels.

This brief review of achievements and failures in international agricultural adjustment since the adoption of the guidelines, indicates that progress achieved so far has been slow and uneven. Renewed efforts are required for progress to become more wide spread and to be increasingly directed to benefit the most vulnerable countries and population groups.

I will now refer briefly to the process which has led to the preparation of the draft up-dated and revised guidelines presented in document C 83/22. As delegates will recall, the Conference agreed at its Twentieth Session that the guidelines should be reviewed and revised in the light of developments since their adoption in 1975. The Director-General submitted proposals following this decision of the FAO Conference for revision of the Guidelines to a Government Consultation held in March 1981. The Consultation made progress towards an agreed formulation, but consensus was not reached on all the guidelines. The full report of the Consultation was submitted, however, to the Eighty-Second Session of the FAO Council. The Council appointed a contact group composed of members of the Council to review the report of the Experts Consultation and to endeavour to reach agreement and consensus on those guidelines on which there had earlier been no consensus. The Contact Group succeeded in reaching consensus and the Council decided that the draft guidelines should be submitted to the present Session of the FAO Conference for its consideration and adoption if it so decides.

I wish to draw the attention of the Conference to the following points contained in document C 83/22. The document on the revision of guidelines, as agreed to by the contact group established for the Council for the purpose and as considered by the Council last year, does include a number of reservations by one or two member governments in respect of a few selected guidelines on which consensus was not reached. The Conference may adopt the guidelines if it so desires along with the reservations as recorded in the document submitted by the Conference.

In relation to the consideration by the Conference of Guideline 10, there are no new developments to report on the possibility of making a legally binding agreement on the International Emergency Food Reserve.

The Council also requested that the Conference take into account the suggestion that Guideline 1 could include as the main purpose of International Agricultural Adjustment the following phrase: "To promote the establishment of a new international economic order".

Finally the Council requested that the Conference could review the draft of Guideline 7 "in the light of results which might be achieved with regard to trade in specialized fora of the United Nations system, particularly GATT and UNCTAD". As the Conference is aware, certain declarations and resolutions were adopted by these two Organizations on the issues of trade and protectionism since the draft Guideline 7 was drawn up. I refer to the Ministerial Declaration of the GATT adopted in November 1982 and Resolution 59 (VI) adopted at UNCTAD VI in June of this year. Taken together, these more recent developments include commitments or objectives regarding the halting and reduction of protectionism; improved access to markets; need for discipline in export competition; and emphasis on the export needs of the developing countries. These aspects of an improved international trading system are also incorporated in the draft guideline as presented in the document before you. In deciding whether any changes in the draft are necessary, the Conference will no doubt wish to take into account these similarities regarding objectives as well as the desirability of formulating the guideline in as succinct a form as possible.

Discussion in the Conference will be helpful in guiding FAO'S further work in the area of International Agricultural Adjustment. In this connection I would like to inform delegates that the Director-General will submit FAO's contribution to the Review and Appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Third Development Decade which will be carried out by the General Assembly in 1984. The submission from FAO will incorporate the deliberations of the FAO Conference under this item and other related agenda items such as the State of Food and Agriculture, World Food Security and WCARRD in Commission I, as well as the discussions in Commission II under Agenda Item 16.

EL PRESIDENTE: A nombre de la Comisión, felicito y agradezco al Dr. Islam por su brillante presentación. Antes de otorgarles la palabra, deseo puntualizar muy brevemente algunos aspectos.

Todas las naciones, estamos convencidos, han tenido largo tiempo para revisar, analizar y discutir este asunto. Estamos convencidos, por otro lado, de que el Grupo de Contacto querrá ratificar sus concienzudas y largamente debatidas conclusiones. Esperamos congruencia intelectual y moral. Entendemos también que estas orientaciones no son compulsorias sino solo son eso, Orientaciones, e indicaciones breves y comprensivas surgidas del consenso habido en un número considerable de discusiones y reflexiones sobre la agricultura y la alimentación cuya situación, actualmente, como todos sabemos, no es positiva, principalmente, para los países en desarrollo.

El progreso general alcanzado en torno a los aspectos de las once Orientaciones han sido lentos y desiguales. Como bien lo precisó el Dr. Islam. Sinceramente, esperamos que esta Conferencia pueda adoptar las once Directrices, si así lo decide, incluyendo eventualmente aquellas posibles reservas que se han suscitado. No quiero repetir aquí los puntos claros y objetivos que en la presentación del Dr. Islam se hicieron y se recordaron. Simplemente lo subrayo con el deseo de que esta Comisión haga progresos en ese tema, de manera que pueda trascender, de la manera más efectiva posible, a todas las conciencias del mundo.

¿Hay en este momento algún comentario? Paso la palabra a la delegación de México.

B. PAREDES RANGEL (México): Queremos notificar a la Comisión del copatrocinio de las delegaciones de México, Jordania, Siria, República Árabe del Yemen, Nicaragua, Cabo Verde, Benin, Tanzania, Honduras, Barbados, Etiopía y Cuba al respecto de un Proyecto de Resolución en materia de seguimiento de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, en virtud de que la oportunidad para el anuncio de las resoluciones que señala la Conferencia, nos lleva a hacerlo en el día de hoy.

Subrayamos la importancia de esa Resolución que le da seguimiento a la Resolución 7/79 impulsa los planteamientos de las resoluciones de la Organización Internacional del Trabajo núm. 87 y 141.

EL PRESIDENTE: Le suplico que para que la Secretaría pueda tomar debida nota de aquellos que están apoyando esta notificación de Proyecto de Resolución, vuelva a darle lectura.

B. PAREDES RANGEL (México): Con todo gusto. Los países son: México, Jordania, Siria, República Árabe del Yemen, Nicaragua, Cabo Verde, Benin, Tanzania, Honduras, Barbados, Etiopía y Cuba que copatrocinan el Proyecto de Resolución en cuanto al seguimiento de los progresos realizados en la aplicación del Programa de Acción de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural.

M. ZJALIC (Yugoslavia): Mr Chairman, since we now have the agenda item Guidelines for International Agricultural Adjustment, my delegation feels that this Commission should propose that the Conference should adopt the revised Guidelines in the form of a resolution.

My delegation wishes to announce its proposal to submit a draft resolution for the consideration of this Commission and the Conference.

H.M. CARANDANG (Philippines): The Philippine delegation would like to join the delegate of Yugoslavia in his proposal for the adoption of the text on the International Agricultural Adjustment which has been tabled before this Commission. We would gladly sponsor that resolution and hope that it will not cause very much difficulty in this Commission.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): Simplement une question posée au Secrétariat en ce qui concerne le deuxième projet de résolution que le délégué de la Yougoslavie a manifesté l'intention de déposer, en particulier sur les lignes d'orientation. Lors des premières lignes d'orientations, adoptées je crois il y a une dizaine d'années maintenant, peut-être plus, a-t-on poursuivi la procédure de la résolution pour l'adoption des lignes d'orientation? Si oui, il est évident qu'à partir du moment où on modifie ces lignes, il faut prendre aussi la procédure de la résolution.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, pero no entiendo cuál es la pregunta concreta porque creo que usted mismo dio la contestación.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): La question est très simple: les lignes d'orientation actuelles ont-elles été adoptées par la voie d'une résolution précédemment? Si oui, il est normal que pour les modifier il y ait également résolution. Merci.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economie and Social Policy Department): The answer is yes. The guidelines were adopted by a resolution.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, somos conscientes de que la Conferencia optó en 1975 por las primeras y originales orientaciones mediante una resolución, pero el documento C 83/22 indica que el Consejo, al recoger los resultados de los trabajos de contacto, pide a la Conferencia que adopte estos textos revisados que surgieron del Grupo de Contacto y que fueron acogidos normalmente por el Consejo, creemos que si no hubieran modificaciones sustanciales y si, como lo esperamos, los países que aún mantienen las reservas las retiraran, podría no ser necesario un proyecto de resolución. Esto lo veríamos al final de la discusión sobre el documento C 83/22.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Hay alguna aclaración? Si no la hay procederemos a dar el uso de la palabra para el tratamiento del tema siguiente y de los respectivos subtemas 7.1 y 7.2.

Voy a dictar despacio el nombre de las delegaciones que quieren hacer uso de la palabra, de manera que la Secretaría pueda tomar debida nota de ellas: Argentina, India (por supuesto ya había solicitado el uso de la palabra anteriormente), Bangladesh, Colombia, Grecia, República de Corea, Francia, Kenya, China, Canadá, República Federal de Alemania, Australia, Senegal, Argelia, Italia, Estados Unidos.

Tiene, en primer lugar, la palabra la delegación de Argentina.

R.C. SERSALE DI CERISANO (Argentina): En primer lugar queremos agradecer al Dr. Islam la introducción del tema, creemos que estamos ante uno de los trabajos más importantes y profundos que haya realizado la FAO, y también queremos expresar nuestro reconocimiento por ello.

Queremos ser muy breves por ahora, hemos estudiado muy profundamente este tema, y en razón de ello queremos anunciar, con gran satisfacción, que Argentina levanta las reservas a las orientaciones 3 y 4 que hiciera en su oportunidad. Esperamos también con ello contribuir a una rápida, pero también decidida aprobación de la orientación actualizada del documento C 83/22. En caso de ir a debate nos gustaría volver a intervenir; por ahora es todo y queremos apoyar la propuesta que hiciera la delegación de Colombia.

H. L. CHAWLA (India): At the moment I am speaking in relation to document C 83/21. We are grateful to Professor Islam for his able and lucid exposition of the position regarding international agricultural adjustments. FAO's document on the subject is again comprehensive and well prepared.

The agricultural situation in most recent years as depicted in paragraph 7 of the document is quite depressing. The decline in resource transfers in rural terms, stagnation of food aid and lack of any significant progress on the removal of barriers to the expansion of developing countries trade may be regarded as unfortunate.

The magnitude of struggle being made, and the difficulties faced by low-income developing countries, should be duly appreciated. There have been favourable references to agricultural progress in India and the Far East Region, in the Review under guidelines 1 and 2. It is to be appreciated, however, that this has been possible on the basis of great stresses and strains. To make the point, on the basis of the experience of my country, over 25 percent of the current five-year planned outlay of almost US\$ 97 billion is earmarked for agriculture and irrigation. Apart from that a significant proportion of outlay in other sectors has been invested with a view to meeting the growing need of agriculture, energy, imports, and infrastructure. The country is training itself to the maximum extent. However, the problems are formidable. For achieving further increases in production, more and more difficult sources of irrigation have to be tapped. Productivity has to be increased in semi-arid and arid areas. The economy of small and marginal farmers, which is capital starved, has to be toned up. This problem must be noted by the world community including developed countries, even though many of them are grappling with difficulties within their own economies.

Under Guideline 3 reference has been made to the appropriate incentives to farmers. We appreciate the importance of this policy instrument. From January 1980 until now, the Government of India has raised support prices of paddy by 28 percent, wheat by 31 percent and pulse crops, legumes, 30-60 percent. The support prices of oilseed have also been raised, but these policies have their implications. Over 40 percent of our population is below the poverty line, earning less than what may be regarded as essential for desirable calorie intake. Large price increases erode consumption of those whose incomes cannot be protected against inflation.

Another aspect is that hefty increases in the price of oil, transport costs, and the rising prices of imports like pesticides, reduce the incentive effect of increases in support prices. Over a period of time the prices of fertilizers and their feed stock have also moved up with an adverse effect on their consumption, particularly by the small and marginal farmers.

The point to be stressed, therefore, is that the limitations faced by developing countries in accelerating agricultural production through price incentives, and subsidies on imports should be duly appreciated.

The emphasis on the improvement of nutritional levels, food self-sufficiency laid under guidelines 4 to 6 is well taken. High density of population, low land/man ratio, unemployment and under-nutrition are closely linked phenomena.

In India we are trying to improve the situation and give high priority to agricultural and rural development programmes. Food and cash aid is being provided by the Government of India to various States for national rural employment programmes. More recently an allocation of 5 billion Rupees has been made for expanding employment opportunities especially for the landless rural labour. We are however aware of the magnitude of the problem of the employment situation and the alleviation of rural malnutrition is huge. Large investment would be required to tackle this problem. As regards these remaining guidelines including increased investment flows and food aid, the Indian delegation will take the floor later when this will be taken up, because I have received this paper.

A.H.M. ABDUL HYE (Bangladesh): First of all, I would like to thank Professor Islam for his lucid presentation of documents C 83/21 and C 83/22. It is admitted that the objective of an internationally coordinated policy adjustment to regulate instability and enhance the capacity of the agricultural system to adapt to change is difficult to achieve. This is all the more so in times of worldwide recession, rising unemployment and growing protectionism in the developed countries and falling export earnings and increasing indebtedness in the developing countries.

However, it is also recognized that in the absence of coordinated action for agricultural adjustment, the objectives of ameliorating hunger and malnutrition, effacing poverty and achieving equitable rural development will continue to be elusive. It is in this context that the fourth Progress Report on International Agricultural Adjustment as contained in Conference document C 83/21 is of great interest to us. The Progress Report examines major developments in the areas of production, nutrition, trade and international assistance in the light of the eleven Guidelines during the past eight years, that is since 1975. The period under review was characterized by economic instability with high commodity and input prices and inflation in the early 70s and a serious recession in 1975, followed by a weak recovery from 1975 to 1980, which gave way to another onset of serious recession.

Since in the last eight years we went through serious fluctuations in national economies which affected international economic relations, we can only think of trends and not a trend in the major development in the years incorporating the eleven Guidelines.

The attempt by the Secretariat to approve the monitoring of major trends and agricultural adjustment should therefore be considered as tentative. It is heartening to note from the Report that during the eight years under review, the annual growth rate of food production in the developing countries

as a whole was 3.2 percent, which though short of the target of 4 percent was an improvement over the preceding period. However, the Report's findings about the flow of resources to agriculture in the developing countries in this period do not seem to present a correct picture. This is perhaps due to adoption of inappropriate methodologies and the very limited scope of the study in terms of countries covered. If the estimate of resource flows is based on a different set of variables or mix of variables, then a different picture will emerge. For instance, under the broad head "Investments in Agriculture", two subheads may be added, e.g., public sector expenditure and private sector expenditure. The public sector expenditure in turn may be broken up into current and capital expenditures. If the methodology is corrected in this manner, then it might be said that resource flows in the agricultural sector in the developing countries are either increasing or have remained steady at a significant level.

My country, Bangladesh, makes about 33 percent of public sector expenditure available for agricultural development, and we cannot think of any food-deficit country that is deliberately reducing expenditure in this vital sector. We feel rather uneasy at the findings of the Report under this guideline, that is Guideline 2, because it gives the impression as if in the face of food shortages and stagnating agricultural production, food-deficit countries are not doing their utmost.

Under Guideline 3, the Report has concluded that there was no general increase in price incentives for the farmers in the developing countries in recent years. There are several misconceptions involved here: firstly, governments in most of the developing countries do not directly control agricultural commodity prices; only procurement prices are offered which are meant to ensure that market prices for the major commodities remain at a reasonable level. If these prices are lower than the market prices, producers do not have to sell to governments. Incentives given through government prices therefore work indirectly, and this should be taken into account while making an assessment of the incentives given in the developing countries for the producers in the agricultural sector.

Of a more fundamental nature is the error in attempting to deflate producer prices by the consumer price index to show the alleged decline in producer prices over the base period, that is before 1975. If the objective is to see whether producer prices serve as incentives, then estimated cost and return on particular commodities should have been made and would have given a more accurate picture. Alternately, analysis of the trend in purchasing power of farm prices in terms of either consumer goods or of purchase inputs may be more relevant.

I am not making any statements on the other guidelines, nor on the revised updating of the guidelines. If time permits, I will intervene at a later period. I will conclude by reiterating the views that International Agricultural Adjustment incorporating the eleven Guidelines for national and international actions on nutrition, production, aid and trade are based on the existence of the interdependence in world agriculture and, by extension, in world economy. Unless this interdependence is reflected in the policy measures of both the developed and developing countries, International Agricultural Adjustment will continue to be elusive.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sr. Presidente, en el año 1975 se adoptaron en la Conferencia las once Orientaciones, que ahora son doce, y se hizo en un momento en que la situación alimentaria y agrícola mundial, se hallaba en plena crisis, crisis que había merecido consideración muy particular en la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación que se había celebrado un año antes.

Entonces dijimos, y así lo reconoce el documento C 83/21, que se trataba de orientaciones para adelantar una acción nacional e internacional basada en la interdependencia de la agricultura mundial, interdependencia entre todos los países.

Desgraciadamente, hemos comprobado en el transcurso de los años lo mismo que ya hemos manifestado en algunas de nuestras declaraciones anteriores: que esa interdependencia no ha existido y que, por el contrario, los países desarrollados, grandes productores, toman sus propias medidas sin tener en cuenta los intereses y las necesidades de los países en desarrollo.

La delegación de Colombia quiere confirmar su positivo aprecio por estas orientaciones, por este marco normativo internacional, por este conjunto de medidas que, si se hubiera aplicado siquiera en mínima parte, habría evitado llegar a la difícil y progresiva situación preocupante en que se encuentran los países del Tercer Mundo.

En efecto, en el párrafo 6 del documento C 83/21, se dice que no se realizaron esas medidas, que no se aplicaron ni siquiera en lo más mínimo esas orientaciones. Y, naturalmente, ello ha sido debido a la actitud de los países desarrollados que no han querido colaborar con nosotros en la aplicación de estas orientaciones.

En los párrafos 7 y 8 del documento C 83/21 se describe claramente en qué consiste esa actitud negativa de los países desarrollados que ha agravado la recesión, como la acentuación del proteccionismo y del aumento y la diversificación de las subvenciones y de otras asistencias a la producción, el crecimiento de los tipos de interés que conllevó el mayor endeudamiento en nuestros países, el deterioro en las relaciones de intercambio y, naturalmente, la consecuencia triste del aumento de las importaciones de alimentos por parte de nuestros países, lo cual como se dice en el párrafo 9, ha conllevado a la crisis, porque ha habido una falta de respuesta política, una carencia de voluntad política.

Han pasado diez meses desde que en el Consejo de fines del año pasado nos ocupamos de estas Orientaciones, y por ello quisiéramos hacer referencia a tres o cuatro de ellas, para confirmar el hecho de que nada ha mejorado en este campo.

La Orientación Primera recuerda siempre la meta, el objetivo establecido en la estrategia internacional para el desarrollo sobre la necesidad de que aumente la producción en un cuatro por ciento en los países del Tercer Mundo. Y esa misma cifra ya se había adoptado en la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación. Es decir, que han pasado ya diez años y sólo se ha logrado en términos optimistas alrededor de un 3 por ciento en los últimos ocho años.

Quisiera la Delegación de Colombia pedir a los miembros de esta Comisión que, como dice el primer apartado del párrafo 45 del Informe del Consejo de la FAO, se nos permitiera agregar ahora en la orientación primera la referencia al nuevo orden económico internacional, que en opinión de la Delegación de Colombia, debe ser la finalidad principal del reajuste agrícola internacional.

Con ánimo transaccional, estamos dispuestos a aceptar que en la Orientación Primera se incluya el nuevo orden internacional en minúscula, que ha sido la última reserva que han expresado algunos países, porque entendemos que ya está maduro el tiempo para que se reconozca la necesidad de este nuevo orden económico internacional.

Sobre la Orientación 2, el aumento de los recursos financieros, todos sabemos que esta orientación se ha cumplido en sentido contrario. Se nos pide siempre que seamos nosotros los responsables del aumento de nuestra producción, cuando es evidente que los países en desarrollo estamos haciendo notables esfuerzos en este terreno, cuando es sabido que estamos concediendo alta prioridad a la agricultura en nuestros planes de desarrollo, y que estamos asignando más recursos a esta finalidad dentro de nuestras posibilidades. Pero esto, todo esto, no es suficiente.

Ojalá que esta Comisión en la parte pertinente del informe insista sobre la necesidad de que se aumenten los recursos financieros que permitan incrementar y diversificar la producción en los países en desarrollo.

Vamos a pasar ahora, Señor Presidente, al Documento C 83/22, sobre el cual, en primer lugar, queremos agradecer a la distinguida Delegación de Argentina la actitud constructiva que ha asumido al retirar las reservas que ese importante país había manifestado sobre la Orientación 11. Creemos que ese gesto altruista y positivo de Argentina debe ser imitado por otro país tal como lo vamos a solicitar más adelante.

Como dijo el Sr. Islam en su presentación muy adecuada, en marzo de 1981 se llevó a cabo una consulta que fue presidida por el entonces Embajador de Francia Sr. Batault, y de esa consulta surgieron algunas discrepancias que fueron luego consideradas por un Grupo de Contacto en el Consejo, Grupo de Contacto en el cual participó la Delegación de Colombia.

Tras interesantes e intensas discusiones en aquel Grupo de Contacto logramos un compromiso en el cual fue necesario transigir y ceder en busca de un acuerdo.

La Representación de la Comunidad Económica Europea tuvo una activa participación en ese Grupo de Contacto, y desgraciadamente, como se dice en el párrafo 43 del Informe del Consejo, la Delegación de un importante país, de los Estados Unidos, no quiso participar en ese Grupo de Contacto y prefirió mantener sus reservas después de que habíamos logrado el acuerdo en el Grupo de Contacto. Insistimos cordialmente ante el distinguido representante de ese país para que reconsideraran su actitud, pero no fue posible lograrlo. Y quisiéramos insistir sobre ello y con toda consideración deseamos hacer referencias a las reservas que ese país hace particularmente a las orientaciones 8, 9 y 10.

En la Orientación 8, que se refiere a los productos básicos, dice este documento que la reserva de los Estados Unidos se basa en el hecho de que entonces la nueva Administración todavía no había decidido su política en materia de productos básicos.

Quienes asistimos a la reciente reunión del Comité de Productos Básicos, fuimos testigos del diálogo, de la controversia que se suscitó entre la Comunidad Económica Europea, los Estados Unidos y otros países desarrollados sobre la situación. Situación que la Delegación de Colombia definió como coyuntural.

Allí nos pareció tener la impresión, en ese Comité de Productos Básicos, de que sí había política de productos básicos en unos y otros países.

Ojalá haya coherencia, como estoy seguro que la habrá, en una Delegación tan respetable para demostrar ahora que al haber definido ya su política en esa materia, está en condiciones de ayudarnos a obtener la unanimidad que estamos persiguiendo, retirando la reserva sobre la Orientación 8.

En las Orientaciones 8 y 9, que están relacionadas, también encontramos reservas que se refieren al Programa de Arusha, de autosuficiencia colectiva, que está vinculado a la Orientación 10 sobre Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial.

Estimamos nosotros que las últimas intervenciones de la respetable representación del país que mantiene estas reservas - y así lo dicen también los propios textos de ellas - demuestran que están apoyando plenamente los objetivos de la seguridad alimentaria mundial. Y siendo así, no podemos entender por qué desean insistir en mantener su reserva por la totalidad del texto de la Orientación 10.

Queremos insistir también en que los distinguidos representantes de la Comunidad Económica Europea participaron de manera muy activa y decisiva en ese grupo de contacto. Diez meses después, quisiéramos reconocer que la actitud de la CEE no sólo es coherente con lo que sus representantes apoyaron allá con nosotros en el Grupo de Contacto, sino que va a ser aún más positiva y nos va a ayudar con mayor determinación en el propósito del requerimiento hecho por la Delegación de Colombia para que estas doce Orientaciones tal como surgieron del Consejo de diciembre pasado, sean recomendadas por unanimidad para la adhesión de esta Conferencia.

D. MOUTSATSOS (Greece): Mr Chairman, as we are discussing items 7.1 and 7.2 of our Agenda, I should like to inform you that the representative of the EEC Commission will make a statement on behalf of the 10 Member States of the Community on item 7.2 this afternoon.

KWANG-HEE KIM (Korea, Republic of): The delegation of Korea highly commends the Secretariat for their preparation of the report and Dr Islam for his lucid introduction on this highly complex subject before us. The report clearly examines and monitors major trends and events of world agriculture in accordance with the Guidelines set out in 1975.

Concerning the Secretariat's view on the basic objective of the Guidelines stated in paragraph 9, we agree that the objective of an internationally coordinated policy adjustment is an ambitious one, but without it the basic objective of ameliorating and eradicating hunger will remain as elusive as it has been during the last decade or so, as stated in paragraph 9.

I will make a brief remark Guideline by Guideline.

On Guideline 1, as stated in paragraphs 10 to 14, the annual growth rate of food production in the developing countries as a whole was 3.2 percent during the last 8 years against a target of 4 percent growth rate. Though this achievement falls short of the target it is still encouraging if we take into account the 2.8 percent growth rate during the previous 8-year period before 1974 and the 1 percent increase on a per capita basis during 1974 to 1982 due to the decrease in population growth.

On Guideline 2 concerning the total flow of financial and other resources into agriculture, we agree that it is a very difficult and complex task to set a standard and quantify the total flow of financial and other resources into agriculture within the total economy in a given year. However, we do not agree with the classification of resource flows as stated in paragraph 15. For instance, public sector expenditure on agriculture and public expenditure on national agricultural resources: as far as my country is concerned, research expenditure is also included in public sector expenditure.

In this connection, I briefly touch on the practice which we use in my country in this respect. We set an annual budget and a financial support plan for the agricultural sector once the annual budget is approved. This includes investment, public expenditure and also all forms of financial support related to the agricultural sector by financial sources and by the types of support. Our plan is composed of two major components, direct cost and indirect support cost. The direct cost includes public expenditure by national or provincial government and also subsidy components to the agricultural sector. Once the direct cost is spent, it is not returned to the Government coffers at a later stage. Indirect support cost, including short-term and long-term loans and finance for government intervention when we need price support, is required for certain agricultural commodities.

When we look at the magnitude of the total financial flow into the agricultural sector in 1982 in Korea, this amounts to 10 percent of GNP in terms of national income account, and the share of agriculture out of annual total budget is around 4.5 percent or 5 percent on average. The share of agriculture out of social and economic development among the total annual budget is 27 percent to 30 percent on average. The share of agriculture out of total gross fixed investment in terms of national account is 10 percent, as I have already stated.

We share the concern expressed in paragraph 20 that the share of agriculture is below the weight of the sector in the national income and greatly below its share on total population and labour force.

Concerning Guideline 3, in paragraph 27 it states that a more complete study of developed and developing countries' price policies is under way in FAO. In this connection I should like to pose a question on the nature of the study. Will this study be applicable or effective when we apply it to individual countries?

On Guideline 4, specifically paragraph 47, it is very encouraging to note that FAO's programme for prevention of post-harvest losses has continued to develop in the context of national effort to minimise post-harvest losses, and that the effort will be directed not only to cereals but also to fruits and vegetables next year.

On Guideline 7 concerning access to markets and assurance of supplies, we share the concern expressed in paragraph 62 that volume of world agricultural trade has been growing higher than that of all commodities while agriculture share in the total value of world exports declined from 17.2 percent in 1974-76 to 15.2 percent in the 1979-81 period due to low export unit value of agricultural commodities compared to other industrial goods. This implies deterioration of terms of trade of agricultural products and also agricultural income.

We are also concerned about the unfavourable development of agricultural trade for developing countries shown in Table 7.1 on page 23.

We agree that only a few selected agricultural products have been included in the general system of preference which is designed to promote market access of developing countries to developed countries.

We think that more agricultural products should be covered under the GSP.

As stated in Guideline 11, food aid should have a clearly defined role in the transfer of agricultural resources to developing countries. This principle should be kept so long as there is a need for food aid in the developing countries.

Turning now to the new guideline, I would like to come back to this if time allows. For the moment, may I suggest that if the reservation or comment is not withdrawn, the new guideline should be adopted as the text stands, with the reservation included.

EL PRESIDENTE: Se ha tomado nota de esa pregunta, y quizás al finalizar esta sesión, podamos dar la contestación debida.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): Si j'interviens ce matin, c'est qu'à partir de 14 h 30 le Groupe de contact va se réunir et je suis donc ainsi amené à parler plus tôt que je l'aurais souhaité et en tout cas à parler avant que la communauté dans son ensemble intervienne pour refléter les positions des uns et des autres.

Tout d'abord, s'agissant de la première partie de notre discussion de ce matin, le quatrième rapport d'ajustement agricole (le document C 83/21), j'adresserai tout d'abord mes remerciements au Secrétariat. C'est un document fort intéressant, aussi complet qu'il peut l'être en la matière et qui s'efforce de présenter les résultats ligne par ligne de manière que la présentation soit différente de celle que nous avons pu voir lors de l'examen mondial de la situation de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation car, en définitive, l'un et l'autre documents se recourent.

Premièrement, on doit reconnaître que l'impact et les résultats des lignes d'orientation ont été, au cours des années qui viennent de s'écouler, assez limités. Ces dernières sont assez limitées parce que, il faut avoir le courage de le reconnaître, les gouvernements, qu'ils soient de pays développés ou de pays en développement, en tiennent assez peu compte et j'aimerais bien que l'on me cite un ministre qui, de quelque pays qu'il soit, au moment où il définit sa propre politique agricole, va avoir dans sa main les lignes d'orientation. Mais ceci est humain. De toute façon nous constatons des résultats modestes, mais je signale en passant, sans reprendre l'examen en détail de chacune de ces lignes, que la lecture du document au paragraphe 33 et à la note de bas de page correspondant à ce paragraphe 33 du document C 83/21, m'a plongé dans un abîme de perplexité. Heureusement que pour la plupart des orateurs cela n'a pas dû faire de difficultés puisqu'ils ont travaillé sur le texte anglais, mais sur le texte français vous allez voir la manière dont on a traduit les pays ACP, c'est-à-dire les pays d'Afrique, Caraïbes et Pacifique. Dans le texte français on indique que la CEE est un grand importateur de sucre à des conditions préférentielles en provenance des pays d'Asie à économie centralement planifiée. Effectivement on retrouve le A d'Afrique qui est devenu Asie. Le C de Caraïbe est devenu Centralement et Pacifique est devenu Planifié. Mais je vous avoue que c'est évidemment assez compliqué à découvrir si l'on ne se reporte pas à toutes les versions dans les différentes langues. Donc il y aura une correction à faire dans le document.

J'en viens maintenant à la révision proprement dite des lignes d'orientation, le document C 83/22. La communauté vous donnera notre position d'ensemble, mais de même que l'a dit M. Bula Hoyos pour la Colombie tout à l'heure, comme l'a dit aussi le délégué de l'Argentine qui est intervenu le premier, je crois que l'on pourrait souhaiter que ces lignes d'orientation, telles qu'elles nous ont été présentées par le Conseil, soient adoptées purement et simplement. Bien sûr M. Islam nous a signalé qu'il y avait encore quelques points en suspens qui sont relativement mineurs et sur lesquels je vais vous donner notre position.

Sur le premier point: que les lignes d'orientation ont pour objectif la mise au point d'un nouvel ordre économique mondial, sans vouloir entrer dans la discussion, je dirai simplement que les lignes d'orientation agricole ne peuvent pas avoir pour objectif la mise au point du nouvel ordre économique international. Je crois qu'elles ne peuvent en être qu'un élément car il faut tout de même être modeste, ce n'est pas la FAO, même avec la plus grande bonne volonté, qui peut construire un nouvel ordre économique mondial.

Deuxièmement, il y a, si je me souviens bien, la ligne d'orientation 7 où l'on dit que la situation pourrait être réexaminée à la lumière des résultats qui pourraient être obtenus en matière de commerce après les réunions du GATT et de la CNUCED. Pour le moment le GATT n'a pas encore conclu, la CNUCED a sorti une résolution. A mon sens, le mieux que l'on puisse faire, c'est d'insérer dans la ligne d'orientation à l'endroit approprié: "conformément à la déclaration ministérielle du GATT et à la résolution 159.6 de la CNUCED" et je crois qu'en mettant, simplement "conformément" ou "dans le cas de" on arriverait à régler le problème.

La ligne d'orientation 10 dans laquelle subsistent certains crochets relatifs à la "Convention juridique obligatoire": je crois qu'il faudrait faire sauter cette portion de phrase relative à la Convention juridique obligatoire puisque c'est un des points relatifs aux mesures internationales qui relèvent de la sécurité alimentaire au titre du point 6.1 ou 6.2. L'examen à nouveau du contexte élargi de la sécurité alimentaire doit refaire l'objet de propositions nouvelles du Directeur général dans le cadre du mois de mars et donc on ne peut pas en trancher maintenant. Voilà ce que j'avais finalement à vous dire et je souhaite qu'on n'ouvre pas un débat sur les lignes qu'on a tenté de réviser; essayons d'adopter ceci et ce sera le mieux que nous puissions faire.

M. MUKOLWE (Kenya): As before, I would like to compliment the Secretariat on their work in monitoring progress in international agricultural adjustment. The paper before us is well written and we support some of the points already made, but I would like to make a few of my own comments, particularly in relation to Guideline 1. The food situation in Africa has been very disappointing. Africa today produces 10 percent less food than she produced 10 years ago. This is a deplorable situation.

Guideline 2, paragraph 23 - the resource flow to agricultural research should be directed to the most essential research needs of the countries concerned. In Africa, a multi-disciplinary approach would be best but, of course, only in essential areas. The need to develop indigenous manpower must be emphasized. With reference to paragraph 26, there was no growth in fertilizer consumption in Africa during the periods 1974/75 and 1981/82, yet this is the continent with the most serious food problems. If we do not buy fertilizer because of difficulties in our balance of payments and budgetary situation, how shall we then be able to pay for the food imports we need? Are we going to starve? This is of grave concern for my delegation.

Guideline 3, paragraph 28 - we must underline the fact that attractive output prices alone may not be an incentive to production without measures to pay promptly for what the farmers have produced, particularly the small-scale farmer. We have already made this point in an earlier intervention. Future policies in this area should take this seriously into consideration.

On Guideline 4, paragraph 46 - policies and programmes integrating the nutritional aspects of development must receive sufficient budgetary allocation and international financing, otherwise it will be a waste of effort as seems to be implied by paragraph 46 as it now stands.

Turning to Guideline 8, paragraph 79 - the impact of high real interest rates on the economies of third world countries is dangerous. These interest rates have their origin in the domestic policies of the industrial countries, particularly the United States of America. Under these circumstances it is not easy for us in the third world to succeed in our agricultural adjustment programmes, which have a direct link with the external world. What is required for that paragraph is a policy change in the industrialised countries and supportive international policies for better management of an independent world economy.

Guideline 11, food aid - here we compliment the donors for their food aid efforts. Although some internationally agreed targets in food aid have not been reached, their efforts have been very positive and we thank them for this. We hope these targets will be attained in the near future.

My delegation is rather concerned that there is no guideline on population and population growth rates. It is pointless and meaningless to talk every day, particularly as we have been in this forum, on the need to increase food production, especially in the developing countries, while being silent on the need to reduce population growth rates. There is a need for a guideline to reflect this. We suggest that reference to this problem could be slotted in one of the other guidelines, but if this is impossible, perhaps we should make it into an additional guideline, guideline 12.

ZENG XIANRONG (China) (original language Chinese): Having read the document and listened to the presentation given by Professor Islam, we in general agree with the appraisal and analysis of the "Overview" contained in Document C 83/21, paragraphs 4-9. Paragraph 7 of the document correctly points out, "the underlying weakness of the system and the lack of any real progress in international agricultural adjustment became apparent again at the end of the decade". Much data are used in the document to expound the fact that the existing international economic system has obstructed the smooth implementation of the guidelines for international agricultural adjustment. This once again shows how necessary it is to reform the current international economic system.

We hold that monitoring should be aimed not only at presenting a large amount of data and facts, but also at deeply analysing factors for successful development and constraints so as to find solutions accordingly. The lack of any real progress in international adjustment cannot simply be attributed to inappropriate agricultural policies. In fact it more directly results from the adverse effects in the course of continuous recession of the world economy, such as shifting of economic crisis onto developing countries by some developed countries; adoption of high interest rate and agricultural protectionist policies and cutting down of aid to agriculture.

The guidelines for international agricultural adjustment involve the problems of production, consumption, trade, aid and food security. When some of them were discussed under other agenda items, we expressed our views thereupon. Today I shall confine myself to comments on the question of international trade for agricultural products.

Paragraph 80 of the document points out, "Over one-third of the export earnings of non-oil producing developing countries is derived from agricultural products". But now, their export volume is shrinking, prices are falling and the terms of trade for agricultural products are deteriorating. Paragraph 87 further stressed, "The agricultural trade position of the developing countries has deteriorated catastrophically in the past two years. This has strained available financing facilities to the limit". This cannot but arouse our concern. We in the past already said in the forum of FAO that "The rational solution to the problem of agricultural trade of the developing countries can generate far greater income for them than the current external assistance". This is also one of the important means to help the developing countries expand their agriculture self-reliant capabilities, which I think is worth our serious consideration.

At UNCTAD VI held last June and at the Annual Conferences of IMF and World Bank, because of the rigid stand taken by some developed countries, the world agricultural trade issue was not properly solved. No progress has been made on the relevant international negotiations. This is detrimental to the development of world agriculture. We hope that these developed countries would negotiate earnestly on the basis of equality and cooperate with the developing countries to find desirable solutions, adopt wise policies, soften and even lift those irrational restrictions on imports of agricultural products from developing countries and extend preferential trade terms and rational price treatment so as to promote further progress of world trade for agricultural products.

World agricultural trade is one of the factors which must be considered in formulating rational agricultural policies and development programmes. It should also be an important component in agricultural policies and development programmes and thus should be discussed and studied at relevant international fora. In our view, FAO has the rich experience and the necessary means to handle these matters. We hope that FAO will, from the angle of helping evolve correct agricultural policies, continue its endeavours in further studying and finding solutions so as to make positive contributions to resolving the agricultural trade problems of the developing countries.

M. GIFFORD (Canada): The Fourth Report on International Agricultural Adjustment provides a very good review of agricultural developments over the past eight years. The Secretariat is to be congratulated for providing an excellent analysis which contains a number of interesting insights.

Given the difficult international economic environment over the period, we should take some satisfaction from the progress achieved. The agricultural sectors of many developing countries registered significant progress, as did their export performance, until the recent recession hit us all. We recognize, of course, that progress was uneven, but we feel that nevertheless we should acknowledge where progress has been made. In particular, in reviewing the Secretariat document, we were encouraged by the remarkable growth in agricultural research which is taking place in the developing countries. We believe that this augurs well for the future, provided the results of this research get transmitted down to the grassroots farming community.

Turning to the developed countries, there have been adjustments over the past eight years, particularly by those countries which primarily depend on agricultural exports. Following the 1973 commodity boom, countries such as Canada were urged to produce to fill import gaps and to play our share in improving world food security. However, in the past couple of years we have seen international prices drop to levels below the cost of production of even the most efficient producer. More recently, we have seen some strengthening of the feed grain and oilseed markets, but some commodities are still in a chronic supply/demand imbalance, the dairy market, of course, being the classic case.

It is therefore apparent that many developed countries need to take a hard look at the appropriateness of their current agricultural policies.

Turning to international trade, it is evident that trade has provided a valuable spur to economic development up to the beginning of this decade. We can subscribe to much of the comments under Guideline 7 which notes the reality that obstacles to agricultural trade are widespread and that these obstacles prevail in both developed and developing countries.

We subscribe to the view that of course we now have a much greater interdependence of our economies, and thus no country can afford to ignore the international implications when it develops its own domestic agricultural policies.

While the recent multilateral trade negotiations only made limited progress in reducing agricultural non-tariff barriers, we are encouraged, however, by the GATT Ministerial Meeting of November last year which established a Committee on Trade and Agriculture with a mandate to consider, "all measures affecting trade, market access and competition and supply in agricultural products including subsidies and other forms of assistance." This Committee is charged with developing concrete recommendations. The work is now launched, and this Conference should lend its support and encouragement to the GATT work programme.

Looking towards the next decade, the developing countries will register the main growth in food demand as a result of higher population, increasing urbanization and greater purchasing power which will evolve from development. Part of this demand for food will be met within the country, but imports will have an important role.

The experience of the last decade clearly demonstrates that while it is possible for rapid growth developing countries to achieve impressive increases in food production, it is still quite difficult for such production to keep pace with the rate of growth in demand for food.

Obviously, it is in the interests of all countries, developed and developing, to see a reduction in trade barriers so as to facilitate the expansion of both agricultural and industrial trade.

In concluding, I cannot help but be struck by the brief reference in paragraph 47 regarding post harvest losses, and comparing this rather cryptic comment with the much more extensive references to the level of food aid. If we could reduce post harvest cereal losses by only one percent of the world production, this would represent an increase of supplies equivalent to a virtual doubling of existing food aid shipments. So I think the document tends to lose its perspective sometimes.

Much concern is expressed in the report at the recent stagnation of food aid. However, it seems to me that this is a development which was bound to occur. To be perfectly frank, many national aid agencies had a bias against food aid. Many national aid agencies prefer to invest their scarce resources in projects which address the long term objective, improving the domestic agricultural capacity of the developing countries. Food aid, and particularly programmed food aid, is thus regarded as a transitory measure.

In Canada's case, the percentage of official development assistance devoted to agriculture and rural development is scheduled to increase to 45 percent by 1985. At the same time, bilateral and multilateral food aid is targeted to decline from about 20 percent in recent years to about 14 percent by 1985, even though the resources devoted to food aid will increase in absolute term--and this, of course, is because of the overall growth in Canada's ODA.

Finally, let me say that rather than worrying about the absolute level of food aid, I think perhaps we should be more concerned that an overall basis of only about 10 percent of bilateral aid is currently going into the agricultural sector broadly defined.

This would appear to be much too low, given the critical importance of agriculture in the development process.

So much for the first agenda item, as regards the second agenda item, on the guidelines, the Canadian delegation will revert back to this at a later stage.

E. SCHRODER (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): Although it is very difficult to monitor and assess the progress which has been made, or has failed to have been made, in such a complex area such as the adjustment of agrarian structures, allocation of funds, trade facilities, production increases, and improvement of the food situation, the document presented by the FAO Secretariat is a very good one. We would like to express to it our appreciation for this document. My delegation would now like to express its views on some points of the document C 83/21.

Guidelines 2 and 3 deal with the priority which governments should give to the agricultural sector. In line with the decisions which were taken by various fora of the United Nations, my Government is of the opinion that the development of the agricultural sector has a key role in the overall development of developing countries. In its cooperation with the developing countries, the promotion of -agricultural development is therefore one of its technical priorities.

My delegation shares the assessment expressed in paragraphs 16, 20 and 29 of document C 83/21, that the agricultural sector in many developing countries gets less public funds than it needs, and that producer prices in those countries over the last few years have hardly been an incentive for increased production.

Special attention is given by my delegation, just as the Canadian delegation, to the problem of crop losses before, during and after the harvest, as dealt with in paragraph 47. A reduction of these losses would make an essential contribution to an improvement of the food situation and also of food security in many countries. The statement made in the first sentence of this paragraph that a reduction of crop losses by 5 percent of world cereal production, would increase availability by 80 million tons, does not really indicate very much. It would have been more useful to express the desired reduction as a percentage of the crop losses as they are estimated at present. It is therefore suggested that this relationship should be expressed when dealing in future with the subject of reducing crop losses.

Paragraph 66 of the same document, refers to the negative effect of consumption taxes for tropical beverages in certain developed countries. In the Federal Republic of Germany also, there are internal levies on coffee and tea. However, studies undertaken in the Federal Republic indicate that the effects on consumption are however insignificant. This is shown very clearly by the fact that in an area of the Federal Republic, in Eastern Friesland per capita consumption of tea is ten times more than the consumption in other parts of the Federal Republic. This high consumption of tea is due entirely to consumption habits and prices have no impact there, because the tea prices in Eastern Friesland are exactly the same as elsewhere in the Federal Republic of Germany, and the level of incomes is comparable to the incomes in other parts of the country. So far, the effects of consumption taxes for tropical beverages are over assessed in the document, at least, as far as my country is concerned.

Paragraph 68 mentions the functioning of the GSP of the EC and of the Lomé Convention. We are of the opinion, that the Stabex model of the EEC as it is practiced in Lomé II, that is to say, stabilization of individual commodities cannot be expanded to all developing countries and to other commodities. The Federal Republic of Germany is rather in favour of a global stabilization of export earnings, which would cover a much greater number of commodities than Stabex, and which would provide for an aggregate stabilization of commodity export earnings for all developing countries without any differentiation according to regions.

We feel that such a solution would be more suitable in order to ensure a stabilization of export earnings over the long-term for the developing countries.

With regard to item 7.2, the revision and up-dating of guidelines for international agricultural adjustment, the representative of the EEC Commission is going to make a statement on behalf of the European Community this afternoon, as was indicated before. Therefore, we are not going to dwell on that point at present .

G. MACKEY (Australia): With regard to paper C 83/21 the Australian delegation shares many of the views expressed by the Canadian delegation about the quality of the paper as a review of developments over the last eight years. We think, in particular, that the paper rightly concentrates considerable attention on the importance of trade and it draws attention to some of the barriers to freer trade which we believe are well made in paragraphs 34 and 78, in particular.

Turning to the second paper which it now seems is going to have a fuller discussion later in the day, at this stage I would just like to make a few points. First of all in relation to guideline 1, the suggestion that there may be an inclusion of a phrase to the effect to promote the establishment of a new international economic order, Australia would have to agree with the statement of the delegate of France, that this should not be seen as the main purpose of the concept of international agricultural adjustment, and if anything, it would be no more than an element in the progress that should be aimed for.

On guideline 2, we have some query as to whether the inclusion in the footnote of the tentative figures, or targets if you will, are appropriately included.

On guideline 7, Australia would agree that it may be sufficient to refer only to being in the framework of a resolution such as 59 (VI) of UNCTAD. We also query in guideline 7 the reference in the first sentence to "particularly developed countries". We believe that the emphasis should be on all countries displaying the necessary political will.

On guideline 8, the second sentence appears to imply a more than equitable share of the burden of world food imbalances being borne by exporting countries. We do not have any particular words to suggest there at this stage, but it is a point that we flag, because it seems to imply more responsibility for the exporting countries than for the world community at large.

Those are the points we would like to make at this stage, and we may have something further to say as the debate on this topic develops.

P. SENHOR (Senegal): Permettez-moi tout d'abord, puisque c'est ma première intervention au sein de cette importante Commission I, de vous adresser au nom de la délégation sénégalaise nos félicitations pour votre élection à la Présidence de cette Commission, qui, dis-je, est importante et fondamentale pour la Conférence puisqu'elle traite des voies et moyens à entreprendre en vue de résoudre les problèmes qui nous réunissent tous ici aujourd'hui. Nous sommes convaincus et c'est cela la raison de notre présence ici que sous votre direction le but de nos travaux sera atteint.

Le Sénégal est sans doute le pays sahélien où le problème céréalier, caractérisé par un déficit considérable, (230 à 570 000 tonnes durant les dix dernières années) est actuellement le plus sérieux. La production céréalière (mil, sorgho, paddy, maïs) a évolué depuis 1960, entre 380 000 tonnes (82-83) et 950 000 tonnes (78-79), la moyenne se situant autour de 660 000 tonnes.

La production céréalière calculée sur le taux quinquennal n'aura donc augmenté que de 1,7 Pour cent pour le courant des deux dernières décennies soit un taux très inférieur à celui de l'accroissement démographique qui est de 2,7 pour cent par an.

Avec une offre céréalière à la fois irrégulière et stagnante et une demande croissante le recours aux importations prend une ampleur inquiétante. Conscient du problème, le Gouvernement sénégalais dans son programme de développement rural, a pris des mesures qui s'imposent en vue de résoudre le problème du déficit à la base. Ce programme, tout en essayant de se conformer aux recommandations de ce document C 83/21, met surtout l'accent sur le problème fondamental de la maîtrise de l'eau, problème sans la résolution duquel notre agriculture sahélienne restera toujours tributaire des conditions climatiques devenues de plus en plus défavorables. Ainsi donc le Sénégal et ses voisins se sont mis d'accord pour une lutte intégrée contre ce fléau de la sécheresse au Sahel en entreprenant d'investir prioritairement pour la maîtrise de l'eau.

Je voudrai terminer en disant que bien que ces 11 lignes d'orientation nous guident assez bien dans notre recherche de solutions au problème de développement rural, elles restent un peu trop dans la généralité. D'où la nécessité d'y apporter quelques amendements.

S. ALI KETRANJJI (Algérie): Les lignes d'orientation soumises à l'examen de cette commission s'inscrivent dans un contexte précis: celui de la récession qui s'est durablement installée en 1975, qui met en relief le défaut radical de coordination des politiques au niveau international et aggrave le caractère inégal de l'interdépendance des nations. Compression de la demande effective, restrictions budgétaires, inflation et instabilité monétaire dans les pays développés; dégradation spectaculaire des termes de l'échange net et des revenus, accroissement rapide des dettes, stagnation des exportations et accroissement des importations alimentaires dans les pays en développement.

L'évolution de ces indicateurs rend plus que jamais nécessaires, pensons-nous, les objectifs dégagés à travers les lignes d'orientation de l'ajustement agricole international et au delà, ceux de l'instauration du nouvel ordre économique international, comme le souligne d'ailleurs le texte de révision et de mise à jour des lignes d'orientation. En fait les objectifs poursuivis par l'AAI sont relativement faciles à formuler: il s'agit d'équilibrer l'offre et la demande alimentaire mondiale avec pour corollaires bien sûr, des prix rémunérateurs pour les uns et équitables pour les autres dans des conditions de stabilité des marchés. Il est évident que cet objectif suppose un accroissement des productions alimentaires et agricoles dans les pays en développement, un ajustement subséquent de ces mêmes productions dans les pays développés et un transfert des ressources et des technologies fixé par la Communauté internationale à 8,5 milliards de dollars par an au moins et aussi longtemps que celle-ci l'aurait jugé nécessaire, ainsi qu'un niveau d'aide en valeurs réelles correspondant aux besoins de cet ajustement. Dans l'ensemble, pratiquement aucun de ces objectifs n'a été atteint. Seuls des pays développés ont pu mettre en oeuvre des politiques d'encouragement

aux producteurs, au prix de forts excédents et de la fermeture des frontières aux produits en provenance des pays en développement; l'instabilité et l'imprévisibilité des prix sur les marchés mondiaux a également été le prix de ces encouragements. L'irrationalité du point de vue de l'ajustement agricole international réside ici dans le fait d'encourager à tout prix la production même lorsque les coûts relatifs sont élevés, quitte à nuire aux producteurs des pays en développement. Les excédents sont alors écoulés vers ces mêmes pays en développement ou utilisés dans des programmes d'aide alimentaire; ces deux facteurs entraînant ou aggravant la distorsion aux niveaux alimentaires nationaux. Sans parler de l'investissement politique ou de l'immixtion dans les formulations des stratégies alimentaires nationales qu'ils peuvent susciter dans le chef des principaux pays donateurs. Selon une logique implacable, les pays qui subissent les services de la dette les plus lourds, et disposent de réserves internationales les plus faibles, sont également ceux qui enregistrent des taux de croissance alimentaire et agricoles les plus bas, et des taux d'accroissement des importations alimentaires et agricole les plus élevés. Cela n'est pas fortuit. Il est injuste dans ces conditions d'incriminer une inadéquation des politiques intérieures en ce qui concerne le défaut d'autosuffisance alimentaire. Le document C 83/21 souligne l'intérêt de la coopération régionale en matière d'autosuffisance alimentaire, en application du programme d'Arusha pour l'autonomie collective. Il faut regretter le peu d'échos favorables qu'a eu auprès des principaux pourvoyeurs d'aide alimentaire l'expérience de commerce alimentaire direct menée par les pays en développement et dont mon pays l'Algérie était partie prenante.

C'est l'occasion de rappeler avec force que pour nous, la coopération Sud-Sud n'est pas exclusive de la coopération Nord-Sud; elle en est le complément nécessaire. Et cette nécessité de renforcer la coopération Sud-Sud s'impose avec toute sa clarté si l'on tient compte par exemple du fait que l'engagement des transferts au secteur agricole de 8 milliards de dollars et demi par an au moins, n'a pas été atteint. Et il s'agit encore uniquement d'engagements et non de décaissements réels. Compte tenu aussi de la diminution des engagements à des conditions de faveur depuis 1981, qui traduit un durcissement des positions des principaux bailleurs de fonds. Nous entendons dire que l'aide alimentaire décourage la production. En fait celle-ci diminue par rapport à l'ensemble des importations, comme vous le savez, et elle est si insuffisante qu'une telle affirmation perd toute crédibilité. Malgré le résultat modeste ou inexistant des objectifs poursuivis, les lignes d'orientation gardent leur impérieuse nécessité, il faut les poursuivre, les consolider car elles fixent les conditions minimales au déblocage de la situation agricole mondiale en vue d'enrayer la faim dans le monde. Le document C 83/21 qui les enrichit et les complète à la lumière des faits nouveaux survenus depuis 1975 expurgé des réserves introduites et nous saluons à ce propos les retraits des réserves de l'Argentine, ne peuvent qu'emporter notre adhésion.

E. MAMMONE (Italie): La délégation italienne voudrait tout d'abord adresser ses félicitations concernant la présentation bien équilibrée contenue dans le rapport C 83/21 sur les progrès intervenus dans le domaine des ajustements agricoles internationaux. L'analyse systématique des résultats récents obtenus dans la direction indiquée dans la ligne d'orientation est admirable, tout particulièrement si l'on considère les difficultés inhérentes à l'établissement d'indicateurs statistiques propres pour l'estimation de certaines tendances.

La délégation italienne voudrait demander, sans prendre trop de temps à la Conférence (surtout parce que nous ne pensons pas faire en ce moment de déclaration sur les lignes d'orientation car nous attendons tout d'abord la déclaration faite par la suite par le représentant de la CEE au nom des pays membres) et nous voudrions seulement nous arrêter un instant sur la ligne d'orientation simple qui concerne l'amélioration nutritionnelle des couches les plus misérables de la population. La lecture du paragraphe 49 est choquante, elle nous démontre que la santé des futures générations de la population humaine est en grand danger. Il faut continuer à suivre et soigner avec une attention toute particulière l'évolution de la situation dans ce secteur. C'est pour cela que nous voudrions demander dans le prochain rapport que le secrétariat nous donne des renseignements, si possible chiffrés, sur les projets nutritionnels spéciaux qui ont été entrepris tant sur le plan national que par le biais de l'aide bilatérale et multilatérale en ce domaine. Nous voudrions que dans ces renseignements on ne se borne pas à nous fournir des données en termes de calories, mais aussi en termes de composantes nutritionnelles.

S.P. MUKERJI (India): Thank you very much, Mr Chairman, for giving my country another opportunity to give expression to our views on this very important item. My country and my delegation fully support the revised guidelines for International Agricultural Adjustment. My delegation feels that this is a very articulate and up-to-date enunciation of the various problems and their solutions which are needed in the current world situation. My delegation feels that FAO is doing a signal service to the future of humanity by articulating these guidelines and bringing them up to date from time to time so that the conscience of the international community is kept sensitive to the problem that mankind is facing and the manner in which we have to face this challenge. I feel that these Guidelines on International Agricultural Adjustments reiterate the thrust which FAO has been giving on the concept of World Food Security. These are the two singular achievements of the FAO in keeping the conscience of mankind addressed to the grave situation which we may be facing on this planet in the context of rising population and declining agricultural production. These guidelines very ably and competently cover not only the subjects of food production and food security but also the problems of social and economic injustice that may be prevailing within national boundaries as well as outside and between nations, and if these guidelines are properly implemented, not only will there be a very reasonable and safe level of World Food Security achieved, but also the quality of the life in the vast rural population of the developing countries is bound to improve.

While going through the guidelines, my delegation would like to point out that the Revised Guidelines are much better than the existing ones because they specifically and in no uncertain terms bring out the various problems which have arisen since the last set of Guidelines were issued. We should not be disheartened if we have not individually as nations and collectively as a regional or global family been able to come up to the standards set by the Guidelines. Nonetheless, the fact that the Guidelines have been set before us shows us the direction in which progress is to be made and we are happy to see that progress is being made on various fronts.

It is true that under Guideline 1, 4 percent rate of growth of food grain production has not been achieved by a majority of countries, but the rate of growth of food grain production in a number of developing countries is going up, and thanks to the guidance given by the FAO and the bilateral and multilateral assistance that has been flowing in between developing countries, my delegation is hopeful that the rate of growth will continue to go up. In this respect, the example set by my country, India, in the field of agricultural production and increasing agricultural productivity especially for small and modular farmers is noteworthy.

In Guideline 1, my delegation is happy to note that, apart from the rate of growth of food grain production, the concept of world food security, especially addressed to the developing countries, has also been enshrined. We fully support this guideline.

As far as Guideline 2 is concerned, not only the emphasis on agricultural inputs like fertiliser, pesticides, seeds etc., but also the fact of the need to use those inputs more efficiently has been very ably and appropriately indicated. Our feeling is that, while in many of the developing countries, the grants, aid and efforts that are put in are increasing quantitatively, more efficient utilization of those inputs is not yet fully emphasized, and it is very good that in Guideline 2 efficient use of inputs has been indicated.

In Guideline 3, the concept of agricultural structural reforms in order that those who till the land and those who cultivate the land also have access to land and other resources such as inputs, markets, irrigation, and education, is very appropriate. This, we feel, will go a long way, if implemented, towards improving the quality of life in the rural areas.

In Guideline 4, the participation of the rural people through cooperatives and associations is a policy which my country has been very assiduously following for the last several decades. We feel that without the participation of the people and their involvement in agricultural production our efforts may not register very much.

In agriculture, our womenfolk are the major participants. The reference to female status is therefore very appropriate and we fully endorse this.

In Guidelines 5 and 6 reference has very appropriately been made not only to production but to nutrition, and not only to nutrition but also to ensuring that income is generated amongst the poorer sections so that they are able to have access to food grain which is produced.

Guidelines 7 and 8 refer to international trade in agricultural commodities. It is well known to everybody in this forum that of late, whereas the prices of manufactured goods and petroleum products or crude petroleum have declined by only 2 percent to 4 percent, the decline in agricultural commodities' international price, on which the export of developing countries depends, has declined by as much as 15 percent to 16 percent. This adverse balance of trade against the agricultural sector in general and against the developing countries in particular will have to be corrected by a conscious international effort by both developing as well as developed countries.

In Guideline 9 reference has been made to collective self-reliance, to which my country and our Prime Minister, Mrs Gandhi, have been fully committed. We feel that this is an area in which, if a conscious and systematic attempt is made for the exchange of knowledge, technology and assistance among developing countries, the day of self-reliance will not be far off.

In Guideline 10, world food security has been referred to. We fully endorse the plan of action which has been proposed by the Director-General of FAO, and we feel that no stone should be left unturned in implementing the plan of action in the field of world food security. However, we feel that, so far as the International Emergency Food Reserve is concerned, the target of five hundred thousand tons which has been indicated is wholly inadequate in the face of the natural calamities which have been overtaking a large number of poorer countries. I might in this context recall the recommendation of the Seventh Conference of over 100 Heads of State of non-aligned countries which was held in Delhi in March 1983 to the effect that the International Emergency Food Reserve should be immediately increased to 750 000 tons and should be increased to about 2 000 000 tons by 1985. I have mentioned these recommendations so that they might be kept in view and so that the inadequacy of the level of 500 000 tons as IEFRR is not lost sight of.

On Guideline 11 we fully agree that the target of annual future aid to the developing countries should be raised from 10 000 000 tons to the requirements of 17 to 18.5 million tons of cereals. Actually the requirement of food aid is about 20 million tons, but if this target of 17 to 18.5 million tons is kept, we have no objection.

Guideline 12 has referred to the aid and foreign investment to agriculture through external assistance. I feel that, out of the several inputs such as fertiliser, irrigation, seeds, pesticides, technology, implements and so on, agricultural credit is one of the most important, because without the loans, crop loans, short-term or medium-term loans for irrigation and other agricultural inputs, the farmers cannot invest on their land and will not be able to make use of the technology that is gradually evolving. Therefore, this call to the international financing agencies to increase their loan and investment facilities in the developing countries is very appropriate, and we fully endorse it.

Our Prime Minister, Mrs Gandhi, stated in her address to the United Nations General Assembly on the 20th of September last: "The advanced countries have held consultations regarding their own problems and the accumulated burdens of the economically weakest. Nothing concrete has emerged. The Williamsburg Summit and UNCTAD VI have shown up once again the fear of the unfamiliar, of lowering easy, safe, existing protective barriers and relaxing their existing rules."

I feel that the statement has a very topical and urgent importance in the context of international agricultural adjustment, and it would be very appropriate for us to keep these words in mind.

My delegation endorses fully the revised guidelines and hopes that they will be acceptable to all concerned, and that they will be not only acceptable on paper but will be implemented on the ground. We suggest that these Guidelines should be of a dynamic nature and should be reviewed and revised from time to time as the situation demands.

A.R. PIRES (Cap-Vert): Ma délégation tient avant tout à féliciter le Secrétariat pour les documents présentés, notamment C 83/21 et 22 et la présentation qui en a été faite par le Prof. Islam.

Nous voulons avant de commencer notre déclaration, appuyer d'abord la déclaration faite par le Sénégal, étant ancien pays membre du CILSS, en ce qui concerne les efforts menés conjointement par les pays du Sahel, membres du CILSS, pour réduire la dépendance alimentaire et améliorer les conditions de vie des ruraux.

Ma délégation tient également à appuyer le document "Ajustement agricole international" et les nouvelles lignes d'orientation révisées.

Permettez-moi de souligner quelques points qui paraissent à nos yeux revêtir une attention toute particulière: 1) Objectifs d'augmentation de la production agricole nationale, notamment en produits vivriers; 2) augmentation des ressources au profit du secteur agricole; 3) amélioration de la situation et des conditions de production et de vie du secteur des agriculteurs, les plus pauvres en général; 4) participation des producteurs agricoles, notamment des femmes, au processus de prise de décision dans le domaine qui les concerne; 5) mise en place d'une politique intégrée en matière d'alimentation et de nutrition; 6) meilleure organisation de la redistribution des bénéfices et mesures de soutien et d'assistance en faveur des groupes vulnérables, notamment les ruraux pauvres, les femmes, etc.; 7) favoriser les échanges entre les pays du tiers monde, la coopération Sud-Sud en matière de commercialisation. Là, nous tenons à appuyer la position défendue par le délégué de l'Algérie; 8) mise en place d'une véritable sécurité alimentaire mondiale; 9) l'augmentation de l'aide alimentaire mondiale qui s'impose; 10) amélioration judicieuse et renforcée de l'assistance aux pays en voie de développement en matière d'agriculture.

T. NASSAR (Jordan): Mr Chairman, I should like to express some comments regarding documents C 83/21 and C 83/22. Firstly, I should like to thank the Secretariat of FAO for these two documents which are well prepared and clearly presented.

The FAO General Conference in 1975 adopted Guidelines of International Agricultural Adjustment which was an epoch-making event that should be hailed, because these Guidelines represent a general framework, the gist of which should be taken into account by Member States in planning domestic policies in the field of food production and agricultural produce. Moreover, we have also been well aware that these Guidelines have been by no means rigid. We have believed, on the contrary, that experience gained from applying them would determine appropriate changes and necessary amendments. By the same token, our Conference this year when adopting a new wording for the Guidelines cannot be considered as making a final decision: experience will dictate necessary changes and amendments.

The study contained in document C 83/21 has illustrated that the performance of Member States with regard to the Guidelines adopted in 1975 was unsatisfactory, despite some improvements in certain instances - a fact which gave birth to the idea of changing or amending the aforementioned guidelines. FAO took a successful step when, to this end, it convened a high-level government consultation attended by a number of developing and developed countries representing all the regions. Yet the consultation was inconclusive.

Moreover, the Council of the FAO, in its November 1982 Session, set up a contact group comprised of a number of Member States of the Council, in a serious attempt to agree upon an acceptable wording for the proposed guidelines. We are gratified to note that the contact group has agreed upon these guidelines. The Council also has agreed, to present the draft guidelines and the new wording to our Conference this year.

The delegation of my country has closely followed these developments, and is pleased that the proposed guidelines contain numerous elements which are apt to ensure their success in the future. In their present form they are more in keeping with present and future circumstances, thereby deserving our support. It is noteworthy that the FAO Conference in 1975 adopted these guidelines in the form of a resolution, so changing or amending them should follow the same pattern: i.e., through a resolution adopted by the General Conference.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, señores, les voy a transmitir la lista de oradores que tenemos para esta tarde: Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Cuba, Pakistán, Lesotho, Polonia, Estados Unidos, Comunidad Económica Europea, China (que lo hace por segunda ocasión) y Canadá (también por segunda ocasión).

Les recuerdo que a las 14.30 horas se reunirá en el salón Alemania el Grupo de Contacto constituido para tratar el proyecto de resolución sobre el concepto de seguridad alimentaria. Los textos corregidos, con las modificaciones formuladas, están disponibles en inglés, francés y español en dicho salón Alemania a partir de las 14 horas.

Les advierto que también hoy por la tarde deberán concluir nuestros trabajos en relación a este tema 7 de nuestra Agenda y, por tanto, les suplico que moderen y concreten sus intervenciones de hoy por la tarde.

Les agradezco su atención y nos veremos aquí a las 14.30 horas.

The meeting rose at 12.30 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30 horas.

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 83/I/PV/8

Twenty-second Session
COMMISSION IVingt-deuxième session
COMMISSION I22° período de sesiones
COMISION IEIGHTH MEETING
HUITIEME SEANCE
OCTAVA SESION

(14 November 1983)

The Eighth Meeting was opened at 14.55 hours
José Ramon López-Portillo, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La huitième séance est ouverte à 14 h 55, sous la présidence
de José Ramon Lopez-Portillo, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la octava sesión a las 14.55 horas, bajo la presidencia
de José Ramon López-Portillo, Presidente de la Comisión I

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

7. International Agricultural Adjustment (continued)
7. Ajustement agricole international (suite)
7. Reajuste Agrícola Internacional (continuación)

7.1 Fourth Monitoring Report (continued)
7.1 Quatrième rapport de situation (suite)
7.1 informe sobre la situación (continuación)

7.2 Revision and Updating of Guidelines (continued)
7.2 Révision et mise à jour des lignes d'orientation (suite)
7.2 Revisión y actualización de las orientaciones (continuación)

N.V.K. WERAGODA (Sri Lanka): The Sri Lanka delegation takes this opportunity to thank the Secretariat for the documents provided for discussion under agenda item 7.1 and 7.2. We also thank Professor Islam for his interesting introduction on this subject. As stated in the opening paragraphs of this document, these guidelines provide a unique international policy framework for adjusting and evaluating agricultural programmes. It is in the best interests of the world community to adhere to these guidelines in adjusting individual national policies as well.

Under Guidelines 1, the increase in food production in the developing countries has been less than the expected target of 4 percent. In order to correct the situation and even to catch up on lost time, serious consideration has to be given to Guideline 2, that is, the adoption of policies to attract investments in agriculture. These policies are many and varied. We, in Sri Lanka, have adopted a policy package to attract investments for agriculture, fiscal and monetary incentives like tax relief and duty rebates, are provided to investors in agriculture. Thereby, resources that were hitherto directed to other areas of investments are now drawn into agriculture.

Action has also been taken to provide a wider frame of price support policies. Support in the form of food subsidized inputs guaranteed prices for farm produce. A very large share of the budgeted capital expenditure has also gone into agriculture in, fact, Sri Lanka had undertaken the biggest multi-purpose development project ever undertaken, which they conclude, will help to settle 1.5 million farmers on extent of 625,000 acres of irrigated land.

In respect of research, it is true to say that, as stated in this document, several Asian countries have well-organized national agricultural research systems, but it is pertinent to note that there should be a mechanism at least on a regional basis, where duplication in research efforts could be avoided and more attention could be devoted to basic research programmes.

In talking of integrated nutrition policies, Sri Lanka has taken positive steps to ensure food is not beyond the reach of the ordinary consumer when guaranteed prices are provided to farm produce. Sri Lanka, as you may be aware, has nearly 45 percent of our population below the poverty line. Calorie intake and the nutritional content of the food requirement of this poorer group of the country has been ensured by the Food Stamp Scheme which has been in operation for the last six years.

I do not wish to go through each Guideline, but I wish to say that the Sri Lanka delegation fully endorses the revised Guidelines as given in document C 83/22. We not only endorse them but, as stated earlier, we have been taking all possible steps to implement them and will do so in the years to come.

Similarly, I hope the gravity of the problems that are attempted to be tackled in these Guidelines would be realized in its correct perspective both in the developed and developing countries and adequate measures taken to realize the objectives. To some, the problems to be tackled by these Guidelines may be regional, national or of a parochial nature. However, the ill-effects in the instability to resolve these problems can be contagious. It may not be possible to confine the ill-effects to a narrow area. The world community at large could be affected.

It is in this light that these Guidelines have to be considered and adopted by this forum.

I. MADESANDY (Indonesia): First, let me congratulate the Secretariat for this valuable document and in particular Dr Islam for his concise, clear and comprehensive presentation of this most important subject.

At this stage the Indonesia delegation wishes to submit comments on certain important Guidelines as well as our general views on the proposed revision and updating.

With regard to Guideline 1, we agree with Dr Islam's view that the target of 4 percent per annum increase of food production has proven to be illusive. Overall, developing countries as a whole have only achieved an annual growth rate of food production of 3.2 percent, significantly below the target. What is more disturbing, perhaps, is the fact that progress achieved has been very uneven implying that several developing countries have made much less progress, and production per capita in many countries has even stagnated, if not declined.

This far from encouraging achievement cannot but be seen a part from the adverse impact on the economic and financial capacity of these developing countries, of the severe economic recession, of protectionistic measures and practices adopted particularly by developed countries and of the continuous worsening of their terms of trade.

The adoption of more appropriate and integrated food strategies, supported by increased developmental expenditures, has materially helped several developing countries to exceed growth rates exceeding the targets. In the case of Indonesia, for instance, the growth rate of cereal production during the period 1973-4 to 1982 has been more than 5 percent per annum, thanks to the adoption of intensification programmes for food crops, livestock production and fisheries, supported by a rehabilitated and continuously expanding irrigation network, the increased capacity of village cooperatives and other related institutions in the distribution of inputs and marketing of the products, a strengthened agricultural network and sufficiently high level of floor prices set by the government each year.

The assurance of increased food production of developing countries at a sustained and sufficiently high level is vital to the solution of the world food problem and to the assurance of world food security. As stated by the Indonesian Minister of Agriculture in his statement in Plenary, the achievement of world food security is not only essential to the achievement of peace, within as well as among nations, but will also promote and facilitate North/South dialogue leading towards the establishment of a better economic and social order for mankind as a whole.

The Indonesia delegation therefore very much supports the proposed Revision of Guideline 1 and suggests it should include the phrase "to promote the establishment of a New International Economic Order".

G. SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Quisiéramos, en primer lugar, agradecer en especial al Profesor Islam por la presentación de este tema, así como a toda la Secretaría por habernos preparado un documento tan completo sobre la actualización de las orientaciones y objetivos del Reajuste Agrícola Internacional, documento que contiene sin duda el esfuerzo realizado por el grupo de contacto creado para su compa-tibilización.

El apoyo al trabajo de este grupo fue expresado también por la delegación de Cuba en su calidad de Miembro del Consejo de la FAO. La delegación de Cuba ha apoyado las orientaciones referentes a los objetivos del Reajuste Agrícola Internacional, y ha seguido muy de cerca los trabajos realizados en torno a la misma. Desafortunadamente, los progresos han sido ínfimos. Una vez más, la falta de voluntad política de determinados países desarrollados, de países de economía de mercado, ha dado lugar a que tengamos que lamentarnos de lentos y desiguales progresos en los aspectos más importantes referentes a la economía internacional.

El objetivo del reajuste agrícola internacional y las orientaciones hacia el mismo por justo y por adecuado debería ser aprobado plenamente en esta Comisión y en la Conferencia.

Mi delegación se congratula con la delegación de Argentina por haber retirado sus reservas a determinadas orientaciones. Esa magnífica actitud facilitará sin duda la adopción de todas las orientaciones. La delegación de Cuba ha expresado su total aprecio por estas orientaciones, exhortando a que se lleven a cabo de una vez y que cada grupo de países cumpla su rol en este sentido. Repetimos que la actitud negativa de algunos países desarrollados y el desinterés total que algunos de ellos han mostrado en el contenido de algunas orientaciones agrava la situación.

Por ultimo, quisiéramos referirnos a la sugerencia hecha con la relación a la orientación 1 y a la orientación 7, referente a la inclusión de la frase "relacionada con el Nuevo Orden Economico Internacional" lo apoyamos plenamente ya que consideramos que el contenido de la totalidad de las orientaciones forma parte del establecimiento del Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional. Si bien pudiera éste no ser su objetivo principal complementa los esfuerzos que ha venido llevando a cabo la FAO en relación a este nuevo orden. Con respecto a la orientación 7, teniendo en cuenta los escasos resultados en determinados foros que se ocupan del tema del comercio y en especial de la sexta UNCTAD, preferimos que la orientación se mantenga tal y como se presenta en la actualidad.

Concluyendo, la delegación de Cuba apoya la adopción de las orientaciones y espera un real y positivo cumplimiento posterior de las mismas, puesto que si bien, como se ha expresado en esta sala, tal vez no todos los ministros de agricultura y de otros sectores como el comercio interior y exterior, tengan delante estas orientaciones al momento de elaborar sus planes, si hacen los mismos con la voluntad necesaria para resolver los problemas más acuciantes, tanto en el plano interno como en el externo, llevaría necesariamente a la adopción y cumplimiento de las mismas.

M. AHMAD (Pakistan): First of all, on behalf of the Pakistan delegation, I commend the Secretariat for producing an excellent Report, the Fourth Progress Report for the implementation of the strategy for International Agricultural Adjustment. Equally commendable was the presentation of Professor Islam. Not only was it lucid and precise, but also comprehensive.

The concept of International Agricultural Adjustment is based on the interdependence of the developed and developing countries in the field of world agriculture. Therefore, it is necessary that constant review should be carried out so that necessary adjustments can be made to reflect the latest changes in the situation.

I shall take up a paper dealing with the progress report first. Guideline 1: 4 percent appears to us to be a very modest target based on our own experience. Pakistan is one of those fortunate countries which has registered a growth rate in excess of this, 4.4 percent to be precise. But this is an all-round growth rate. There would be a growth rate higher than this in crops which have had the benefit of research, and here I would like to emphasize the need for research. Those crops on which inadequate research has been carried out nationally or internationally have not registered that high a growth rate. I mention in particular pulses and grain, which are a very important element of the diet, and yet they have suffered because international research has not been carried out on that intensive a scale as was necessary.

The importance of research to the achievement of this target cannot be over-emphasized. There needs to be a research system nationally with proper linkages with international agricultural research systems. The most important thing would be to see that there are adequate linkages established between research and extension.

In the achievement of this target on water resources, there should be development and water management all the way from the source of the water right down to the farmers' fields, and in fact on the fields themselves. The massive problem which may be shared by many countries - and Pakistan, is one of them - is one of salinity in water-logging, which has to be controlled. With these things in view, 4 percent appears to be quite a modest target and I am glad to see that it is being retained in the revised Guidelines with the qualifying phrase that it should be at least 4 percent.

As regarding Guideline 2, agriculture does need a high priority. The Government of Pakistan has been giving it a very high priority, but agricultural production has to be seen in its entire context. There has to be an integrated approach. Not only agriculture but also water resources development, rural development, the development of rural infrastructure, are all very important.

I am very happy to report that in Pakistan the contribution of agriculture has steadily declined and it is now about 30 percent of the GDP. But our total investment allocation in the Fifth 5-Year Plan, taking agriculture in its entire context, is as high as 33 percent.

Mention has been made in this progress report of the important role played by fertilisers in agricultural development. In fact, we have found that the increase in agricultural consumption is directly responsible for the increase in agricultural production, but here the governments of developing countries like ours are faced with a dilemma. We want resources to be put into development which will boost agricultural development, and for these resources, particularly for rural development, it is necessary that the subsidy should be continuously phased out, but that then has an important and very serious effect on agricultural development. In 1980/81 and 1981/82, as a result of the increase in prices of fertiliser because we wanted to phase out subsidy and wanted to find money for other resources, fertiliser consumption was more or less stagnant. It did pick up to the level of 15 percent in 1982/83. Fortunately, there was a price decrease internationally. We are dependent for some of the fertilisers on international imports, but again we see this thing coming up. In the last two or three months prices have gone up from \$165 per ton of DAP fertiliser to \$210 per ton. This will cause another constraint on agricultural development.

As regards Guideline 3, producer prices have to be continuously corrected, but for this the apparatus has to be a scientific one. It should not be an *ad hoc* increase. In Pakistan we have set up an Agricultural Prices Commission which looks at prices in their proper context. This has a whole multidimensional aspect. It does not merely determine the producer prices which will give an incentive to produce more. We have to reconcile this with the fact that they should still remain within the paying capacity of the consumers, otherwise heavy subsidies would be involved. Price policy has to extend further to ensure that whatever is considered to be a reasonable price for the farmer is capable of being obtained by him when he has to sell in the market, so marketing is also very important.

Another fact which developing countries share is that not all the farmers are big. In fact, the majority of them are not big, as in the case of Pakistan, where 78 percent of them own and operate less than 5 hectares of land. A price which is good enough for a large and more efficient farmer will not be good enough for a less efficient farmer, so that this factor also has to be reconciled in order that there should be equity in price fixing so that this can act as an incentive even for the small and less privileged farmers. Local production has to be encouraged because there is a certain amount of stability in the prices, but, for example, we are producing wheat, and the prices have been going up at the rate of 2 percent or 3 percent, whereas in the case of edible oil, which we have been importing, the prices have registered an increase in one year - in fact in a few months - by as much as 70 percent. Therefore it is absolutely necessary that greater stress should be placed on indigenous production of food and, incidentally, encouraging those items of food which can be produced locally.

As regards Guidelines 4 and 5 on nutrition, here again the growth must be with equity not only in production but also in consumption. There should be a way of identifying the poor people. As I mentioned last time at the Council, we in Pakistan have decided to Islamise, to bring in more and more Islamisation, as a result of which we have instituted the Zakat and Ushr which is a religious tax on property and on agricultural produce. Just as it is a religious duty to collect this tax, it is the same religious duty of the State to see that the benefits of that tax are passed on to the poor and the destitute.

Nutritional planning has to be seen, and is being seen, by Pakistan in the context of normal development plans of the country.

As regards Guideline numbers 6 and 7, the only point I have to emphasize is the savings in food losses. It has been mentioned in the paper that a 5 percent saving can bring about an increase of 80 million tons, which is nearly four fifths of what is traded round the world in terms of wheat. Therefore, saving of food losses is very important. Storage, post-harvest handling, distribution systems and pest management are all very essential. We are alive to the need for them and we have therefore drawn up a programme of storage construction. We are trying to develop the necessary technology for it with the help of FAO, for which we are grateful.

As I mentioned in regard to Guideline 6, the consumption of locally produced food is to be preferred. This is not only in order to see that there is a saving of foreign exchange and that the foreign exchange drain is eliminated, but also, if the food is locally produced, to that extent the logistics and distribution problems do not arise. For this, proper pricing policies, proper marketing policies and even fiscal policies will have to be remodelled to see that people are encouraged to buy locally-produced food.

As regards Guidelines 7 to 9, we notice with great concern that although agricultural trade has registered an increase of 5 percent, the share of agricultural trade has fallen as a result of the decline in prices. We are ourselves a victim of this. Our rice prices have fallen by as much as 40 percent. Some lower figure was quoted earlier, but in the case of rice it is as much as 40 percent. Of course, we have insulated the farmers from these cataclysmic changes in the international market, but for poor countries it is very difficult, therefore, to continue to isolate. But, if we do not isolate the farmers from these fluctuations they will not have any incentive to produce, and I think this is a matter which should be viewed with some concern by the international community.

With regard to exports, it has been stated here that the exports of developing countries grew at the rate of 2.6 percent while the imports have gone up by 10.3 percent over 8 years, indicating inadequacies of measures adopted by the international organisations, GATT and UNCTAD. We do hope that necessary measures will be taken to correct this tendency, because agricultural exports play an important role in the economy of developing countries, who have to be assured through efforts that incomes should increase rather than suffer a decline.

On Guideline 10, we share the concern about the inadequacy of aid compared to the targets that have been laid down, but there are two areas to which I would like to draw attention. It has to be seen whether the flow of aid has something to do with the lack of projects, or the necessary institutions for executing such projects, and therefore developing countries should also see to it that they have an adequate portfolio of properly engineered projects and the necessary institutions to execute them, because aid has to be properly utilised, and this can be done if properly prepared, soundly conceived projects, backed up by the necessary institutions to execute them, are undertaken.

As regards Guideline 11, again we share the concern that aid has declined.

Coming to item 7.2, the revised Guidelines, we wholeheartedly endorse these. In fact, they need to be vigorously pursued. In this case, we welcome the statement made by the distinguished delegation from Argentina that they have withdrawn the reservations which they had on two of the Guidelines. We have only two comments to make. One is in regard to Guideline 1, that emphasis should be particularly placed on those countries around the world which have much greater potential and which can be more easily harnessed for increasing the food production in order to correct this uneven distribution with which the present production has been plagued.

As regards Guideline 12, special mention has been made only of the low income countries. I think the same concessional assistance should also be given to MSA countries because their plight is equally bad.

T. KITLELI (Lesotho): This being the first time we have spoken, my delegation echoes the compliments which have been given to you, Mr Chairman, on your election to the chairmanship of such an important Commission. Secondly, my delegation wishes to congratulate the Secretariat for having compiled such an enlightening and balanced document.

My delegation appreciates the achievement in increasing food production, as reflected in paragraph 10 of document C 83/21. It is concerned about the 53 countries which registered a decline in per capita food production, as reported in paragraph 11. My delegation supports the definition of world food security there expounded and further urges that emphasis should be placed on strengthening national programmes. Without food security at national level, it is doubtful whether food security on a global level can ever be achieved.

Guideline 3 emphasizes the role of incentives for producers to produce food, which I maintain is the first priority in the definition of world food security. There can be no stability of supply nor access to adequate food supplies without both of those having been produced. A remunerative price for the producer has been identified as one of the main incentives for farmers.

The views of the nations of the world are still divided on the question of trade in food. Considering the efforts and the time devoted to this subject, one questions the extent of the commitment of nations to eradicate hunger and malnutrition from the face of the earth. However, it is gratifying to see the steps being taken by the agencies of the United Nations system, as reported in paragraph 69 of document C 83/21. It is my view that joint action, in particular by FAO, GATT and UNCTAD, will accelerate action towards an acceptable solution, one which would be acceptable to all.

My delegation supports the revision and updating of the Guidelines as reflected in document C 83/22. These revisions not only clarify the Guidelines, but incorporate new concepts which bring the targets within the reach even of the smallest nations.

D. MOUTSATSOS (Greece) (speaking on behalf of the EEC): As the representative of the EEC is absent and my country has the presidency of the EEC, we will express the views of the 10 Member States of the Community. The European Economic Community and its Member States have participated actively in the revised and updated Guidelines. This is true so far as the Government Consultations in 1981 are concerned, as well as the Contact Group which took place during the 82nd FAO Council last November. The EEC is convinced that the wording which was decided on was the result of long and difficult sessions. In order not to endanger the compromise arrived at, the EEC is prepared to accept the wording of the guidelines, as contained in document C 83/22. This acceptance is based on the condition that in Guideline 10 the sentence referring to the financing facility of the International Monetary Fund is adjusted to the wording of the decision of the International Monetary Fund, which means that the words "financing facilities" are replaced by "compensatory financial facility". With this clarification in Guideline 10, the EEC can accept the revised Guidelines.

However, the Community wishes to state once again its position on Guideline 10 concerning the International Emergency Food Reserve (IEFR), namely, that all possible steps should be taken to reach the present target of 500 000 tonnes rather than considering an increase in the Reserve and legal provisions in the form of a convention to make the Reserve binding. To comply with the suggestion made on Guideline 7, the Community proposes that we make reference to Resolution 159 of UNCTAD VI. As the deliberations in GATT are still underway at this stage, we cannot mention any achievements so far.

Concerning Guideline 1, the European Economic Community and its Member States would prefer not to insert the phrase "to promote the establishment of a new international economic order", since this is not the main goal of the international agricultural adjustment.

B. FURNESS (United States of America): I would like to begin by addressing some remarks to the Progress Report, and then I would like to conclude with some observations on the revision of Guidelines we have been asked to consider.

The Fourth Progress Report on International Agricultural Adjustment Guidelines is generally well-balanced and thought-provoking. The quality of the analysis, comprehensiveness and breadth of coverage is certainly superior to previous efforts. The documentation suggests that progress has been made on devising quantitative indicators for certain policy objectives and obtaining hard data from the developing countries. While we do not agree with everything in the report, it is clear that the conclusions and analysis have benefitted from the continuity provided by having one set of Guidelines. This should not be surprising as the guidelines were intended to address longer-term developments, not short-range goals and objectives.

Guideline 1: Increasing Food Production in LDCs (paras 10-14): Although the developing countries as a whole have not met the target of four percent annual growth in food production, Guideline 1 shows that some have made substantial progress. We should keep in mind large geographical differences especially in per capita food production. The substantial 1982 recovery in Africa's growth rate in food production is encouraging, but results under this Guideline clearly justify the need to focus on increasing food production in developing countries, essential to overcoming the long-term problems of hunger and malnutrition.

Guideline 2: Financial and Other Inputs to Production (paras 15-26): The documented lack of adequate financial flows from developing country governments into their own agricultural sectors is cause for alarm. It is also discouraging in view of contribution of agriculture to gross domestic product in most of these countries and the numerous international meetings that have agreed on the need for investment. We believe this question is worthy of further study to explain the reason for the deficiency and possible solutions.

Quantity of investment is not the only important factor. As paragraph 18 of the report notes, the centrally-planned economies continue to devote a substantial share of total investment to agriculture relative to its weight in the economy. However, with few exceptions, their performance has been poor. On the other hand, the developed market economies have generally done much better in this regard. One of the important reasons is their reliance on the private sector and a market-oriented economy. Such a comparison has important implications for developing countries to improve their food and agricultural sectors.

Guideline 3: Incentives, Social Equity, and Developing Country Rational Use of Resources (paras 27-38): A comparison of the trend of the period before 1975 with the period after that time does not indicate a general increase in price incentives in developing countries in recent years. However, as many delegates have observed, without a substantial increase in production incentives, real progress on increasing food production in the developing countries is highly unlikely. The Secretariat's study of domestic pricing policies should shed important light on this issue.

Guideline 4: Overall Food Consumption Patterns and Integrated Nutritional Policies (paras 40-47): The report clearly shows that developing countries as a whole have made substantial progress in improving per capita food consumption of their populations, despite regional and individual country deficiencies. The linkage with Guideline 1 - increasing per capita food production - demonstrates the need to focus on production.

Guideline 5: Improving Nutritional Level for Undernourished Segments of the Population (paras 48-53): The US agrees with the document's observations on the usefulness of properly designed and implemented food-for-work programs, especially because of their potential impact on rural populations.

Guideline 6: Balance-of-Payments Problems and Consumption of Locally and Regionally Produced Food (paras 54-60): This part we found somewhat disappointing. The data presented in the report was too aggregated to allow for adequate analysis of progress under this guideline. For example, the data in tables 6.1 and 6.2 on production and use of imports, would have been more useful if broken down by regions and oil producing and non-oil producing countries.

We also agree that using domestic cereals production as a proxy figure for basic food production is not fully adequate.

Guideline 7: Access to Markets and Assurance of Supplies (paras 61-69): Trends in world trade do not fully explain whether access to markets and assurance of supplies have become easier. For example, the recent economic recession had a significant effect on the growth of trade, including agricultural trade, and the drop in agriculture's share in total value of world exports is due in part to the decrease in the prices for many agricultural commodities.

We agree that progress on liberalization of agricultural trade has been inadequate. We believe that the development process is best served by a more liberalized trade system generally and that all countries should move progressively towards reduction of trade barriers, wherever possible. In our view, the GATT is the appropriate forum for negotiating trade liberalization and offers the best means of strengthening and improving the multilateral trading system and for expanding trade opportunities for LDCs.

The US believes that heavily-subsidized exports of agricultural products depress world prices, create market instability, impose serious obstacles in the process of agricultural adjustment, and constitute a major impediment to the liberalization of trade in agricultural commodities. Reduction or elimination of export subsidies could result in maintaining or increasing market shares and exporter earnings for many countries, including LDCs.

Guideline 8: Food Security, Market Stability, and the Level of Prices in International Trade (paras 70-79): As the Secretariat's report notes, the conditions existing during so-called "World Food Crisis" of 1972-74 have not recurred and the level of stocks of basic cereals have improved significantly since 1974. This indicates that a new international grains agreement is not necessary for world food security. Thus, we believe that national grain reserves, which are responsive to market factors, are preferable to a system of nationally-held, internationally-coordinated reserves.

We do agree with the Secretariat that over-concentration of cereal stocks in one country does have serious drawbacks. We believe that such a concentration of stocks in one country is neither good nor fair and we encourage other countries to implement national reserve policies.

Guideline 9: Trade-Oriented Policy Measures for Increasing and Diversifying LDC Export Earnings and Agricultural Production (paras 80-87): We would take issue with paragraph 85 of the report, which suggests that the difference in terms of trade of agricultural products between developed and developing countries is the result of the increase in the volume of exports of agricultural products from developed countries, especially North America, especially as the report fails to provide sufficient data to demonstrate this claim. This may not take into account the fact that the EC has become a major exporter of agricultural commodities, primarily because of its excessively high support prices for most commodities, import barriers, and export subsidies through which it exports its excess production into the world market.

Guideline 10: Transfer to LDCs of Resources and Technology (paras 88-94): We were interested and encouraged to note that external assistance to agricultural development has increased 280 percent from \$1 830 million annually in 1973-74 to an estimated \$7 036 million in 1982-83.

With respect to paragraph 93, which states "... the bilateral donors devote to agriculture a minor proportion of their concessional commitments," more than half of US bilateral development assistance - \$707 million in FY-83 - is directed toward programs in agriculture, rural developments and nutrition.

Guideline 11: Food Aid - at Least 10 Million Tons Annually (paras 95-105): Food aid pledges have increased dramatically during the last ten years. The Food Aid Convention (FAO) binding commitments were raised to 7.6 million tons of cereals a year - a substantial improvement over the 4.2 million tons in the previous Convention. The World Food Programme's (WFP) annual resources have increased from \$177 million in 1973-74 to about \$578 million in 1982-83. The value in constant dollars of annual food aid provided by DAC members has increased by 38 percent from 1974-76 to 1981, while the annual volume of food aid increased by 32 percent between 1975-76 and 1981-82. We are proud that the US has pledged \$250 million to the WFP 1983-84 target of \$1.2 billion, an increase of \$30 million above our \$220 million pledge for the previous biennium.

Now let me turn to the revision and updating of Guidelines and Targets for International Agricultural Adjustment as presented in document C 83/22. Let me begin by recalling the three purposes which the Guidelines for International Agricultural Adjustment, as set out by the Conference in 1973 and agreed on in 1975, were designed to promote: firstly, faster and more balanced growth in agricultural production; secondly, improved food distribution, and thirdly a rising share for the developing countries of expanded agricultural trade.

Furthermore, the Guidelines were to be universally applicable to all countries, and to reflect the balance of obligations between developing and developed countries. The Guidelines were to cover the long-term, and while recognising that national agricultural policy reflects national priorities, it was hoped that the Guidelines would serve as signposts to policymakers and would promote the harmonization of national policies bearing on agricultural adjustment.

The United States joined in the international effort to formulate guidelines for national policy-makers, believing that they could serve important and useful purposes. Thus, we participated fully in the formulation of the existing Guidelines and we continue to believe they serve the purposes for which they were conceived.

We do not believe they are outmoded or obsolete or that they have outlived their purposes. Indeed, we recognize that those purposes remain to be fully achieved, that policy makers throughout the world must strive harder and more consistently to keep these Guidelines in mind as they set the course of national policies. The problem we face, in short, is one of falling short of declared goals and purposes, not faulty goals or purposes. The focus of our attention in these circumstances should not be how to change the goals or objectives. It should be, rather, on finding the reasons why it has proved difficult or impossible to reach the goals and the purposes already agreed upon.

My Government does not believe the existing guidelines are perfect, and we have, in the past, participated in efforts to find ways to improve the guidelines which would be acceptable to a wide spectrum of countries, including ourselves. In our view, those efforts have demonstrated that there remain extensive differences on a number of issues which, precisely because they are important, are also contentious. They have demonstrated that, at least for the present, the time is simply not ripe for the international community to achieve a new consensus on revision of the existing guidelines; that it simply is not within our reach to agree on revisions which would have the same universal acceptance and recognition, and thus the same value, the same weight and the same force, as the Guidelines agreed to in 1975. There is a further thought to which we give great stress: unless revisions are to have the same weight, value and force as the original Guidelines, we do not believe their adoption or endorsement can be looked upon as progress.

In conclusion, let me again repeat the essence of my Government's views. The US believes the existing Guidelines are serving well the purposes for which they were conceived. The results of our previous discussion - that is, on monitoring the performance of the existing Guidelines - indicate that useful analysis and conclusions may be drawn from what we already have. We believe the focus of attention should be on identifying the reasons why it is proving difficult to follow fully the present guidelines, not on their revision.

The effort to agree upon changes in the present guidelines — changes which would carry the same weight, value and force as the Guidelines of 1975 — has not succeeded; on the contrary, it has revealed significant differences on important issues.

Those differences cannot be resolved during this Conference; and, given the history of past efforts to resolve them, it is impossible to avoid the conclusion that the time is not now ripe for their resolution in any forum.

For these reasons, we believe the Conference should reaffirm the existing guidelines and consider that the mandate given at the Twentieth FAO Conference for reviewing the Guidelines has already been carried out as far as is practical, and that no further efforts should be made to revise the Guidelines at this time.

We believe it would be a serious mistake for this Conference to consider adopting or endorsing Guidelines which, because they will lack universal acceptance, will only serve to dilute the weight, value and force of the existing guidelines.

If the Conference should move in that direction, the United States will have to disassociate itself from the outcome of the Conference's work on this issue.

EL PRESIDENTE: Por la trascendencia que tiene para los efectos de los trabajos de esta Comisión, la declaración que ha hecho los Estados Unidos de América, voy a solicitarle al Sr. West haga uso de la palabra.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I have followed most of the debate, although I have not been here for much of the time and I was looking forward to the possibility of intervening at the end. However, I have to go to the Plenary shortly so with the kind indulgence of delegates I am taking the floor at this point, frankly stimulated by the intervention just made.

I have listened to it with great attention and appreciate very much what has been said and the way in which it has been said, except in one respect. It has been suggested that firstly the Secretariat has not analysed the reasons for lack of progress or for sufficient progress in implementing the present Guidelines. I am sorry if we have not satisfied the United States on that, but we have done our best in the documents we have issued on the subject.

But more than that, it was suggested that somehow the Secretariat is flying in the face of considerable dissension, disagreement, and difficulty and is trying to impose on a number of strongly divergent views a new set of Guidelines which cannot possibly command acceptance.

I got the message very clearly that we have not convinced the United States and it cannot command their acceptance. That is clear. But on the other hand in defence of what we have placed before you I would like to emphasize that there is, as far as I can see, at least as regards the Council and the debate here, no great divergence, no great dissension, no great area in which there are difficulties either with the Secretariat documents or between ourselves.

The document in fact shows that it is only in three places that the United States alone is the one that has problems. So I did not want to let the debate go further without emphasizing that, strong and important as the views of the United States are, it would be giving completely the wrong impression to suggest that you are being faced with something which is highly controversial and highly difficult among yourselves.

Lastly, there is another point I would emphasize. The United States referred repeatedly to the value of the existing Guidelines, and to their strength, and I am grateful for that. But the delegate also kept saying "force". Unfortunately, from the point of view of some of you, there is no force. There is no force in the existing Guidelines, there will be no force in the new Guidelines.

EL PRESIDENTE: Yo también subrayo, como lo hicimos al principio en la apertura de los trabajos sobre esta agenda, que efectivamente las orientaciones no eran compulsorias y así lo subrayamos en ese momento, sino indicativos de un consenso que se ha venido formando en torno a los problemas y las líneas que se deberían de seguir para el desarrollo agrícola y alimentario de la humanidad.

Esta Comisión ha mostrado un multitudinario interés en las nuevas orientaciones, salvo muy pequeñas posibles correcciones en torno al punto 1, a la orientación 1 y a la orientación 7, hasta donde tengo entendido, de las directrices señaladas.

Por tanto, entendemos y recogemos la posición de los Estados Unidos. Confirmamos, porque así ha sido la expresión en esta Comisión, de que no hay grandes discrepancias con las líneas anteriores, y solicitamos a la Comisión que continúe sus trabajos en el estudio de las orientaciones revisadas y actualizadas, y la Secretaría tomará debida nota de la posición de la delegación de los Estados Unidos.

M. BRZOSKA (Poland): My delegation has analysed thoroughly the document under discussion. It gives us a very clear and proper picture of the main tendencies in the development of world agriculture in the light of the Guidelines. It shows that in the 1970s we had to deal with, firstly, progress in intensification of agricultural production; secondly, a better impact of world trade on the development of agriculture; thirdly, better utilization of international aid to create stable conditions for agricultural development in the developing countries.

The report rightly underlines that many positive phenomena have broken down in the first years of this decade, as a result of the world economic recession, the indebtedness of many countries and the deterioration of their economic effectiveness.

We have to state with regret that changes in Polish agriculture were similar and in our country sharp consequences were caused through the destabilization of the world agricultural market, the spread of the policy of protectionism and restrictions, as well as a lack of the proper value of agriculture in the whole economy of the country.

In our opinion the evaluation of the rate of growth of production does not need any comments. The problem of increasing the flow of financial assistance to agriculture needs some comment. First, despite a considerable increase in the flow of credit means and subsidies it must be underlined that the establishment of various new systems of financing agricultural development through banks and multinational organizations means stability for further development, apart from the present crisis in the credit market.

What is positive is the fact that FAO should cooperate with these organizations, establishing an experimental basis for more effective utilization of these means.

It was also rightly noted that in many countries and regions the ability of agriculture for accumulation and investment was reduced. The negative influences of the disturbances on the world market in the field of financing of agriculture were not noted.

I would like to emphasize that on the basis of the important analyses of changes in prices and price policy, including those for Socialist countries dealt with in paragraph 36, which occurred in Poland, the economic reform will serve better to solve difficult matters in world agriculture.

At present Poland uses, more than ever before, the universal experience of FAO in the field of defining proper methods and conditions of agricultural development.

We welcome with satisfaction the changes proposed in the revision of the guidelines. They will be helpful in solving the many problems in our agriculture undertaken in the national programme of development of agriculture and food economy, until 1990.

I would like to underline that the Fourth Progress Report on International Agricultural Adjustment corresponds in general with other FAO analyses and programmes, and gives a convincing basis for the positive programmes undertaken by FAO at the present Session. We are ready to participate actively in all FAO undertakings aiming at agricultural development. In this direction there are growing changes and practices of agricultural and economic policy in my country. In this spirit we are acting on the international fora.

ZENG XIANRONG (China) : Thank you for giving me another opportunity to address the Commission. As we may recall, the Eighty-second Session of the FAO Council made the proposal in its Report that guideline 1 include the phrase "to promote the establishment of a New International Economic Order", as the main purpose of the international agricultural adjustment. We endorse this proposal. Now, please allow me to express our opinions on document C 83/22.

We also recall that as early as the Eighteenth Session of the FAO Conference held in 1975, it was explicitly spelt out in Paragraph 13 of the document that the proposed strategy for International Agricultural Adjustment by the Director-General "Starts from the general objectives contained in Resolution 2/73 of the Seventeenth Session of the FAO Conference, adapted to reflect generally the goals expressed in the International Development Strategy for the UN Second Development Decade, the UN Declaration and Programme of Action for a New International Economic Order and the targets set forth in the Resolutions adopted by the World Food Conference". It was further emphasized in Paragraph 6 of the Preamble of the "International Development Strategy for the Third Development Decade" adopted at the UN General Assembly in 1980 that "UN International Development Strategy for the Third Development Decade is an integral part in the endeavours by international community to speed up progress of the developing countries and to establish a New International Economic Order and is aimed at realizing the objectives of the NIEO". The revised guidelines for international agricultural adjustment are identical in essence with the Section C. Food and Agriculture of the International Development Strategy. It is in fact a supplementary document to the implementation of the Section— "Food and Agriculture" of the International Development Strategy. Therefore, the proposal made by the Eighty-second Session of the Council in its Report to add the phrase "to promote the establishment of a New International Economic Order" as the main purpose of international agricultural adjustment is a reaffirmation of what has been agreed upon by the international community. We hope that there should not be any problem in accepting our proposal.

In our view, to promote the establishment of a New International Economic Order in the field of food and agriculture, is not only the fundamental need of the overwhelming majority of the people but also the trend of development. The leader of the Chinese delegation elaborated our view on this in his speech, so I am not going to repeat them here. However, I wish to add that to carry out international agricultural adjustment on the basis of food and agricultural expansion in various countries is a matter of vital importance in the field of food and agriculture. It is by no means a temporary expedient. Hence it is highly necessary to set a long-term objective so that we can combine the immediate needs with long-term interests of the international community. Only in this way the targets for international and agricultural adjustment will stand out clearly and inspire the people to strive harder for their realization.

If we look at the revised Guidelines as a whole concerning the expansion of production, improvement of terms of trade, promotion of agrarian reforms, guarantee for world food security and increased food aid, etc., we find that they are all conducive to promoting food and agricultural production in the developing countries as well as to establishing a New International Economic Order. Besides, as the substance already contains the idea of promoting the setting up of a new order, it is only reasonable and logical to include the basic idea of promoting the establishment of a New International Economic Order in the appropriate section of the revised text.

Meanwhile, I wish to take this opportunity on behalf of the Chinese delegation to express our support in principle to the revised text of the Guidelines for international agricultural adjustment.

M. GIFFORD (Canada): Well, quite frankly, we were happy with the 1975 Guidelines. They are concise and to the point. With due respect to the effort of the Contact Group, the proposed new Guidelines are verbose in the extreme, and put quite simply, it is difficult to distinguish between the trees and the forest. In some cases there is more commentary than guidance. Having said this, there is much in the new Guidelines which we can support, and on balance, and at the end of the day, we can probably accept the new Guidelines with some modifications, particularly relating to Guideline 10.

But, I think more important than the preoccupation of the Canadian delegation with Guideline 10, what is disturbing is, that we find here today that a major delegation is unable to associate themselves with the new Guidelines. If this is the case, we wonder what is the value of the Conference adopting a set of voluntary Guidelines which does not have the full support of all members? It seems to me that it is very easy to be cynical. Some of us can say to ourselves that since the Guidelines are voluntary, they are meaningless and therefore it does not really matter what is said. However, it seems to me that this type of cynicism, if perpetuated, can only make a mockery of this institution. It would therefore, be unfortunate if the Conference adopts a new set of Guidelines which does not have the committed support of all delegations, large and small. If there is no consensus and a new set of Guidelines is adopted by the majority, then this in our view would represent an empty victory, the victory of rhetoric over substance.

N. SRISURAK (Thailand): Mr Chairman, my delegation is pleased to thank Dr Islam for highlighting a comprehensive and effective introduction on the documents C 83/21 and C 83/22. My delegation would like to join the previous speakers before me, to endorse revision and updating of Guidelines and targets for international agricultural adjustments.

My Government has been carrying out various agricultural policies along the lines mentioned in the Guidelines. As regards Guideline 1, our cereal production on annual average for the triennium ending 1971, was 15 571 million metric tons and 21 092 metric tons on annual average for triennium ending 1981. This shows that the compound annual growth rate for 1971 to 1981 was 3.1 percent. At the same time the growth rate of the population was 2.5 percent. In this connection, taking calories per caput per day into account, food supply as a percentage of requirement is about 100 percent in 1969 to 1971, and about 104 percent in 1978 to 1980, which is higher than the requirement.

As regards Guideline 2, my Government realises that the agricultural sector is very important for our economy. Therefore investment sector expectations on agriculture is, on average, 21 percent of the total gross expectations. This share varies widely among activities. In this connection we have focussed on an increase in the agricultural productivity, rather than expansion of the land. To achieve this target various agricultural inputs should be supported at seasonal prices, especially fertilizer, to act as an incentive to producers.

As regards Guidelines 4 and 5, the Thai Government also emphasizes these fields by dividing areas into two aspects: advanced area and underdeveloped areas which are located in the so-called rainfed areas.

The Thai Government pays more and more attention to this area, as we believe that rural people are too poor and find it very difficult to help themselves. Therefore, government service should be given to the poor, taking the needs of the poor and natural resources in these areas into account before planning to help them.

As regards Guideline 7, the head of the Thai delegation has stressed the need of supporting this Guideline because it concerns hunger and malnutrition in the world community. Thailand could produce more food for the poor and others if markets at fair prices were available. But little attention is given to the impact of trade barriers and the protectionism on world hunger and malnutrition. As you are aware, Mr Chairman, the sharp and widespread decline of commodity prices on international markets during 1981 and 1982 below the cost of production has brought about serious repercussions on the economies of both developed and developing countries. When taking Guideline 7 into account and following it at the right time and place, my delegation believes that the serious economic situation in the world economy may have a brighter world economic outlook.

As regards Guideline 11 concerning food aid, in this connection my delegation would like to stress that even though Thailand is one of the exporting producing countries, we are well aware of the needs of the poor. Therefore, we share our food with thousands of refugees and displaced persons who stream across our borders. This sharing is a heavy burden on both food and expenditures. Hence, we do not merely serve as a conduit for food aid, we have first of all to ensure a capacity to feed our people in this aspect.

In conclusion, my delegation supports the Guidelines submitted to us in documents C 83/21 and C 83/22.

G. PEREZ MORENO (Mexico): Mi delegación felicita a la Secretaría por los estupendos documentos que nos sirven de base para esta discusión. Agradecemos al Dr. Islam su exposición clara y concisa a que nos tiene acostumbrados.

Confirmamos con profunda preocupación el progreso lento y desigual de la producción agrícola, de la distribución y acceso a los alimentos en el mundo.

También insistimos en la necesidad de evaluar la eficiencia e indicaciones estructurales del esfuerzo agrícola en muchos países en desarrollo. Los patrones de desarrollo importados, los condicionamientos mercantiles de financiamiento, la inversión y la ayuda y principalmente la estructura oligo-pólica de los mercados de insumos, productos agrícolas y alimentarios, han propiciado la marginación de áreas pobres que representan solamente una fuente de mano de obra barata.

La presencia transaccional, aunque pueda haber otorgado ciertos beneficios tecnológicos y asistenciales, por lo general ha organizado la producción, la distribución, la comercialización y el consumo en función de sus intereses monopólicos. No son instituciones humanitarias, sino negocios que atienden a su propia lógica económica. Es una realidad determinante y poderosa, con presencia independiente de toda voluntad política de los Estados. La corporación transaccional debe ser estudiada a fondo para obtener de su participación el máximo provecho y evitar en lo posible daños para la comunidad internacional.

Estamos en general de acuerdo con el análisis sobre la situación del Reajuste Agrícola Internacional y de sus once orientaciones.

Apoyamos sin reservas la nueva versión revisada y actualizada de estas orientaciones, y solicitamos que la Conferencia las apruebe como tales, sin ningún debilitamiento de su texto, incluyendo en su caso la eventual reserva de alguna delegación.

En lo específico, deseamos hacer los siguientes comentarios: apoyamos con entusiasmo que se incluya en la orientación la frase relativa a que el principal objetivo de la RAI es promover el establecimiento de un Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional,

México sostiene que la autosuficiencia y la soberanía alimentaria son metas prioritarias para todos los países y que los gobiernos deberían responder a ellas con una voluntad política materializada en acciones efectivas.

En este sentido, cabe citar el esfuerzo integral y sólido que el Gobierno de México está realizando a través del Programa Nacional de Alimentación. Ahí hemos implícitamente recogido las orientaciones 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 y 6 y la parte correspondiente a la 9.

Sobre la orientación tercera estamos convencidos de que una adecuada política de precios debe servir de apoyo a toda política de estímulo productivo, pero que en tanto no se modifiquen las estructuras y canales de comercialización y se elimine la participación de intermediarios y agiotistas, la mayor parte de la población rural se verá más efectivamente beneficiada, a través de compensaciones regionales por productos y por insumos.

Sobre la orientación 5, volvemos a llamar la atención a la deformación indeseable de los hábitos de consumo y la influencia transaccional y del gran capital.

Reiteramos que es indispensable reducir pérdidas post-cosechas y desperdicios alimentarios y la necesidad de sistemas de seguimiento sobre avances nutricionales.

Al igual que otras delegaciones nos manifestamos contra todas las formas del proteccionismo y la competencia desleal contra nuestros productos de exportación, así como contra el uso de los alimentos como instrumento de presión política.

Apoyamos la orientación 7 y solicitamos a la FAO que haga saber a otros organismos internacionales como el GATT y la UNCTAD de nuestra decepción por los pocos avances y nuestra exhortación a dar pasos adelante.

Sobre la orientación 9 deseamos se expanda el servicio de financiamiento del FMI y el establecimiento del Fondo Común de Seguridad Alimentaria y, por tanto, que la FAO siga estudiando estas medidas.

Asimismo, deseamos hacer un llamamiento a los principales países donadores para que no dejen al FIDA colapsarse y otorguen su comprometida primera reposición.

Con relación a la orientación 10, debemos darle toda la importancia y fijar metas más realistas de ayuda y elevar a 20 millones de toneladas las reservas deseables, como se estableció en el CPA.

África debe seguir siendo el objetivo prioritario de la ayuda y mayor planeación de la ayuda y la asistencia en función de meta de desarrollo agrícola y alimentario.

Señor Presidente, consideramos que lo discutido aquí, así como en los temas 6, 8 y 9 de nuestra Agenda son diversos enfoques y niveles de un mismo problema y que, por tanto, como señaló el Dr. Islam, deberían en conjunto y orgánicamente orientar los trabajos de FAO y de todos nosotros.

Finalmente, queremos expresar nuestro deseo de que esta Comisión aproveche plenamente el contenido de las 11 orientaciones para no reducir nuestra aprobación a una mera formalidad. Muchas gracias.

M. ZJALIC (Yugoslavia): We would like first to congratulate Professor Islam for the presentation of the documents and also to note the excellent service rendered by the Secretariat to the member countries during the expert consultations and in the preparation of revised and updated Guidelines.

We would also like to note the good quality of the analytical document C 83/21, International Agricultural Adjustment, Fourth Progress Report.

Certainly, this analytical informative work can be improved and certainly in some elements, some findings at the next Conference may lead to the improvement of the next presentation of the Report. The Guidelines for International Agricultural Adjustment represent a contribution to the harmonization of agrarian policies at the international level. The basic concept stems from the interdependence in world agriculture among countries. Within countries and at the international level, there is a strong interdependence between agriculture and other economic sectors. Agriculture is highly influenced by monetary policies, balance of payments situations, trade, availability of agricultural inputs and their prices, the financial and economic position of agricultural producers and the purchasing power of consumers and so on.

The adoption of Guidelines in 1975 has served as a unique international mechanism for evaluating changes in agriculture and for the assessment of the impact of changes on other sectors of the state of food and agriculture. They also serve as the orientation for national agricultural policies and for international cooperation in agriculture.

Changes in demand caused by population growth, import demand or consumption, etc., the establishment of new targets for the development of agriculture in International Development Strategy III as adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, relevant provisions of the Declaration of Principles and Programme of Action of the WCARRD, recent developments in the sector of trade in agricultural commodities and, in particular, the actions undertaken within the framework of the GATT, UNCTAD, International Monetary Fund, the World Food Council - all these as well as other factors have imposed the need for the revision and updating of Guidelines for the International Agricultural Adjustment.

Since the delegations at this Conference are fully aware of the Report of the Eighty-second Session of the FAO Council, I am not going to elaborate on the details of the procedure and of the substance of the revised and updated Guidelines, except only to repeat our support to the proposed text, primarily because the revised text contains already agreed-upon aims and policy targets, especially those on the International Development Strategy; even the language does not differ. We have some problems in understanding the position of some delegations concerning the revised text, because it is quite clear that this text is based upon already agreed-upon policy targets and has been formulated in the same language. I do not think that the FAO Conference is the proper place for the revision of policy targets and aims agreed upon in other international fora.

We endorse the inclusion of the words "to promote the establishment of a New Economic Order" - this is para 45 of the Report of the Eighty-second Session of the Council - for the same reason, not only because we agree with the principle but particularly because this stems from the United Nations Sixth Special Session documents.

Guideline 7, as it stands, in our view fully reflects basic results achieved and action undertaken by UNCTAD and other relevant UN fora, so we do not see the need for any change in the text adopted by the Council, although we do not see many reasons to oppose the proposal by the EEC to include reference to resolution 159 of UNCTAD VI.

As for Guideline 10, we should like to propose the removal of the brackets, for the following reasons. First, the text as presented implies only early consideration of the proposals, including the possibility of making a legally binding convention, but does not preclude any result of this early consideration, so it does not impose a legally binding convention as such but suggests that the possibility be considered as early as possible. The second reason stems from the actual situation in 22 African countries. Those who participated in a meeting of donors and recipient countries convened by the Director-General in mid-October this year can confirm that it was clearly shown that existing mechanisms and levels of IEFER make it very difficult for the international community to cope with any large-scale emergency. The situation is completely blocked, just because there is no future planning, the level is too low, and certainly the international community cannot respond adequately in the situation of large-scale emergencies. Even internal mechanisms of donor countries do not make it possible to execute their political will. Even if they want to do something, they cannot, because mechanisms are highly inadequate.

We welcome the removal of the reserves of the Republic of Argentina. We were looking forward to cooperating in an honest attempt to overcome the still-existing difficulties. I believe that there is still room for further negotiations and exchange of views during this Conference, and I believe that we can adopt these Guidelines by consensus.

We would like to suggest that this Commission should establish a contact group for the part of the Guidelines on which there are still reservations, with possible participation of the members of the contact group which met during the Eighty-second Session of the Council.

A. NAGA (Japan): Mr Chairman, my delegation would like to comment exclusively on the document C 83/22. The draft Guidelines and Targets for International Agricultural Adjustment which we are now discussing are the result of a long and intensive discussion by the contact group established by the Eighty-second Council consisting of developed and developing countries as well as food exporting and food importing countries, including Japan. Therefore, I should like to stress that any substantial change of the text may undermine the delicately balanced structure of these Guidelines. We propose that the Conference should adopt these Guidelines as they stand now.

With regard to the still remaining brackets in Guideline 10, we support the proposal of the distinguished delegate of France and the distinguished observer of the EEC that the clause in brackets should be deleted.

J. NGOULOU (Congo): Comme suite à l'analyse des documents soumis à notre examen la délégation congolaise formule ses félicitations à l'endroit du Secrétariat pour l'effort consenti à l'élaboration des documents fort intéressants et lucides.

Le document C 83/21 dans ses différents paragraphes n'appelle sincèrement aucune observation majeure de notre part. La Délégation congolaise note tout simplement qu'au point 7, la situation de l'agriculture dans les pays développés accuse une nette amélioration entre 1975 et 1980 et que pendant la même période, ou un peu plus avant cette date, les pays en développement ont été confrontés à de multiples facteurs de récession économique, tel que l'accroissement spectaculaire de leur service de dettes.

Enfin elle note au Point 8, avec regret d'ailleurs, que la négociation d'un nouvel accord de produit n'a pas abouti à un résultat satisfaisant. Elle ose espérer que cela se réalisera dans un avenir proche.

Venons-en au document C 83/22 sur "la Révision des lignes d'orientation et des objectifs de l'ajustement agricole international". La Délégation congolaise appuie sans réserve les lignes d'orientation dans son ensemble. Toutefois elle voudrait apporter certaines réflexions aux lignes d'orientation 2 et 3, relatives aux conditions prédominantes sous lesquelles s'exécute l'agriculture dans la majorité des pays en développement.

S'agissant de la ligne d'orientation 2, l'objectif à atteindre pour les pays en développement pendant la prochaine décennie est fixé à 4 pour cent au moins, pour répondre à l'accroissement de la demande alimentaire dans ces pays. Cet objectif modeste et ambitieux, pour le réussir, les pays en développement Doivent, à mon humble avis, passer d'une agriculture fluviale à une agriculture intensive, utilisant une technologie moderne adaptée aux conditions propres de la région et renforcer l'élaboration et l'exécution des plans agricoles et alimentaires de base.

Pour ce qui est de la ligne d'orientation 2, les investissements agricoles dans les pays en développement sont faibles: 10 pour cent de l'investissement brut en capital fixe sont réservés à l'agriculture.

Je suis d'avis que cela ne représente pas la part légitime du montant global des investissements que se devrait de recevoir l'agriculture; mais au regard des investissements consentis dans le secteur en amont et en aval de l'agriculture, je pense que l'effort peut être appréciable, car il ne peut y avoir de développement agricole si un investissement non moins important n'est pas consenti dans l'amélioration de l'infrastructure routière allant des zones de production aux grands centres urbains de consommation, si le système de commercialisation adéquat n'a pas les moyens d'intervention efficaces et n'est pas organisé, enfin si la construction des entrepôts pour la conservation des produits n'est pas réalisée. En outre on peut citer la formation, la recherche, et la vulgarisation qui nécessitent aussi des moyens financiers importants.

En réalité .sil'on tient compte de ces investissements en amont et en aval du secteur agricole l'on comprendra très vite que les pays en développement dans leur plus grande majorité n'accroîtront pas de manière spectaculaire les ressources proprement dites nécessaires à l'agriculture. Il y aura croissance des ressources en direction de l'agriculture, mais le taux de croissance sera faible, car ils doivent développer l'agriculture en entraînant bien d'autres secteurs économiques et indispensables à sa garantie.

Pour terminer, je souhaiterais que ces orientations soient adoptées car les réserves ici formulées ne présentent pas un handicap majeur.

C. MOURAD (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Etant donné que de nombreux délégués ont pris la parole au sujet des propositions relatives aux lignes d'orientation de l'ajustement agricole international, j'éviterai les répétitions. Il me suffira de dire que la délégation de mon pays appuie entièrement la nouvelle rédaction des lignes d'orientation tracées par le Groupe de contact constitué par le Conseil de la FAO au cours de la Session de novembre 1982, lignes que le Conseil avait décidé de soumettre à cette Conférence pour les étudier et les approuver.

La déclaration de mon Collègue, le Représentant de la Jordanie à ce sujet, reflète le point de vue des pays du Proche-Orient auxquels nous appartenons et nous l'appuyons, surtout en ce qui concerne la nécessité d'adopter ces lignes sous la forme d'une résolution émanant de cette Conférence; résolution que nous ne serions désireux de parrainer.

P.G. SCALIERIS (Grèce): La Grèce, actuellement, exerce la Présidence de la CEE. C'est pourquoi elle est intervenue au nom de la Communauté il y a quelques instants. Toutefois étant donné que tous les sujets qui sont analysés dans les lignes d'orientation sont généralement de compétence communautaire, je vous demande de bien vouloir donner la parole au Représentant de la Communauté économique européenne.

G. DESEQUELLES (CEE): Après la déclaration que la Grèce a bien voulu effectuer au nom de la CEE, mon intervention aura pour but de développer la position de la communauté et de ses dix Etats Membres sur ces lignes d'orientation révisées. La CEE est satisfaite, comme le Conseil lors de sa quatre-vingt-deuxième session, en décembre 1982, que les travaux du groupe de contact aient été constructifs, ce qui a permis d'aboutir à un résultat favorable et satisfaisant. La CEE considère donc que notre commission devrait prendre en considération ces lignes d'orientation telles qu'elles nous sont présentées. Toutefois, la CEE réaffirme sa position en ce qui concerne la ligne d'orientation No 10, à savoir, pour la Réserve alimentaire internationale d'urgence (RAIU) qu'au lieu de vouloir envisager l'accroissement du volume de la réserve et la rendre obligatoire selon une convention juridique, il importe auparavant que toutes les mesures possibles soient appliquées pour que l'objectif actuel de 500 000 tonnes soit atteint.

La communauté rappelle ce qu'elle a déclaré lors de la quatre-vingt-troisième session du Conseil, en juin 1983, au moment de l'examen du huitième rapport annuel du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire. Je cite: "A cet égard, la communauté et ses Etats membres espèrent notamment que le nombre des donateurs à la RAIU, qui est en diminution, augmentera". Pour la CEE, il faut donc supprimer la phrase, entre crochets qui figure aux lignes 19 et 20 dans le texte français.

Par ailleurs, dans un souci de clarification et de conformité avec la décision No 6260 du Fonds monétaire international du 13 mai 1981, la CEE propose une correction du libellé à la onzième ligne du texte français qui devrait se lire comme suit; "Le FMI devrait continuer de fournir dans le cadre de sa facilité compensatoire de financement un soutien supplémentaire ...", le reste inchangé.

Ces deux réserves présentées par la communauté, conformes à la position antérieure et adoptée depuis le début de nos travaux, sont fondamentales pour la communauté,

En ce qui concerne la ligne d'orientation No 7 relative au commerce, pour laquelle le groupe de contact avait admis qu'elle devrait être révisée à la lumière des résultats obtenus dans les enceintes spécialisées telles que le GATT et la CNUCED, la communauté considère que la ligne d'orientation telle qu'elle est présentement rédigée est acceptable.

Pour ce qui est de la ligne d'orientation No 1, la communauté et ses Etats membres sont défavorables à l'insertion du membre de phrase: "promouvoir l'instauration d'un nouvel ordre économique international", considérant que ce que nous voulons doit être suffisamment précis.

Ce qui importe, c'est le contenu et non une discussion sans fin sur la définition d'un nouvel ordre économique international.

Ce que nous proposons donc dans cette ligne d'orientation et ce que nous faisons est déjà, par contributions successives, un changement à l'ordre économique international. C'est pourquoi, dans un souci de compromis et de responsabilité, au lieu de l'expression "promouvoir l'instauration d'un nouvel ordre économique international", nous proposons le libellé: "promouvoir l'ordre économique international" qui a déjà été retenu par d'autres enceintes internationales. La communauté et ses Etats membres se sentent particulièrement concernés pour soutenir les lignes d'orientation ainsi révisées, car ils ne ménagent pas leurs critiques lorsqu'ils considèrent par exemple que les mesures proposées ne sont pas réalistes ou ne relèvent pas de la compétence de cette enceinte.

Au contraire, en ce qui concerne ces lignes d'orientation, ils estiment que ces dernières font le point et analysent la situation alimentaire mondiale et projettent rationnellement ce qu'il faudrait faire pour améliorer la situation.

C'est un code de bonne conduite et nous lançons un appel pour que notre commission et la Conférence ensuite adoptent ces lignes d'orientation.

La participation active de la communauté et de ses Etats membres à la révision de ces lignes d'orientation montre s'il en était besoin l'importance que la communauté attache au développement de politiques internationales visant à accroître la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

EL PRESIDENTE: Le solicito a la Comunidad Economica Europea que mande por escrito a la Secretaría, las sugerencias de modificación respecto de las nuevas orientaciones.

H. FADHLI NAJEB (Iraq) (original language Arabic): At the outset, I would like to thank the Secretariat for their excellent preparation of the document under consideration. I would also like to thank Professor Nurul Islam for his overall and valuable introduction of this question.

Mr Chairman, the problems facing the developing countries, and particularly the least developed countries, are great and numerous. Therefore it is necessary to exert greater efforts in formulating development plans in order to achieve agricultural development and to increase food production. This necessitates the provision of financial resources necessary to increase the efficient use of natural resources, to improve technology and to utilize production inputs such as improved seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and so on. Access to financial resources has become extremely difficult for many countries, particularly the developing countries at present. This makes us deal with another question which we would like to stress, namely how to facilitate the trade exchange of agricultural products and how to eliminate the obstacles hindering the exports of developing countries so they can acquire the foreign exchange necessary for their development plans.

Mention should be made of the economic cooperation among developing countries as one of the basic foundations in this regard. We should like to stress and affirm the importance we attach to World Food Security, to International Emergency Food Reserve and the protection of agricultural products and crops, and the prevention of post-harvest losses. We do support the trend for stabilizing world markets in agricultural products which should provide remunerative prices for producers. This will help the developing countries to increase and improve their production and to apply advanced technology in proportion to their financial potential and technical capabilities on the one hand, while not adversely affecting the consumer's budget and his purchasing capacity on the other.

Agricultural development is closely linked with the effective participation of farmers. We support the idea calling for the participation of farmers in the laying down of development plans, to encourage the integration of rural women in development, and to benefit from youth capacities in rural areas. My country, which is a developing country, has been giving special attention to rural development. It actually applies these guidelines through the enactment of agrarian reform laws and other laws which secured equity in land distribution, and created stability in social and agricultural relations which consequently will lead to greater development projects in villages as well as production inputs. These measures have also secured justice in income distribution and have curbed the migration of farmers to urban areas.

The Government of Iraq is focussing attention on two significant questions - land reform and water storage. Rural areas at present receive much attention from the State. We have established modern village infrastructures such as electricity, water, schools, hospitals, social centres and road networks.

We believe that agricultural development necessitates financial resources, technical efficiency and capacities which are difficult to find for many developing states. This calls for the cooperation of everybody in order to help such countries to realize such a development. For this purpose, we have allocated funds within the Five-Year Development Plan 1981-1985. The first priority of this plan has been given to agriculture which included inter alia the increase of the capital of the Agricultural Bank. The capital of that bank is now one thousand million dollars. We have been extending such services to the private sector, too.

In conclusion, I would like to express our support for the guidelines in this document in general. We believe that the review and updating of these guidelines are necessary. We call upon this Conference to adopt such guidelines. Agricultural adjustments necessitate international cooperation and greater effort at country level in order to solve the existing problems. We wish this Conference every success in reaching good results in this sphere. Thank you for your attention.

H.M. CARANDANG (Philippines): My delegation has participated in the work of revising and updating the Guidelines for International Agricultural Adjustment. We took part in the Government Consultation held in 1981, and were also members of the Contact Group set up by the Council, whose Report we have before us. Therefore, our views are well known. However, my delegation wishes to reiterate our support, and hopes that all the brackets and reservations will disappear at this point, so that we can possibly adopt the Guidelines and the Resolutions by unanimous consent.

Like many delegations before us, we believe compliance with the Guidelines leaves much to be desired, but this is not an argument for not revising them. If that argument were valid, then we ought to close all the parliaments and all the governments of the world until we had rounded up all the criminals and put them all in prison - and probably we ought to improve the executive arm - the army and the policemen. We believe this is not a reason for not revising the Guidelines. So many things have happened already since 1975, we have had before us the adoption of the new international development strategy, we have had agreements reached in WCARRD, UNCTAD and the World Food Council. We also have before us the decision of the past Conference which is recorded on page 2 of document C 83/22 which says that the Conference has agreed that the Guidelines for an International Agricultural Adjustment should be reviewed and revised in the light of developments since their adoption in 1975.

I am therefore surprised that the appropriateness of the revision of these Guidelines is now being questioned. I think that is out of the question. We took the decision two Conferences ago.

Mr Chairman, I think you have very few options left to you: first, through your good offices you can call a contact group of all interested parties and try to see where the differences are. If you look at paragraph 44 of the Report of the Council, you will see there are very few differences. It says that the contact group had reached consensus except on Guideline 10. But Guideline 10 has a section in brackets referring to the possibility of considering a legally binding convention. It is not recommending a legally binding convention, it recommends only the possible consideration of a legally binding convention. I do not see why that should cause very great difficulty to anybody.

The other alternative is, Mr Chairman, that if you cannot call upon a contact group you should see whether the alternative is a resolution as proposed by the delegate of Yugoslavia, which I fully support. I do not know whether other delegations would agree with me, but I think you have very few options left.

H. ZANNETIS (Cyprus): I need not enter into a detailed analysis of the individual Guidelines as this has already been done by many speakers. I only want to underline the two suggestions made by the Eighty-second Session of the Council with reference to the Guidelines, and these suggestions appear on page 2 of document C 83/22.

The first suggestion refers to the inclusion of the phrase "to promote the establishment of a new international economic order" as the main purpose of international agricultural adjustment, with which my delegation agrees.

The second suggestion refers to the possibility of reviewing Guideline 7 in the light of results which might be achieved with regard to trade in specialized fora of the United Nations system, particularly GATT and UNCTAD. My delegation believes that no revision of the draft Guideline is justified since no significant development has occurred since the Eighty-second Session of the FAO Council.

Finally, I would like to support the proposition which the delegate of Colombia made this morning for unanimous adoption of the Guidelines as revised.

H.CARRION (Nicaragua): Nuestra delegación desea hacer una breve intervención sobre el tema que ahora nos ocupa, es decir, la revisión y actualización de las orientaciones y objetivos del Reajuste Agrícola Internacional, contenidos en el documento C 83/22.

Las orientaciones revisadas y actualizadas en materia de producción, nutrición, comercio y asistencia internacional que integran el concepto de Reajuste Agrícola Internacional son válidas para lograr la concertación de las acciones nacionales con la acción internacional que tienda a aumentar la producción agropecuaria, el ingreso y el consumo de productos alimenticios en los países en vías de desarrollo.

Es también la creencia de nuestra delegación, que las limitaciones existentes para implementar las orientaciones y conseguir los objetivos del Reajuste Agrícola Internacional se derivan de la falta de voluntad política, como lo ha demostrado ya esta tarde la delegación que expresamente ha mencionado que no aceptará la revisión y actualización de las orientaciones y objetivos del RAI.

Por otro lado, hemos escuchado que Argentina levantó las reservas que tenía de las orientaciones 3 y 4 relacionadas con la Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Cooperativo, pilares del desarrollo agrícola, social y económico de Nicaragua. Felicitamos calurosamente a la delegación argentina por tan noble declaración.

Nuestra delegación apoya la revisión y actualización de las orientaciones y objetivos del RAI puesto que, a nivel nacional, estamos cumpliendo con las mismas; es decir, con aquellas orientaciones cuyo cumplimiento está a nuestro alcance, puesto que tenemos la voluntad política de implementarlas y porque consideramos que sin la asistencia internacional, los objetivos del RAI son difícilmente realizables.

Por último, estamos de acuerdo en que en la orientación 1 se incluye la frase alusiva al Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional, ya que las orientaciones y objetivos del Reajuste Agrícola Internacional concuerdan con el NOEI.

En cuanto a la propuesta del representante de Yugoslavia de que se cree un grupo de contacto para subsanar las diferencias surgidas entre las delegaciones al discutir este tema, nos encontramos de acuerdo con la salvedad de que dicho grupo debe tener la función de llegar a un acuerdo sobre las orientaciones revisadas y actualizadas del RAI.

Por otro lado, dicha revisión y actualización ya ha sido discutida ampliamente en otros órganos de la FAO y en su correspondiente grupo de contacto, como lo ha explicado ampliamente el delegado de Filipinas.

KIM TAE LONG (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): The delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea congratulates Professor Islam and the Secretariat on the comprehensive and excellent document and its lucid introduction.

As many delegates have already said quite a lot on this item, my delegation would like to confine itself to expressing its full support for the revised Guidelines for agricultural adjustment without any reserve as they stand now. In so doing, the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea supports the proposal to include in Guideline 1 the phrase "to promote the establishment of a new international economic order" as the main purpose of international agricultural adjustment.

My delegation would also like to state that it supports the proposal to adopt the guidelines as a conference resolution. We would be willing to co-sponsor the draft resolution.

Y. HAMDI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): My country's delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for the excellent preparation of the document under consideration. In addition, we would like to thank Dr Nurul Islam for his lucid introduction of the document.

The concept of these Guidelines of agricultural adjustment is based mainly on the mutual correlation between the different fields of agriculture in terms of production, nutrition trade, either at the local level or at the international level. My country's delegation has taken part in the discussion of these Guidelines at the meeting held by the Council at its Eighty-second Session, and we believe that this document has expressed most sincerely the viewpoints and opinions that were expressed during the meeting, in addition to the conclusions of the detailed discussions conducted by the Contact Group set up by the Council. Hence my country's delegation welcomes and supports the 11 Guidelines presented in this document.

We recommend that such Guidelines should be adopted through a resolution to be ratified by this Conference.

We also suggest that these Guidelines should be re-evaluated and reviewed every now and then, as is taking place at present, so that they can take into account the changes that could take place as far as the systems of production and trade are concerned.

C. SANCHEZ CUESTA (España): Gracias señor Presidente, agradecemos la precisión del documento que nos proporciona la Secretaría y la presentación que nos hizo el Dr Islam. Dada la interdependencia de los pueblos en materia agrícola, consideramos necesario disponer de orientaciones que articulen las políticas nacionales e internacionales en el crecimiento y en el apoyo mutuo entre países.

Nuestra delegación aprecia las nuevas orientaciones, al mismo tiempo que considera el avance que supone. Avance necesario para la acomodación del Reajuste Agrícola Internacional a la situación en cada momento de la agricultura, lo que justifica su actualización continua. En consecuencia, apoyamos las nuevas orientaciones tal y como aparecen en el documento C 83/22, mientras instamos a la Comisión para que encuentre formulas que puedan ser aceptadas por todos los países, ya que las diferencias son pequeñas con las anteriores de 1975. En este sentido nos parece que puede aceptarse que con estas orientaciones se contribuye en lo que a agricultura se refiere al objetivo del nuevo orden económico internacional y así, figurar en el documento.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department) : My replies will relate to the comments on document C 83/21, the Progress Report on the monitoring of existing guidelines.

We are very grateful to delegates for various suggestions they have made for improvements in subsequent monitoring reports relating to various guidelines. I shall confine my remarks to one or two questions in order to clarify the discussion on the document.

Questions are raised about the conclusions regarding the flow of levels and the rates of change in public expenditure on agriculture as reported in the document. This issue has come up over and over again in the last few days in discussion on each of the agenda items. I can repeat some of the comments I made earlier, that these data do not include private investment, they include only planned public expenditure. They include both current and capital expenditure. They do not cover all the developing countries, we have been making strenuous attempts over the last several years to collect data and we have only partially succeeded. Often, in countries where we have made special efforts - and we send questionnaires to all countries - where we did not succeed in getting answers we made special attempts to collect data. Then again we were faced with the difficulty of data relating to government expenditure. For example, in some countries we would collect data on central government expenditure, but not on local government expenditure or public sector corporations, etc. Subject to all these limitations we have been able, so far, to collect data from 57 countries, and more detailed data from less than that, about 30-odd countries. So, the results presented to you in the document are, therefore, subject to the limitations just stated.

Secondly, the document does not give you details regarding the differences among regions, in terms of flows of public expenditures. There are significant differences among the various regions in the developing world in terms of rate of growth of public expenditure, and agriculture, in the last 1974 to 1982 period covered in the document. For example, rates of growth in Asia and the Pacific Regions both in constant and current prices is much higher in Latin America and Africa and the Near East. Again, as the share of total public expenditure, the share of agriculture is also widely different among different regions of the developing world, being higher in Asia and the Pacific Region, higher than the other three regions.

Questions have been raised as to why do we produce separate figures of expenditure on research on fertilizer consumption once you have expenditure data as well. These are indeed supplementary data. The data on public expenditures on agriculture does include already expenditures on research and fertilizer.

We hope that the member countries will cooperate in the future, even now, in submitting or sending to us additional data which will enable us to refine and expand the work we have already done.

On producer prices the limitations of the data in the document have been very carefully explained in the document itself. This is another area on which we suffer very seriously because of lack of reliable and adequate data. The question was asked, "why did you deflate producer prices by consumer price index, and net by price index of input prices, or price index of any other price?". The answer is, this is the only one available for a number of developing countries so that we could make it comparable.

Post-harvest losses. We should make a detailed analysis suggested by many delegates of the implications of reduction of post-harvest losses for food supply, as well as do this analysis in a broader context of such issues as food aid. Certainly, this is an area in which further work can be done, but I would like to remind the distinguished delegates here, again, serious deficiencies in data in terms of estimates of post-harvest losses which as you realise, vary from country to country, and in terms of different crops.

One distinguished delegate suggested in our analysis of monitoring the nutritional status and policies in developing countries, we should submit a list of projects, nutrition intervention projects, undertaken by FAO and other agencies. We can certainly improve upon the analysis we have made, but it is very difficult in a short document such as the one we have prepared to produce a list of projects in the nutrition field undertaken by FAO, but we will be glad to discuss this subject in greater detail with the distinguished delegates.

On the matter of revision of the guidelines, this is document C 83/22, we have taken note of some of the changes suggested by a number of delegates and we will provide them to the Contact Group as and when you establish it.

A. ACUÑA HUMPHRIES (Panamá) : El primer comentario que le merece a esta delegación el tema en discusión -señor Presidente- es su convencimiento en la utilidad de las orientaciones del Reajuste Agrícola Internacional (RAI) como marco normativo internacional útil para evaluar los cambios producidos en la agricultura a nivel mundial. En tal sentido nos hemos expresado tanto en la Consulta intergubernamental de marzo de 1981 como en el Consejo de esta Organización.

En su apretada presentación el Profesor Islam terminó señalando los fracasos y logros que resaltan del cuarto informe sobre la situación del Reajuste Agrícola Internacional (RAI) por sus lentos y desiguales resultados así como por lo expuesto en el párrafo 9 del documento C 83/21.

De la evaluación general del problema que se hace en esta segunda parte del documento, hay que destacar lo señalado en el párrafo 8, en relación al avance demasiado lento de la expansión del comercio, mediante la no reducción de las barreras a las exportaciones de los países en desarrollo.

Con relación a lo que podríamos llamar cumplimiento de la orientación 1 (sobre el aumento de la producción alimentaria en un 4 %) el párrafo 13 resume -a nuestro juicio- los resultados cuando señala que "ha habido de todo" en cuanto a los resultados conseguidos por los países en desarrollo en cuanto a la producción de alimentos. Sobre este particular esta delegación expresa lo que señalamos en la plenaria en el sentido de que pese a las serias dificultades tanto internas como externas, el sector agropecuario panameño registró en 1982 una tasa de crecimiento del 4,4 por ciento.

Sobre la orientación 2 deseamos destacar lo señalado en el párrafo 17, en el sentido de que las inversiones agrícolas vienen a recibir en las economías de mercado desarrolladas -de acuerdo a los datos disponibles- mucha mayor prioridad que en los países en desarrollo. Y aquí conviene hacernos nosotros los de los países en vías de desarrollo más que un llamado de conciencia, una toma de posición política que signifique real y efectiva prioridad a la inversión agrícola para asimismo demandar el debido apoyo a la comunidad internacional. Así tenemos que en 26 países en desarrollo -de los cuales se contó con datos para el informe- le asignaron a la agricultura 3,8 por ciento como promedio en 1978-1979, del gasto total público corriente; esta proporción bajó en 1981-82 a 3,2 por ciento.

Sobre la importante orientación 3 deseamos destacar el hecho de que el RAI debe exigir una reducción en la cuantía de la protección que se da en los productos básicos en algunos países del mundo desarrollado.

El párrafo 38 hace un señalamiento que nos merece reflexión especial y es en relación a que muchas veces, en la fijación de los denominados precios de sostén, benefician relativamente a pocos grupos de agricultores y sirven para atraer recursos o subsectores de la agricultura que tal vez no sean los más apropiados para clima y suelo.

Sobre las orientaciones 4, 5 y 6 sobre nutrición y autosuficiencia alimentaria (párrafos 39 al 60) si bien aceptamos la dificultad existente en la cuantificación de aspectos que tienen que ver con los progresos en materia de "políticas integradas de nutrición" y de "estructuras de consumo de alimento", destacamos la información que suministra el Cuadro 4.1 (pág. 17) que demuestra que 49 países de los 91 que dan información se mantenían a niveles calóricos por debajo del 100 por ciento de las necesidades medias.

Sobre lo relativo a las mejoras de los niveles nutricionales de los sectores desnutridos, destacamos la validez que a nuestro juicio tiene -y la experiencia de numerosos proyectos así lo confirma- la utilización de alimentos por trabajo y su relación con la creación de empleo, la generación de ingresos y la creación de un patrimonio útil para el futuro. Hacemos estos señalamientos porque en no pocas reuniones de esta Organización se han planteado dudas sobre los efectos de la ayuda de alimento y sus repercusiones en la producción nacional especialmente de cereales. En la discusión de los resultados sobre la orientación 11 -en el párrafo 99- se lee sobre este particular que "en relación con la producción cerealera nacional, la ayuda alimentaria representó el 1,3 por ciento para todos los países en desarrollo y el 1,4 por ciento para los países de bajos ingresos y con déficit de alimentos" y se concluye que "hay sobradas razones para seguir prestando constante atención a la conveniencia de maximizar el impacto de la ayuda alimentaria en el desarrollo".

En relación a los resultados del cumplimiento de las orientaciones 7, 8 y 9 que tienen que ver con el comercio de productos agrícolas, un párrafo concluyente del documento sobre este particular -el párrafo 87- es muy claro al señalar que la situación del comercio de productos agrícolas de los países en desarrollo se ha deteriorado catastróficamente en los dos últimos años.

Y es en estos análisis -señor Presidente- en donde la discusión de los resultados del RAI cobra pleno vigor e importancia y le da vigencia a los mismos. Estas son realidades que ni esta Comisión I ni esta Conferencia de la FAO puede ignorar porque sería estar de espaldas a la realidad que viven nuestros pueblos.

Finalmente -señor Presidente- esta delegación ha prestado atención y participado en lo referente a la discusión del documento C 83/22 sobre la revisión y actualización de las orientaciones y objetivos del RAI y considera que las 12 orientaciones, vienen a responder a las realidades a las cuales debemos hacer frente en estos momentos. Hubiéramos preferido que todas las reservas al documento C 83/22 hubieran sido retiradas, pero como ello no ha sido así somos partidarios de que el documento se apruebe con las reservas que ha hecho un país.*

H. LAUBE (Austria): International Development Strategy for the Third UN Development Decade.

Like many delegations before me I, too, on behalf of the Austrian delegation, should like to thank the FAO Secretariat for preparing and submitting the two excellent Conference documents C 83/21, C 83/22. At the same time I should like to congratulate Professor Islam on his constructive analytical introduction.

Mr Chairman, many good and remarkable contributions on this item have already been made yesterday afternoon and this morning. Accordingly I should merely like to make a few basic brief comments:

Austria has repeatedly stressed the absolute need for a new International Economic and Social Order. The great potential and available resources of the industrialized countries must be used to give the developing countries the possibility of fully developing their agricultural and other infrastructures.

We feel that this can only be implemented by an action programme in which all industrialized and developing countries collaborate. In this connection we might mention that, according to the view of the Austrian delegation, the results of the North-South summit of Cancún might act as a basic guideline in finally defining the new required Economic and Social Order. For at Cancún, too, it was clearly and unanimously noted that preference should be given to a programme and measures for food security, in particular the increase of food production.

Austria particularly welcomes the fact that the International Development Strategy of the United Nations for the Third Development Decade gives priority to Agriculture and Food. The corresponding indication is to be found in paras 81-95 of document C 83/21. Furthermore, para. 28 of the document points out quite clearly, that hunger and undernourishment are to be eradicated as soon as possible.

Similarly, my delegation feels that the FAO should play a determining part in the preparation of a New International Economic Order.

With regard to the extensive and interesting document C 83/22 the Austrian delegation wishes to note that it supports and agrees with the statements it contains, as the proposed national and regional measures and strategies will contribute to achieving the desired progress in the developing countries.

In implementing the International Development Strategy for the Third Development Decade we feel that the FAO, with its remarkable teams of experts and the existing worldwide facilities, should be granted a leading role in the areas of agriculture, food, forestry and fisheries. The Austrian Federal Minister for Agriculture and Forestry already clearly pointed out this important task of the FAO when making the basic statement on behalf of Austria at the Plenary meeting of the Conference.**

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias señores, si no hay ningún comentario u observación me permitiré intentar un resumen de nuestros debates sostenidos en el día de hoy en torno al tema 7 y sus respectivos subtemas en torno al Reajuste Agrícolas Internacional y la revisión y actualización de las orientaciones respectivas.

Hago esto con el conocimiento de que los énfasis que ponga y las indicaciones que haga, deberán exclusivamente ser eso: indicaciones, para que el Comité de Redacción se vea facilitado en sus trabajos. Se confirmó por parte de muchas delegaciones que el Reajuste Agrícola Internacional y sus orientaciones daban un marco normativo internacional para evaluar los cambios en la agricultura y la alimentación, y para inducir voluntad política y acciones entre países desarrollados y en desarrollo.

* Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa.

** Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

Se constituyó la interdependencia de la agricultura y la situación económica mundial constató que todo esfuerzo en el sentido de las orientaciones dependía también de las correcciones en el orden Económico Internacional vigente.

Se expresó pesar porque las medidas derivadas de las 11 orientaciones aprobadas en 1975 han tenido un avance lento y desigual entre los países del mundo.

Algunas delegaciones mencionaron que ciertos países desarrollados han adoptado una actitud por lo general negativa para promover estas orientaciones y que directa o indirectamente han influido en el deterioro de las condiciones de los países en desarrollo y han prolongado la crisis y las condiciones de los mercados internacionales.

Se solicitó en consecuencia que se reiterara la buena voluntad y se solicitó a la FAO mantener en alto la conciencia sobre el reto que el reajuste agrícola internacional implica y la necesidad de hacerlo trascender de manera efectiva a todas las conciencias del mundo.

Se destacó que los esfuerzos de seguridad alimentaria y aquellos contenidos en las orientaciones forman parte de la misma realidad y el mismo deber de congruencia.

En relación a la orientación 1, varias delegaciones hicieron referencia a los avances de sus naciones para aumentar la producción. Se ratificó que aunque la producción en general aumentó su distribución empeoró, afectando particularmente a Africa. Las tasas de crecimiento deseables del 4 por ciento no se alcanzaron salvo en pocos países. Se insistió en que la problemática de Africa era crítica porque en muchos casos la situación nacional e internacional no le daba salidas estructurales a sus problemas, sino tan sólo paliativos circunstanciales para evitar el colapso.

Se confirmó que debían hacerse esfuerzos a nivel nacional con la ayuda y cooperación internacional para alcanzar la autosuficiencia y aumentar la producción anual en un 4 por ciento como mínimo. Algunos de los países insistieron en incluir la frase: "promover el establecimiento de un Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional" dentro del texto de esta orientación 1, aunque otros dijeron que ella no era una aportación importante porque el RAI es por sí mismo un elemento de orden económico internacional, y solicitaron que no se agregara o eventualmente se hiciera referencia sólo al orden económico internacional.

Sobre la orientación 2, se expresó preocupación por la reducción del gasto publico, los proyectos y la inversión en general dedicada a la agricultura, así como la reducción de tierras cultivadas y la aplicación de insumos agrícolas, principalmente los fertilizantes que se habían reducido. Se puso énfasis en la necesidad de un compromiso y voluntad política mayor de parte de los gobiernos de todo el mundo, particularmente de los países en desarrollo, para aumentar el flujo de recursos al desarrollo agrícola y alimentario, principalmente en el sur.

Asimismo, que se integraran políticas de investigación, crédito agrícola y extensionismo, y se tratara adecuadamente los problemas ecológicos. Se solicitó a la comunidad internacional hacer mas accesibles los insumos para el desarrollo agrícola y el financiamiento agrícola respectivo. En relación a la orientación 3 varios países insistieron en la importancia que tienen los precios y su estabilidad como estímulo para el agricultor y el alza de sus ingresos; mayor asistencia a los pequeños agricultores debe ser un objetivo primordial.

Sin embargo, se solicitó también prudencia y que se recordara que apoyos había pocos, a través de insumos resulta muchas veces más estimulante para el ingreso sobre todo en la población de bajos recursos.

Se mencionó que deberían compatibilizarse precios estimulantes a productores, con la protección adecuada al poder adquisitivo de los consumidores principalmente de bajos ingresos. Se puso énfasis en que la pobreza es causa del hambre y que esfuerzos de equidad, desarrollo rural y reforma agraria, es decir acceso a los recursos económicos, a tierras y a alimentos, deberían ser prioritarios para los gobiernos de países en desarrollo.

Una delegación levantó las reservas que tenía sobre esta orientación.

Sobre la orientación 4, se confirmó que las políticas nacionales debían dirigirse a un desarrollo rural integral y a una mayor participación de la población rural, principalmente de la mujer en términos de igualdad. Se solicitó a la FAO ampliara su asistencia en proyectos de desarrollo rural y agrícola y que la mujer quedara, en todo caso, incorporada en tales proyectos.

La delegación que había mantenido reservas sobre esta orientación, las retiró.

Sobre la orientación 5, la mayoría de los países acordaron que la pobreza es la causa principal del hambre y la importancia de políticas nutricionales integradas a esfuerzos productivos y distributivos que suplementan niveles calóricos adecuados. Se reconoció que hubo avance, pero desigual, y se solicitó que se precisaran metas de avance nutricional, así como una mejor evaluación de dicho avance.

Se reiteró que el grupo vulnerable, y por tanto objetivo, eran los niños y madres en período de lactancia y embarazo.

Se llamo la atención sobre la deformación de los hábitos de consumo y la influencia negativa de buena parte de la publicidad, así como de la ingerencia indeseable pero condicionadora de las empresas transnacionales, y se solicitó mayor examen sobre las causas estructurales de la malnutrición.

Se solicitó se avanzara sistemáticamente en la reducción de pérdidas poscosecha y de desperdicios alimentarios, y se adecuaran los indicadores al respecto.

Se cuestionó el impacto efectivo de suministros subvencionados y se mencionó la utilidad de programas de alimentos por trabajo.

Se recordó la estrecha interdependencia entre los problemas de balanza de pagos, mayor deuda externa, altas tasas de interés, menores precios relativos de las exportaciones de los países en desarrollo, y el desarrollo agrícola y alimentario deseable.

Se reiteró la inconveniencia de la mayor dependencia de crecientes importaciones de alimentos frente al debilitamiento de las exportaciones.

Sobre la orientación 7, se confirmó que no había avances en la reducción de las barreras arancelarias y no arancelarias y que las exportaciones agrícolas de los países en desarrollo estaban estancadas o habían declinado, comprometiendo así la disponibilidad de divisas. La recesión había exacerbado esta situación.

La ausencia de acuerdos o convenios internacionales sobre cereales, y particularmente el trigo, obstaculizaban los avances hacia una mayor seguridad alimentaria.

Se destacó que no existían importantes avances en los órganos del GATT y la UNCTAD que justificaran revisar la redacción de esta orientación.

Sobre la orientación 8, se indicó que el avance en seguridad alimentaria depende no sólo de esfuerzos productivos y distributivos internos, sino de la disponibilidad y acceso a los alimentos en los mercados mundiales y de la colaboración efectiva y equitativa de las exportaciones de los países en desarrollo.

Dedicar cereales secundarios al ganado y no a la alimentación de la mayoría de los hombres atenta contra la seguridad alimentaria.

Se expresó alarma y rechazo por la concentración peligrosa y costosa de existencias en muy pocos países, por lo que se puso énfasis en distribuir la capacidad de almacenamiento en lugares estratégicos y seguros.

Sobre la orientación 9, se subrayó que no puede comprarse sin vender, y que debe superarse el círculo vicioso que se ha establecido en esta crisis en cuanto a menor capacidad de importación, debido a menores divisas, menor posibilidad de endeudamiento, altas tasas de interés, mayor servicio de la deuda y sobre todo, menor valor de las exportaciones y menor volumen de ellas y por tanto mayor posibilidad de aumento a la producción interna.

Se hizo referencia también al preocupante deterioro de los términos de intercambio y, en consecuencia, al todavía más angustioso acceso a las divisas.

La ayuda alimentaria debe ser estímulo al desarrollo y no condición de dependencia. Por eso se expresó que dados los respectivos montos de ayuda son y serían insuficientes si no los ampliamos.

Se puso énfasis en un mayor comercio interregional y en la necesidad de una mayor cooperación internacional técnica y económica.

Varias delegaciones expresaron que los compromisos de ayuda alimentaria han estado por arriba de su cumplimiento efectivo y por debajo de las necesidades reales, y también más en condiciones de favor más de tipo bilateral que multilateral.

Se subrayó que la ayuda internacional no debía considerarse como el factor más relevante de la seguridad alimentaria sino que lo eficaz es el esfuerzo productivo y distributivo de los recursos e ingresos.

Sobre la orientación 10, se advirtió que la RAI no había hecho importantes progresos. Se dijo que la meta de 500 000 toneladas no se había alcanzado, y que por sí misma es insuficiente.

Algunas delegaciones, sin embargo, señalaron que primero debe intentarse el cumplimiento de tal objetivo de las 500 000 toneladas, y posteriormente plantear una ampliación de sus metas.

Se recalcó que frente al estancamiento sufrido estos últimos años debían transferirse recursos adicionales para alcanzar los 10 millones de toneladas de cereales al año, aunque se insistió en que el objetivo debiera ser llegar a 20 millones de toneladas, dadas las reconocidas necesidades que para 1985 había planteado el CPA.

Esto se solicitó que debiera establecerse en el texto de la orientación correspondiente.

Se coincidió en que la ayuda debiera dirigirse a los países de bajos ingresos, particularmente de África.

Se confirmó la pertinencia de mayor asistencia a éstos de fuentes de financiación bilateral y multilateral.

Finalmente, Sres. Delegados, la trascendencia de estas deliberaciones deberá ser recogida por la Secretaría de la FAO para su respectiva contribución a la revisión y valoración de la estrategia internacional de desarrollo, que se llevará a cabo en la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas el próximo año.

Y ahora, Sres. Delegados, les informo que el Grupo de Contacto debe constituirse, si así lo tiene a bien, lo más pronto posible, de acuerdo con la sugerencia de la Delegación de Yugoslavia.

El Grupo estará constituido por las Delegaciones de Camerún, Colombia, Francia - que incluye la Comunidad Económica Europea -, Japón, Nueva Zelandia, Noruega, Filipinas y Yugoslavia.

Solicito de los miembros del Grupo que, si lo estiman oportuno, discutan tanto las modificaciones aquí propuestas o planteadas en torno a las orientaciones revisadas y actualizadas, como el texto del proyecto de resolución sobre reajuste agrícola internacional notificado el día de hoy por la mañana, y si lo aprueba así el Comité de Resoluciones.

El Grupo de Contacto podría reunirse el día de mañana por la noche después de la sesión de la Comisión I, y en virtud de lo que resuelva el Comité de Resoluciones.

Por otra parte, Sres. Delegados, el Comité de Redacción se reunirá hoy a las 8.00 horas en el Salón de Alemania.

Tiene la palabra la Delegación de Canadá.

M. GIFFORD (Canada): For an institution that prides itself on geographical representation, as I understand it, I notice that North America was conspicuous by its absence in the enumeration of the Contact Group. I wonder if you could elaborate on what your plans are in that respect.

El PRESIDENTE: Aseguro al Delegado del Canadá que no hubo ninguna complicidad en eso, y por supuesto, el Grupo de Contacto sin duda acogerá a la Delegado de Canadá con mucho gusto.

¿Alguna otra delegación desea hacer comentarios?

Compruebo que no y levanto la sesión número 8 de los Trabajos de esta Comisión I, y les suplico que nos veamos el día de mañana para tratar el tema 8 de nuestra Agenda.

The meeting rose at 17.40 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 40

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.40 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/I/PV/9

C

Twenty-second-Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt-deuxième session
COMMISSION I

22° período de sesiones
COMISION I

NINTH MEETING NEUVIEME SEANCE NOVENA SESION

(15 November 1983)

The Ninth Meeting was opened at 09.55 hours

José Ramón López-Portillo, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La neuvième séance est ouverte à 9 h 55, sous la présidence
de José Ramón López-Portillo, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la novena sesión a las 09.55 horas, bajo la presidencia de
José Ramón López-Portillo, Presidente de la Comisión I

EL PRESIDENTE: Antes de entrar en el tema que nos concierne en este día, deseo hacer algunas notificaciones: en primer lugar, que la delegación de Panamá y la delegación de Austria no pudieron hacer su declaración durante la octava sesión de trabajo del día de ayer, en relación al Reajuste Agrícola Internacional.

Asimismo, quiero hacer de su conocimiento que por omisión no se mencionó la inclusión de una declaración que por escrito entregó la delegación de Austria a la Secretaría con respecto al tema 6.2 de nuestra Agenda sobre seguridad alimentaria. Por tanto, dichas declaraciones están siendo tomadas en cuenta en el verbatim y para los efectos del informe de esa Comisión.

En segundo lugar, en el documento C 83/LIM/14 se informa detalladamente sobre la elección de los miembros del Consejo, prevista para el lunes 21 de noviembre. Las candidaturas se recibirán hasta las 18 horas del día de hoy, martes 15 de noviembre de 1983, en la Oficina del Secretario General de la Conferencia y del Consejo, despacho B-202. Los formularios de candidaturas figuran como apéndice del documento C 83/LIM/14.

Todas las candidaturas que se presenten deberán ser llenadas y firmadas por el delegado del país candidato a miembro del Consejo y por dos de las delegaciones que lo presentan, que no tendrán que pertenecer necesariamente a la misma región del país candidato.

De conformidad con el artículo XII-10 párrafo (g) del Reglamento General de la Organización "Los candidatos que no triunfen en la elección -y estoy citando- para llenar la vacante o vacantes que se produzcan en el primer año civil se incluirán entre los que se presenten a la elección para la vacante o vacantes que se produzcan al final del segundo año civil, a menos que voluntariamente retiren su candidatura".

El tercer anuncio es que el Grupo de Contacto para la formulación del proyecto de relación sobre seguridad alimentaria deberá continuar trabajando hoy, a partir de las 10 horas en la sala Alemania.

El Grupo de Contacto sobre resolución y eventuales modificaciones a las orientaciones del Reajuste Agrícola Internacional deberá reunirse a las 15.30 horas del día de hoy, también en la sala Alemania.

Les notifico que la delegación de Austria se ha adicionado a tal Grupo de Contacto.

El Comité de Redacción, en su segunda sesión, deberá trabajar hoy a partir de las 18 horas, también en la sala Alemania, pero con el propósito de permitir que dicho Comité continúe y termine su revisión del borrador sobre el informe de los temas 6.1 y 6.2 en torno a la situación agrícola alimentaria y seguridad alimentaria mundial. Se han hecho los arreglos pertinentes para que dicho Comité continúe sus trabajos hasta las 24 horas del día de hoy y esperamos avances, de otra manera tendremos que programar para el día de mañana el que se puedan quedar hasta más tarde, en las horas de la noche.

Señores, pasemos ahora al punto 8 de nuestra Agenda "Los alimentos y la población", el documento para este tema es el C 83/18. El principal objetivo de este punto de la Agenda es llamar la atención de los gobiernos miembros sobre los principales resultados de un estudio recientemente llevado a cabo por la FAO sobre este tema en colaboración con el Instituto Internacional para Análisis de Sistemas Aplicados, IIASA, y con el apoyo del Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para Actividades en Materia de Población, el FNUAP.

Invito ahora al señor Bommer para que haga la presentación de este tema.

I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)

I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE
(suite)

I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLÍTICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION
(continuación)

8. Food and Population

8. Alimentation et population

8. Los alimentos y la población

D.F.R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): Mr Chairman, I am pleased to introduce to you on behalf of the Director-General, Conference document C 83/18, Land, Food and Population. The balance between land, food and population is one of the major preoccupations of humanity at the present time and it is my privilege to report to the Conference some recent FAO activities which shed new light on these issues.

In particular, I shall be referring to two studies, namely, our regional agro-ecological zone study and our regional potential population supporting capacities study; Conference's debate and advice on possible national follow-up action to the latter is sought.

A basic theme in these two activities is that the ability of land to produce is limited and any attempt to produce food in excess of these limits results in a vicious cycle of degradation and ever-reducing yields. Without food imports, in such a situation malnutrition and hunger inevitably occur. Limits to production are set by soil conditions, climatic conditions and the use and management applied to land.

Accordingly, in attempting to quantify potential productivity and potential food production, it is necessary first to define the use being considered. Is the assessment for productivity of wheat or productivity of rice? Are we talking about rainfed conditions or irrigated conditions? Are we considering production under mechanization or with unimproved handtools? Most importantly, are we quantifying potential productivity under a low-input level or with application with a high-input level? Equally important, are we attempting to quantify long-term production potentials with conservation measures or without? For our potential population supporting capacity study, we have considered three input-levels, namely: a low-input level with a currently grown mixture of crops; no fertilizers; no application for pest, disease or weed control; no conservation measures and manual labour with handtools; an intermediate level with a half optimum mixture of crops and improved varieties, some fertilizers, some pest disease and weed control, some conservation measures, and manual labour with improved handtools or animal traction with improved implements; a high-input level with an optimum mixture of crops and high yielding varieties; optimum fertilizer use, optimum pest, disease and weed control; complete conservation measures, and mechanization.

Having defined the input levels being considered, our assessment has taken account of soil conditions, by using our FAO soil map, as presented to the Twentieth session of the Conference.

On this we have superimposed a specially created climatic inventory quantifying the length of the moisture available period and the temperature regime during this period, as illustrated here for Africa. The divisions on the map are the number of days when moisture is sufficient for crop growth and they range from zero days to 365 days, at 30-day intervals. It is of interest to note that one-third of the continent is unsuitable for rainfed crop production.

Overlay of the climatic inventory on the soil map resulted in a mosaic of tens of thousands of land units, each with their own unique soil and climatic conditions and led to the computerized resource data base created by the study and now available for many developing countries.

This quantifies the extent of the different soils in the different climates in 117 countries in the developing world as partly illustrated here for one country. This resource inventory is the basis of our work in this subject area and from it the potential yield of major food crops has been calculated for each land unit. Inherent in this methodology for the study is an initial determination of agro-climatic suitabilities for different crops, as illustrated on the slide for low-inputs for millet. The dark green is very suitable, light green is suitable, yellow is marginally suitable. The same colour codes apply to the following low-input agro-climatic suitability for maize, cassava, and wheat.

This data allows calculation of the total extent of potentially cultivable land, compared here with extents of presently cultivated areas by regions, as well as the extent of individual crop suitabilities, some of which are presented here for selected crops in Africa. You will note that the area suitable for maize is extensive (424 million ha) but the area suitable for wheat is small (38 million ha).

Such basic data from our agro-ecological zone project allowed us to calculate, with the support of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, the optimum potential food production and, hence, the potential population supporting capacities of the various zones identified in the agro-ecological zone study. However, before proceeding to the results of our potential population supporting capacity study, I must point out certain factors that this study could not consider at the regional level. The study only considered potentials for production of sixteen main food crops, and grassland for livestock. The sixteen crops are: rice, wheat, maize, barley, millet, sorghum, phaseolus bean, soybean, oil palm, ground-nut, cassava, sweet potato, white potato, banana/plantain, sugar cane, grassland.

The study did not quantify fish production, cash crops, nor fully account for fuelwood requirements or timber requirements, and neither did it deal with specialized crops and techniques such as intergrazing under tree crops, which might be more productive in specific environments than the sixteen food crops and three input levels considered. Additionally, it did not assume major land improvements such as flood control measures, and other major land improvements such as this development of terraced land in an otherwise unproductive environment. While we could also not assess ultimate irrigation potential, we have taken into account estimates of the present production from irrigated lands and the anticipated production by the year 2 000, as analysed in FAO's "Toward 2 000 Study".

The smallest unit of analysis in the population potential study is the individual country length of growing period zone. If the results from the individual zones are aggregated on a regional basis, it depicts the situation of a region acting as one entity with massive and unrestricted movement of surplus potential and labour throughout the entire extent of the region. Under this extreme assumption, the results appear particularly favourable and show that all regions, except Southwest Asia, have ample potentially cultivable land to feed future populations even at the low-input level.

The ratios of these regional supporting capacities to projected population requirements are as follows: that is, if Africa were able to use all its cultivable land for food crop production, it could feed 1.5 times its projected year 2 000 population.

At the other end of the spectrum, namely each one of the many individual zones within a given country attempting to attain food self-sufficiency from its own land resources, the situation is drastically different.

Under this equally extreme assumption, there are vast areas of critical zones where land resources are already insufficient to meet the food needs of populations presently living in them. Under the low-input level, Africa represents the most serious challenge, for critical zones extend right throughout almost the whole of the Sahel through Southern Sudan into the drier parts of Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania, the highlands of Rwanda and Burundi, and into the drier parts of Southern Africa. Large parts of Southwest Asia and India are critical under this assumption, as are highlands in South America, and the Island of Java, the area involved is no less than 2.5 billion hectares where more than 1 billion people, one-quarter of the total world population, are living at the present time.

Under an intermediate-input level, the extent of these critical zones reduces markedly but large parts of semi-arid Africa and Southwest Asia remain critical and stay so even under high levels of inputs. As I said these two sets of results are extremes, regional aggregation and disaggregation to individual zone level.

A more practical guide to the true impact of the problem is provided by the results aggregated to the country level, that is the assumption of movement of surplus within individual countries.

These results show that, if low-input levels would dominate by year 2 000, 65 countries could not feed themselves from their domestic land resources.

Increasing the level of input is vital to reducing the number of critical countries by that year, but even at intermediate level of input, the study assesses that 37 countries, with a total population of 480 million, would remain in a critical situation by that year.

The importance of attainment of projected expansions in irrigated area, and production therefrom cannot be over-emphasized. The anticipated contribution of irrigation production to total production potential by the year 2 000 is as follows: these results show that, by that year, no less than 50 percent of the total potential, under low-input level, will be from irrigation. Regional figures varying from an exceptional high of nearly 90 percent in Southwest Asia to a low of 13 percent in the dominantly high rainfall South America region.

Equally important is the need for conservation measures by that year. The assessment shows that no less than 29 percent of the total rainfed crop potential could be lost in the developing world if soil conservation measures are not introduced.

While the findings of the Study are the results of a very broad brush assessment, they do bring to light some important considerations in the land, food and population issue, namely:

- that land resources and their potentials are very unevenly distributed both within and between countries;
- that there are very considerable areas where land resources are insufficient to meet the food needs of populations presently, and projected to be, dependent on them by the end of this century.

Such factors must be taken into account in considering food/population and development issues.

You will recognize that land is by no means the only factor to be considered in the complex food/ population issue. However, we do feel that it is a vital prerequisite to quantify its potential at country level, to provide a reliable physical resource base on which all other equally important factors can be superimposed. Without such a base, we have little hope of success in identifying and planning future development options.

I believe we have a great responsibility to catalyze detailed national studies on land to quantify potential vis-à-vis population requirements. Such studies, however, must take into account factors which it has not been possible to consider in the presently reported regional studies.

In conclusion, please allow me to repeat that the concept of land and its potential to produce or not produce, is in our opinion, one of the vital components of the food and population issue. We look forward to Conference debate and advice in an effort to safeguard the future. The future for this couple, of these young people, and of these children.

EL PRESIDENTE: En nombre de la Comisión y en el mío propio, agradezco al Dr. Bommer su excelente, interesante y bien ilustrada presentación.

Antes de darles la palabra a los Sres. Delegados, deseo hacer unos breves comentarios.

El estudio aquí presentado está íntimamente ligado a otros temas de las discusiones de esta Comisión, y también evidentemente a los de otros Organismos. Presenta otra manera de ver una misma realidad y sus posibles perspectivas.

El trabajo busca ilustrar más que normar, y las conclusiones que de él saquemos nos permitirán sin duda indicarle a la FAO a qué darle atención en futuras ampliaciones del estudio y cómo incorporar esas consideraciones en sus labores.

Nos permitirá también confirmar prioridades y estrategias a largo plazo y verificar que el futuro lo estamos diseñando ahora nosotros y que de nuestras decisiones, acciones y buena voluntad, dependerá que esa visión de futuro sea catastrófica o positiva y superable.

Nosotros determinamos la realidad y no a la inversa. De ahí la necesidad de identificar los responsables del futuro y las acciones prioritarias.

Los factores y zonas críticas están reconocidos. Debemos considerar sus cuantificaciones en el diseño de estrategias de desarrollo nacional e internacional.

La incorporación más congruente y efectiva de la Seguridad Alimentaria a todos los niveles resulta indispensable, así como la atención a las orientaciones del reajuste agrícola internacional que ayer debatimos. Sin embargo, mayores estudios, más amplia metodología y detalles se requieren.

FAO podría, dentro de sus funciones, responder a ello y contribuir a mejorar la planificación y administración en la utilización de tierras y tecnologías. Ojalá podamos incorporar pleno consenso en el reporte de la Conferencia en torno a este tema.

Les pido por tanto, Sres. Delegados, que limiten su discusión al contenido del documento y traten de evitar los detalles y las sutilezas técnicas que nos puedan perder.

Buscamos un gran balance educativo más que una acción normativa.

Si no hay ningún comentario de parte de los Sres. Delegados, desearía proceder a otorgarles la palabra para que manifiesten sus comentarios sobre el tema.

Parece que la Delegación de Cabo Verde desea hablar.

A.R. PIRES (Cap-Vert): Je vous remercie de m'avoir accordé la parole. Comme vous le savez la situation alimentaire en Afrique, et plus particulièrement dans les 22 pays de l'Equipe spéciale FAO/PAM constituée par le Directeur général de la FAO, est très grave. Etant donné le rôle que notre Organisation a joué, que la FAO a joué, mon pays, la République du Cap-Vert, au nom des pays concernés, a l'honneur de vous proposer un Projet de résolution que je vous remets. Cette Résolution a été parrainée par d'autres pays qui vont prendre la parole et qui sont les pays suivants: Cameroun, Kenya, Mauritanie, Mali, Bénin et Angola.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿La Delegación de Cabo Verde me está proponiendo que cada uno de estos delegados tome la palabra?

¿La Delegación de Camerún desea hacer uso de la palabra?

A.G. NGONGI NAMANGA (Cameroon): I just wish to take the floor to say Cameroon will be very happy to associate itself with this Resolution. We have discussed in many different commissions and committees the serious problems which are occurring in Africa. I think this resolution deserves study by the Resolutions Committee.

EL PRESIDENTE: Tomamos debida nota, Sr. Delegado del Camerún, y les agradecemos la entrega del Proyecto de Resolución.

A.S. OULD MOLOUD (Mauritanie): C'est tout simplement pour dire que je soutiens énergiquement la Résolution et la proposition présentées par le Cap-Vert. Vue la situation actuelle des pays au sud du Sahara et surtout compte tenu du fait que la campagne cette année a été l'une des plus catastrophiques, nous demandons par conséquent à cette assemblée de bien vouloir examiner cette Résolution.

H.P.A. SENHOR (Sénégal): Je voudrais simplement ajouter que le Sénégal soutient cette Résolution proposée par le délégué du Cap-Vert.

M. DIALLO (Mali): La Délégation malienne à son tour est très heureuse de s'associer à ce projet de résolution qui va certainement traiter d'un sujet très important.

Le représentant du Cap-Vert l'a dit, l'alimentation, la population et les terres constituent de nos jours un sujet préoccupant. Sur ce point la délégation malienne tient à proposer à cette Commission de bien vouloir soutenir ce projet de résolution.

N.E. MUMBA (Zambia): I wish to say that the Zambian delegation wants to associate itself with this particular Resolution. We believe it is very important, especially for Africa.

M. FENWICK (United States of America): I would be happy to comment on the Cape Verde Resolution if we could see a copy. I have received no copy and none of my colleagues here have received a copy. I do not like to be left out. My country, I am sure, would be happy to comment if we could see a copy of the Resolution. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

EL PRESIDENTE: Ahora lo que están haciendo estos países es notificar a esta Presidencia el que desean gestionar un Proyecto de Resolución en torno al tema que les preocupa. Este Proyecto de Resolución deberá pasar primero por la revisión que el Comité de Resoluciones haga, y posteriormente, se entregará y distribuirá en todos los idiomas el Proyecto de Resolución como lo haya determinado dicho Comité de Resoluciones.

En el caso de que hubiera comentarios en torno a dicho Proyecto, esta Comisión podría constituir, eventualmente, un grupo de contacto para tratar esos comentarios.

Por lo pronto, debemos esperar 24 horas para poder contar con tal Proyecto de Resolución; les agradezco su paciencia.

¿Hay algún otro comentario? Si no lo hay, les ofrezco la palabra en relación al tema que nos ocupa el día de hoy. Me estoy refiriendo ahora a las declaraciones ya de tipo general, en relación a este tema 8 de nuestra agenda. ¿Hay alguna otra delegación que desea hacer uso de la palabra, además de la delegación de Viet Nam? Primero, los Estados Unidos de América; luego tenemos a México, Australia, Malasia, Reino Unido, Suiza, República Federal de Alemania, Pakistán, China, Camerún, Cuba, Países Bajos.

DUONG PHUNGF (Viet Nam): Plusieurs chefs de délégation, en séance plénière, ont abordé le problème du rapport entre l'accroissement de la production alimentaire et celui de la population. Notre pays connaît ce même problème et nous voudrions ici souligner l'importance d'un double effort pour l'impulsion de la production et la limitation des naissances.

Depuis 1975, après la libération et la réunification de notre pays, notre gouvernement ne cesse de donner une priorité soutenue à la production alimentaire et a mobilisé toute la population dans cette lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition pour arriver à l'autosuffisance alimentaire. Mais les difficultés sont grandes: calamités naturelles, manque d'infrastructures, manque d'intrants, et, en outre, nous devons continuellement lutter contre une guerre de sabotage et un blocus économique. Cependant, coûte que coûte nous devons relever le défi de l'autosuffisance alimentaire en stimulant la production agricole de pair avec le mouvement de réduction du taux de naissances.

Partant de 13,5 millions de tonnes de paddy en 1976, nous avons atteint en 1982 16,6 millions de tonnes et nous pourrions avoir 17 millions de tonnes cette année si les typhons de fin d'année ne causaient pas trop de dégâts.

Durant la période 1976 à 1982, la production alimentaire de notre pays a atteint un taux d'accroissement moyen de 3,5 pour cent et ce taux s'est élevé à six pour cent de 1981 à 1982. Nous avons pu diminuer progressivement l'importation des céréales. Si elle était de 2,1 millions de tonnes en équivalent paddy en 1979, elle est presque nulle cette année.

De pair avec la priorité donnée à la production alimentaire, nous avons déclenché un vaste mouvement de mobilisation de la population pour le planning familial. En 1976, nous avions 49,16 millions d'habitants et le taux de croissance démographique annuelle était de 3,2 pour cent. En 1982, la population a atteint 56,2 millions, la croissance annuelle était réduite à 2,2 pour cent. Nous avons pu en l'espace de six ans diminuer le taux d'accroissement démographique de un pour cent. Dans cette lutte pour l'autosuffisance vivrière, nous avons procédé à une nouvelle répartition géographique de la population. Presque un million d'habitants partent des régions où la densité est trop élevée (comme dans les provinces surpeuplées du fleuve Rouge et dans les villes et chefs-lieux) pour aller dans différentes régions du pays où la densité est moindre et où la terre cultivable est encore en disponibilité. Ainsi de nouvelles régions économiques sont formées. Nous avons défriché de nouvelles terres et réexploité des terres laissées en friche durant de longues années de guerre et nous avons aussi augmenté la superficie mise en culture de plus de 700 000 hectares.

La possibilité de défrichement et d'élargissement des terres cultivables est encore grande dans notre pays. Avec une coopération internationale plus efficace nous pourrions réaliser des résultats meilleurs.

Les premiers résultats de cette longue et patiente lutte pour l'autosuffisance alimentaire dans notre pays sont encourageants mais il nous reste énormément à faire. La production, la consommation, le revenu annuel par habitant sont encore faibles par rapport à beaucoup d'autres pays. Il nous manque une infrastructure adéquate, des bases matérielles techniques qui sont indispensables pour l'accroissement rapide de la population; d'autre part, faute de moyens de conservation, de stockage, de transport, d'usinage, les pertes après récolte sont encore grandes.

Nous souhaiterions bien avoir une coopération et une aide internationale multilatérale ou bilatérale dans cette ardente lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition.

M. FENWICK (United States of America): First, I would like to congratulate the Secretariat on the Report and the whole philosophy that has infused it. The photographs, the analysis of the land - and I hope that you will forgive me a little personal note here: those satellite photographs were developed in my district, my old Congressional district, my little home district, and made available to our National Aviation and Space Agency, which in turn made them available to FAO. I think it is one of this world.

And this remarkable emphasis on land, land and water; how can we live without them if we do not understand the nature of soil, its biology and construction and its use?

In that I would like to say that I think my country and many other countries have a lot to learn. We saw those photographs of this beautiful terracing. Is that done everywhere? I am sorry to say it is not. It is a method that has not been developed by some professors in faraway universities. It is something that the people who live on the land have evolved with common sense.

This brings me back to something that I do most profoundly believe. We say and the survey of the FAO Report shows these enormous numbers of nations at risk, human beings. What are we talking about when we say "nations at risk"? Human beings. Dr Bommer has just told us there are 447 million people at risk, human beings, and what methods can be devised to minimize this risk?

Commonsense must come in here, as well as technology. We cannot ignore the advice of farmers who have lived on the land and have worked it, neither can we ignore the advice of those who have produced more in other places in somewhat different ways. But we must respect those with whom we deal. We have proved in our own country that if you have a plan, no matter how beautifully devised, every professor will tell you that this is what we shall do, but if the people who are going to implement it are not convinced, it will not work. If they do not think it is sensible, if you cannot persuade them, if you cannot somehow cooperate with people in a more brotherly and humble way, respecting them, you will not get things to work. You will have a little improvement while the money still comes, and then it will die down when the money inevitably, some decades from now, may die down also.

We must have a more rational, sensible and human approach to the problem. It is not going to be easy, and no one pretends that it will be, but I think this report is a wonderful first step. It begins to tell us the truth.

When we are talking about food and agriculture, we have to consider population increases, too. We have to notice that in many, many countries of Asia these remarkable improvements have been made in keeping the food production level and the population level more or less even. But we notice with horror and alarm where the population rises but production does not begin to keep pace with the population rise, and in fact in some cases falls, not just per capita but absolutely.

These are the elements that make a tragedy inevitable unless somehow we move with a little more zeal, earnestness, concern and caring commonsense. Those, Mr Chairman, are what I hope to see.

I hope to see those elements that work; some interest. We must offer family planning services wherever people are interested, and try to interest them in, the most generous and offering way, certainly not with any kind of compulsion. We must respect other people's views, moral, religious, ethical and historic. But it can be offered in a brotherly, sisterly spirit of cooperation. To neglect to do so would be, in my opinion, an absolutely cruel thing to do, cruel and unnecessary. It does not have to be something that is imposed, but surely it can be offered. Its virtues and its benefits can be made known. We spoke yesterday of a country in Africa where the birth rate used to be 4.4 percent and is now 2.2 percent and what has happened to their very poorest people. The very poorest people are now reduced from 73 percent of the population to 21 percent. You can achieve improvement if the government cares, if the world cares, if the commonsense is applied to the problems.

G. PEREZ MORENO (México): Queremos iniciar nuestra intervención, felicitando atentamente, a la Secretaría por el excelente estudio que ha elaborado, así como al Sr. Bommer, por la amena exposición del mismo. Se trata de un interesante esfuerzo por vincular la población, la tierra y los insumos en la determinación de la capacidad mundial de producción de alimentos.

Consideramos a este documento valioso pues contribuye a desmistificar la visión apocalíptica del mundo y de la agricultura en el año 2000. Tal pesimismo ha hecho daño a la humanidad al culpabilizar las limitaciones de nuestro planeta de las insuficiencias alimentarias, convirtiéndonos en víctimas de un determinismo falso y engañoso.

Si bien existen muchas condiciones para lograr una producción suficiente de alimentos para la población prevista en el año 2000, este estudio nos devuelve la seguridad de que aún es válido aspirar a llegar con justicia y bienestar al final de este siglo.

En referencia al documento se evalúan las condiciones físicas que influyen el nivel de producción alimentaria, definiéndose así el rendimiento potencial de la producción de alimentos. Para ello, se utilizan tres escenarios: utilización de tecnología moderna, de tecnología intermedia y de tecnología tradicional. Bajo los tres escenarios, los proyectos predicen un rendimiento potencial mundial superior a las necesidades mínimas de energía alimentaria para la población del año 2000. Los excedentes varían de 200 por cien en el caso de uso de tecnología moderna, al 50 por cien con el uso de insumos tradicionales. Se trata, pues, de resultados sin duda alentadores.

Las teorías neomaltusianas nos enfrentan aquí a duras pruebas, pues lejos de preverse escasez de alimentos, el mundo puede disponer de abundantes y excelentes alimentos, suponiendo las tasas de crecimiento demográfico más elevadas. Queremos insistir en que más que sus recursos naturales, la riqueza de un pueblo comienza con su fuerza de trabajo, con sus recursos humanos. De esa forma, naturalmente, los análisis regionales y por países no alimentan tanto optimismo.

La concentración de la producción de alimentos en algunos países explica la prevalencia de insuficiencias alimentarias en 65 países para el año 2000, la mayoría de ellos en la región de Asia sudoccidental. Sin embargo, no podemos dejar de mencionar los alentadores resultados del estudio sobre la región sudamericana quien podrá disponer de recursos suficientes para tener, incluso, considerables excedentes para la exportación. Queremos detenernos, Señor Presidente, unos minutos a considerar las razones que se mencionan en el documento sobre la inequitativa distribución y la disponibilidad de los alimentos entre países y regiones. El grueso de la atención tiende a centrarse en la desigual distribución de los recursos naturales entre países y regiones, dando una importancia sólo secundaria a aspectos tales como la disponibilidad de recursos financieros, el nivel de ingresos o la distribución de los insumos, más aun, la disponibilidad de mano de obra, la tecnología, la reforma agraria y otros son aspectos que ni siquiera se mencionan en el documento, y que forman parte integral de los problemas agrícolas que enfrenta hoy, y con mayor razón en el año 2000, el tercer mundo.

Nos parece que pretender rendir cuentas de la producción alimentaria a partir de la potencialidad agronómica de la tierra significa no reconocer que son condiciones sociales y económicas las que permiten valorizar y aprovechar eficazmente lo que la naturaleza nos ofrece gratuitamente.

En cuanto a los niveles y grados de modernización referidos en el documento quisiéramos solicitar mayores comentarios por parte de la secretaría, ya que existe una larga lista de implicaciones indeseables de todo proceso de modernización y discriminación a ultranza. Las experiencias pasadas son importantes para no repetir errores, y solicitamos por tanto mayor atención a las capacidades nacionales para la autodeterminación tecnológica.

Nuestra delegación desea dar su pleno apoyo a la continuación de este estudio, siempre y cuando se incorporen, de manera orgánica, los factores que anteriormente mencionamos. También creemos que el estudio puede ser de gran y valiosa utilidad si incorpora un análisis específico, por países, con la información y comentarios que puedan utilizarse en los programas nacionales de desarrollo agrícola.

Queremos asimismo, recoger un resultado particularmente valioso del estudio en su fase actual que se refiere a los 65 países que se prevé ho podrán cubrir los requerimientos alimentarios de su población en el año 2000. Lejos de considerarlo un resultado catastrofista, consideramos que si la agricultura no puede ser el pivote de su desarrollo económico, es hoy responsabilidad nuestra el asegurar una gradual reconversión de dichas economías hacia otras actividades que en el futuro rindan los beneficios necesarios para permitirles importar alimentos.

Sólo para terminar, queremos insistir en que los aspectos aquí considerados forman parte de una realidad compleja, y que los resultados obtenidos deben aún relacionarse con otros muchos aspectos que permitan el análisis de la seguridad alimentaria o del Reajuste Agrícola Internacional de forma integral y dinámica.

D. F. SMITH (Australia): Mr Chairman, I should like to congratulate Dr Bommer on the presentation of this paper and the way in which he has so graphically illustrated the world problem. At first glance, this is a very comforting paper because it confirms that the world as a whole- and I stress as a whole-should have enough cultivable land to feed more than the maximum population it is ever likely to have to support. It is also a nice paper in a technical sense. As the delegate from the United States has reminded us, our best technology has gone into its preparation.

We are invited by you, Mr Chairman, to look at the paper as a whole and to look at its methodology, assumptions and limitations. It is when I do that, that I begin to wonder and begin to see real dangers. It is by its own admission "a pioneering first approximation" and it is dangerous for us to start congratulating ourselves and saying that all is well. It is very approximate indeed, with huge margins for error in many directions. We all know that when we begin multiplying several variables, each of which can range over several magnitudes, we are in a dangerous business when life and death depend on it. In the end, I wonder whether the study has much reliability on a global scale, because of the qualifications. Country data can, of course, be produced more reliably, and I would urge FAO to move very quickly onto the stage of looking at country data.

I note that neither China nor Australia are included, and perhaps we would not wish to be. I leave it to the delegate from China to comment on his country, which I admire very much, but in passing would note that a country with a low percentage of arability has fed a very large population by the correct - and I stress the world correct - appropriate level of inputs and the industriousness of its people. I would be interested to know how many it could feed if we applied this technology of mapping to it.

I will comment on my own homeland, Australia, which, as many of you will know, is a desert, a desert island, with a couple of high rainfall corners, generally poor soils and modest rainfall. Its largest river has a discharge of only a small fraction of that of the well known rivers of the world, such as the Ganges, and I am sure that if our forefathers had had the methodology used in this study they would probably have decided not to settle the place in the first instance, and I would remind you, too, that using European technology at the time our ancestors faced starvation for the first 50 years. Yet using our own specifically developed technology to suit those conditions and the right mix of inputs - and here I take note of what the delegate from Mexico said - and with the right sort of farmers today we feed 15 million people extremely well and expect to be able to feed at least 60 million more, and if people will buy our grains we can produce even more again.

Perhaps one of the basic strategies we have used is fundamental because we calculate that 99 percent of our crop and forage area relies on legume nitrogen, not on fertilizer nitrogen. This year possibly we have been given free by nature one billion dollars worth of nitrogen.

I do not propose to work through the paper in detail, but I would question certain assumptions, particularly that of the input packages. In the Plenary Session our Minister also cautioned against high input technology. We must stress the appropriateness of technology, as I have suggested earlier. Secondly, I believe there are some dangerous assumptions about land use as forests competing with crops and pastures. They do compete, and yet the assumption is made in the paper that forest is only to be thought of on land not suitable for crops or pasture.

Thirdly, I would stress that the point made in the paper that quite large areas of land are not suitable for human activity for a variety of reasons, but should be held for the breeding of livestock and other factors. On the positive side - I do not want to be too gloomy - we may have another green revolution. We may crack the secret of nitrogen fixation in legumes and attach it to other crops. Hopefully breakthroughs such as this will mean that this study looks pessimistic rather than optimistic.

Finally, I hope we might begin to make some sense of our food trade policies. Enough people have pleaded for this during the last week here at FAO. I hope that this was not too costly a study, eating into resources which must now urgently be applied to the consequent detailed national studies and to the actions to get agriculture moving in so many desperate situations. There is no room for self-congratulation or complacency, and I hope this study does not encourage it.

M. YASIN bin MOHD SALLEH (Malaysia) : The Malaysian delegation would first like to commend the Director-General for the preparation of a very useful document on the assessment of the potential population supporting capacities of land in the world in comparison with their actual and projected population. Being the first study of its kind, no doubt it contains many issues that will have to be examined in more detail in the future, and we agree with the suggestion that this study should be regarded as the first approximation and that it requires further refinements.

However, we are happy to note that even at its preliminary stage, there are indications that the world still has a large part of unused land, which could be used for food production and even at an intermediate level of input used, the potential production of food is three times that at the low level. While this global figure is indeed promising, there is no doubt, that more detailed national and regional studies are needed to take into account the national and regional factors. It is for this reason that Malaysia is pleased to note that on the basis of the study carried out by FAO, the Director-General proposed to devote more funds in the forthcoming biennium to country level work on land use resources. As an indication of Malaysia's support for this trust, the Government of Malaysia has collaborated with the FAO Regional Office in the preparation of a project document that would lead to country level application of the methodology which has been developed. We are pleased to note that similar initiatives are being undertaken in the member countries of ASEAN raising the possibility of further sub-regional cooperation in the field, in the future. This would, in fact, broaden our already existing cooperative arrangement in the ASEAN population and rural development programme. This programme, where Malaysia plays the leading role in modular training, is now a viable programme and has become a model for sub-regional cooperation.

D.C.P. EVANS (United Kingdom): I will speak generally to this paper, which is a particularly important one. Indeed, our thanks are due to FAO and its collaborators for executing the study and in particular today to Dr Bommer for his statement. Not only does it provide a more reliable assessment of global and regional food production potential than has been available before, but it also reflects the methodology that with refinement can be applied even more valuably at national levels. Therefore, we did encourage FAO to develop its study in this area and to stress the need for future conferences to examine the problem at regular intervals.

The study can also be of importance in helping countries to face up to the limitations of their land resources, and to plan their agricultural and population policies accordingly. This is a new item on the Conference Agenda, and the paper clearly must be read in conjunction with document C 83/2 - The State of Food and Agriculture 1983, which gives a factual account of the current state of play globally.

The issues which seem to emerge from the document and from the previous debate in this Commission are firstly, the problems of distribution, of agricultural land and the indications for development; secondly, the need for agricultural development at a fairly high level, although the consequences of failure to develop to a high level are squarely faced; and thirdly, the need for further national studies of population support capacities. At future conferences and, indeed, at technical meetings, it will clearly be necessary to develop this study to a very much further degree as there is concern about the future beyond the year 2000. Therefore, my delegation fully supports the need for more detailed national studies of potential population supporting capacities.

The FAO Conference should periodically debate this, as I have said. This is particularly important because it is part of the stewardship of FAO, as these studies will have a direct bearing on national and international development strategies and policies.

It is indeed a sobering thought that in recent years many developing countries have been unable to expand food production sufficiently to keep up with population growth. In an increasing number of countries production is falling behind total demand and rising income, as well as rising population. Concern is expressed about this, and must be so expressed. The study identifies 55 critical countries whose potential population supporting capacity at the low level of imports is actually less than for their 1975 populations. Unless a big effort can be put into increasing production outputs in these countries, the future is bleak, especially as other factors such as unfavourable climatic conditions, land degradation and various forms of strife can affect critically the balance of land, food and population with might be achieved in any country.

Therefore, we must thank FAO for this timely warning. We stress the importance of this interim study and the need for further planning along the lines suggested in the third paragraph of page 9. This should be fully endorsed by this Conference. Clearly, there is a need to follow up this line of work at the International Conference on Population which will take place in August 1984. While population growth for many countries is a sensitive issue, it is absolutely essential to face facts as brought out in this document, and the potentially serious situation unless immediate steps are taken to rectify present trends. As we have said already, FAO can play a most useful role in stimulating and assessing national studies of human support capacities, at the same time identifying the areas where basic information on soils, climate, and so on, needs first to be tackled. Such information is critical to the drafting of sound agricultural policies.

In other documentation presented to this meeting, FAO has indicated that as a target for food and agricultural production in developing countries, expansion should take place at an average rate of at least 4 percent to meet the nutritional needs and increasing demands of their population. In the FAO study, AT 2000, FAO estimates the food-aid requirement, except for China, should increase to between 15 million and 25 million tons by 1990. Clearly, this cannot be achieved at the low level of potential productivity or even, probably, at the intermediate level. It is unlikely that many developing countries can satisfactorily raise their potential to the higher levels which we have heard quoted. This presents an enigma to all member countries, whether developing or developed.

H. POPP (Switzerland) (original language German): I should like to join the previous delegations which have already expressed their gratitude to the Director-General for his most valuable document. In particular may I thank Dr Bommer for the clear presentation he made of this report.

My delegation supports FAO in its intention to continue in this direction and in the further revision of this report. In fact, this report is an attempt to deal with one of the central issues facing mankind, namely, how many people our planet can support in the last analysis. This paper considers the question from the regional standpoint. We think this is an important approach because each region should be able to support the food requirements of the population in that region. It is important to know at what point in time there is a break between supply and demand - in other words, when do we have to expect that the population-supporting capacity of the land simply cannot keep pace with the growing population and its requirement for food? It is important to remember that only with a scientific basis such as is provided by this report will it be possible to devise a sound policy. Agrarian policy, resource policies, environmental policies and population policies all require this sort of underpinning.

We believe that this study should provide replies to three kinds of questions and thus contain three sorts of information: first, what are the potentials and the limitations for a given region? Secondly, what will happen if we continue along the lines being pursued now? Thirdly, what conclusions can be drawn from this kind of information?

Another important point which has already been mentioned is that this report takes an optimistic -perhaps an unduly optimistic - view. We welcome the fact that this report demonstrates that the potential exists, it is there. However, the potential must be realized and it is up to us, the Governments to motivate the farm populations and provide them with the inputs they require.

The report also pinpoints the importance of the human factor and human resources. It bears out all those who are convinced that incentives must be given to farmers and they must be given the means of production. This will elicit a positive response on the part of the farmers.

I should like to stress once again the general conclusions which could be drawn, but I think it is probably too early to draw such conclusions, and therefore I would share the view of those who have said that this is just a preliminary approach and we should not be deluded by what we find here. The findings are not deep and extensive enough. A number of different repercussions and consequences are simply not accounted for, in particular in respect of the environment. Also there are some shortcomings in this report concerning population growth figures. It is precisely on this point that the experts are not all in agreement.

So the specific criticism that I would level concerning this document involves what is said in the very first paragraph of the document where we are told that "The world's population is expected eventually to reach a stable level." The paragraph continues, "The most recent United Nations estimate..." and so on, and then, "In this case there would be more than twice as many people to feed as the 1983 population of about 4 700 million." Who has been able to come up with forecasts of this sort? Who can come up with projections to the year 2095, such as we find in the second sentence of this first paragraph? Other experts have come up with other estimates; for example, the Club of Rome, or "Global 2000", tells us that in many countries there are very few indications that the population explosion will taper off. So how can it be stated in black and white in this document that there will be a stabilisation of the world's population at a level of 10.2 billion? This would be at a level twice as large as the present one? Whereas other very liable studies tell us that towards the middle of the next century the population will be three or four times as great as it is at present.

Therefore, we would like to see the analysis of this rather critical and controversial issue being continued with a great deal of caution in respect to population estimates, because otherwise we shall be deluding ourselves. We shall create a certain sense of security which is simply unjustified.

To sum up, we commend the FAO for its study, and congratulations go in particular to the author. We encourage FAO to continue to earmark the resources necessary to continue to refine this kind of investigation. We shall look forward to having more concrete and perhaps more accurate and convincing results at the next conference.

E. SCHRODER (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): First of all I would like to thank the FAO Secretariat and Dr. Bommer in Particular for the excellent introduction at this subject. The presentation with impressive slides has given us a good insight into the complicated and detailed work which was necessary for the preparation of the study. They also gave an insight into the dimension of the problem, and we are all called upon to work towards the solution of it.

My delegation welcomes the studies made by FAO with the support of the UN Population Fund on the relationship between population growth and food potential in the Third World. Despite all the difficulties, problems and possible margins of error such projections contain, they are absolutely necessary for a responsible future-oriented policy. Its benefit is not only information for the countries concerned and for the world-wide international organizations, but also for the political discussion in the developed countries. The study reveals not only that further financial and technical assistance necessary to resolve the growing food problems in developing countries. It also becomes evident that the return to traditional types of farming, as recommended by some ecological groupings in the western industrialized countries - types of farming as they are still widely spread in the subsistence economies of the poorest countries - would drastically aggravate the hunger problem. In the conviction work to be done by governments, so that their policies are accepted and supported by the population, founded arguments are of great importance which such studies supply. Likewise important is the breakdown of the results down to the country level. In larger areas, regions or even continents the aggregated data may easily lead to errors in interpretation. In particular a country-by-country approach reveals the substantial differences between population trend, and long-term food potential also within the Third World. The danger of false interpretations will also be diminished if the assumptions of the extreme scenarios would be nearer to reality.

My delegation is in favour of further work to be done in that important area. It, however, stresses that the Secretariat of the United Nations' Environment Programme, in its proposals for an action programme to implement world land policy, suggests measures in that field. In view of the knowledge and experience existing in FAO as well as the work undertaken in the fields of land, food and population we are in favour of having the work continued in this organization, that means in FAO. We also stated this to UNEP. We suggest that the coordination and cooperation should be improved between FAO and UNEP.

M. AHMAD (Pakistan): Let me start with the statement that the FAO/IIASA/UNFPA Study is really a commendable initiative by FAO, and equally admirable has been the presentation by Dr Bommer of the results of this study, very well illustrated with the slides.

Not only is the study opportune in the context of next year's international conference on population, but also it is most timely from a point of view of decisions to be taken by governments to feed their growing populations less than two decades hence, in view of the immense tasks involved.

The limitations of the study have been well brought out. There are both pluses and minuses, and perhaps these add to the realism of the broad conclusions emerging from the study. It is heartening to note that out of the five regions studied, four could achieve self-sufficiency in the year 2000, even at low levels of inputs. On the other hand, the seriousness of the situation in south-west Asia, neighbouring Pakistan, where 12 out of 16 countries will not be able to have enough food for their populations, even with high levels of inputs, has also been very well highlighted.

That nearly one-fifth of the potential production would be lost if necessary measures to prevent land degradation are not undertaken, is equally a matter of great concern.

The study has rightly put the world food security picture well in focus. The need for financial and technical support to the developing countries and liberalisation and stabilisation of world trade, especially in food, has been justifiably emphasized.

My delegation is of the view that this study should be followed up and there should be more refinements at the global level as well as at the regional levels. FAO is the competent agency to carry out this task and should be provided with adequate financial resources to carry it out. Governments should also be helped in carrying out such studies in a more detailed fashion at the country levels.

However, I would like to mention the relevance of the intermediate level of inputs, particularly for the year 2000. We would suggest that some kind of partial mechanization should also be considered, at least for the year 2000, in carrying out a study, because the high-level of inputs may be very unrealistic in some regions of the world. To carry out these studies and to enable FAO further to develop and refine it, the first step would be the collection of soil and land capability classification data. The second would be the determination and development of data about water resources both surface as well as underground.

We in Pakistan are fortunate only that we have the soil data and land classification data for 70 per cent of our area. We have mapped out the entire surface water potential as well as underground water potential which could be harnessed.

Equally important is the question of carrying out population planning. In Pakistan we have been doing so on an entirely new basis. We have a plan which has launched from 1st July this year, a programme to reduce population growth from around 2.87 per cent at the moment to 2.6 per cent at the end of the plan. The trust and strategy of the programme has been shifted from uni-purpose family planning approach to a multi-disciplinary integrated approach, taking cognisance of the inter-relation between population, resources and other socio-economic development processes.

We fully support the active and continuing role of FAO in promoting and assisting better land use, planning and management.

GONG SHAOWEN (China) (original language Chinese): In preparing next year's International Conference on Population, FAO has carried out a survey of the land, food and population conditions in 117 developing countries and conducted a forecast of the population-supporting potentials of the land, thus having accomplished a task of great significance.

As we all know, the world population has doubled over the past 50 years. In some developing countries the population growth has overtaken that of food production. This has not only given to a chain of social and economic problems, but also hindered the development of world economy. With the limited land resources in the world and the current level of science and technology and economic conditions, it is undoubtedly an arduous task to make maximum use of the existing land so as to produce sufficient food to feed the ever increasing population and meet their growing needs for a better life. These should be taken into serious consideration by all countries, especially the developing countries, in formulating their respective policies and programmes for social and economic development.

China is a populous country with insufficient arable land. Accordingly, our Government has all along paid due attention to the question of how to make better use of the existing cultivated land and raise food production. Since the founding of the People's Republic in 1949, we have tried on the one hand to raise the per-unit-area yields by augmenting inputs, while on the other hand taken advantage of the favourable weather conditions to enlarge the multiple-cropping area, by turning 3-crop rotation every 2 years into 2-crop rotation every year, and the 2-crop rotation every year into 3-crop rotation in some localities. This change has contributed much to the increased food production. However, the expansion of multiple-cropping area is circumscribed by certain conditions, including the ample supply of water, fertilizer, work force and suitable seeds in addition to weather conditions. For example, a few regions in our country that increased their multiple-cropping area without considering the local condition have ended up with decreased production and poor economic results.

Since 1949, various kinds of capital construction project and rural house-building have occupied large areas of cultivated land. And the indiscriminate opening up of new land in some areas has caused erosion of the soil. These have adversely affected agricultural development. To solve these problems, the government has made it one of the state policies to cherish and rationally utilize every inch of land and effectively preserve the cultivated land. Besides, we have also taken some concrete measures which include mainly: strict control of the land for all capital construction projects; planned and restricted allocation of land for rural house-building; prohibition of land reclamation on hillside above 25 degrees; taking effective measures against sand-storms and soil erosion where there are serious water and wind erosion; taking precaution against land pollution by factories, mines and institutions; rational increase of inputs to the arable land; and combination of utilization and preservation so as to permit no or little reduction of the cultivated land areas. Only through rational use and management of the land can we fully tap its production potentials.

As for the use of land, in the past, we focussed our attention only on the existing 100 million hectares of cultivated land while overlooking the utilization of the vast area of 9.6 million square kilometres. Among the 266 million hectares of grassland, 220 million are usable. We also have over 66 million hectares of grass-covered mountains and 5 million hectares of usable fresh water body in the south, and 54 million hectares of barren mountains and fields suitable for afforestation, but all these have not been fully used in the past.

With a view to putting the land resources into more rational use, we have, since 1978, been engaged in the survey of agricultural resources and agricultural zoning. By now this work has been completed in over half of the counties in our country. These counties have readjusted their farming structure according to the results of zoning, adopted a scientific approach in production and thus promoted the development of production.

In order to provide the people with sufficient food and gradually improve their livelihood, developing agriculture alone is not enough. We have to carry out the policy of family planning to check population growth. Our government has recently integrated the population policy as an important part into the overall policy for national economy and development, effecting population control by way of family planning so as to raise the quality of the population. Therefore, we advocate, for every couple, one child, limit the number of second birth and prohibit the birth of the third child. However, this practice can be relaxed among the sparsely-populated minority regions.

As regards the basic approaches in family planning, we lay emphasis mainly on education, contraception and regular day-to-day work. We have carried out particularly in the countryside large-scale educational activities in which factual cases are demonstrated to promote the understanding of an initiative toward family planning among the peasants. Furthermore, we have established friendly cooperation in this field with many countries and international organizations on a bilateral or multilateral basis, which is contributing a lot to our population control work.

In conclusion, our guidelines can be summed up as follows: controlling population growth by practising family planning while developing diversified food production by making full and rational use of the land. We are confident that in this field we will make even greater progress in the years to come.

A.G.NGONGI NAMANGA (Cameroon): I shall first of all congratulate the Secretariat for producing such an excellent and thoughtful working document, particularly Dr Bommer for his excellent presentation this morning. I think he called on all his energies as a former professor to give us a very brilliant presentation.

It is a very timely discussion on the problems of population and food, bearing in mind that next year there will be an International Conference on Population. I do not say that I have read this paper with a lot of interest. I tried reading it in different directions, sometimes attempting to read it backwards. Every time I read it, I came to slightly different conclusions, so I will give you the conclusions I reached in the last reading.

High population growth rate is clearly a problem with developing countries which are having serious difficulty in reaching food requirements and have 75 percent current world population and will have 85 percent of the world population in the year 2000. Countries such as South Africa, which is having serious food problems, are having one of the highest growth rates in population.

At this stage I can only say it is a very welcome paper and it will need to be refined so it can be included in policy considerations by many Member States. Methodology as explained by Dr Bommer is fully satisfactory. There are many limitations, I do not need to name all of them, but there are pluses, and minuses and it is the opinion of my delegation that when all of these are added together, they will cancel each other and therefore we could have some reliance on the data presented to us.

Now, let us move to the main findings of this document. I am sure that we are expected to express ourselves and to make some critical remarks, so that when this document has been refined we can come to some conclusions which can be used. As this delegation sees it there are two countermanding forces.

One is population growth, the other is technology. Is it population growth of 3 percent or 3 1/2 percent per annum which is actually the root cause of all these problems? Is it the failure to have technology which can be appropriate and adopted to insure an increase of food of more than 3.5 percent per annum which is the problem? I think we have to look at it in both these directions. Putting the blame just on population growth I think is just attacking half of the question.

This document also puts an emphasis on production, using the best lands, using high inputs, using irrigation and mechanization. Mr Chairman, as you well know, our colleagues in Commission II are in the process of adopting the Programme of Work and Budget. In that Programme of Work and Budget we are adopting there is a good section on WCARRD follow-up and the principles embodied in WCARRD follow-up. I will name them: equity, people's participation, the role of women in development. How do we balance all of these? We have been called upon by this paper now to give an emphasis on technical inputs. Our colleagues in Commission II are now adopting a document which is going to call upon equity, people's participation and all of the social factors which have to be taken into consideration.

Thirdly, we are talking about the need for increased mechanization. I will only take the question of Africa. It is a continent which is very unmechanized. It is a continent which has a lot of fragile soils. Therefore, while going from almost no mechanization to a condition of high mechanization, it would be absolutely necessary to have a proper study of the selection of appropriate technology of mechanization, be it just bullock drawing or be it just improved hand tools without necessarily jumping from hand tools to tractorization.

There are many implications in this study. I would not wish to go into all of them. I have had the opportunity to discuss this with some of the colleagues, but let me express some of these implications.

National governments are called upon by this paper, of course, to give a lot of emphasis to tackle the problem of increasing food production by the year 2000. Since most of the emphasis is on improved technology, it means that a country such as mine has to produce the kinds of people who will be available to produce the technology, adapt it and take it to the farmers, which means training.

Secondly, it means in the process of adaptation and adoption we have to have a lot of research. It means increasing the research capacity of most of the countries, especially in Africa.

Thirdly, while we are putting emphasis on increasing productivity and improving technology, it means that we cannot at the same time abandon the problems of equity and the tackling of the problems of faraway areas which are not necessarily located on the best available lands. That would require, therefore, substantial support of the national programmes of not only improving technology but also making sure we do not lose sight of the problem of equity.

What are the implications for an organization such as FAO? As we all know, an organization such as FAO has a lot of activities. If the problem as we see it is to feed a growing population by the year 2000, if the emphasis is to increase productivity, does that also call upon an organization such as FAO to redirect also its own activities? Does it require it to reexamine within its programmes the kind of actions which will be aimed at to, first of all, continue these kinds of stories at the country level, identify the highly productive areas and also give support, to the countries in the form of training, technology development, as I have already outlined? What are the implications for donors? Certainly, they have great implication also. It means they will also have to take this document, study it and hopefully the follow-up documents which would be on a country -by-country basis to see the areas in which they could intervene to increase the productivity of the Member States.

I have not given any solutions. I have just raised a lot of questions and a lot of points, but what I wish to say is that my delegation supports the idea that FAO should carry on a more detailed study at the country level which will be aimed at directly bringing out a soil classification for most of the countries such as mine and others which does not really exist on any particular level to be used.

Secondly, to develop the irrigation potential of Member States, especially those which are in great need of it on a country-by-country basis so that they could know which areas could be more adequately used for irrigation purposes, and we therefore support that after this has been completed, this study should be kept under constant review and should be presented in the forthcoming sessions of the Conference.

G. SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): En primer término quisiera, en nombre de la delegación de Cuba, agradecer al Dr. Bommer la elocuente e ilustrada presentación de este tema, un tanto nuevo en nuestras conferencias generales.

Mi delegación se referirá a aspectos generales que a nuestro entender se deben tener en cuenta al analizar este importante tema. La adecuada utilización de tierras cultivables es una preocupación constante de la FAO en su cruzada por garantizar la seguridad alimentaria mundial. La preocupación de la situación alimentaria en el mundo, sin lugar a dudas, está íntimamente relacionada con el crecimiento sufrido en la población mundial en las últimas décadas y la conjetura y proyecciones que se hacen en torno al tamaño que debe alcanzar la población mundial en un plazo tan breve como puede ser el que nos queda hasta el año 2000.

La situación poblacional no es la misma para las diferentes regiones y países, pero tampoco lo es para la disponibilidad de alimentos, si bien se asume que las tasas de crecimiento de la población en los países subdesarrollados experimentará una tendencia decreciente en la cresta del siglo y en los 25 primeros años del siglo próximo, hasta alcanzar así la denominada estabilidad de la población. Es innegable que son los países subdesarrollados, y especialmente los más pobres, los que presentan una situación poblacional más crítica y habrán de soportar un incremento abrumador que ha sido analizado en las proyecciones de Naciones Unidas.

Nuestra delegación considera que el crecimiento acelerado e incontrolado de la población mundial constituye un factor importante en la situación actual y en las perspectivas inmediatas de la alimentación y de la producción agrícola del mundo. El aumento de los rendimientos de la tierra, aspecto vital y determinante para enfrentar la creciente crisis alimentaria en el mundo subdesarrollado, requiere la atención en múltiples factores tales como tenencia formal de la explotación, tecnología avanzada y muy especialmente recursos financieros, tan inciertos como inalcanzables y gravosos para la gran masa de los agricultores del mundo subdesarrollado.

El propio documento C 83/18 que analizamos plantea que ante todo es preciso hacer grandes mejoras en la infraestructura, en las instituciones y en los servicios rurales si se quiere aumentar suficientemente la utilización de insumos.

Según el citado documento estos servicios no han de limitarse al sistema de distribución de insumos, sino que han de abarcar también la extensión de los créditos, la comercialización y el acceso a la tierra, debiéndose tener en cuenta el plan de acción de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural si se quiere explotar plenamente los potenciales de producción para que las poblaciones puedan permitirse una alimentación que cubra los requisitos nutricionales mínimos, lo cual es para nosotros un elemento de desarrollo integral.

Sabido es que en materia de población y de desarrollo existen múltiples tendencias y posiciones, desde aquellas que haciendo honor a las teorías malthusianas, y otras más modernas y actuales, se empeñen en sustentar que los problemas del subdesarrollo obedecen fundamentalmente a un acelerado crecimiento demográfico, hasta los que buscan sacar a la luz las verdaderas relaciones entre el crecimiento poblacional y el desarrollo.

Mi delegación considera que la población y sus diferentes fenómenos poseen un carácter multifacético y son normalmente efectivos en la interacción de muchos factores que aisladamente no pueden ser enfrentados con eficiencia.

Es nuestro criterio que resolver los problemas de la población supone la utilización de un conjunto de políticas e instrumentos que guardan una coherencia lógica y sistemática hacia la búsqueda de un nivel de vida cualitativamente superior. El fenómeno de la población, su crecimiento y la incidencia de éste en la evolución de la economía mundial, y muy especialmente en la crítica situación de países subdesarrollados, no pueden analizarse con seriedad y rigor, si junto con las cifras que indican el crecimiento poblacional que ha de producirse en el mundo subdesarrollado, no se toman en cuenta también los factores socioeconómicos que son la base y la causa principal de dicho crecimiento.

Consideramos que si bien la tierra y su potencial son una condición previa y vital para el desarrollo, si ésta no es bien utilizada en todas sus posibilidades, no se resolverá el grave problema que afecta a la mayoría de la humanidad y en especial a los países más gravemente afectados. El hecho de que determinados países limiten el cultivo de sus tierras disponibles no es una buena muestra de la voluntad de resolver esa situación.

El estudio que ha emprendido la FAO tiene para nosotros un gran valor y nos parecería muy útil que abarcara todos los aspectos globales que en la realidad afectan al uso de la tierra, la producción de alimentos y por ende al bienestar de la población.

J. SONNEVELD (Netherlands): My delegation is impressed by the study submitted to the Conference, and we would like to compliment those who have contributed to it. We feel that such information is badly needed when discussing the policies and programmes to be followed to overcome the food problem as we have them in many regions. This problem is so much in the centre of our attention these days when dealing with the alarming situation in Africa. We know how difficult it is to embark on sound agricultural policies to increase food production and to have the food more adequately distributed. Although we have a long way to go, FAO certainly contributes substantially to a better awareness and understanding of what to do to increase food availability for all people. But today's information also shows the limits of food-producing capacities.

If I understand the presumptions of the present study correctly, the population growth rate is not introduced as a variable. The variables are the different levels of agricultural inputs. These levels of input will depend on future agricultural policies. But why not think in terms of population policies with different levels of results? I think it is within the mandate of FAO to make recommendations in regard to population policies in contributing to the solution of the food and population issue. Especially at the country level, population policies should go hand in hand with food policies. That my Government attaches great importance to population policies is illustrated by the strong financial support it is giving to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities. My delegation hopes to see even more and closer cooperation between FAO and the UNFPA. We consider the present study an encouraging event in this connection and we are looking forward to follow-up studies, especially at the country level.

S.J. KAO (Lesotho): Mr Chairman, may I first add my congratulations to those that have been given on the excellent presentation given this morning on this subject.

In an attempt to look at the totality of the situation under this item, may I refer to the following chain of events: survival, production, land use and degradation of the environment. People farm to live from the produce generated by that activity. Production has been declining over the years. This aspect has been discussed adequately in the past days in this Conference.

The amount and potential of land in the world is fixed, thus limiting the options. On a global basis it appears that there is land that can still be brought under agricultural production, particularly for crop and livestock production: in other words, production of food. However, on a regional and/or national basis, that virgin land is either insignificantly small or non-existent. Lesotho is faced with the latter situation. Therefore, the options are limited indeed. On the slides shown during the presentation, only at the high input level would self-sufficiency be attained in that country.

In an attempt to provide each household with land, particularly in a traditional equity system in Africa, land-holding is fragmented to a point where it is uneconomic to farm. This results in rural/urban migration, part-time farming and associated management problems, increase in fallow land, increase in landless people, and degradation of the farming profession. The climax of all these is frustration, hunger, malnutrition, and high population growth rate.

With these remarks, I support the suggestion made on page 9 of the document with regard to "the need for more detailed national studies" on these events and their interactions with a view to developing an action plan to solve the problems of land, food and population.

The factors I have discussed cannot be left to agricultural extension alone. Agriculture must certainly play its role in developing intensive farming with emphasis on high yields and minimizing erosion risk. As the population increases, greater pressure is brought to bear on maximizing output from the land. Such over-use of the natural resources results in the degradation of the environment, soil erosion, over grazing, desertification, improper land use, and destruction of habitat for flora and fauna, including wildlife. All these are actions of man, pressurized by his own breeding, thus the call for population policies as "an essential element to be considered in policy options for individual countries" is fully supported by my delegation.

I have touched on a number of issues which do not fall within the responsibility of FAO. There are other international organizations within and outside the UN system which are actively pursuing solutions to these problems. We cannot over-emphasize the need for collaboration and coordination in order to expected solutions.

Last, but not least, may I congratulate FAO on the development of this theme, which has been so ably presented. The world's conscience has been activated. It must be spurred into action through discussion of this theme in future conferences.

N.E. MUMBA (Zambia): Mr Chairman, document C 83/18 is quite clear to me. The presentation of this item by the Secretariat has been excellent. It is clear that the correct course of action is to improve the output of production per unit area. At least in Zambia, it is true that if we moved from the present low level input to the next medium level input we would be self-sufficient even by the year 2000, using our presently cultivated land. What we need, therefore, is some realistic input into soil conservation measures, improvement of irrigation facilities, better agronomic practices and more effective but simple methods of food storage. All these need good research facilities. We do hope, therefore, that when Nations, and FAO included, try to solve these problems of food production and population they will tackle some of these items.

It is of course important to remember that programmes that do not involve the local population are not likely to succeed. All programmes must be relevant to the needs of the people.

We feel also that, since the movement of food requires resources, those countries that have favourable resources and are near to countries that have a critical situation of food should receive special attention from donor countries. This would reduce the cost of moving food from one country which has it to those countries that need it.

A. SALGADO SANTOS (Brazil): Mr Chairman, document C 83/18, Land, Food and Population is a summary of a technical study carried out by FAO in collaboration with the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis with the support of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and deals with the assessment of the potential population-supporting capacities of lands in the developing world in comparison with their actual and projected populations. The study utilizes the information provided by the FAO/Unesco Soil Map of the World, the FAO Agro-Ecological Zones Project and FAO's study, Agriculture: Toward 2000. The study has a special interest and is very opportune because the discussions that will derive from its analysis will contribute to the International Conference on Population to be held in August 1984.

As to the elaboration of the study some methodological restrictions can be pointed out, as is already mentioned in document C 83/18, and I quote the following: (a) It is assumed that all of the potential agricultural land would be used for the 15 major food crops for the grassland production of livestock; (b) Major land improvements, such as reclamation, levelling and flood control, are not considered, nor is the use of specially adopted crops and inputs that could greatly add to productivity in certain areas; (c) no overall estimates of ultimate irrigation potentials are available at the present time and therefore recourse was made to the Agriculture: Toward 2000 data; and (d) There is no inclusion of fish production. On this condition, the results for individual countries may be distorted. The study may thus be considered as a flexible evaluation subject to corrections for each specific national situation.

One should bear in mind that there is an important difference between "agricultural supporting capacity" and "global supporting capacity", this last concept related not only with the capacity of an area to produce food, but also its integration in the international trade system and the exchange of experience, especially that related to technological innovations. It cannot be forgotten that, in this case, the global results would presuppose massive movements of food and probably also population. Land resources are very unevenly distributed in relation to population both between and within the different countries and regions. Within regions, movements of food surplus are often hampered by poor communications, and internationally there are the problems linked to balance of payments and trade barriers. At lower levels of aggregation the results are still less encouraging. If one considers the question of self-sufficiency in food, in the year 2000 the situation would be very difficult for some developing countries, unless there would be a massive increase in technical inputs.

The study also suggests the adjustment of food stocks to population growth so as to (a) have a better equilibrium between crops for internal consumption and those for exports, which could nevertheless cause serious problems of balance of payments; (b) change of popular diets, though one should recognize the difficulties involved in changing cultural habits.

All this considered, my delegation, Mr Chairman, finds that the study under consideration is very comprehensive and should be built on and refined in the future. My delegation thinks that there is the need for more detailed national studies on the subject with less restrictive assumptions and based on fuller data. It also recommends FAO to assist in such national studies and promote and assist better land-use planning and management so as to avoid land degradation and also maximize returns from limited inputs and investment.

I. LUCAN (Czechoslovakia): I am not going to repeat all those nice words which have been said by many previous speakers about the work of the Commission and about the document. In short, I will only say that the delegation of Czechoslovakia appreciates very much the well-balanced presentation of all the documents, and the work that has gone into their preparation.

In the context of this item about food and population which is under discussion, there are several fundamental problems, on which many delegates have already spoken. I would like also to contribute to the fulfillment of the list of general aspects. The gravity of the problems of food production and food security is rightly attracting growing attention not only in our Commission or Conference, but all over the world. Czechoslovakia is aware of the food problem and the possibilities of resolving it in the overall context of the development processes, because the question of eliminating hunger is not only a narrow question of food or financial assistance, but primarily is a question of an approach to the development processes.

In our view an important prerequisite of the solution to the problem of food shortages, of malnutrition and hunger is the creation of necessary conditions and infrastructures in the developing countries, enabling them to train their own specialists in the spheres of agriculture and nutrition, who will be qualified to make an assessment of the situation in their own countries and to take measures based on those analyses.

Dependence on food assistance from other countries and international organizations provides a temporary solution, but offers no prospect of longer-term development. Czechoslovakia is a country which, in the last decade, has built an efficient and large-scale agricultural production on a new socio-economic basis and has eliminated not only the socio-economic but also the technological gap between agriculture and industry. My country now has sufficient experience which it is prepared to share with the developing countries. The acute urgency of the problem of food points up with clarity the need to acquire resources by preventing their wastage and misuse for the financing of activities sharply at variance with efforts to eliminate hunger and malnutrition. There can be no right to food where the right to life is not guaranteed.

At present we must not overlook the links between the securing of food and disarmament. The policy of armament and deteriorating international tension directly or indirectly has an impact on satisfying the needs and requirements of developing countries.

In conclusion, I would touch on the problem of the restructuring of international economic relations. In our view, in finding a solution it is necessary to tackle such problems as the elimination of all forms of economic discrimination for political or any other reason and, of course, general normalization of international trade and economic relations. This should include the elimination of hypocrisy with which the need to eliminate protectionism is being stressed, but at the same time, it is being increasingly practised.

H. CARRION (Nicaragua): Seré muy breve, Señor Presidente. Desde luego, el tema que está en estudio en esta Comisión I es muy importante.

La producción de alimentos es una actividad donde fundamentalmente se requieren los esfuerzos, recursos y voluntades del hombre para lograr una distribución y un uso racional del recurso tierra con una dosis de eficiencia tecnológica adecuada.

El excelente estudio de la FAO contenido en el documento C 83/18, demuestra que la tierra, por varias décadas, no será un factor limitante para producir más alimentos. Son las sociedades y los hombres, en su coyuntura histórica y social, los que determinan las posibilidades de seguridad para autoabastecerse.

Por ello, es necesario crear las bases de equidad nacional, regional y mundial para definir principios de apoyo y seguridad en las áreas de cooperación técnica y financiera. Esto orientado al aprovechamiento apropiado y eficiente de los recursos naturales tendentes a lograr la producción sostenida y estable de alimentos.

La problemática de producción de alimentos para satisfacer los niveles de consumo popular de la población en los países en desarrollo es producto y consecuencia de estructuras productivas obsoletas y dependientes.

La posibilidad de los países en desarrollo de penetrar en el marco de la autosuficiencia alimentaria y de lograr su propia seguridad en el suministro de productos alimenticios, sólo es viable transformando las estructuras económicas, tecnificando y favoreciendo significativamente el acceso a la tierra y a los insumos.

Todo esfuerzo de mejoramiento de la eficiencia tecnológica deberá acompañarse de acciones y políticas para sostener la base productiva más importante, que es el recurso suelo en sus aspectos de fertilidad y composición física.

Esto implica que habrá que apoyar medidas inmediatas para el manejo y conservación técnica de los suelos agrícolas. La prioridad debe ser sujeto de atención en los países donde las tecnologías de producción son tradicionales o la agricultura es de subsistencia.

En resumen, la problemática de autosuficiencia y seguridad agroalimentaria no descansa solamente en una escala mayor de superficie sembrada, sino en aquellas acciones que permitan un uso racional y efectivo de los recursos agroecológicos; de una más dinámica decisión y voluntad política de los gobiernos y países por incentivar la apertura a mediano plazo de áreas productivas bajo riego. Esto también propiciando un mayor acceso a la tierra y un manejo tecnológico más eficiente de las áreas de secano tradicional de buen potencial agroecológico.

Todo esfuerzo que se realice en este sentido deberá complementarse efectivamente con programas integrales de asistencia técnica, investigación, crédito, organización y capacitación agrícola.

La cooperación agrícola internacional para los países en desarrollo deberá no sólo sustentarse en servicios de asesoría y asistencia técnica, sino que programáticamente deberá desarrollarse mediante el apoyo financiero a proyectos de inversión para la apertura de áreas de tecnificación y programas de conservación de suelos y agua.

R.C. GUPTA (India): My delegation would like to wholeheartedly commend the Organization and other organs of the United Nations system on presenting this excellent and timely study. We found the presentation of Dr Bommer brilliant and convincing.

We feel that this study has come at a very opportune time, and it will help substantially in increasing the awareness of the world community, and particularly the decision-makers, regarding the various dimensions of the problems we are facing or are likely to face in the near or long-term future. This will help in the intelligent understanding of a problem, of which we are acutely aware. We appreciate that the study suffers from certain limitations for lack of information, for lack of clear conceptualization of certain imponderables, but overall it is an admirable attempt.

The study gives various scenarios on low input use level, the intermediate level and the high input use level. The study rightly emphasizes that certain population policies have to be followed by countries if they are to be reasonably certain that in the future those countries will be able to feed their populations. We find it particularly attractive in that not too much emphasis has been laid on food self-sufficiency in individual countries or regions, and care has been taken to state very clearly that food self-sufficiency should not be the aim of every area or country. If the advantage lies in industrial development or exportation of other resources, certainly such countries can find finance to import all the food they require.

One of the serious drawbacks of the present study, in our view, is that while computing the available land resources, adequate care has not been taken to earmark land for forestry or for non-agricultural use. The study talks extensively of the danger of soil erosion and ecological degradation; it is acutely conscious of this fact, but even then - for valid reasons I am sure - no care has been taken to ensure that minimum essential areas at least which should be under permanent vegetation cover are not included in land resources available for cultivation for food or non-food crops.

The study lays proper emphasis on policies to be followed at national and international levels. In this context, I would briefly like to dwell upon our experience. In our view, the problem of increasing food production and the problem of development with equity are very essential and important features which cannot be overlooked. We have an easy option, of concentrating on bigger farms, on more fertile areas, and perhaps in the long run we might be able to increase our food production more easily by concentrating on these aspects, but we must ensure simultaneously that this development or this increased production or this growth, is accompanied by equity. Only yesterday we were speaking of economic access to food. Unless we are sure that the smallholders, the sharecroppers or the poor areas get adequate attention to increase their productivity, their potential production increases will be tackling the problem, maybe in a macro sense, but at the macro level where the human problem exists, they will be leaving a lot of areas untended.

In India, we have taken particular care to ensure that gains in productivity are shared by areas which are poor in terms of soil fertility, in terms of their access to various inputs and where the holdings are small and income is low and where we are making an all-out effort to increase food production in this area.

One particular aspect which I would like to point out is our failure, and not perhaps just the failure in India alone but in most of the areas where rainfed farming is practised, to find suitable implements for these areas. Smallholders under dry land farming conditions cannot be expected to adopt sophisticated technology, to buy tractors or to tractorise their lands. We have to find suitable, efficient and cheap implements for them.

In this field, in our experience, scientific research and development is completely lacking. We would urge the Organization and all concerned to concentrate on this area and to find a solution to this serious problem.

Another problem in the field of inputs is the use of pesticides in tropical climates like ours. We have a whole host of pests and diseases and our problems are much more serious than the problems of the temperate zones or sub-tropical areas. But the pesticides or the development of the research into the field of pesticides are such that we do not get the right kind of pesticides to deal with pests, we do not get the right type of weedicides. Their residue effect in our kind of climate is completely different. It could be extremely hazardous, and we are aware that there are certain pesticides which are banned in some developed countries which are being sold with impunity in our areas. The international community, the FAO and international organizations must take particular care of this aspect.

With regard to population policies, I would briefly like to state that we in India have been making serious efforts for the last three decades to contain our population, but under the political system which we have deliberately chosen for ourselves we certainly cannot imagine any coercion, It has to be purely voluntary. It has to be based on persuasion and education of the people.

We are heartened that only last month the UN System recognized the efforts made by our great neighbour China and ourselves in evolving policies to contain population. The Minister of China and our Prime Minister were given the World Population Award.

All in all, we are extremely happy with this study and we would encourage the organization to refine it further, to clarify certain concepts further and to come up with a charter, a compendium which can be a reliable foundation on which to base country and international policies.

The meeting rose at 12.30 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C 83/I/PV/10

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Twenty-second Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt-deuxième session
COMMISSION I

22° período de sesiones
COMISION I

TENTH MEETING
DIXIEME SEANCE
DECIMA SESION

(15 November 1983)

The Tenth Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours

José Ramon López-Portillo, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La dixième séance est ouverte à 14 h 45, sous la présidence de

José Ramon López-Portillo, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la décima sesión a las 14.45 horas, bajo la presidencia de

José Ramón López-Portillo, Presidente de la Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (Continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALESTENDENCIASYPOLITICASENLAAGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)

- 8. Food and Population (continued)
- 8. Alimentation et population (suite)
- 8. Los alimentos y la población (continuación)

El PRESIDENTE: Buenas tardes señores delegados, se abre la décima sesión de trabajo de esta Comisión y les quiero recordar el anuncio que hoy en la mañana hicimos en cuanto a que el Grupo de Contacto sobre el Reajuste Agrícola Internacional deberá reunirse hoy a las 15.30 horas en el salón Alemania. Los textos del borrador de resolución se encuentran ya en inglés, francés y español y han sido distribuidos a los miembros de dicho Grupo de Contacto. Sin embargo, las copias están disponibles en el salón Alemania desde luego.

Tenemos por delante una lista larga de oradores que me voy a permitir leer: en primer lugar, tenemos como observador al Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para Actividades en Materia de Población, posteriormente Francia, Polonia, Italia, Bangladesh, Barbados, España, Tailandia, Canadá, Mali, Yugoslavia, Kenya, Argelia, Sudán, Dinamarca, Israel, Trinidad y Tabago, Japón, Marruecos, Congo, Iraq, Panamá y Turquía.

Como ven ustedes la lista es larga, por lo que suplicamos concreción y medida del tiempo. Tiene la palabra el representante del Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para Actividades en Materia de Población.

H.E. WITTRIN (UNFPA): Following this morning's interesting introduction by Dr Bommer, I am grateful for the opportunity to make a statement on the topic of food and population on behalf of Mr Salas, the Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities. From the very beginning of civilization the interrelationship between population and food has been one of the vital determinants of economic and social structures. The influence of population on agricultural organization and technology, on one hand, and the influence of rising agricultural productivity on population growth, on the other, affected the long-term movements both food output and population growth. Short-term imbalances usually resolve themselves with time. When famine occurred, it was often the result of temporary shortfalls in food output caused by adverse weather conditions, rampant epidemics or war.

The current interaction between food and population differs radically from the past. Though weather still affects food production, severe famines can sometimes be avoided through timely storage and distribution of food to the needy.

Yet the crisis which is now emerging in a number of developing countries, especially in Africa, can no longer be averted by storage and distribution alone. A severe population/food imbalance affecting the very future of these countries in respect of public health, employment, nutrition and last but not least, rates of economic growth are obvious.

One underlying factor of the existing population/food imbalance is the acceleration in the rate of population growth during the present century. World population reached its first billion only by the year 1800, but another billion was added in the following 130 years. Current world population is estimated at 4.7 billion, thus having more than doubled during the span of the last 53 years. UN projections indicate about 6.1 billion people in the year 2000. Ninety percent of the increase is likely to take place in the developing countries. In the longer term, population growth should slow down during the next century and hopefully level off at a total of about 10.2 billion after the year 2095.

We are now faced with the reality of the powerful momentum in population growth. While the annual rate of growth has declined, the worldwide rate from nearly 2 percent in the 1960s to 1.7 percent today, the declining percentage conceal the massive increase in the numbers involved. At present, net additions to world population are about 78 million a year. By the end of this century, this figure will have increased to 89 million per annum.

A phenomenon of the last decade has been the astonishing speed at which the major cities of the developing world have grown. While the level of urbanization remains less than half that of the developed world, developing countries now for the first time in modern history have a larger urban population than the industrialized countries. Rapid urban growth causes staggering problems of health, housing, education, jobs and nutrition, so much so that many countries are trying to stem the growth of the larger cities in favour of smaller urban areas and of rural development.

As emphasized by this Conference and the Director-General of FAO himself, the present situation in sub-Saharan Africa dramatizes how population growth has contributed to drastic consequences for food security. In relatively few countries did agricultural production growth exceed the increase in population. We are led to the unavoidable conclusion that the solution of the food/population imbalance calls for a simultaneous attack on both population and food problems. The implications of the FAO Study for the year 2000 need careful assessment by the international community. If past trends in food production and population growth rates continue, FAO estimates that the number of undernourished people will rise from 435 million in the mid-70s to nearly 600 million by the year 2000. There is an obvious connexion between malnourishment and poor health and between poor health and mortality, particularly infant mortality. The connexion between infant mortality and high fertility is less clear, but it is a fact that the countries with the highest birth rates also have the highest infant mortality rates. For many countries, particularly in Africa and South Asia, bringing down infant mortality rates is an important immediate goal and very much UNFPA's concern.

In the context of the population stabilization and the global food outlook, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities collaborated with the Food and Agriculture Organization in having the potential population supporting capacities of lands in the developing world evaluated. We heard a brief outline this morning.

I am confident that this Conference will critically examine the study's findings based on your understanding and experience of agricultural development problems confronting your own country or region. In our view, there are three major implications for the interrelation between food and population. First, supply: the realization of the production potential will depend upon the quantum of investment in agriculture. The very countries and regions where a problem of food/ population imbalance will be acute also happen to need the greatest amount of investment in agriculture.

Second, given the present global outlook, it seems doubtful that the required massive investment in agriculture can be mobilized in these countries. National and international movements in food will therefore be a major aspect of any solution.

Finally, the solution will also require measures to curb the growth of demand for food. Growth as a result of increase in per capita income is not amenable to limitation, because it is precisely rising per capita incomes which are most desired in these countries.

The other major component of demand is the size of the population and its rate of growth. Any lasting solution to the population and food problem will therefore be found only by looking at both sides of the equation.

In closing, Mr Chairman, UNFPA looks forward to a continued and intensified collaboration with FAO during the years to come. We are pleased with our excellent work relationship and expect that the 1984 International Conference on Population, to be held in Mexico City, will provide a new impetus for worldwide consideration of the food and population issue.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): J'étais pris par d'autres réunions ce matin et je n'ai pu entendre l'exposé du Secrétariat ni les interventions de mes collègues et peut-être risquerai-je d'être un peu répétitif ou de dire des choses qui ne correspondront pas toujours aux indications données; je vous demande donc de bien vouloir m'en excuser.

Le document que nous étudions, C 83/18, fait état de la réponse que les études menées conjointement par la FAO, le Fonds des Nations Unies en matière de population, l'Institut international pour l'application des analyses de systèmes (dont le siège est à Laxenburg en Autriche) tentent de donner quant aux possibilités de nourrir les hommes jusqu'en 2095 et au-delà.

Ma première réflexion est la suivante: ces études prospectives - surtout si lointaines - nous conduisent à une certaine prudence, à une certaine méfiance car nous n'aimerions pas, lorsqu'en 2095 les chercheurs, pour ne pas dire les archéologues, se trouveront face à nos travaux, qu'ils constatent que nous nous sommes largement trompés. Mais enfin ... mais enfin ...

Ce problème a déjà été examiné dans un ouvrage intitulé "Nourrir dix milliards d'hommes" de M. Clarksman; mais ici il est réduit à un aspect plus limité. En effet, pour autant que j'aie pu lire ce document, il me semble que le seul facteur étudié est celui des terres des pays en voie de développement.

On parle en particulier de 117 pays; mais il ne faut pas oublier que les terres peuvent être exploitées plus ou moins intensivement par l'intermédiaire d'intrants qui y sont apportés.

D'où quelques questions. Pourquoi avoir limité le problème, l'étude, aux seuls pays en développement? On me répondra: d'abord parce qu'il fallait commencer par les pays où le problème se posera le plus gravement; parce qu'on n'avait pas le temps ou l'argent pour entreprendre une étude dans tous les pays. Il n'en reste pas moins que prendre pour hypothèse que les terres situées dans les pays développés sont exploitées de façon maximale et optimale constitue une grave erreur. Aussi bien en Amérique du Nord qu'en Australie, pour ne prendre que ces deux exemples, il y a encore d'importantes surfaces de terres disponibles pour une exploitation plus intensive. D'autre part, même dans d'autres pays où la culture intensive est déjà très poussée, et je prendrai pour exemple un petit pays qui est un exemple de culture super-intensive, je veux parler d'Israël, eh bien, dans ce pays, pour des raisons économiques évidentes, les productions du pays ne font pas partie des 15 cultures alimentaires principales dans le monde, celles qui sont prises en considération pour l'étude. En effet, dans ce pays comme dans d'autres, le producteur estime qu'il a plus d'argent à gagner en satisfaisant ce que l'on pourrait appeler presque les fantaisies des consommateurs les plus solvables, qu'en assurant les besoins essentiels correspondant à la nourriture et les besoins essentiels des pauvres.

Et je rappellerai une chose: le plan indicatif mondial préparé et présenté il y a plusieurs années n'avait été réalisé qu'en fonction et pour les pays en développement. Et ceci bien évidemment ne pouvait aboutir qu'à souligner les oppositions entre les pays en développement et les pays développés. Et l'expérience limitée du plan indicatif mondial aurait peut-être dû servir de mise en garde contre la limitation ainsi apportée dans l'étude qui nous est présentée.

Second ordre de remarque, sur la méthodologie et les limites de l'étude. Malgré toutes les précautions prises par les différents auteurs de l'étude pour exposer les hypothèses et les projets de résultats, toutes ces précautions risquent de ne pas être retenues par des lecteurs qui ne sont pas experts dans ces domaines. On peut trouver que c'est une réaction brutale dans un effort de vulgarisation, qu'on a pris toutes les précautions et on pourra dire: "dans tant d'années il y aura un manque de ceci, ou on peut réaliser cela", mais il faudra toujours prendre beaucoup de précautions et de réserves en présentant les indications obtenues.

D'autre part, pour apprécier l'impact de ce travail, peut-être serait-il nécessaire d'avoir certaines précisions complémentaires. Les besoins pris en compte tels qu'ils ressortent de la page 3 de notre document, au troisième paragraphe et dans le chapitre intitulé "Limites", sont-ils seulement les besoins physiologiques minimaux ou, comme dans le plan indicatif mondial, tiennent-ils compte de la demande future qui résultera de l'amélioration des revenus des individus? Car il est bien évident que, au fur et à mesure que le revenu individuel s'accroît, les besoins sont encore plus poussés; par conséquent, ceci aurait une influence sur les résultats globaux.

Deuxièmement les intrants considérés, engrais, pesticides en particulier, sont-ils plutôt obtenus par des procédés perennes, dirons-nous, utilisant des énergies renouvelables ou au contraire, sont-ils obtenus en utilisant des souches fossiles par exemple? Comment prendrait-on en compte l'épuisement de ces richesses, tant dans la balance entre les intrants incorporés et la diminution, si je puis dire, du patrimoine mondial, et l'amélioration, l'accroissement de la population? Enfin, tout ceci constitue des éléments.

Enfin, on envisage également à la page 3 une réduction sévère des zones boisées. Mais il faut aussi prendre en considération, comme élément négatif, non seulement le risque de diminution des approvisionnements indispensables, aussi bien en bois d'oeuvre qu'en bois de feu, mais aussi la répercussion que ce déboisement aurait sur l'environnement, sur éventuellement le régime des climats, et même, sur le renouvellement de l'oxygène terrestre,

Alors, après ces questions, vous le voyez, nous avons non pas des hésitations, mais enfin nous nous demandons, nous nous posons des questions.

Les informations qui figurent dans les tableaux à partir de la page neuf sont certainement intéressantes, mais à condition d'avoir présentes à l'esprit les limites de l'étude (limites indiquées par les auteurs eux-mêmes), et les hypothèses réductrices, simplificatrices, qui ont permis d'arriver à ces tableaux.

Je ferai aussi une remarque de détail. C'est sans doute, peut-être, une erreur dactylographique. Il s'agit du texte français de la page 7. Le troisième paragraphe dit "La plupart de ces pays souffrent déjà de pénurie de terres, et quelques-uns disposent de ressources agricoles substantielles qui leur permettent de financer leurs importations de denrées". J'ai l'impression qu'il manque un mot et je crois qu'il faut dire: "certains disposent de ressources non agricoles substantielles". Car sans cela la phrase ne serait pas très compréhensible.

Conclusion: c'est une conclusion très générale que je vais indiquer. Cet examen que nous entreprenons risque peut-être de négliger les précautions indispensables à prendre dans l'usage de l'étude, dans l'usage des résultats et ce, alors qu'elle a été vraiment scientifiquement conduite et qu'elle a maintenant acquis ou risquera d'acquiescer une sorte de pouvoir, une sorte d'aura magique, lourde de conséquences mystifiantes et source de déception.

M. ZJALIC (Yugoslavia): My delegation commends the Secretariat for the preparation of this document, and for this excellent example of cooperation between specialist organizations and agencies. The document contains the major findings of the study. As was stated by Dr Bommer in his excellent introduction, and echoed by many previous speakers, it is clear that the problem of the relationship between food and population cannot be completely covered in a single study. All the relevant aspects of land management, food production and population need to be kept under constant review by governments and international organizations in order to help all member governments in formulating their policies in this vital sector, as well as implementing these policies and correcting them when necessary. This is the first message which transpires from the study and from previous discussion.

The second message is the need for continuous participation of rural people in improving the methods and technology of rational utilization and conservation of land and water as basic resources for food production. Many delegations have recalled that people can and will participate only if they have an interest and if they have clear incentives. This means they will only participate when they have equitable access to natural resources. The same goes for family planning.

The third message is the close linkage between land and food security. Countries will not be able to feed their populations even at a high level of input, so the international community is obliged to help countries with their production potential in order to attain self-sufficiency in food production locally.

For countries which are not in a position to produce food, an economic solution should be found through rational distribution of labour and through enhanced and liberalized trade, as was emphasized in many previous speeches.

Lastly, I am sure that this study and the debate we have had will contribute to an increased public awareness of the problems of land, food and population. In our opinion, FAO should continue to keep this topic under constant review, and should undertake appropriate follow-up actions so that governments can consult amongst themselves and exchange experience of their activities in these important spheres,

Z. GROCHOWSKI (Poland): A short report entitled "Land, Food and Population" is an attempt to synthesize the experiences of FAO and many other organizations in the field of estimating world production resources and population growth rates. These studies take quite a long time. Nevertheless, we have reached the time when, through the synthesis of different reports, it is possible to elaborate on a warning of unfavourable tendencies in world development, and the time has come to try and suggest some undertakings which ought to be considered in order to reduce disharmony in world agricultural developments.

We are participating in a big international conference, not in a scientific symposium. That is why, finding some weaknesses in the basic methodology, we must focus our attention on the essence of the matter. The most important thing is that the earth could feed the quickly growing population of the world only if agricultural potential is developed, and developed quickly. We agree fully with these estimates.

However, we must see that our aims are attainable. There is a huge - and we hope temporary - regional disproportion in the agricultural development of the world; this is the essence of the matter, not the global comparison of the world's potential, which gives some kind of assurance but cannot reduce regional needs. Studies like this give an opportunity for development if all efforts are focussed in this direction, and not on armaments. We share the opinion that such studies should be continued. They form the basis for formulating positive programmes of action.

Our experience in overcoming the crisis shows that every country should elaborate a real programme of agricultural development by the year 2000. In Poland, this is an important instrument in giving high priority to agriculture in the development of the whole national economy. Probably many countries will need some methodological assistance from FAO to elaborate such agricultural development. Such studies would develop given previous prognostic work. In our opinion, future studies should be improved, first by principles in the selection of the countries according to levels of technology and input use; second, criteria for the selection of types of soils in different regions; thirdly, principles of selection of the agro-ecological zones in relation to soil types and dynamic changes of production; and fourth, methodological study for the global assessment of land potential on a country and regional level.

E. MAMMONE (Italie): La delegation italienne voudrait se féliciter avec le Secrétariat de la FAO et surtout avec Monsieur Bommer, pour cet excellent rapport qui nous a été présenté et pour les projections de diapositives très efficaces.

Nous nous rallions à ce qui a été dit par les délégués qui nous ont précédés sur l'utilité de cette étude et sur l'opportunité de la poursuivre par la FAO. Il y a tout de même quelque chose qui nous préoccupe, et qui a été évoqué il y a quelques instants par la Délégation de la France. A la page trois du document C 83/18, on lit, je cite: "... l'étude ne considère comme terrains boisés que les terres impropres à l'agriculture ou à la pâture ...". Nous sommes bien conscients du fait qu'il s'agit seulement d'une hypothèse de travail, et d'autre part le document même considère cela comme une limite de l'étude.

Il est inutile de rappeler dans cette enceinte où ce problème a été toujours vif à l'esprit, l'importance que revêtent les points évoqués, non seulement comme sources d'approvisionnement en bois de feu et bois d'oeuvre, mais aussi, et surtout, pour l'équilibre écologique de notre planète. Or, la délégation italienne craint que si dans l'étude on considère les terres boisées limitées seulement aux terres résiduelles impropres à l'agriculture et à la pâture, on ait des prévisions de production agro-alimentaire qui pècheront en excès dans toutes les trois hypothèses prévues, le niveau bas, le niveau intermédiaire, et le niveau le plus élevé.

La délégation italienne espère donc que la FAO, et éventuellement avec la collaboration du Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement, procède à des corrections de cette hypothèse de travail en tenant compte des terres que ni pourront pas être exploitées pour la production alimentaire, mais qui devront restées boisées si l'on ne veut pas aller au devant de terribles désastres.

A.H.M. ABDUL HYE (Bangladesh): My fellow delegate, who deputized for me this morning, has told me that Dr Bommer made a very attractive presentation of his paper. Although unfortunately I missed it, may I nevertheless congratulate him on his brilliant presentation.

Document C 83/18 is a very interesting one inasmuch as it summarizes a study undertaken by FAO in collaboration with the International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis and the UNFPA, on the potential population supporting capacities in the developing countries in comparison with their actual and projected population. Since population is considered a most important problem in relation to resources, this scientific assessment should be of great help and interest to policy makers and planners in the developing countries, and to the donors and others concerned with the population programme. Given the widest possible publicity from the existing media, the results of the study may also be of interest to individuals, particularly couples whose private decisions have given rise to a problem of public concern both at national and international levels. It is reassuring to know that the "spaceship earth," particularly the land covered by the 117 developing countries can potentially feed twice the population they had in 1975 and more than one and a half times their predicted population for the year 2000, even at a low level of input used. If the industrialized developed countries refrain from over-consumption of resources, the supporting capacity of the world as a whole could be even more.

However, when we look at the data on lower levels of aggregation, particularly at country level, a much less encouraging picture emerges. The study identifies 55 critical countries whose potential population supporting capacities at low levels of inputs are less than their 1975 population.

The study shows that raising the level of inputs has a marked effect on the population supporting capacities and it can be seen that, through this measure alone, the number may come down to 23 at the intermediate level and 13 at the high level of input used. The study also indicates that 19 out of 117 developed countries cannot escape from the course of unfavourable resource/population balance, even at the high level of inputs used. The policy implications of the findings of the study should be obvious.

We must strive to increase agricultural production, particularly food, through extensive cultivation wherever possible and through intensive cultivation where no additional land is available. Since land-scarce countries happen also to be the densely populated countries, increasing productivity per unit of land through greater and better use of inputs has to be the main element in the strategy for agricultural development to keep pace with population growth. The successful implementation of the strategy calls for adequate efforts at both national and international levels. Simultaneously, population policies designed to limit the rate of population growth in countries with an adverse land/man ratio have to be pursued if hunger, malnutrition and the occasional spectre of famine are to be avoided and the quality of life is to be improved.

Here I would like to point out that experiences in respect of population planning in most of the developing countries, including Bangladesh are not very encouraging. Perhaps we have to shift the emphasis from conventional family planning activities and concentrate on growth with equitable distribution of wealth produced by nations.

Past records of demographic history show that there is an autonomous decline in population when socio-economic development takes place and all sections of society actively participate in the development process and benefit from it. If we take lessons from the experiences of countries which have gone through this demographic transition, then a new orientation of the conventional approach to population planning seems called for. Perhaps this is the message that should be conveyed by the Conference to the International Conference on Population to be held next year.

L. SMITH (Barbados): I wish to congratulate the FAO on document C 83/18 and Dr Bommer for the excellent presentation made this morning. As you know, Barbados is a small island state with a population of over 1500 people per square mile, or approximately 10 people for every arable hectare. So we took considerable interest in this document as well as in the discussion that went on in this Commission. We took note of the comments made by the delegates of Australia and Israel and some very interesting remarks made with respect to agriculture and agricultural production.

Many delegations, and I might add the FAO itself, encouraged the Organization and Dr Bommer to continue this work and we feel that it is essential that the work be continued, although it makes several assumptions. It is necessary in this type of study to do that and to ignore certain factors which are nevertheless going to be important in what happens.

However, we feel that FAO should try to identify those countries which require agro-climatic and soil survey data, as well as demographic information, so as to be able to encourage and assist the respective countries in collecting the data. While this information is important to the FAO for its analysis, it is even more important for the developing countries to be able to utilise this type of information at the planning economic level and at the national level. The FAO should, therefore, as part of its follow-up assist in the training of personnel in developing countries to utilize this data as much as possible at the national and planning economic level.

I believe it is true that many developing countries, because of the multiplicity of complex problems they face in economic development and in agriculture, do not make use of this type of analysis.

We must not get carried away by the analysis, since it must be realised that any analysis of this nature, irrespective of the amount of input information, will always remain an approximation. Factors such as plant genetic improvement, livestock improvement, animal health measures and animal nutrition are among a few of the many subject areas of continuing investigation and research. The useful results of all these investigations will be applied at some stage or other or at some level of technology or agricultural production in the under-developed countries. So we cannot expect that the technology of production will remain static. Thus it is extremely difficult to predict the growth rate of food production in the next decade in any country with any real degree of accuracy.

The experience of Barbados in the area of food production and population is that the problem must be tackled simultaneously on several fronts and not necessarily in the agricultural area alone. Over twenty years ago we had a vigorous educational programme in family planning and we have been able considerably to reduce the rate of population growth to below 1.6 percent. This has meant improvements in health standards, educational levels and nutritional levels.

Secondly, we introduced land use town and country planning legislation and the town and country planning office exercises vigorous control over the fragmentation and subdivision of land and its use for non-agricultural purposes such as tourism, housing, and other purposes. The office allocated land resources according to its capability, in order to ensure that land is not taken out of agriculture where the potential for further development and increased productivity was considered to be high. At the same time we have concentrated on agricultural diversification and increased production and in 1982 the non-sugar agricultural sector was able to give 3 percent to the gross domestic product than sugarcane agriculture, which is our major agricultural activity for export.

The other very important area which must not be forgotten is total economic planning. I think when delegates look at the document they will find that there are countries which cannot even support their present level of population. So we feel that the other area that must be tackled and which is extremely important is providing for the rural population to become involved in some form of useful employment activity. Therefore in planning the whole strategy you must take into account other economic sub-sectors so as to provide support for infrastructure services, a local domestic market for expanded agricultural production, but you must also provide meaningful employment where those people not engaged in producing agricultural commodities still have access to food by being able to purchase it through being employed in reasonable living conditions.

The solutions to the problems for all these countries are critical, there must be a total picture of planning of development, not only in agricultural commodities but also in non-agricultural commodities. The solution is the export of manufactured items. This will improve foreign exchange capabilities and therefore the ability of these countries to feed their total population.

The last paragraph of document C 83/18 refers to this in one or two countries which cannot feed their population. We must look at it also in terms of providing some alternative forms of employment. We must also remember that as soon as agricultural production or productivity increases there will be a higher displacement of the labour force in agricultural areas. This means they have to be employed in services either in support of agricultural items or non-agricultural items.

I think the problem comes down basically to the one I referred to earlier, the transfer of resources to rural areas. At the same time as you are trying to give incentives to the non-agricultural areas to continue to provide the economic base which would allow for the total expansion of the national infrastructure, unless you can overcome the difficult problem of transferring some of your resources to the rural sector and at the same time building up economic resources in another economic sub-sector so that the total national infrastructure can be maintained or developed, until you can overcome that problem in most of the undeveloped countries, this difficult problem will remain of adequate food production to support the national population.

J. DE DIOS OSUNA (España): Mi delegación quiere agradecer al señor Bommer su presentación y felicitar a la FAO por este magnífico trabajo que sin duda será de gran utilidad para formular futuras políticas agrarias y poblacionales; pero deberá profundizarse más aún en el mismo, corrigiendo las limitaciones que presenta.

En un futuro, el trabajo debería extenderse a todos los frentes capaces de ser cubiertos por la FAO, y principalmente al potencial humano, a los recursos forestales y a los recursos pesqueros. Asimismo, cifiendome el potencial agrario estudiado hay aspectos que son importantes y que no se han tenido en cuenta en la metodología del estudio, por lo que para trabajos futuros deberán incluirse otros cultivos alimentarios, al menos para aquellos países donde sus potenciales productivos puedan tener una incidencia positiva para alcanzar la autosuficiencia. Para determinados países los cultivos no alimentarios constituyen una importante fuente de recursos económicos que posibilitan la adquisición de alimentos. También estimamos que deberá extenderse el trabajo al análisis de la posible mejora de las tierras y al examen potencial irrigable para poder medir y cuantificar la importancia y necesidad de las futuras inversiones en estos campos.

Señor Presidente, nuestra delegación no ha pretendido restar valor a este excelente trabajo, por el contrario lo consideramos muy necesario e importante por lo que deberá continuarse en el futuro, pero mejorándolo y profundizando en el mismo mediante el estudio de aquellos frentes o aspectos no contemplados.

Por último, estimamos de gran interés lo expuesto por otras delegaciones, como la de Mexico, sobre la necesidad de desarrollar otros sectores económicos en aquellos países donde no sea posible alcanzar la autosuficiencia alimentaria.

S. CHIRAPANT (Thailand): My delegation would like to express our appreciation to the Secretariat for their well illustrated introduction to this item, especially the presentation by Dr Bommer. Being aware of the increasing imbalance of food, population and land, I am pleased to inform the meeting that my Government has put an enormous effort into meeting the problem. Our programme of population growth control, as was mentioned in the Plenary Session by the head of my delegation, is comparatively satisfactory. The population growth of 1.5 percent is expected to be achieved by the end of our present National Economic and Social Development Plan in 1986.

However, with regard to the limited availability of cultivable land, my Government has considered seriously how to improve our food production efficiently. In this connection, intensive cultivation was introduced and the extension of cultivable land has been discouraged. In addition, new technology on high-yield breeding, the use of fertilizers, the improvement of the drainage system and mechanisation, as well as soil fertility conservation are very much recognised.

The new FAO arrangement of a Research and Technology Development Division is believed to have contributed greatly to the improvement of food and agriculture development. That is why my delegation fully supports it in the field of FAO activities.

These developments in my country are consistent with what the UNFPA representative has just said on the resolution on the problem of food and population.

In conclusion, my delegation believes that without the control of population and improvement in land fertility and land use, food production would hardly achieve the target of the eradication of food hunger and malnutrition by the year 2000.

N. MACDONNELL (Canada): This is an important study and we would like to congratulate the Secretariat and the other participating organizations for the solid work which they have done. While Canada shares the cautious optimism of the study, we would emphasize that major difficulties remain in attaining the production possibilities outlined in the study. In particular, we would like to support the earlier comments relating to forestry and the ecosystem. Calculations must be made regarding the impact of the extension of arable land and new populations upon existing forest systems and wildlife zones.

It is imperative new research be undertaken to assemble the type of data that would indicate what trade-offs or what sacrifices must be made in order to bring new land into cultivation. In addition, the Canadian experience under international agricultural development suggests the need for an even more careful consideration of existing constraints to any accelerated programme of land development for food self-sufficiency. Programmes on a large scale are faced with institutional constraints on the part of donors and international organizations, as well as problems of the recipient countries, to absorb and manage the type of intensive technologies which could provide the necessary production increases.

I would echo the comments of earlier speakers that a major requirement of developing countries will be mobilization and training of high levels of human resources. Experience has shown a great deal of time is required to train people to manage complex technologies.

In terms of follow-up work by the FAO, emphasis will of course continue to be on the situation in developing countries especially those already identified by the study as being in a potentially critical state. We would look forward however, to this work being extended to cover the situation of China and the developing world, as well as in order to obtain a truly global appreciation of how the world hopes to cope with hunger in the year 2000.

M. DIALLO (Mali) : Le document C 83/18 est extrêmement précieux puisqu'il met à notre disposition des indications utiles tant à court terme qu'à long terme sur le potentiel des terres en vue de l'alimentation d'une population toujours croissante, particulièrement dans les pays en voie de développement.

Cependant, autant il est toujours préférable de faire de telles études à long terme, autant nous pensons qu'il faut éviter le trop long terme pour fournir des chiffres qui pourraient être facilement mis en cause du fait même des perturbations climatiques que le monde entier commence à connaître. C'est pourquoi des prévisions à plus d'un siècle dans l'avenir nous paraissent risquées, parce qu'elles sont susceptibles de faire dévier facilement de meilleures voies et moyens pour faire face au problème.

Ceci dit, l'étude doit davantage traiter le problème de l'alimentation lié au niveau de la population et des terres disponibles sous l'angle approfondi des bras valides, car l'on sait actuellement que l'un des problèmes aigus auxquels les pays en développement, notamment ceux d'Afrique, sont confrontés se trouve être l'exode rural. Ce mal, qui a une origine socio-économique, est en train de faire vider les campagnes de leurs bras valides, ce qui fait que même de très bonnes terres disponibles en Afrique et ailleurs sûrement restent inexploitées, ou le sont insuffisamment pour en tirer le meilleur parti.

A notre avis donc le maintien pour des populations rurales, mieux le repeuplement des campagnes, doit aussi guider les conclusions de telles études concernant la population, les terres et l'alimentation.

M. MUKOLWE (Kenya): The item before us, land, food and population in our view is the base of our discussions at various fora including this Conference. FAO will certainly come in the forefront as far as land and food are concerned. I should add water and human activities in the integration.

Dr Brommer, presenting his paper accompanied by illustrative tools, conveyed a convincing story and, no doubt, left all of us convinced.

However, emphasis on food production is our preoccupation in the face of increasing population. How far shall we go to reach say, a zero or plus-zero population growth? Is this the answer?. On technology, which are the appropriate technologies to avert the situation? Is it the heavy energy intensive use, or should it be budgeted for energy, so that with less energy you get higher returns?

Finally, with the use of increased inputs what happens to the environment? It has already been mentioned on land, water and vegetation itself, the air we breathe in, and the rest? Do we need to recycle what we are using? There are many factors that interplay environmentally, socially, economically and we see the Study as the beginning of many more detailed studies in this respect.

If I may divert, my country is one of those countries with a relatively high rate of population growth. On the other hand, probably a politician would look at it as a compliment to the Government on their efforts to provide goods and services that favour such increase. However, to reverse the situation a lot of awareness, education training, commitment and possibly good will, and as the distinguished delegate from the United States put it, common sense. Well, it may be taken that way, but it can be a very time consuming training, teaching people to be aware of what is happening. However, there are so many other items that I would refer to, but in here I would only mention that the study needs to go a little bit further to get more detailed information and particularly with the beginning of agro-ecological zones in which soil studies have already been mentioned. We have been in cooperation with FAO in these aspects. We are glad now that we can go to smaller units in our planning and development. I do not think that this is the answer. More detailed studies will be required probably to go to very small watershed areas where there would be an integrated approach in planning.

Our delegation would like to echo other delegations' thinking on the need for FAO to go lower, particularly to national level to carry out studies. Since FAO is supporting the integrated watershed management, as a tool in land use and water management, we would hope that the answer probably would lie in these aspects which are very variable and desirable for more elaborate work in the future.

In Africa shifting cultivation has been blamed, and in the same tone mechanization too, has also contributed to the effect, particularly in forest areas where you would have bulldozers moving the vegetation, and with the torrential rains you have soil erosion. Well now, if we put all this together and we need to produce food and we are now looking at intensifying our production, how do we then move? There is new thinking now which may not be new, in the sense of growing crops in association with tree crops. From a scientific point of view, somebody might refer to it as "agroforestry". The headquarters happen to be in my country. I think some of the answers which might be a result of international research in agroforestry might be of help to us.

We support also, the biological interplay as mentioned by Australia, and more so on the practical approach, as mentioned by the distinguished member from China. Petroleum based fertilizers are what we normally think of when we have to think of increased yields or improvement of our soil fertility. But, if we could look at the biological interplay in nature, as put Mother Nature, I think it is an area to which great attention should be paid.

With the increasing population, and more so for the African countries, or developing countries, it is normally destined for urban areas. Well, the case here is to reverse the outflow to urban areas by simply improving conditions in the rural areas and this is one of the recommendations under WCARRD. Redistribution is probably a fair policy and this will mean the emergence of small farms. The answer probably will lie in intensive food production on a family level, integrated with rational use of optimal use of national resources including water energy. This will also determine what the people themselves consider is essential for their survival.

We commend the FAO for this preliminary work since land is becoming scarce, population increasing and yet food is to be produced. The small farmer is a target throughout the world. Let us have more studies in comparison by regions.

S. ALI KETRANJJI (Algerie): La présentation remarquable de l'étude "Terre, alimentation et population" par le Dr. Bommer m'autorise à passer directement à quelques réflexions d'ordre général. Je retiens d'abord que les besoins futurs des populations sont envisagés non seulement en fonction de la démographie, mais également en fonction de l'accroissement du niveau de vie. L'approche relativise ainsi l'importance de la variable démographique, et introduit à la question primordiale de l'évolution de l'autonomie alimentaire en fonction du développement économique global. Il ne faut pas perdre de vue en effet que la tendance à l'autonomie alimentaire n'est pas antinomique du développement; elle peut au contraire en être un principe de base. C'est, me semble-t-il, assez implicite dans le paragraphe 2 de l'introduction du document C 83/18.

Au niveau planétaire, il existe, selon l'étude, suffisamment de terres cultivables pour assurer le minimum alimentaire à la population mondiale à condition qu'il y ait un transfert massif de denrées alimentaires et de populations à l'échelle du monde.

Il me semble que la première condition énoncée apporte un argument de poids à la quasi-unanimité qui s'est dégagée hier sur les objectifs révisés de l'ajustement agricole international.

Les résultats au niveau régional invitent implicitement, me semble-t-il, la communauté internationale à tout mettre en oeuvre pour faciliter les efforts de coopération régionale en matières agricole et alimentaire tels qu'ils sont énoncés par exemple dans le chapitre "Agricole" du Plan d'action de Lagos.

L'accroissement de l'utilisation des terres nécessaires à la nourriture dépend de l'accès aux intrants et des moyens institutionnels et technologiques appropriés, La question qui vient à l'esprit immédiatement a trait à la volonté politique de la communauté internationale, et principalement des pays qui disposent du potentiel scientifique et technique, de mettre ce potentiel au service des populations des pays en voie de développement; en fait, la technologie, dans le monde actuel, se vend et s'achète; c'est une marchandise produite par des structures oligopolistiques. On doute fortement que de telles structures aient un quelconque intérêt à s'atteler à imaginer des technologies appropriées.

Quant aux 19 pays qui seront dans l'incapacité de nourrir leur population, même à des conditions de production optimales, leur situation spécifique pourra-t-elle s'améliorer dans le cadre du système économique international actuel? Qu'advient-il de "leur droit de déterminer leurs propres politiques et priorités nationales"? Telles sont les questions que l'on peut se poser pour reprendre les termes contenus dans les principes et programmes d'action du CMRADR.

Enfin, cette étude a l'immense mérite de permettre d'en finir avec les visions catastrophistes en matière démographique et met la variable population dans de bonnes perspectives, car comme le dit le document, l'aide financière au plan international "risque d'être encore plus déterminante qu'on ne l'avait cru jusqu'alors" (page 8, par, 3),

A long terme, ce dernier facteur me semble prédominant.

La délégation algérienne accueille donc avec beaucoup de faveur cette étude présentée à notre examen; même si elle regrette que les questions primordiales de politique internationale soient quelque peu laissées dans l'ombre, elle appelle à la poursuite de l'effort dans ce type d'approche. Merci.

H. MOHAMADI (Sudan) (original language Arabic) : Allow me at the outset to commend this important and excellent document C 83/18. I would like to congratulate Dr Bommer for his lucid introduction of this document. I should also like to commend FAO for opening the door to discuss this important question, which is considered one of the basic foundations of the relevant policies and strategies at the country, regional and international level. I believe there is no need for me to stress the idea that processing, identifying and evaluating land and water resources and the land potential in terms of man and animal is considered as the cornerstone of sound planning and optimum use of natural resources in order to meet ever increasing human needs.

It is well known that this question is closely linked with many other important questions. For example, this process is closely linked with the increase in food production, food security, regional and international cooperation. It paves the way for reaching a comprehensive and integrated rural development that secures equity and prosperity for all, particularly in the least developing regions. Hence, my country's delegation calls for including this item permanently in the agenda of FAO regional and international conferences.

We also call upon the FAO to intensify its efforts in consolidating the efforts exerted at the country level in order to complete the basic data and information and to overcome the obstacles hindering the efficiency and reliability of such data through the conducting of more detailed studies in cooperation with the Organizations concerned.

We would have liked to have had access to the detailed studies covered by this Report. However, we do realize that this preliminary Report, though brief and general, yet it gave us useful indications of the measures and priorities that should be pursued, for example, as far as aids are concerned, their levels and varieties, and with regard to the orientation of agricultural input. It also gives us an indication of the expected impact of such a process on the eradication of hunger and malnutrition according to the three levels of production inputs. Hence, we call upon the international community to raise such levels to lessen the number of countries suffering from critical conditions in a bid to strike a balance between food and population. We subscribe to what has been said by the previous speakers about the use of up-to-date techniques such as remote sensing. We also Support the idea calling for a balanced development of rainfed regions in order to increase production and to achieve equitable development in the different regions.

We should also take into account surface and underground water resources and their potentials in providing and ameliorating food supplies.

In conclusion, I commended in general terms on this document without going into details in order to be as brief as possible as you asked us to do, Mr Chairman, but should the need arise, we will deal with more of the details in the coming days.

V. HJORT (Denmark) : Speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, I would like to express our full acknowledgement of the study conducted by FAO on land, food and population.

The long-term perspective study represents an interesting new approach to the relationship between land, food, and population. It attempts to quantify the relation between agricultural production resources and population growth. The study helps us to look beyond immediate problems and be aware that in the long term population supporting capacities in developing countries will be even more critical.

The Nordic countries agree with the Secretariat that the study should be regarded as a first approximation which requires further refinement. We are aware of the new and innovative character of the study and of the limitations in it. Therefore, the Nordic countries wish to consider the assumptions of the study with a critical mind in order to achieve results as realistic as possible.

In the view of the Nordic countries, the present study must be followed up taking into due consideration the lines agreed to by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development as well as matters relating to consumption and nutrition.

The scope of the study should be further widened so as to take account of a number of factors which cannot be ignored.

Particular consideration must be given to the fisheries sector, which contributes significantly to basic food needs. We do not get a true picture of food production potentials if we only take agricultural land resources into account and ignore the resources of the sea.

Moreover, the study restricts forestry to land unsuitable for crop and grazing. World food production capacity is most directly affected by deforestation which entails erosion and changes in the atmosphere.

Regarding crop requirements, the paper implies that: "the changes in diet implied by the optimal crops pattern may be hard to achieve". This perception of the direction in which dietary changes take place is, in our view, inappropriate. The optimal crop mix is normally embedded in the traditional culturally and ecologically adapted food patterns. It is when these systems are broken up too rapidly that consumption patterns and nutritional conditions may be negatively affected.

In choosing between policy options, the relationship between production systems, consumption patterns, and nutritional conditions should be fully understood. It would therefore be most useful if FAO could utilize available studies and arrange for new ones to shed more light on the relationship between ecological, nutritional, and production perspectives of different food systems.

The issue will be examined by the International Conference on Population in 1984. The results of that conference together with close cooperation with other relevant UN bodies could form a good framework for FAO participation and further involvement in this field.

The Nordic countries welcome this initiative by FAO and look forward to cooperating in any way which could make this study progress even further.

H.S. BAR-SHAI (Israel): First of all, I would like to congratulate Dr Bommer for preparing this important study and for the comprehensive introduction of the material under discussion, and in a general way we can agree to its contents and accept it.

Like our colleagues, I was glad to note that the global results "of the study confirmed that the world as a whole should have enough cultivable land to feed more than the maximum population it is ever likely to have to support".

We in Israel know that it can be done, we know it too well, having developed and advanced agriculture in a country with problems of land, water and labor scarcity. Bringing the developing world to a situation where more food is produced for the growing number of mouths and the realization of the conclusions of this study involves many steps like applying more intensive methods of agricultural production. Changing the present methods is involved in changing the attitudes of the farmers themselves, and as the United States suggested earlier, the best methods to improve agricultural production will be of no consequence if they are not accepted by the farmers themselves. Due to a new division of labour and agriculture, more and more international cooperation will be required in order to transfer staple foods from abundant areas to areas which are short in staples but which can or will have to exchange food for other products, and as we all know, this is a major problem today of international cooperation, I mean.

This also means, as I have mentioned earlier, a greater emphasis on development of food processing industries. These and other tasks may look overwhelming because of the efforts required to bring about this necessary revolution; yes, this is a revolution in the present concepts, but they are not insurmountable, as the experience of Israel demonstrates.

Let me at this stage descend from the macro to the micro level, especially regarding arid and semi-arid areas like Israel, bearing in mind that the so-called marginal arid land of today may become the fertile lands of tomorrow, provided the resources for innovative tillage and water research are invested.

I am indebted to France and Barbados for having brought up Israel as an example for a country which has progressed beyond the stages referred to by the study under discussion. We believe that our experience can be useful even to countries at earlier stages of agricultural development. One should bear in mind that we in Israel grow wheat, other cereals and animal fodder, too, which are again among the basic crops mentioned in the study.

Israel has applied many methods and means for intensification of production of various agricultural crops, among them yielding more rain from clouds by chemical treatment re-utilization and treatment of waste for irrigation of certain crops, re-utilization of industrial and animal wastes for the extraction of protein and other nourishing materials for specific use, and of course other means. Among some of the recent research carried out in Israel, I would like to mention production of high protein forage bushes irrigated by sea water. The problems of the palatability of these forages are as yet unsolved, but the quantity of biomass under this technology has been significant. Chemical treatment of forage by use of industrial gypsum which enables the high infiltration of rain water in semi-arid regions, coupled with the use of sodium polyphosphate compound to increase runoff of rain to collecting areas where industrial gypsum is applied for better rainfall harvest.

Another research and development endeavour undertaken in Israel is the development of micro-catchment areas of flood irrigation in desert regions based on the designing of ratio between contributing areas to collecting areas. Of late, technological and engineering inputs have made this aspect of water conservation for pasture and fruit production in desert areas of importance in the not too distant future. The ratio of contributing to collecting areas under the ancient/new system has been to date 5:1. Israel is, of course, ready, as we have mentioned before, to share our experience to the benefit of interested countries and cooperate in the application of the noble and much needed target to which this survey points.

Finally, I am looking forward to seeing further elaboration of the points raised in a rather general way by the survey in each country. As has been mentioned, the present survey is not too detailed in reference to smaller countries and areas like Israel. Elaboration is also required on further points as raised by other speakers. I should also like to see more crops covered by the survey, some of them basic like animals and sea resources such as fish and algae, some of them less basic but which assume, and may assume in the future, a growing importance in world trade and in the economic welfare of the nations concerned.

This is not to detract from the importance and significance of the present undertaking, for which again I thank the staff who prepared it.

W. NAIMOOL (Trinidad and Tobago): Mr Chairman, on page 4 of this most perceptive document which we are addressing we are told as follows: "The global results of the study confirm that the world as a whole should have enough cultivable land to feed for more than the maximum population it is ever likely to have to support." This statement goes - I think quite properly - beyond the 117 countries studied in this perceptive document. All things being normal, if not equal, I would suggest that that statement could have, without risk, been much more positive to the extent than one could have said that the world, all things being normal, will have enough cultivable land to feed more than its possible maximum population. This implies that, in terms of food supply, population magnitude can be accommodated. And, of course, when we speak of food and population, we naturally do not exclude food supplies from all our relevant water sources.

But, as the study goes on to say, the feeding of the global population would presuppose massive movements of food and population, and these might not be feasible. One point which would appear to be of the essence, therefore, is the need to look carefully at population growth. I do not feel I have to dwell on this.

As in most, if not all, things, Mr Chairman, we find that when the crunch comes we have, as individuals, and as individual countries, essentially to fall back on ourselves. There is no ultimately stronger or more reliable base. We understand full well that some countries are regularly scourged with catastrophic situations which, despite the most heroic of efforts, gravely militate against food production and self-sufficiency. But it is still open to serious doubt whether some countries, despite possessing rich potential for agricultural abundance, have been dedicatedly committing themselves to the realization of that potential, especially in the difficult area of population motivation. And yet, even as I say this, I recall, and must make mention of, the punishing disincentives to developing countries of adverse terms of trade and hydra-headed protectionism.

We appreciate, and are impressed by, the strides which have been made and will continue to be made in the field of technology, including food technology. But clearly technology *per se* is not the sole answer. We must look at other facts of the picture, and I wish to refer very briefly to about three of these.

The first is the environment. We must be ever conscious of the absolute need to protect it. Things cannot live and grow where the environment has been degraded to the point of sterility. Here we emphasise our growing concern about the use - indiscriminate use, at times - of unsuitable pesticides. In this area, FAO must continue and greatly increase its good work.

The second is so simple a fact that it often tends to be overlooked. It was made in Commission II by my head of delegation and deserves repetition. I speak of in some cases the virtually total neglect, and in other cases gradual extinction, of a country's indigenous fruits and vegetables. The two things, neglect and extinction, are, of course, inter-related. These commodities of which I speak have been, or are being, replaced in countries such as my own by often inferior imports, and this is a tremendous pity. They must be vigorously cultivated anew given their just and proper place in our economies.

The third has to do with taste. I understand, and have no desire to dispute, my brother's taste, especially if taste has been conditioned, to speak broadly, by cultural imperatives. But I would venture to suggest that there is ample room within the context of our constraints and within the context of the individual country itself, even one as small as my own, for expanding the range of acceptable foods. Taste is an acquired thing, sometimes acquired very quickly. One might find, for example, that a lettuce or tomato or avocado salad is no tastier than a salad of nopalitos, a kind of cactus that grows in desert areas of Latin America.

The problems discerned in document C 83/18 are serious. While it is proper and necessary to use the most sophisticated resources at our disposal to meet the challenge of food and population, we must not lose sight of simple things that go such a long way and can mean so much.

Mr Chairman, all things being normal, there is much more than enough land. There can be much more than enough food, despite the difficulties. Our achievement will rest on the quality of our will and our effort. FAO's role here is most clear.

A. NAGA (Japan): First of all, my delegation would like to congratulate the Secretariat for the concise and analytical document C 83/18 before us.

This document is particularly important because it not only presents the mere results of the study, but it also gives certain indications for the development of the policy direction for the developing countries by presenting long-term food production potentialities.

We hope that FAO will continue to strengthen the works in this field, including a follow-up of this study, in coordination with other international organizations such as UNFPA which are involved in population studies.

I believe that FAO can also play a leading role in assisting the developing countries in the study of potential population supporting capacities, better land use planning and management, etc.

Japan is deeply concerned about the current land degradation problem which is now becoming a serious problem in the world. In this connection, Japan has made a new contribution to the FAO Trust Fund Programme on the investigation of soil conservation methods this year.

A. SAISSI (Maroc): Je voudrais dire tout d'abord que cette étude, très séduisante sur le plan théorique et qui ne peut revêtir de ce fait qu'un caractère préliminaire, représente une excellente initiative de la part de la FAO.

L'approche méthodologique qui a été élaborée peut être appliquée à l'étude des pays en développement en l'adaptant bien entendu au contexte socio-économique local de chaque pays et au caractère de son milieu naturel tant au point de vue climatique que pédologique. Cette étude devra pousser à la réalisation d'études approfondies dans chacun de nos pays. Je voudrais faire part de certaines remarques d'ordre général :

Premièrement, tout calcul de potentiel étant lui-même intrinsèquement évolutif car comme le dit le rapport lui-même, à propos des limites de la méthodologie adoptée, un certain nombre de facteurs peuvent, en sus de l'utilisation des intrants, favoriser l'accroissement de la production, notamment la recherche, la formation et l'adaptation de l'utilisation des sols aux besoins de consommation prioritaires, une actualisation régulière de cette étude est nécessaire.

Deuxièmement la mise en oeuvre d'une éducation nutritionnelle permanente alliée à une répartition équilibrée des ressources alimentaires à l'intérieur du pays est de nature à augmenter les capacités des pays à mieux faire face aux besoins vitaux de la population.

Troisièmement, tout développement de la production alimentaire, est étroitement lié au renforcement de nos ressources humaines en milieu agricole; c'est là un facteur qu'il convient de privilégier dans le cadre de notre action en faveur de l'alimentation car le maintien de l'agriculteur, du vrai agriculteur, sur sa terre est essentiel. Une politique encourageant une telle fixation de la population agricole et la formation de jeunes agriculteurs compétents est donc fondamentale.

Quatrièmement, toute stratégie visant l'utilisation rationnelle des terres agricoles doit s'efforcer d'éviter que l'extension de l'urbanisation, le phénomène de l'érosion, le non-respect de la vocation réelle des sols ou la répartition déséquilibrée des différentes infrastructures relatives au support et à l'utilisation de la production agricole, constituent une perte de terres arables ou un frein à la rentabilisation optimale des terres agricoles.

C'est pourquoi, je pense qu'une telle stratégie demeurera tributaire de la conception d'une bonne organisation de l'espace agricole et rural dans le cadre de l'établissement de plans d'aménagement du territoire.

J. NGOULOU (Congo): Je me joins à toutes les autres délégations pour féliciter la FAO de son excellente initiative sur l'élaboration d'une étude concernant la population et sur la capacité physique potentielle des terres à répondre aux besoins de la population des pays en développement par rapport à leur population présente et prévisible. C'est une première étude et c'est aussi une première projection qui ne représente pas une fin en soi. La projection de la population mondiale qui devrait s'élever, selon les bureaux des Nations Unies, à un peu plus de 10 milliards d'habitants après 2095 doit être prise comme bonne information car au fil des années ces données seront corrigées et réajustées, j'en suis sûr. La délégation congolaise, tout en félicitant la FAO, souhaiterait que cet effort de recherche soit poursuivi sans relâche et que les pays soient traités distinctement cas par cas. Cela devrait être le cas pour les grands ensembles régionaux.

Pour réussir une telle mission, la FAO devra aider les gouvernements à créer des centres nationaux d'étude de sols, comme cela est le cas en République populaire du Congo. Ce centre national d'étude de sols a pour tâche principale d'identifier les surfaces à affecter à l'agriculture dans l'optique bien comprise d'une planification et d'un aménagement de la mise en valeur des terres pour l'obtention des meilleurs rendements nécessitant un minimum d'investissement matériel et financier.

Ce travail de classification zonale des sols au Congo bénéficie fort heureusement de l'appui technique et scientifique de la FAO. Ce document, qui attire l'attention des gouvernements sur la croissance démographique et qui sonne l'alerte sur leurs capacités respectives à donner de plus en plus à manger à une population qui sera plus nombreuse et exigeante aujourd'hui et demain, m'amène à poser la question suivante: Sommes-nous si optimistes de croire que d'ici l'an 2000 les pays en développement vont rétablir un équilibre réel entre le taux de croissance de la population et le taux de croissance de la production alimentaire ? Personnellement les hypothèses émises sur les politiques agricoles dans l'optique de l'accroissement de la production alimentaire de pays en développement exigent un investissement humain, matériel et financier très important que seuls ces pays ne pourraient honorer dans un avenir proche.

Ayant à l'esprit le coût de la lutte contre la désertification galopante en Afrique, je souhaiterais que dans cette étude sur la démographie, la FAO mette un accent particulier sur le phénomène d'exode rural, comme l'a si bien signifié le délégué du Mali, car dans les pays en développement s'opère actuellement un phénomène de plus en plus ahurissant du dépeuplement des campagnes au profit des zones urbaines. L'agriculture devient une activité aux mains d'une population dont la moyenne d'âge oscille autour de 50 ans. Ce vieillissement de la population agricole active, qui doit chaque jour nourrir plus de bouches invalides parce que n'appartenant pas aux sphères de production, devra, à mon avis, faire l'objet dès à présent des préoccupations de la FAO en vue d'aider les pays en développement à résoudre cet épineux problème du maintien de la population jeune à la campagne et de la répartition spatiale des populations sur le territoire national par la mise en place d'un programme d'action visant à la reconquête de l'espace national et à la revalorisation du travail de la terre.

S.M. SHARIR (Iraq) (original language Arabic): At the outset, I should like to thank the FAO Secretariat for preparing this valuable and excellent document on land, food and population. The document under consideration demonstrates that the world population is steadily increasing. Despite continuing efforts to increase food production, hundreds of millions of people in the developing countries are suffering from critical conditions where the available potentialities of the countries are insufficient to provide their people with a decent standard of living.

Our attention has been drawn already to the fact that in 1975, 90 developing countries were cultivating 40 percent of their arable land, and that this would decrease to only 50 percent in the year 2000.

We support the idea calling for the exertion of greater efforts at country level in order to realize a greater measure of self-sufficiency, but we all know this cannot be achieved unless fertile and arable land is available, unless there is sufficient water for irrigation, and unless there are production inputs such as improved seeds, fertilizers and pesticides. Farmers and technicians should be trained. Further attention should be focussed on agricultural extension, rural development, technology, application and modern production techniques through the efficient use of mechanization. Agricultural studies and research should be conducted to find the best varieties, the most appropriate means of production suitable for the environment and local climatic conditions. This cannot be achieved unless the necessary financial resources are available and unless, in the various countries, adequate plans are laid down in accordance with financial and economic needs.

We in Iraq give first priority in our development plans to irrigation projects, land reclamation and soil conservation. We take into account that the technical application and use of up-to-date techniques is impossible without having fertile and productive soil. As this kind of soil provides the farmer with an income through yield increase of the productive surface of his land, he can thus secure a decent life for his family. We support the idea of laying down more detailed agricultural policies and plans at national levels with a long-term view, looking towards the year 2000. Thus, natural resources and human capabilities would be invested to produce food supplies in order to eradicate hunger and malnutrition and to strike a balance between food production and populations.

In Iraq, being a developing country, we have focussed attention on rural development, since it is the basis of agricultural development. Much attention has been given to such things as land distribution to farmers, and the provision of production inputs such as electricity, water and road network facilities in rural areas. These infrastructures are fundamental factors in encouraging rural populations to stay on their land and to increase food production. We believe in the necessity of self-sufficiency, as food aids are only temporary, and no country can depend solely on such aid. The people should eat from what they can produce.

H.MALTEZ (Panamá): Permítanos, señor Presidente, en primer lugar, unirnos a las delegaciones que nos precedieron en el uso de la palabra para agradecer y felicitar a la Secretaria y al Dr Boramer por el interesante documento y presentación sobre el tema "Las tierras, los alimentos y la población" sometido a nuestra consideración.

Deseamos asimismo expresar nuestra complacencia por la original metodología y contexto del documento, por la franqueza de su lenguaje y la claridad del examen realizado. La delegación de Panamá, al identificarse con el contenido y los propósitos del documento, desea expresar algunas observaciones, sobre todo del carácter conceptual que dicho documento le sugiere.

El primer comentario que le merece a nuestra delegación el análisis del documento C 83/18, es reconocer que dicho estudio, si bien como en el mismo se señala, tiene algunas, a nuestro juicio, importantes y serias limitaciones que pueden deformar sus resultados, indica una tendencia que puede tener importantes repercusiones para el oportuno establecimiento de las prioridades y la estrategia a largo plazo, necesarias para planificar las opciones para el desarrollo futuro, tendientes, entre otras cosas, a lograr un mayor grado de autosuficiencia y de seguridad alimentaria en los pueblos en desarrollo.

En términos globales, el resultado del estudio es alentador en el sentido que nos indica que debería haber en todo el mundo, sin tener en cuenta los recursos de los países desarrollados, suficientes tierras cultivables para alimentar al doble de población existente en 1975, en los 117 países en desarrollo examinados y un 50 por ciento más de su población prevista para el año 2000.

No obstante, estos resultados globales nos merecen particular atención, el hecho de que sólo 52 de los países estudiados podrían, a nivel inferior de insumos, alimentar a sus respectivas poblaciones previstas para el año 2000; mientras que 28 países podrán alimentar a sus poblaciones previstas, utilizando todas sus tierras cultivables con un nivel intermedio de insumos; 18 países utilizando el nivel superior de insumos y 19 países no podrán alimentar a sus poblaciones en el año 2000, ni siquiera logrando el más alto nivel de insumos.

Estos hechos nos llaman a serias reflexiones, sobre todo considerando las urgentes necesidades de los pueblos en desarrollo en materia de cooperación técnica, desarrollo institucional, desarrollo rural y tenencia de tierras, insuficiencia de recursos económicos y financieros, falta de tecnologías adecuadas, etc.; lo cual dificultará, sin lugar a dudas, la utilización de las tierras disponibles para la producción agrícola.

Deseamos manifestarnos de acuerdo con el concepto de que el factor tiempo representa una limitante fundamental para lograr objetivos sugeridos por el estudio y dentro de este contexto adquiere gran importancia el factor de orden económico, social y político que no podemos subestimar.

La delegación de Panamá coincide plenamente con la distinguida delegación de México al estimar que los componentes de orden social son de primordial importancia para un estudio como el propuesto y que el mismo no puede ser completo sin su oportuna consideración.

Estimamos conveniente recordar que muchas de las tierras cultivables disponibles son tierras marginadas, entendiendo como tal una deficiente integración y participación del área con el resto del país, no solamente desde el punto de vista geográfico, sino también cultural y económico, además de un cierto grado de aislamiento político. Por lo general, este tipo de enfoque del problema coincide con otro problema de índole social y económica que tiende a aumentar también los costos de las inversiones necesarias para su desarrollo. Se trata, en efecto, de zonas poco pobladas, cuyos habitantes además viven en condiciones de gran dispersión y padecen serios problemas de tipo sanitario, nutricional, educativo y de empleo. A ello se agrega la falta de vías de comunicación, de fuentes adecuadas de energía y de vínculos estables y seguros con la economía nacional del mercado.

Todas estas causas hacen que nuestros campesinos, en muchos casos, abandonen sus tierras atraídos por la comodidad de la ciudad y sus actividades de servicio.

A tal propósito y para terminar, deseamos recordar el pensamiento del desaparecido dirigente y líder del proceso nacionalista panameño, General Omar Torrijos Herrera, el cual consideraba - cito - "que todos los esfuerzos para el desarrollo de áreas marginadas deben plantearse, en primer término, el problema de hacer habitable la región para los seres humanos que la fecundan con su trabajo".

R. SENTÜRK (Turkey): On behalf of the Turkish delegation I would like to associate myself with those delegations who took the floor before me and expressed their appreciation of both the document and its presentation by Dr Bommer.

It has been an instructive session for everybody concerned with the overall purpose of agriculture which as we understand it is the production of crops and livestock for eventual consumption by mankind. A long time has passed since Malthus predicted a catastrophe for the world due to the ever increasing population. We know that the population increase is not the only factor to be taken into account when making projections for the future of the world.

The document presented this morning brings clarification to various other dimensions of the global problem facing the world with regard to the food needs of people.

The assumptions of the study have been underlined in the document presented. Naturally the findings and recommendations of the study have to be viewed and interpreted keeping these assumptions in mind.

As the results of studies achieved in the fields of food and population, even at the lowest possible technological level, it has been understood that there might not be much threat in terms of food production with regard to the world's population to be reached in the year 2000.

Regarding the results of the same studies at country bases, it is observed that at present 19 countries would not be able to feed their population in 2000. For this reason, international concern has to be concentrated on these countries and during such activities, non-agricultural incomes which such countries enjoy would have to be taken into account.

In the field of food and population, the findings on the capacities of the countries in feeding their populations, are based on general information. Whereas in each country there exist different agro-ecological zones, the production capacities of these local centres have to be evaluated in the light of more accurate statistical data. In Turkey, a project aiming at establishing the production capacities of several agro-ecological zones at different technological levels has been initiated. The project has also the aim of identifying the most advantageous crop patterns for each agro-ecological zone, based on technical, economic and social considerations. We believe that the implementation of such a project requires some preconditions covering the availability of accurate data on the resources at hand, such as land and water.

I wish to stress that when analysing a complex problem like assessing the feeding capacity of countries, accurate data not only on land and water but also on all other subjects are needed. The characteristics of population, forestry and fishery resources are just some of these other topics related to the major issue of feeding capacity.

In countries with developed statistical organizations such analyses may yield reliable results. But it is a sad fact that in most of the countries, particularly in developing countries, statistical organizations are not yet fully developed.

In the past, FAO's efforts have concentrated mainly on the agricultural census to be undertaken every 10 years. Our experiences with the censuses of agriculture indicate that a census is a very costly operation and it takes a long time to produce statistics because it includes so many questions. On the other hand, there are subjects which the census does not cover. For the planners and the decision-makers up-to-date and reliable statistics are needed on all phases of agriculture and related subjects. To produce these statistics an approach broader than a single decennial census is needed. This broader approach to collecting agricultural statistics should aim at the development of various less costly surveys and record keeping which will take some of the load away from the census and provide timely data. FAO has been recommending the establishment of such a broad approach to collecting agricultural statistics. But this recommendation has not yet been fully documented to make the recommendation operational.

We believe that FAO should prepare technical documents on developing a broad system of agricultural data collection activities in which the census is only one component with the objective of establishing a national agricultural information system. Such documents will be highly appreciated. Such an information system, we believe, is the sound base for country level studies recommended in the document we are discussing.

G. V. GANTCHEV (Bulgaria): First of all I would like to congratulate the Secretariat on including this important item on the agenda of the conference. I would also like to congratulate Dr Bommer on his excellent introduction to the document.

We think that the conclusions and recommendations drafted in the document definitely contribute to clarify the view of the difficult situation with food in the world which we are facing now. In our view it can also encourage new initiatives in this field.

The interest in the world food problem during the last ten years is not only undiminished, it has considerably increased. There are understandable reasons for such an increase; the main one, in our view, is that the aims of the 1974 World Food Conference have not been achieved. World production of basic food products, particularly in the developing countries, has not achieved desirable rates and scales of increase. As a result, the level of food security is far from satisfactory. The discrepancy between the food produced and the food needed per capita is increasing in many parts of the world. The great difference between the quantities of food produced in the developed and the developing countries forces further increases of imports of foodstuffs on the developing countries and as a result the debts in those countries continue to mount.

I think we must agree with the main conclusion of the document that despite the complicated world food situation, there are enough facilities to produce more food if all national, regional and global resources for food development are managed correctly and if the proper agricultural development is adopted. We share the view that in this case humanity could be supplied with enough foodstuffs even if it increased to six thousand million at the end of the century. For this purpose it is necessary to take into account all technological, economic and social aspects of the problem.

In our country we have achieved good results in solving the food problems for the last 30 to 40 years. I would like to inform delegates that after having studied the methodology of agro-ecological zones, Bulgarian scientists propose to create agro-ecological teams. The country has been subdivided into 36 regions and a team has been assigned to each one. These teams are applying the knowledge acquired for each region in order to obtain maximum production, taking into consideration the natural and economic conditions of each particular area.

The first results that were recorded proved to be encouraging. This permits the coordination of all the scientists' activities and also the mobilisation of the population for better use of natural resources.

We are ready to share our experience with every country interested and we hope that FAO could provide facilities for the experts of such countries to come and familiarise themselves with achievements in this respect.

D. MOUTSATSOS (Greece): The Greek delegation definitely appreciates the fact that this paper, a study on the important issue of land, food and population, is under discussion at this conference. We believe that the findings of this study, although there are some restrictive assumptions, will prove most useful in raising important policy questions and implications. Such questions are directly related to agricultural development policies and strategies, and especially to the need for ensuring food security and raising the rate of self-sufficiency in developing countries.

The question of development is not simply a pure economic and technical issue. At the same time, it is mainly a social issue. Thus we are of the opinion that in studying the issue of land, food and population, it is important to take into account the relevant socio-economic factors.

We therefore support the idea of more detailed national studies, with less restrictive assumptions, incorporating the relevant socio-economic factors.

J.D.L. RICHARDS (New Zealand): The New Zealand delegation very much appreciates Dr Bommer's excellent presentation on this subject. The study gives us a very useful perspective on the inter-relationship of land potential and population, and such a study obviously creates awareness of these relationships and makes its contribution through this understanding.

There has been some discussion of inputs, it is an economic axiom that the level of production output is limited by the level of inputs which can be applied within the constraint of a certain price for each. The constraints on inputs are the effective limit on food production. The study shows that generally land availability is not a production limitation, though it clearly could be in some regions.

My delegation wishes to recommend that the future direction of this work should be to identify constraints and superimpose them on the study. For example, the idea of high inputs implies that fertiliser use would increase many times. What is the feasibility of doing this? If this analysis casts doubt on the availability of extra inputs to cover the whole cultivable area, then what is available has to be used to best advantage, but with what consequence for these potential estimates?

In reality, the world food production level is limited to its current level because we have limited resources. The focus of our work has to be on lifting these constraints in a balanced way. We should also remember that the population which can be supported in any region also depends upon the availability of people to utilize resources other than land: human skills, for example, and industrial raw materials; and to trade these for their food requirements.

D.F.R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): First of all I would like to express, on behalf of the Director-General, our deep appreciation for the discussions and the various comments made. The very positive comments provided to the study, as well as the critical ones, which have raised many questions related to the present work done and the future course of the work to be undertaken.

First of all I would like to pass on the numerous positive comments to our colleagues who have collaborated with us in preparing the study, particularly the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and the Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, colleagues who have been here. Last but not least, thanks to our colleagues who have done the study, Dr Dudal and, in particular, Dr Higgins, who is, and was at the time, the leader of this undertaking. At the same time we would like to put on record our gratitude for the worldwide collaboration we had in undertaking this study. There were quite a number of experts from various member countries who have advised us on the methodology and on the direction and guidance. Certainly, as I heard from the comments made by some delegations, we can further count on this collaboration and we would certainly like to make full use of it.

Listening to the very important interventions you have made, I felt that the study has already met its last objective. It has provoked a very lively debate and has provoked thoughts, and will do so by all seeing the study. At the same time it provokes a lot of criticism in the way of limitations, on what should be done and could have been done, in addition what type of conclusions are being drawn from it. It was interesting to listen to quite a wide area of conclusions which are being drawn from such a study by various delegations.

Mr Chairman, if you agree, I now turn to Dr Dudal to continue from here, to reply to the various comments and questions raised, to provide further clarification.

R.J. DUDAL (Director, Land and Water Development Division): I should like to respond to some of the major issues which were raised during today's debate. The first question referred to the global value of the study. It is realised that the study is devoted essentially to the population carrying capacity in developing countries. In fact, they are the ones who are primarily involved in land, food and population relationships. In order to have a global overview, the production potential of the developed countries would also need to be assessed, including opportunities for international trade and international agricultural adjustment. Such a study was, however, beyond our resources but we are glad to say that a number of the developed countries are cooperating with us, and are producing this type of information for their own countries.

The second point related to the population figures which we have used. The figures which we have used are those of the projections by 1980 of the UNFPA long-range population projections. We have taken the medium projection, namely 10.2 billion people by the year 2095. We could, as it was suggested, also take the high level and the low level projections, but we have chosen the medium one as a basis for our work. I should like to stress, however, that our population carrying capacity study has been made for the population of year 2000 and not 2095. This population is by now already underway, so we feel confident that the figures we have used in terms of the year 2000, are probably near to reality. What is important is not only the absolute figures at the global level but the geographical distribution of the populations of the future in relation to available land and water resources in different parts of the world.

Forest requirements. We should like to assure you that the ecological aspects of land development will be fully taken into account in fact, the protective role of the forest has been taken care of since the steeper slopes were not considered suitable for cultivation. It has not been possible in this regional and global study to take into account specific requirements for fuel wood and timber. However, this will be done at the country level.

Level of inputs. May I stress that by high level of inputs we do not necessarily mean types and quantities of inputs presently applied in temperate regions. We fully realise that these inputs should be appropriate to the soil and climatic conditions in developing countries, including organic recycling, biological nitrogen fixation, improved animal drawn equipment, integrated pest control measures, multiple cropping etcetera, adapted to the experience and practices which farmers have developed for their own environment in the developing countries. We should like to note, however, that high level of inputs immediately should imply soil conservation measures. Indeed, the land resource base cannot be taken for granted and is not static. We act, therefore, on the recommendations included in the world's soil charter which the FAO adopted at its previous Session.

Irrigation. With regard to irrigation potential we have used the figures of projected expansion of irrigated land in the countries covered by the study. A more precise assessment of irrigation potential, however, will be done at country level, taking into account the type of irrigation, off-the-river, groundwater, or water transported over long distances and the level of investment which is being envisaged. We very much appreciate that the physical land resource potential which we have assessed, is meaningful only when account is taken of access to land and inputs, motivation of human resources, training and equity in the distribution of resources as brought forward sourcefully by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. We confirm that this study is, as we indicated, pioneering, first approximation. We fully realise this, but we are very glad that it was fully recognized that the approach was valid and constitute a good basis for further refinement. We are also gratified that the study was acknowledged to be a contribution to the establishment of world food security, to international agricultural adjustment and to the promotion of improved land use planning at different levels.

I could summarize these remarks in indicating additional factors and aspects which will be included in the more detailed country studies which a number of delegations have recommended we should carry out and which I am glad to say is foreseen in our Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85.

If we divide the additional factors into two, physical and socio-economic inputs.

Firstly, on the physical side we shall certainly be considering climatic/soil and terrain factors at a much more detailed level, at a scale 5-10 times larger, than our regional study. This will allow consideration of sub-national administrative area circumstances which it was not possible to consider previously. We will also be considering a much larger number of input/land use alternative, including those particularly adapted to specific local land conditions and circumstances, for example, part mechanization. Also additional crops including cash crops, other food and non-food agricultural production, considered important at the national level, will be included. Where sufficient data is available, emphasis will also be given to further irrigation development. Protective forest requirements have been included in the regional studies (more than one-third of the land will remain under forestry) but further consideration will be given to this and other forms of forest land use in the detailed country studies.

On the socio-economic side, if I may call it such, attention will be given to the organizational and agrarian aspects of production and development. Food security aspects will be considered together with such items as appropriate level and availability of necessary inputs.

In all this work, emphasis will be placed on undertaking such studies in close collaboration with national expertise and institutions, as well as with other appropriate UN Agencies (including UNEP). It is not our intention to provide governments with final answers, but rather to assist in the development of national resource bases and interpretative expertise to support identification of sound land use planning options and policies within the context of national economic development.

Mr Chairman, I consider it a great privilege to address this Commission and I would like to stress that I am speaking here on behalf of the three organizations who have participated in this study, UNFPA, IIASA and FAO. Within FAO to a number of sectors within the Organization, may I call them, the Statistics Division, Plant Production and Protection Division, the Office of the Assistant Director-General for the Agriculture Department, the Computer Branch, a number of consultants and experts from the countries concerned, and the Land and Water Development Division.

May I single out one person already mentioned by Dr Bommer, Mr Higgins, who is sitting behind me on my right, to whom any additional questions may be asked during the course of the Conference, in his office, either to him directly or through me. He would be only too pleased to give the additional information if so required.

El PRESIDENTE: Para contestar las preguntas relativas a estadísticas, le paso la palabra al Sr. Quance.

C.L. QUANCE (Director, Statistics Division): The distinguished delegate from Turkey, I believe, expressed concern about the inadequate statistical capability of many countries to adequately monitor and evaluate the productivity of its natural resource base and other socio-economic needs of people.

This FAO Conference is in full agreement with the concerns expressed by this delegate. We can, in fact, quote from a draft report of Commission II in its review of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85. I quote "The Conference reaffirmed the importance of timely reliable and comprehensive statistics and emphasized the need to further harmonize FAO data and those of national and other international agencies. The Conference noted with satisfaction the continued emphasis given to the development and improvement of food and agricultural statistics at the country level. It noted also the link of the 1990 World Census of Agriculture Programme with a multi-year survey cycle to establish a balance between statistics on basic agricultural structures and current statistics on prices, production, food consumption, and other indicators of food security and socio-economic progress. The need for adequate training and technical back-stopping in these programmes was emphasized. The Conference expressed the desire to review the 1990 World Census of Agriculture Programme at its 1985 session".

El PRESIDENTE: Si no hubiere algún comentario, me permitiré hacer el resumen de los debates en relación a este punto 8 de nuestra agenda.

Empezaré diciendo que la Comisión reconoció que el estudio elaborado por la FAO se hizo con la participación y contacto con otros organismos del Sistema de Naciones Unidas, y que era un trabajo novedoso, útil e importante. Sobre su metodología, se reconoció la utilidad de la Carta Mundial de los Suelos y la descripción de sus características entre los 117 países estudiados, así como la definición de los tres tipos de niveles tecnológicos presentados.

Se solicitó que los países ampliaran su base estadística y que se precisaran mejor los indicadores de potencial y tecnología. Se pidió que los países pusieran mayor énfasis y que colaboraran en estudios de suelos y recursos hidráulicos y su potencial. Se solicitó a FAO más datos de país por país para integrar estudios nacionales con base en censos, y con el propósito de un sistema integrado de información que facilitara una evaluación flexible que sería de utilidad a todos los países desarrollados y en desarrollo para diseñar sus políticas de asistencia y de producción agrícola. Se propuso también que este estudio incluyera a China, e incluso a los países desarrollados.

Algunas delegaciones pusieron el énfasis en ligar metodológicamente más, los aspectos demográficos al estudio. Se llamó la atención a la creciente desproporción de población en países en desarrollo y su indeseable distribución, y que ello debería ser objeto de mayor estudio. Varias delegaciones insistieron que debía ponerse mayor atención a las perspectivas económicas y los esfuerzos de seguridad alimentaria y las orientaciones del Reajuste Agrícola Internacional.

Se pidió también que la metodología incorporara un cuarto nivel tecnológico, correspondiente a la mecanización parcial del campo por ser ésta, para muchos países, una posibilidad más realista dentro de sus alcances tecnológicos.

La Comisión solicitó pues que FAO, en su carácter de líder en esta materia, y en colaboración con otras organizaciones, continuara este tipo de estudios y ampliara sus miras para incluir una visión más integrada de los escenarios previsibles. Se solicitó presentar nuevos estudios actualizados a plazos regulares.

En relación a los resultados del estudio, se confirmó que el mundo era perfectamente capaz de producir, a nivel global, tantos o más alimentos que los necesitados por la población previsible para el año 2000, y aun posteriormente; y que la FAO debería seguir contestando sobre cuántos seres humanos puede sustentar nuestra tierra.

Algunas delegaciones calificaron al estudio de optimista en sus aspectos generales, y que los grandes obstáculos al aumento y disponibilidad de alimentos a nivel regional y nacional, debían estudiarse aún con más detenimiento y profundidad.

Se tomó nota de las posibilidades de satisfacción de las necesidades de una población cincuenta por ciento mayor que la actual para el año 2000; pero que, con bajos niveles de insumos y tecnología, sesenta y cinco países estarían en una situación crítica. Se solicitó se hicieran en esos países y en otros, estudios y esfuerzos para desarrollar otros sectores compensatorios que permitieran cubrir los déficit alimentarios previsibles. Se indicó, sin embargo, que la pesca y otras fuentes alimentarias podrían y deberían considerarse para visualizar los potenciales de satisfacción alimentaria o la balanza comercial alimentaria en países en desarrollo en el futuro.

Muchas delegaciones hicieron ver la interdependencia entre la situación y perspectivas del Orden Económico Internacional, los avances a la paz y el desarme, y los escenarios presentados en el estudio, y que si las cosas siguen como hasta ahora o se empeoraren, más crítica será la situación para el año 2000.

El perfil económico internacional es fundamental en toda previsión de mejoría en la explotación adecuada de las tierras, y la magnitud de las poblaciones y sus necesidades a satisfacer.

En este sentido, la liberalización del comercio internacional resulta una preocupación principal, así como el acceso indispensable a recursos financieros, tecnológicos y a insumos agrícolas. Se subrayó que aunque existe un gran potencial productivo, un obstáculo paralelo al internacional es la distribución de tierra, recursos, financiamiento, tecnologías y capacidades dentro de los países.

Se enfatizó que aquellas regiones y naciones con potencialidades productivas, debían hacer un esfuerzo primordial de autosuficiencia, y buscar la obtención de excedentes para liberar así presiones sobre los alimentos, y contribuir a una mayor comercialización y cooperación entre el Sur.

Primordialmente, varias delegaciones comentaron sus importantes logros y perspectivas productivas ligadas a su crecimiento poblacional y su respectiva distribución geográfica. Se recordaron y apoyaron las condiciones del esfuerzo productivo y distributivo, a saber, control del proceso de degradación del suelo y del deterioro de los ecosistemas en general; la preservación de especies tradicionales que han sido parte principal de las tierras de las poblaciones, y la atención a la explotación y conservación de zonas de temporal; plena utilización de las tierras de labranza mejorando sus accesos o condiciones insalubres, y con máxima atención a las zonas forestales actuales y deseables en el futuro; acción vía costos de insumos y su disponibilidad mayor, así como menor dependencia de su importación y mayor uso de recursos propios; proyectos e inversiones en infraestructura, almacenamiento, transporte, distribución, capacitación, educación, control de plagas y enfermedades, y sistemas de crédito agrícola, entre otros, que correspondan fundamentalmente al pequeño agricultor y al objetivo de mantenerlo en las zonas rurales; esfuerzos en la reducción de pérdidas postcosecha y desperdicios alimentarios; establecimiento de metas nutricionales claras. Asimismo, se hizo referencia a la importancia de la Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural y a la necesidad de incorporar los resultados de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural en la visualización de las perspectivas de este tipo de estudios.

También se dijo debían considerarse las áreas de autosubsistencia y aquellas marginadas, donde se están y se prevé que pueden deteriorar los niveles nutricionales de la población.

Se recordó los problemas de África subsahariana que presenta los casos más dramáticos del presente y del futuro previsible. En suma, sobre esas condiciones, y esto es una aportación de la Presidencia, de alguna manera se recogen aquí integralmente las orientaciones del Reajuste Agrícola Internacional que en el día de ayer discutimos.

Hubo por otra parte, un importante debate en relación al crecimiento poblacional y la distribución de ingresos, tecnología y recursos y factores socioeconómicos. Varias delegaciones manifestaron que el principal esfuerzo debía hacerse en la reducción del crecimiento demográfico. Algunos delegaciones hicieron referencia a sus avances o eventuales estancamientos en la planeación familiar, así como en la distribución geográfica y deseable de su población. Mejor planeación poblacional y mayor claridad sobre las perspectivas demográficas se requieren para llegar a panoramas deseables, realistas y serios.

Se hizo alusión, en este sentido, a la celebración próxima de la Conferencia de Población, en agosto de 1984 en México, y la contemplación de sus resultados y conclusiones. Se expresó también que logros en materia de crecimiento poblacional y su asentamiento apropiado y permanencia en zonas rurales, serán resultado, principalmente, de una mejor distribución y acceso a los recursos físicos, financieros y técnicos, y de mayores niveles de ingreso, y por tanto, de la elevación del nivel de vida, de la salud, del empleo y del desarrollo rural, así como de la incorporación de la mujer al desarrollo en términos de igualdad.

Varias delegaciones afirmaron que la sobrepoblación es un concepto relativo al grado de desarrollo y que, por tanto, no era ese el problema principal sino el logro de un desarrollo económico agrícola y alimentario más alto, justo y equitativo, y de un empleo remunerativo para la población.

En función de ese debate, se pidió a FAO en colaboración con otras organizaciones, pusieran más atención en deseables y viables metas de control y distribución demográfica, y en el cumplimiento de objetivos de producción, disponibilidad y acceso a los alimentos ligados a objetivos nutricionales.

Se subrayó el papel estratégico del avance tecnológico en las perspectivas agrícolas y alimentarias, pero se pidió tener cuidado con las implicaciones de una modernización a toda costa, o simplemente indiscriminada y por tanto, deformadora del desarrollo agrícola y alimentario conveniente y de los patrones de consumo deseables.

Políticas de autodeterminación tecnológicas, me atrevería yo a calificarlas, deberían tomarse muy en cuenta para aplicar insumos y tecnología adecuada en función de condiciones agrológicas y climatológicas y de los objetivos nutricionales.

Se recomendó hacer progresos en aumentar la capacidad de investigación, educación, capacitación de la población buscando efectos de mayor justicia y oportunidades para todos. La formación de especialistas en agricultura y dietética debería ser un primer paso en los países en desarrollo, principalmente de bajos ingresos. Se hizo hincapié en que el aumento de productividad no podía depender sólo del nivel tecnológico sino de apropiados incentivos a los agricultores, principalmente a los pequeños, y a cuidar en todo caso sus diferencias culturales.

Finalmente y como reflexión última, me atrevo a recoger lo que se mencionó en torno a que la agricultura y alimentación debían verse más como un pivote para el desarrollo económico que como una amenaza para la especie humana. Un trabajo global sobre los problemas de la alimentación y la población que profile el futuro, es necesariamente multidisciplinario y global, pero no se puede pretender que contenga todos los aspectos. Es indispensable visualizar un diagnóstico de una parte de la realidad que es el todo; y por tanto, y por razones metodológicas, separar o parcializar aquellos aspectos que nos interesan con propósitos indicativos.

Con esto, concluiría yo mi resumen sobre los debates que se realizaron en ocasión de este tema 8 de nuestra agenda. Reconozco que no pude recoger la totalidad y la sutileza de los comentarios aquí elaborados. Y advierto que estos comentarios serán tan sólo indicativos para el Comité de Redacción.

Tengo dos breves anuncios que hacerles. El primero, recordarles que en el día de hoy, a las 18 horas, deberán reunirse en el Salón Alemania los miembros de nuestro Comité de Redacción que podrán debatir los asuntos relativos a los temas 6.1 y 6.2 hasta las 24 horas del día de hoy.

Les informo también que copias en inglés, francés y español se encuentran ya disponibles y distribuidas entre los miembros de dicho Comité; y que, en todo caso, en la Sala Alemania habrá más copias.

Asimismo y para el día de mañana le rogaré al Sr. George Mackey, Primer Vicepresidente de esta Comisión I, presida los trabajos relativos al tema 9 de nuestra agenda; es decir, los Resultados y Seguimientos de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural.

Si no hubiere alguna consideración, daré por terminada esta décima sesión de trabajo de nuestra Comisión I. Se levanta la sesión.

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

C 83/I/PV/11

Twenty-second Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt-deuxième session
COMMISSION I

22º período de sesiones
COMISION I

ELEVENTH MEETING
ONZIEME- SEANCE
IIª REUNION

(16 November 1983)

The Eleventh Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours

G. Mackey, Vice-Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La onzième séance est ouverte à 10 h 00, sous la présidence de

G. Mackey, Vice-Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 11 reunión a las 10.00 horas, bajo la presidencia

de G. Mackey, Vicepresidente de la Comisión I

CHAIRMAN: Before proceeding I would wish you to know that I regard it as a considerable honour to have been elected Vice-Chairman of this Commission and to have the privilege of occupying the Chair for this session of the Commission.

There are some announcements. Firstly, I am pleased to inform the Commission that the Contact Group established to discuss the proposed resolutions on food security and on international agricultural adjustment have successfully concluded their work. The text of the draft resolutions as agreed upon by the Contact Groups will be included in the Commission's draft report that will come up for adoption on Monday of next week. The resolution proposed by a number of African countries on the food situation in Africa will be distributed this afternoon. I propose that this resolution be discussed tomorrow morning before the Commission moves on to the next item on the Agenda.

I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)

I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)

I. TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)

9. Progress Report on WCARRD Programme of Action

9. Rapport de situation sur le programme d'action de la CMRADR

9. Informe sobre la marcha del Programa de Acción de la CMRADR

CHAIRMAN: The inclusion of this item on the agenda of the Conference and the reports prepared by the Secretariat mark the start of the four-year cycle of reporting progress in agrarian reform and rural development, as decided on by the 1981 Conference.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): The document before you, C 83/23, is the first in the four-year cycle of reporting as called for by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. The FAO Conference in 1981 requested the Secretariat to prepare a consolidated report, both factual and analytical, revealing the policies and progress of countries in the implementation on the WCARRD Programme of Action. The preparation of this report would not have been possible without the full cooperation of member countries, not only in submitting their own country reports, but also in facilitating the in-depth country studies which were undertaken by the FAO Secretariat. The complexity of the exercise involved in the preparation of this report is undeniable, especially in view of the limitations imposed by available data and the short period which has elapsed since the WCARRD Conference in 1979. Nevertheless, our joint efforts brought out a number of useful conclusions.

We have made progress in evolving a methodological basis for monitoring progress in agrarian reform and rural development based on socio-economic indicators. Data requirements for a core group of indicators which can monitor progress in the status of the rural poor with reference to uniform benchmarks, were identified. The present report summarizes such developments as can be analysed from currently available data. It indicates the gap in information and suggests the directions in which progress in the quantification and analysis of various aspects of agrarian reform and rural development can be made in the future.

A major responsibility lies on the member countries and on the international organizations cooperating with them, in expanding and improving the data base as well as the analytical capacity required for the task.

An important lesson of the past experience is the recognition of the need for a coordinating mechanism at the national level which would facilitate and encourage not only multi-sectoral work on rural development but also an integrated progress of monitoring and evaluation with feedback of information and signals to those in charge of policies and programmes at the national level.

This would also stimulate efforts to improve monitoring and evaluation, at the country level, on a continuing basis, and to formulate time-bound quantifiable targets in national development plans and programmes.

The report also attempts to indicate progress in the other major areas of concern, of a substantive nature, included in the WCARRD Programme of Action.

The role of rural women as primary producers is increasingly recognised, as is their need for services to improve their social status, to increase productivity, and to enhance their role in promoting rural development. Rural people's organizations as a mechanism for people's participation, are effective to the extent that administrative decentralisation of government functions and the decision-making process are implemented and resources are made available or mobilised at the local level. An increased awareness has developed in recent years regarding the role of national, regional, and international non-governmental organizations in promoting agrarian reform and rural development. Many countries have made some progress in orienting their programmes on agricultural extension to the needs of small farmers, as well as in expanding training programmes for farmers' leaders.

Even though the need for institutional changes in credit and marketing, to meet the needs of the rural poor, is recognised on a wider scale, much remains to be done. The report confirms that increased provision of institutional credit should be supplemented by effective arrangements amongst the borrowers - small farmers and the landless labourers - to enable them to have easy access to and to ensure effective utilisation of rural credit. Improvements in the management of cooperatives and the establishment of marketing and information systems, wherever they have been undertaken, have enabled the small farmers to receive higher prices and to increase employment and income.

In regard to access to land and changes in land tenure, available evidence shows that the post-WCARRD period has not been marked by any major land distribution in favour of the rural poor; only five countries in this period introduced significant policy changes relating to access to land. Conceptual difficulties abound in defining small farmers and landless labourers; a crude estimate shows that out of the agricultural population of 1.28 billion in the developing countries, excluding China, in 1981 745 million were smallholders, many of whom are marginal farmers seeking wage employment, another 167 million are landless labourers. High concentration of land holdings continues in many developing countries, particularly in Latin America. The pattern of agricultural growth in many areas adversely affected the landless and the marginal farmers. Against this background, the need for effective measures to enhance access to land assumes even more importance in the 1980s than in the 1970s.

The land settlement programmes continued to be prominent in many countries, but they have been able to benefit only a small proportion of tenants and landless workers. The situation of these latter groups of the rural poor was aggravated by the increasing scarcity of agricultural land.

The man-land ratios are getting worse in the agricultural sector of the developing countries in spite of the large-scale shift of population from the agricultural to the non-agricultural sector. Per capita arable land declined over the period 1968-80 and the rate of decline was faster in more recent years. The condition was most severe in the high poverty groups. The latter not only have a lower man-land ratio than the other groups, but also they experienced a decline per year in land availability.

In respect of the commitment of resources to agricultural and rural development the progress has been slow and uneven. During the period 1978-82, out of a sample of 37 countries, planned public expenditures in real terms in 24 countries recorded an increase - in some of them as high as 15 percent per annum, whereas in another 13 countries there was a decline - in some by as low as 8 percent per annum.

In respect of the international factors affecting progress in agrarian reform and rural development, the report reconfirms much of what is already widely known, i.e., the adverse movement of terms of trade, fall in export earnings and stagnation in development assistance have severely constricted the ability of low-income countries to promote rural development. The rural poor engaged in the production of export crops, which suffered declines in prices and export earnings, suffered considerable setbacks in their economic position.

At a time when there is an increased recognition of the need to direct external assistance towards the poorer developing countries and to the poverty groups within individual countries, the stagnation in development assistance affects particularly adversely the recent trends in development efforts towards poverty alleviation.

There has been some progress in economic and technical cooperation among developing countries, but much needs to be done in this regard.

Chapter 4 of the document brings together an integrated analysis of trends in rural poverty. In 1980, on the basis of crude measures and admittedly imperfect data, FAO estimates show that out of nearly 2 billion people living in 68 developing countries, nearly half of the 1.34 billion people living in rural areas are below the poverty line. There is a high degree of concentration of the incidence of rural poverty in a few regions of the developing world: nearly two-thirds of the poor are in the Far East and nearly three-quarters are in eight countries. In the majority of the countries, the top 10 percent of households receive more than 15 times the income received by the bottom 10 percent of the households. While benefits of persistent high rates of growth have been shared to some extent by the lower income groups, there is still reason for concern regarding the level of absolute rural poverty.

While some progress has been made towards the reduction of rural poverty, the incidence of absolute poverty and risk of food inadequacy are still very high. This is so in many countries even with high rates of economic growth. Countries which have experienced a slow overall rate of growth are unable to make any dent on rural poverty. On the other hand, countries which have grown at a relatively high rate continue to suffer from high incidence of absolute rural poverty in the absence of special measures to improve the conditions of the rural poor. Substantial progress in the reduction in rural poverty, therefore, would be difficult to achieve within a politically acceptable time period, especially in low-income countries, if measures for promoting growth are not accompanied by development policies and programmes specially targeted towards the rural poor.

A number of policy issues for consideration by the Conference have been highlighted in the Introduction to the document before you. They include the organizational arrangements for monitoring progress, including improvement of statistical information for fixing time-bound quantifiable targets, in the context of an improved national capacity for policy analysis and development planning for agrarian reform and rural development. Increased commitment of resources to the agricultural and rural sector is urgently needed. Additional issues for consideration for the Conference relate to specific strategies for reduction of rural poverty and undernutrition, including special emphasis on Africa. The document also indicates areas where FAO can assist member countries in their efforts towards the implementation of the WCARRD Programme of Action.

These introductory remarks can scarcely cover all the salient aspects of the comprehensive and detailed report which is placed before you.

We look forward to the deliberations of the Conference, not only in providing additional insights into the complex, multi-faceted problems of agrarian reform and rural development, but also in eliciting additional information and analysis from the member countries regarding the progress they have achieved and difficulties they have encountered in this vital area.

CHAIRMAN: We will move now to discussion of the resolution as contained in document C 83/LIM/24. I would draw your attention to a typographical error in the English version on page 3, second line, the word "and" should read "as", "as endorsed by the 1975 FAO Conference;". I would ask the delegates to address the draft resolution for general discussion.

H. MENDS (Ghana): I think we have quite a comprehensive resolution embodying the activities of the needy areas that member governments of the Organization must focus attention on but of particular concern to my delegation is the fact that the need for training in the area of rural development has not been properly highlighted in this resolution as one of the essential items that must be tackled by the member governments and to this extent I would like to propose a new paragraph in the operative section, preferably this should be immediately after operative paragraph 2 but I would not mind if it comes between 3 and 4.

With your permission I will read the proposed paragraph. This would come immediately after operative paragraph 2.

"Urges member countries forcefully to pursue the provision of extension and training for small farmers and the rural poor, including women and rural youth, and to provide adequate training of personnel to service them. It also requests FAO to assist countries in strengthening training institutions and programmes and to encourage technical cooperation among developing countries in this field".

CHAIRMAN: Delegate of Ghana, would you submit your amendment in writing to the Secretary, please. I would ask that comments at this stage be confined to those suggesting amendments to the draft resolution.

D. R. GREGORY (Australia): I do not have a specific form of words to propose at the moment but we feel some concern, in view of the emphasis we have given in the Committee on Agriculture and elsewhere on the role of women in development, that possibly the reference made to this important aspect is not suitably emphasised in the draft document concerned. I refer to paragraph 9, where it refers certainly to rural women's organizations, and paragraph 3, where it talks about directing programmes to benefit the intended groups among the rural poor, including rural women. I think to reflect the emphasis we have given to this and the importance of our discussions in this regard and the very strong feelings that most delegations have on this subject perhaps it could be brought out as a separate item or a separate paragraph, and perhaps we could suggest a form of words later.

M.E. JIMENEZ Z. (El Salvador): Únicamente para apoyar la propuesta de Australia referente a la incorporación de un párrafo que especifique más claramente el papel de la mujer en el desarrollo rural y la reforma agraria.

J.R. LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): La delegación de México, recordará usted, presento una notificación entorno a este proyecto de Resolución y ahora que lo vemos a la luz de los trabajos que está desarrollando esta Comisión debemos concordar con lo planteado por la delegación de Australia y confirmado por la delegación de El Salvador en el sentido de que sí debería incorporarse un párrafo específico sobre la situación de la mujer y la necesidad de incorporarla plenamente en los planes de desarrollo nacional en términos de igualdad, reconociendo la función importante, principal, que tiene la mujer en el desarrollo agrícola y alimentario.

CHAIRMAN: I think it is clear that there is support for an amendment relating to the role of women in rural development. I would ask whether the delegation of Australia could draft something in consultation with El Salvador and Mexico- and hand it to the Secretariat. Some other delegations wish to speak.

G SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Indiscutiblemente, la delegación de Cuba apoya la propuesta muy lúcida del distinguido delegado de Australia, pero también quisiéramos en el numeral 3, donde comienza "Insta a los Estados Miembros", en la penúltima línea de la versión en español donde dice: "en favor de los presuntos grupos de entre los campesinos pobres", eliminar "los presuntos grupos" quedando entonces "para orientar los programas en favor de los campesinos pobres". Teniendo en cuenta que está propuesto y apoyado por varias delegaciones, incluyendo la nuestra, un párrafo sobre la mujer pues a nuestro entender debíamos poner un punto después de "campesinos pobres" e inmediatamente después el párrafo sobre la participación de la mujer.

CHAIRMAN: Would you like to put your amendment in writing to the Secretariat?

M. FENWICK (United States of America): In cooperation with the delegations of Australia, Mexico and El Salvador, I would like to urge the adoption of an amendment as follows, a whole separate paragraph perhaps:

"The Committee further urges member countries that, when necessary technological improvements have been introduced in order to increase food production, arrangements must be made for the women, who so often do much of the individual hand labour of agriculture and will need employment when these improvements have been introduced."

CHAIRMAN: The purpose of this discussion is to establish whether it is necessary to have any more formal discussion in a contact group on this resolution. Of course we all aim to avoid having to have such a contact group if there is a reasonable degree of consensus evident. So far we have had suggestions about two areas, one an amendment regarding the needs for training and one to strengthen the contents of the resolution in regard to the role of women. It seems to me that if those are the only areas in which some change is needed it would be possible to avoid the need for a contact group. I would like to establish fairly quickly just how wide a range of other amendments there may be to be proposed, to have amendments handed in, in writing to the Secretariat.

H. LOPEZ DE MORAL (Colombia): Yo en realidad había levantado el nombre de mi país para solicitar la palabra inmediatamente después de que hablo el Delegado de Australia, precisamente para apoyar la propuesta de Australia de incluir un párrafo específico sobre la mujer en esta Resolución.

Mi delegación tenía igualmente una enmienda idéntica a la que presentó Cuba en el sentido de que supriman las palabras "presuntos grupos de entre los", al final del párrafo 3, y se ponga un punto después de "campesinos pobres", principalmente por el hecho de que se ha acordado ya -posición que apoyo- la inclusión de un párrafo específico sobre la participación de la mujer.

Quisiera también apoyar la propuesta de la Delegación de los Estados Unidos en que en este párrafo, en el cual pienso que se podrían fundir las dos ideas, deje constancia de la necesidad de capacitar a las mujeres y ponerlas al corriente de los últimos desarrollos en materia tanto de producción, cultivos, como de preparación de alimentos, tareas en las cuales ellas tienen una participación tan importante.

M. AHMAD (Pakistan): I was only going to suggest that this paragraph 3 should be further broken up, because the first part of this paragraph, and the second part, I think the ideas do not flow from each other. Perhaps it would be much better if we put a full stop after the words "urban centres" and then continue on to say in paragraph 4, a new paragraph 4, "Urges member countries to fix in their development plans time-bound quantifiable targets for directing programmes to benefit the intended poor." Because the first part and the second part are quite distinct from each other. In fact, the first is only a limited part.

CHAIRMAN: Any other suggestions? If there are no further amendments to be suggested, could I ask that the suggestions that have been made be put in writing to the Secretary, on the subject matter of the amendment proposed by Australia. Would it be possible for El Salvador, Mexico, United States and Australia to consult, and see if an agreed amendment can be drawn up and handed to the Secretary?

S.P. MUKERJI (India): I have only a brief suggestion to make so far as the resolution is concerned and this relates to item No. 5 on page 2 of the document under consideration, which says, "allocation of resources to agriculture, agrarian reform and rural development" etc. etc. should be made. My delegation feels that improving and increasing agricultural production in the rural sector is the core of rural development.

I have only a brief suggestion in so far as paragraph 5 is concerned. My country feels that rural development is very closely linked with the increasing agricultural production, whereas in this paragraph we have urged for increased allocation of resources to agriculture, there is no reference to increasing agricultural production. Therefore I would suggest that at the end of this sub-paragraph we might add the words, "and to increase agricultural production a periodic assessment of progress made and to undertake studies on the overall effect of policies and other factors on the flow of resources to the rural sector for increasing agricultural production also."

CHAIRMAN: I believe that that could be readily accommodated. Would you also give a brief note to the Secretary on that, so that we do not lose track of it. Could I ask, do the delegations now seeking the floor wish to propose further amendments to the draft resolutions? If that is the case, before calling on you I would like to suggest, I think, that we had better get those amendments in writing.

Y. ABT (Israel): I would like to follow up on the suggestion by the distinguished delegate of India that paragraph 5 of the resolution be somewhat expanded in order to include the following suggestion, "urges countries to improve support systems particularly for the timely and cost effective avail of critical inputs and other support services to peasant communities in order to accelerate farm production."

N.K. BASNYAT (Nepal): In paragraph 9 it reads, "Requests the Director-General to assist countries in the establishment of effective measures to support and strengthen self-reliance and representation of rural organizations, including rural women's and youth organizations...." In WCARRD Programme we have been talking a lot about cooperatives and small farmers are missing somewhere. So really we should be particular about maintaining cooperatives and small farmers somewhere, so I request that they should be included.

CHAIRMAN: I would like to say that I think that what we should try to do now is draw this item of discussion to a close. Everybody wishing to make amendments to the resolution, if they could hand them in the Secretariat will then be in a position to assess whether it seems that a contact group will be necessary .

G. SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Yo le pido disculpas, porque me iba a referir a una enmienda que con muchísimo gusto trasladaría a la Secretaría para que las tuviera en cuenta y le pido disculpas una vez más porque se trata del párrafo 3 nuevamente.

En la versión española donde dice "metas cuantificables a plazo fijo para orientar los programas etc., etc.", nosotros propondríamos "metas específicas para orientar los programas...", y así seguiría el párrafo con la enmienda que ya habíamos propuesto.

Le repito que con mucho gusto pasaríamos esta enmienda a la Secretaría para que la tenga en cuenta si lo considera pertinente.

CHAIRMAN: Could I just repeat that proposed amendments should be handed in writing to the Secretariat, and we will have an assessment at a later stage as to whether a contact group is necessary.

Could we now move to expressions of opinion on the document itself, the Report, which is C 83/23?

G. ERICSSON (Sweden): The Nordic countries paid great attention to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. We cooperated in the active participation in the preparation of the Conference as well as during the Conference itself. We have allocated extrabudgetary resources to the FAO follow-up activities and we have jointly and closely followed the FAO/WCARRD activities. As a logical outcome of this close cooperation I am now speaking on behalf of the four of us: Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden.

The Progress Report on the developments on national level and in development cooperation since the Conference is an impressive document and a good example of the professional skill and capacity in this Organization. We congratulate the Secretariat for this excellent work.

In the first part of this Nordic intervention I will make some general comments based on the document. I will then conclude with some more specific comments on the future FAO contribution to the follow-up of WCARRD.

For us the successful outcome of the Conference, the Action Programme has meant that we now have a common and agreed framework within which to discuss development cooperation with our partners with the aim to design, and wherever necessary to redesign projects and programmes in agriculture and rural development with greater benefit for the poor and disadvantaged rural population. The Programme of Action has already influenced our bilateral activities. Greater attention is given to agriculture and rural development and the implications for the target groups as defined in the WCARRD document are more vigorously analysed.

From the document now under discussion we can see an emerging positive response to WCARRD principles in national development plans and other plans for development. This indicates an increasing general acceptance of the basic principles and the ambitions of the World Conference. The picture of what has really happened is less bright but this has to be seen also in the perspective of the economic situation prevailing during the period. The deteriorating economic situation following a period of development optimism which led to over-emphasis on the modern and urban sectors as well as a rapid development of the social sectors — in itself a redistributive measure — has committed the countries financially to an extent that reallocations to agriculture and rural development are indeed hampered.

In this connection we must, however, accept that a huge flow of fresh financial resources is not the main focus of WCARRD Programme of Action. The main feature is a changed approach in national planning and implementation and in the development cooperation. All activities must be seen in the perspective of the WCARRD principles.

Four years is a short period to evaluate the impact of an action programme like this. We feel, however, that the analysis confirms that the basic principles were well conceived and that an overall application in development planning and implementation of these principles will contribute to a more balanced economic and social development. To what extent this will come through in respective countries will at the end depend upon the strength by governments to pursue such policy.

The very existence of a regular reporting will have direct influence in that direction. The difficulties due to lack of data have made this exercise, the presentation of this Report, not an easy task. But we note with satisfaction the work that has already been done by FAO in cooperation with other agencies, institutions and countries themselves to identify indicators and to suggest methods for a more reliable quantitative monitoring and evaluation. Increased interest on national level to develop statistical capacity for such monitoring and evaluation will contribute to a more meaningful analysis in the future. We therefore believe that a discussion on the next report to the 1987 Conference will be even more fruitful. Moreover we understand from the Programme of Work and Budget that the Secretariat will present a comprehensive report of a different format on alleviating rural poverty. We are grateful for this. In our opinion the status of the follow-up of WCARRD should be on the agenda for each of the coming Conferences.

The Regional Centres for Integrated Rural Development will have an important role to play in studies of certain aspects of the Action Programme. This also refers to universities and research institutions as stated in the document. Concerted action as presented in Chapter B, Section 1 on page 11 in the Overview of the Progress Report will however be needed.

Section 2 in the same Chapter of the Overview deals with increased resources. We find it of extreme importance that the net outflow of resources from rural areas to urban counties can be arrested. This will mean a considerable reallocation to the rural sector. The economic situation of the rural population must be promoted. Increased productions, higher producer prices and better marketing systems are elements in such a process. The study of the pricing policy now underway in FAO will, in that respect, contribute to the WCARRD follow-up.

When it comes to development cooperation support we have already referred to our deliberate efforts to increase the allocations to agriculture and rural development on a bilateral basis. We are also aware that the FAO follow-up activities, after a somewhat slow start, now have gained momentum. Therefore there will be a need for more donors to join in the provision of extra-budgetary resources.

We will further fully associate ourselves with what is presented in Sections 3 and 4 under Chapter B: Policy Issues for Consideration by the Conference.

The Nordic countries also support what is proposed under Section 5 in the same chapter. Paragraph b refers to FAO's role as a lead agency in the United Nations ACC Task Force. We do take for granted that this will lead to an increased direct cooperation with relevant UN agencies as has been exemplified in the high level policy missions on WCARRD follow-up. This will contribute to a wider application in the overall UN system of the WCARRD principles.

We have understood that the principles laid down in WCARRD would lead to a gradual reorientation of all FAO activities along these principles. In the Programme of Work and Budget reference is made to the WCARRD Programme of Action primarily under rural development, social forestry and small-scale fishery. A similar picture can be derived from the Progress Report we are now discussing.

The challenge of the WCARRD cannot be met by introducing special rural development projects. The overwhelming majority of the projects will still be limited to specific sectors and subject matter areas. Thus the focus in planning and implementation of all these activities must be on the effect they will have on the conditions of the poor and disadvantaged groups in the rural areas. The ongoing staff orientation training in rural development is an important vehicle to create greater awareness in all divisions of the agency.

I will turn then to a few more specific questions referring to FAO's follow-up activities to the WCARRD Programme of Action. The high level missions under the Country Support Programme, launched at the request from countries, seem to have been a very positive contribution. They differ in certain aspects from other missions. In the first instance they are true inter-agency missions. Secondly they are governed by the WCARRD principles and thus deal with poverty, target groups, integration of women and people's participation in an explicit and conscious way. We will commend the FAO for the achievement with this activity. It comes out from the mission reports that they provide a policy framework for rural development which can serve as a basis for future cooperation. In order not to lose momentum it could be discussed if they should be followed by a second phase whereby the policy framework is translated into a concrete action programme in different sectors for each country, at different levels of aggregation and with different time horizons.

An important component among the FAO activities in the WCARRD follow-up is the programme for People's Participation in Rural Development through the promotion of self-help organizations. The aim of this programme is to promote the establishment of different types of associations for small farmers and other groups of the rural population, for a variety of purposes, economic as well as social. If successful such associations will mobilize resources at village level, at very low costs, which will very effectively contribute to rural development. We recommend the FAO to pay greatest attention to this programme. We also urge the governments to actively promote such non-governmental associations.

This programme calls for a greater involvement of non-governmental organizations, international and national, in the development cooperation. The very nature of such a cooperation does not fit in well with the present procedures for development cooperation, and a high degree of flexibility must be exercised both on agency and government level.

The Nordic countries have strongly supported activities aimed at the integration of women in rural development. Chapter III, Section 3 reports on to what extent the Programme of Action in that respect has been adhered to. The review shows that vigorous efforts are needed to give the women possibilities to exercise their rights and participate actively in the development process. One aspect of women programmes is to promote specific women's associations on village level in the same way as mentioned under people's participation earlier in this statement. We still believe, for several reasons, that there is a need of specific associations grouping women. We also believe that the interest of women would be better taken care of if women constituted a bigger share in the high level missions and other missions in connection with the follow-up of WCARRD.

Let me lastly say a few words on nutrition with reference to WCARRD. Nutrition is an aspect of concern to the WCARRD thinking. We feel that the WCARRD principles, if clearly adhered to, would by themselves promote satisfactory nutritional conditions. The nutrition of individuals can be viewed as an end result of processes taking place in society. It is the responsibility of everybody concerned with eradicating poverty and hunger to understand how these processes are and can be influenced. We believe that adherence to the WCARRD principles is a good approach to actively affect these processes in a positive direction.

To conclude, the Nordic countries firmly believe in the WCARRD Action Programme as a turning point in national development and in development cooperation. We sincerely hope that we together, all countries, will keep it alive and healthy and that it will not lose momentum, and be turned into a non-committing slogan, as has happened to some other approaches launched in earlier periods of development cooperation.

We commend the Secretariat for how they have met the challenge of the WCARRD so far.

Then as a final point, I believe that we will be able to come back to the resolution as such in a later statement.

D.R. GREGORY (Australia): Australia recognizes both in principle and in practice the aims of the Programme of Action adopted by WCARRD which defines the problems of food production, nutrition and investment in the framework of agrarian reform and rural development, and which also delineates in broad terms the nature and orientation of national and international policies conducive to their reservation. Perhaps it would be best if I focus on each of the items which it has been suggested in the document that we considered at Conference, and I will speak to these items separately.

In relation to item 1, Australia endorses the proposals aimed at improving the organization and coordination of data requirements, of the priorities by countries at a national level including the development and use of indicators.

We agree that FAO should be involved in preparing guiding principles to establish the poverty line and to measure participation of different groups in society in achieving the WCARRD objectives. We also endorse the need for action to reduce the net outflow of resources from the rural sector. This is covered in item 2 and I would note that Australia continues to give a high priority to the agricultural sector in its own bilateral aid programmes. Perhaps it would be useful to caution against necessarily requiring donors or international financial institutions to establish agriculture as the absolute priority in their aid programmes. In this regard perhaps it is useful to see agriculture in its perspective, with the problems of development and the problems of growth. I think the Australian attitude on this matter is well known. We continue to emphasize the desirability of countries achieving self-reliance, self-reliance itself leading to overcoming the problems of world food security. We have continued to emphasize, of course, the desirability of countries doing what they can do best.

I do not need to remind developing countries, in particular - and it is something of which we are only too well aware - that, of course, resources are scarce. I think before potential donors are asked to contribute extra budgetary additional resources to support WCARRD follow-up action, we would like to feel reassured that national governments are themselves devoting an adequate level of resources to this programme. And again, it is an essential feature of our attitudes in this area that we emphasize the important role of national initiative; and I am well aware that developing countries themselves recognize this aspect.

I think in fact the document itself suggests that the need is least, possibly in those countries which are already making such a commitment from their own resources. Perhaps, to isolate one item, I should indicate the importance that Australia places on the role of rural credit. In relation to the role of rural credit in our own development programmes, we emphasize the role of cooperatives and credit unions and other forms of credit arrangements which are already indigenous to the countries themselves and we feel that in the development of programmes, the importance and the emphasis should be on building on these indigenous facilities, both as a means to increasing local participation and also to increase the viability of these organizations and to ensure the benefits accrued to the target groups at whom we are aiming to direct our major focus of attention.

In relation to item 3, this item highlights the difficult domestic policy decisions facing many countries, and I suppose it is natural that countries in their own follow-up and reporting on the achievements they have made, will obviously tend to emphasize those things which they have done best, and possibly those where there is least contention. I think it is rather important that countries indicate their more serious constraints and difficulties in the alleviation of rural poverty and malnutrition, and emphasize the policies they expect to employ to overcome those problems and whether or not they will devote additional resources to their resolution. We note in particular the action proposed by FAO of countries identifying rural socio-economic groups, fixing both viable and achievable targets and increasing access to land and other productive aspects which will assist in this regard.

I have already emphasized in relation to this aspect the importance which Australia attaches in its own programmes to the role of rural women; we value the work that has been done earlier this year in the Committee on Agriculture and the document that we considered before that Committee, and I follow this operation in relation to the resolution which we will be considering later during the Committee's proceedings.

In relation to item 4, Australia supports the scope and expansion in expenditure for agricultural and rural development by African countries themselves, particularly in respect to small scale farmers. We congratulate those African countries that have been able to make the necessary difficult decisions required by such policies. We also agree on the need to emphasize traditional methods; in fact, this was an important part of our own Minister's speech during the Plenary. We think there is a demonstrable advantage in using technology which is indigenous to the peoples and the regions concerned. In fact, this is an important aspect of Australia's own rural development and production activities that we emphasize cost-effective methods of production and think this is an important element in achieving efficiency for our own products on world markets, given the difficult competitive situations which we face and of which we are well aware. So I give additional emphasis to this question of countries focusing on appropriate technology. I myself have experienced this continually in talking to personnel within FAO and we often find criticisms of developing countries attempting to use technology which is probably being used or developed for completely different circumstances, perhaps in countries where cultivation has been undertaken for generations.

Many of the problems that African countries face are not dissimilar to those that we face in Australia, where many lands are being cultivated for the first time.

In relation to item 5, we consider the responsibility rests with Member Nations of FAO to implement the WCARRD Programme of Action and this has been reiterated at successive FAO meetings. We do agree that FAO continues to have a major responsibility to assist countries in their work, and it has a leading role also in relation to the UN system of organizations. Australia therefore supports FAO continuing its efforts to assist countries to implement the WCARRD Programme of Action including the preparation of progress reports to the 1987 FAO Conference. We can also support FAO's lead agency role in the UN/ACC Task Force on Rural Development and the emphasis proposed on joint country and regional action, participation at all levels in formulating plans and monitoring and evaluating rural development. We endorse greater participation by member governments in monitoring and evaluation of agrarian reform and development, including the increased emphasis on strengthening statistical systems and improving data collection and analysis; and that member countries should use the results to improve their national agrarian reform and rural development policies and programmes, including the establishment of national coordinating mechanism, if these can reasonably be expected to assist in policy formulation and programme implementation.

While the opportunity exists, I would also like to take up a point that was made by the delegate of Sweden concerning the importance of non-governmental organizations. We would recognize the key role of non-governmental organizations in rural development. I do not need to remind you of the strength of these organizations and the participation and part that they play in Australian agricultural development. In fact, we owe much to these organizations and we would also support the proposal that FAO should work with these organizations and build on their capacity to act as agents of change.

I think those are possibly all the comments I would like to make at this stage, but once again I repeat Australia's reaffirmation of the Resolution 7/79 which gives a much needed added emphasis to the WCARRD Programme.

M. AHMAD (Pakistan): Let me first of all commend the excellent presentation made by Dr Nurul Islam of the progress report during the first four years since WCARRD, on the implementation of this programme of action. This report reflects a growth of awareness of the urgent and imperative need of taking action and implementing the plan, rather than any indication of substantial results having been achieved. We in Pakistan have made modest progress but it appears that the references to it in FAO's report are rather scanty. Perhaps the data was not available to it. We have just launched the Sixth Plan this year from the 1st of July and the document giving the details of this Plan perhaps was not available.

In Pakistan we have drawn upon the world experience as well as followed and brought about some innovative approaches in this area. Growth with equity has been the hallmark of our Fifth Plan which was launched just a year before the WCARRD. Inspired by WCARRD, the Declaration of Principles as embodied in WCARRD, we have of course given a clear focus to the national goal of improvement of the quality of life of the common man, particularly living in the rural areas. The agricultural policy which came out in 1980 reflected this crystallization of the thoughts on this subject.

Our Sixth Five-Year Plan, as I mentioned, was launched from the 1st of July of this year. It is a basic framework, which basic framework is development of the people, by the people and for the people, principles which have very much been embodied in the WCARRD Declaration. This Plan reviews what has been achieved and laid down quantitative targets which have to be achieved during the course of these five years. I would just mention some of them. The literacy rate is to be increased from the present level of 23.5 percent to 48 percent. At the primary education we are seeking enrolment which is at the moment 63 percent for boys to 90 percent and for girls which is at the moment 32 percent to 60 percent. Similar targets have been laid for infant mortality decrease. Electricity, we have at the moment 16 000 out of the 45 000 villages electrified. We would like to raise this number to 36 000 in the Sixth Five-Year Plan covering about 81 percent of the villages. The roads, from farm to market roads have also made a big jump from 5 000 kilometres which was achieved during the last Plan, it will now be 35 000. Access to clean water, at the moment only 22 percent of the rural population has this access, we would like to raise it to 45 percent in the next Five-Year Plan which has just been launched. Another goal that has been provided in our Sixth Five-Year Plan is the eradication of severe malnutrition which afflicts 7 percent of our people. We would like to eradicate it in the next five years, 1.25 million people are involved. We propose to lay down a safety net for the poor, for the destitute indigents, 2 million of them through the Institution of the Islamic Tax System, that I mentioned yesterday. Then there are special programmes for the disabled and the handicapped and special funding arrangements directly from the Federal Government for remote neglected areas on the basis of area development.

Our Sixth Five-Year Plan calls for a public sector expenditure of 32 percent on rural development as compared to 21 percent in the last Five-Year Plan. In absolute terms this means a three times increase. I would like to touch briefly upon some of the items. Access to land, we have already brought the ceiling down on land holdings to 100 acres in 1977. At the moment it is the intention to consolidate the gains and to see that the people do get the benefit from this particular refixation of the ceiling. The Government has been stoutly resisting proposals that we should encourage cooperative farming as a means of improving and boosting agricultural production. In line with our commitment that we believe WCARRD Declaration Principles represents a very equitable approach this proposal is not being progressed. On the other hand we have instituted cooperative farming, we are now in the process of examining the difficulties of how and why this farming, which is based on cooperative farming, on the basis of association of small farmers, is not making actual progress, so we are at the moment reviewing the possible deficiencies. We have constituted a land utilization authority to see how we can bring under the plough land belonging to small holders, small farmers, but not at the moment raising anything. Although within our limited resources we can tackle this problem only in areas which are close and near the electrical system so that we can put in some tool wells. We are also helping through this land utilization authority the reclamation of this land, gypsum treatment, levelling, so that the poor farmers who own the land can really cultivate it and get some income out of it.

In our agricultural programme we have made special efforts to see that the small farmers are also involved in the development process and there are several measures we have undertaken. I do hope they will be of interest. Firstly, research, the fact that research is important is not enough, it has to be seen that whatever findings, whatever technology they develop should be available to the small farmers so that they can use it and it should not be the larger farmers who have the advantage of research. So this is one of the important criteria on the basis of which research effort is judged.

Then extension, we have introduced the new world famous training and visit method, T and V, and the effort is to see that we concentrate in conveying extension methodology to the small farmers.

Then several innovative approaches have been carried out in the field of credit. We feel that credit must not only be sensitized to the needs of the small man, it should be used as a vehicle for the transfer of technology only because the new technology is somewhat capital intensive and credit comes in as a very important instrument for the transfer of this technology. In fact the decision was taken in 1978, the Government does not charge any interest on all production loans for small farmers owning lands less than 5 hectares. Then the Government has taken a decision that the supervised credit, which means credit accompanied by technology through mobile credit officers, who are usually graduates in agriculture, should be spread over the entire country in a matter of three to four years. This is simplification of procedure for getting credit. The number of farms has been reduced to 1 and up to 25 000 rupees can be taken on the basis of personal surety and no recourse to tortuous procedure of presenting collectors needs to be pursued. We are encouraging the farmers cooperatives as a means for delivering credit to the members. Fortunately as a result of the Government decision that the production credit should be given interest free now the credit cooperatives are combining to be more homogeneous organizations so that they have to take advantage of it, so that there are no pressure groups who can exploit the members who are small farmers.

The pricing policy is another area which is especially oriented towards the small farmers. We see to it that those prices are reasonable for the small farmers, that the small farmers will be able to get the prices if they do produce, so that the marketing has to be improved and we have to indicate the organizations which will buy the produce from him should he not be able to sell at a price above the support price. A number of commodities are being brought into the safety net of the support pricing system and to see that his production is marketed we have not only set up a number of organizations for this purpose but also seen to it that they work as close to the farmers as possible.

We are very actively pursuing and investigating the possibility of introducing crop insurance and I am glad to note that in the programme which is just about to be approved by FAO some provision has been made for this area also because crop insurance can be again a very powerful instrument on persuading the small farmers without the risk of any failures to go in for new technology and therefore improve their yields and also their incomes. Most of the small farmers, they would like to go in for value added agriculture, particularly vegetables and fruits, providing the market is assured to them, so that this is another area on which emphasis is being placed from the point of view of marketing and also small-scale agro-processing industries dispersed in the village. We have drawn up special programmes for the landless and in particular we know that most of these people are raising milch cattle. We have given incentives, a number of incentives to the dairy industry, they are tax free, they can get their equipment without duty. These concessions have been given, not to make the rich richer, but to see that they provide an outlet for the production of small milk producers who are spread all over the country and who are very poor. In fact most of the cattle owners are landless.

Then social forestry is also being encouraged. In fact a very high priority is being given to it in the Sixth Five Year Plan sericulture, apiculture and poultry are other rural areas to provide them off the farm in employment.

As regards people's participation, in 1979 we installed popularly elected local government institutions based on adult franchise. These local institutions have had their term of four years and last month there were elections again. Another set of these elected representatives have taken office. These councils, union councils - a union council normally covers five to ten villages - they have been made responsible for primary education, public health, sanitation and various roles. Encouraged by the experience of their working for the last four years the Government is seriously considering expanding their financial resources and also to give them more powers and to entrust to them some more functions.

The Government is fully committed to enhance the role of women, especially from the standpoint of rural uplift through their integration in the development process. In 1978 a full-flight women's division under a full-flight permanent lady secretary to the Government has been created to formulate public policies and laws to meet the special needs of women and to develop programmes aimed at improving their skills. A number of special seats have been preserved for them on the district and union councils to which I made reference earlier. The role of women usually goes unnoticed in national census. It has been mentioned in our national census that about 5 percent of the labour force is women but their contribution in farming, agriculture, which is in fact more marked, in small farms is ignored. The women are the people who are engaged in sowing, transplanting, harvesting, threshing, cotton picking, weeding, vegetable cultivation, livestock rearing, poultry farming on their own lands. A number of schemes have been undertaken to improve their skills and in this connexion I might mention the pilot women's centre, centres for training the women in kitchen gardens, raising fruits and vegetables, preservation, beekeeping, preparation of jams, jellies and squashes.

I would like to say one word about the poverty line. There are two approaches which have been mentioned. One is the nutrition level. The other is the household income. Both have their demerits and we hope that FAO will carry out further studies to see how we can improve upon a correct definition of the poverty line. As regards nutrition, it may be due not so much because the income is low but because of lack of education. As regards household service, the difficulty is that some of these rural poor and the landless not only earn income as wage workers but sometimes they are paid in non-monetary terms. But what is important is that they have free grazing rights for their cattle and the milk that comes is free and probably is not reflected in this service. Secondly, the fuel, the animal dung, that comes to them is also free and probably also not reflected in this service. So these deficiencies exist and I hope that FAO will carry out some more refinement of this so that the proper poverty line can be defined.

When all this has been done the national environment has to be right, and it has been rightly emphasised in this summary that there has to be liberalisation of international trade, there has to be more aid, and if it is aid for rural development it has to be extended on concessional terms, it has to include even local currency and recurring expenditures. Then there has to be cooperation, economic and technical, among the developing countries in this area, and we fully subscribe to it.

We also endorse the suggestion made in paragraph B, sub-paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 on pages XII and XIII of the Report. We attach great importance to FAO's role in assisting countries in proceeding with the implementation of the WCARRD Programme of Action, including in particular monitoring and evaluation. The extra budgetary resources should be provided to them.

The budget for this biennium is being adopted currently, but we hope that hard budget allocations will be made to them from the next biennium onwards.

S. SHAKIR (Iraq) (original language Arabic): We would like to commend and congratulate the Organization for the excellent Report under discussion today. Iraq attaches great importance to the Programme of Action of WCARRD because it is closely linked with the agricultural policy which we are pursuing in Iraq in order to develop the agricultural sector and raise the standard of living of the farmers.

We in Iraq have given great importance to the implementation of the laws of agrarian reform in order to facilitate land tenure in sufficient sizes to provide them with enough income and to alleviate poverty in the rural sector and to put an end to feudalism and large owners.

Rural areas in Iraq, thanks to the implementation of agrarian reform, have witnessed great changes because the farmer has become an owner of his land and beneficiary of his effort. The state has provided him with reformed areas within large agricultural projects and the state has built modern villages including social centres health and veterinary clinics and schools, and farmers have been organized in cooperative societies which provide them with production inputs such as seeds, fertilizers and pesticides, in addition to providing them with the necessary funds at concessionary terms in order to purchase these tools and instruments through advances by the Agricultural Cooperative Bank at an interest rate which does not exceed 2 or 3 percent, in addition to facilitating repayment when these advances fall due.

We have also given attention to the network of roads in order to link the rural sector with the Lowlands and facilitate the transportation of produce and crops. We have provided farmers with trucks for this purpose.

The rural society in Iraq, after having been landless and poor, now enjoys a good income and prosperous life. Many of the inhabitants who left the countryside have now returned to the village in order to live on their lands and practise farming after they have felt the benefits of agricultural investment. They have also participated in the agricultural plan through the annual Conferences and they contribute to the implementation of the plan through their Union which has branches all over the country.

Iraq was pioneering in combatting illiteracy, because we have promulgated a compulsory law of literacy and all illiterates were sent to centres of literacy; therefore we could embark on the road that would lead eventually to putting an end to illiteracy in Iraq. We believe that ignorance and illiteracy are two fierce enemies to progress and development and we can never develop the farmer unless he is able to acquire modern technology and scientific and technical know how which help him improve and increase production.

In addition to combatting illiteracy we emphasised social, health and training centres and training in order to create an educated healthy and trained generation in the countryside and to increase the role of women in agricultural development. There is a cooperative farm which is established and run by the women in the vicinity of Baghdad.

Mr Chairman, we commend the pioneering role of the Organization in the follow-up of the

resolutions and the Programme of Action of WCARRD and calling on governments to support their national plans for agrarian reform and rural development.

The five year plan, 1981-85, in Iraq, as has been indicated in the work programme of the agricultural sector which has been discussed by all concerned quarters and by the Supreme Political Council in Iraq, aims at greatly improving the rural sector whether in production or services. We shall change more than half a million hectares of rainfed areas to irrigated areas after the completion of the two major irrigation projects: Saddam and Monsel. We shall reclaim about one million hectares of land after the completion of irrigation, drainage, and levelling projects.

The state has given great importance to the protection of natural forestry in the northern mountainous area of Iraq in addition to man-made forests, parks and touristic sights in addition to free distribution of seedlings.

In the field of fisheries, we have a fishing fleet in the seas in order to meet the needs of the population, and we concluded bilateral agreements with a number of Arab States in order to establish joint ventures for fisheries. Lately we have given financial and technical assistance to those citizens who want to work in fisheries, and this activity is increasing annually.

In view of the importance we attach to training and extension in agriculture, we have established a general organization for this purpose and we have a centre for training and extension in Baghdad with branches in all the governorates to undertake extension and technical training and help the farmers in the field through field demonstration and agricultural research. This general organization of agricultural extension and training issues publications and they broadcast programmes in the mass media in order to reach the biggest possible audience and viewers.

Iraq has also promulgated laws that have given full rights to women, the woman has become an equal partner with the man and all social pressures have been alleviated so that the woman in Iraq participates with the man in developing the country within the activities of women's organizations, unions and other popular organizations of women in Iraq.

The labour law has given equal rights to all workers and gave agricultural labourers all their rights. Therefore it has done away with the injustices that were faced by agricultural labourers before the Revolution and it has opened more opportunities for work and creativity.

Mr Chairman, Iraq endorses the technical cooperation among developing countries in rural development and the modernization of extension and training in agriculture and the introduction of scientific and technological methods in agriculture.

We also see benefit in applying credit to agriculture in order to cushion farmers against losses so far as crops or animal wealth is concerned in the face of natural catastrophes and pests.

In conclusion we believe that agrarian reform is the cornerstone of the modern countryside providing the farmer with a better standard of living, because without it we cannot develop the agricultural sector and rural problems will be solved.

I.MADE-SANDI (Indonesia): Professor Islam has succinctly but clearly presented a summary of the Report this morning, which we highly value. May I congratulate you, Sir, for that.

I must say that I am very much impressed with the content of document C 83/23. In so few words, it managed to cover so many subjects.

The document successfully provides us with what it purports to submit; which is the stage of achievement of rural development in various countries in its global perspective.

The document clearly shows the linkages that exist between food production on one hand and other factors that are very closely related to it on the other, which render support to the implementation of the guidelines stated in document C 83/22 which was discussed several days ago.

Informative though this document might be its brevity sometimes inevitably avoids certain details which in certain cases might give way to misunderstandings.

Just to provide you with some insight as to what is currently going on in Indonesia in the realm of rural development in general, permit me to go into some detail just to clarify some points as made in the Report.

Recognising the importance of village cooperatives in particular, the Government of Indonesia as of March 1983 has created a Department of Cooperatives with a fully-fledged Minister. Together with the Department of Agriculture this new Department is charged with the management of cooperatives in general and in particular the cooperatives at the village level.

At the present time there are around 24 000 co-ops in the country, covering various fields of endeavour like farm co-ops, women co-ops, co-ops of banks, etc.

Although the effort does show or make progress in some areas, in certain fields we are not yet fully satisfied.

It is in this respect that we very much expect FAO support in expert guidance and cooperation. Past cooperation with FAO in this area is highly appreciated.

The role of woman in society has never been subordinate to that of man, but it is fully recognized that the area where she exercises her role is different from that of man. In fact we have two women at present as ministers.

Decision making at the village level towards the fulfilment of local needs has been greatly encouraged, as witnessed by the fact that a law has been passed in 1979 to that effect.

Projects like rural electrification, the provision of piped drinking water to the village, the establishment of rural small industries, and the redistribution of land to those who are needing, in the form of transmigration to sparsely settled areas; the establishment of nucleus estates with the aid from the World Bank, improved nutrition and family planning in rural areas, all were given due attention and are actively pursued at the moment. Those are just a few items concerning rural development in Indonesia at present. The progress we have made is encouraging, but the problem is still immense.

The role of the mass-media in this respect cannot be downplayed.

I cannot help but be impressed by the comprehensiveness of the manuscript presented by the Secretariat. May I congratulate the Secretariat for this monumental achievement.

May I also herewith express our full endorsement of the report.

M. A. CORREIA DE PINHO (Portugal) : L'on connaît les activités intenses développées par la FAO dans le but de stimuler par des moyens techniques et financiers puissants, les actions de réforme agraire et de développement rural, approuvées par la Conférence Mondiale de 1979, à Rome, spécialement dirigées vers les pays du tiers monde où il existe de profonds déséquilibres sociaux et autres problèmes dûs à la mauvaise gestion des ressources agricoles. Ces problèmes proviennent, en outre, du manque de préparation technologique des populations, de l'inexistence de capacités financières d'investissement, de circuits commerciaux désordonnés et inefficaces et du manque de capacité d'emmagasinage des produits agricoles, ce qui explique, en grande partie, que ces pays ne sont pas en mesure de satisfaire les besoins de leur population en termes de ravitaillement en produits alimentaires.

Par conséquent, comme on le constate au cours de cette Conférence, la préoccupation de la FAO est de continuer d'appuyer plus intensément les résolutions de la Conférence mondiale sur la Réforme Agraire et le Développement Rural. Cet appui, comme l'a souligné le Directeur général, ne peut se limiter à un objectif de deux ans, en accord d'ailleurs avec l'opinion des Etats Membres, des Conférences et Conseils de la FAO, des Conférences Régionales et des organes dirigeants de l'Organisation en ce qui concerne la nature et l'efficacité du rôle de la FAO. Ainsi, dans le programme de travail et du budget pour 1984-85, le Directeur général propose de nouvelles ressources supplémentaires qui devront être affectées aux différents sous-programmes, et notamment pour l'enseignement, la vulgarisation et la formation agricole, la réforme agraire et la colonisation des terres, les institutions rurales et le rôle de la femme dans la production agricole et dans le développement rural. Des ressources sensiblement plus élevées sont aussi sollicitées pour promouvoir la participation des femmes dans la commercialisation et aider les différents pays à élaborer des mesures politiques pour faciliter l'accès des femmes au service de la commercialisation et du crédit et à d'autres services institutionnels au niveau de l'échelon local.

Conformément au Programme de travail et Budget pour 1984-85, actuellement à l'étude, les aides de la FAO peuvent se traduire par d'autres formes comme des mesures visant à organiser des missions dans les différents pays pour aider à définir les grandes lignes d'action en matière de réforme agraire et de développement rural, ou l'intensification de consultations intergouvernementales et des aides aux "Centres régionaux de développement rural intégré" que la FAO vient de créer et d'appuyer dans plusieurs régions du monde.

Ma délégation appuie entièrement, dans cette matière, les orientations exprimées dans le Programme et Budget de la FAO pour 1984-85 et notamment la priorité accordée à la politique définie en 1979 par la CMRADR, politique qui continue de recevoir l'approbation du Gouvernement portugais car il estime que cette stratégie va dans le sens des besoins ressentis par les Peuples, en rapport avec le développement économique et social et avec une utilisation et une propriété de la terre plus judicieuses, ce qui permettra d'augmenter la production et améliorer la distribution avec pour but d'assurer, grâce à la coopération internationale, le combat contre la Faim dans certaines régions du monde. C'est ce qu'a souligné le Président de la République portugaise quand, dans un récent message, adressé au Directeur général de la FAO à l'occasion de la Journée Mondiale de l'alimentation, le 16 octobre, il affirmait : "En réalité, il existe encore de nos jours, de grandes régions géographiques et de vastes espaces peuplés, intolérablement éloignés des conditions de subsistance physique minimum, comme s'ils étaient condamnés à jouer le rôle, sans espoir, de situations de famine, d'indigence et de misère, clairement offensives de la conscience universelle. Si l'on n'est pas en mesure de surmonter avec décision et fermeté un tel état de choses - d'ailleurs incompréhensible et inacceptable dans un monde de progrès technologiques solides - l'on verra se vider de son contenu la lutte contre les droits de l'homme plus effectifs et avancés, se réduire l'indépendance et l'égalité des états à une fiction mensongère et l'on verra les valeurs de la paix et de la sécurité internationale devenir dangereusement vulnérables".

A. EL SARKY (Egypt) (original language Arabic): In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful, the delegation of my country, having studied the document under consideration would like to commend the Secretariat for the efforts deployed in its preparation. We express our satisfaction with the information included therein. This document serves as a good model for the analysis of developmental efforts in the alleviation of poverty. We hope that the Organization will continue the preparation of similar documents in the future.

Egypt was one of the first countries who were aware of the importance of agrarian reform in the realization of social and economic development. We had a pioneering experience in this respect. The first law on agrarian reform was promulgated in 1952, followed by two amendments, one in 1961 and the other in 1966. Egypt has applied agrarian reform in order to give the beneficiaries the chance of taking decisions, in making their own organizations. We established the General Cooperative Societies for Agrarian Reform, which is responsible for the formulation of the general policy of the land of agrarian reform within the framework of the State overall plan. We have given the beneficiaries credit, and given the chance for training to the leaders of farmers on the national level, or in accordance with a programme of exchanging visits with countries of similar nature, and provided them with extension services to equip them with modern technology so as to increase productivity.

Egypt was also keen on stressing the role of women in the area of agrarian reform, as a factor of production. We have established a special department in agricultural extension in the Ministry of Agriculture for the preparation and implementation of programmes in order to increase the role of women and their participation in food production. Egypt also has increased the number of women in extension services, in order to widen the base of dealing with women working in agriculture, and undertaken research work to solve the problems that hinder women's effective participation, together with establishing departments for community development in the places where agrarian reform is applied.

Egypt's efforts were not confined to this, because we have started to adapt the objectives of agrarian reform, in order to make it oriented towards agro-industries, in order to provide more chances of work, and to increase the income of beneficiaries. We had a successful experiment through which we could establish a dairy complex and poultry projects. Agrarian reform has led to the increase of agricultural production, and the expansion of the base of land tenure.

WCARRD for 1979 aimed at alleviation of poverty, but after five years document C 83/23 indicated that about 60 percent of the rural population is still poor and the level of illiteracy has increased in 15 countries. In this respect we would like at the outset to support the efforts of the Organization for the realization of rural development.

My country with its extensive experience in the field of rural development is prepared to receive more of the sons of the African and Latin American countries in order to receive training in the Egyptian International Centre for Agriculture and to send some Egyptian cadres to assist countries in building their infrastructure. Egypt is also aware of the importance of the centres of rural development as focal points for the realization of rural development.

In conclusion, we would like to commend the Organization and its assistance for conducting a study on the economic and social indicators, special measures for the alleviation of poverty and the preparation of the census. Egypt endorses the resolution on this issue.

N.V.K. WERAGODA (Sri Lanka) : Given the constraints in collecting information and the necessary data for an analysis of this nature, which should reveal both a quantitative and qualitative picture of the prevailing situation, the document C 83/23 is commendable.

To quote from this document -- I read from the document -- "it is rather an attempt to analyse changing trends with specific country examples to the extent of data availability". The Sri Lankan delegation thanks the Secretariat for this contribution and also Professor Islam's introduction to the subject.

To my mind what WCARRD attempts to do is a reconsideration of some of the stereotyped development theories that were applied in the developing countries. Some development planners considered development as synonymous with urbanization. They also thought that the rural area will benefit from the so-called forward and backward linkages, and the most needy, the poorest of the poor, were expected to be benefitted from the trickle down effect of development. Having realized the problems and resulting implications of this form of development, serious consideration is now given to development programmes as envisaged under WCARRD, which in brief could be referred to as 'a back to the village' theory of development.

Permit me to refer to a few Sri Lankan experiences in agricultural reform and rural development. At the outset I must say that we have given very high priority to the development activities of this area of work, not only because Sri Lanka is predominantly an agricultural country, but its 1.6 million small farmer population is the backbone of her agricultural operations.

We have emphasized this developing strategy on various fronts. Sri Lanka is divided into 24 administrative districts. Out of these we have identified the most backward districts and area specific development programmes have been prepared for each district. These development programmes are offered to donors on a multilateral or bilateral basis. I am happy to say that since 1979 we have been able to start six of these Integrated Rural Development Programmes in six districts.

The emphasis in these programmes is to identify the most needy target groups in each district and to provide them with the necessary investment package to improve their quality of life, and to sustain it on a self reliant basis. For these development activities to be sustained by the target groups, we have taken extra care to bring them into the programming and implementation of these activities wherever possible.

Permit me to make use of this occasion to record the appreciation of the Sri Lankan Government to all those multilateral and bilateral donors, also the non-governmental organizations who have assisted us in these Integrated Rural Development Programmes, and we look forward for further assistance for the projects that are in the pipeline in respect of a few other backward districts.

Sri Lanka has also undertaken a massive multi-purpose investment programme, the Mahaweli project, where 1.5 million farmers would be settled on an area of about 625 thousand acres of irrigated land.

We also have successfully operated crop insurance schemes which benefit the small farmers, the dairy producers and the horticulturists. Multi-purpose cooperatives have been very useful and active in providing credit and inputs and also in providing the necessary marketing facilities for farmers and fishermen.

From 1979 we have had a women's bureau to give a greater impetus to women's activities and this has been further expanded by creating a separate Ministry for Women's Affairs in 1982.

Mr Chairman, here I have attempted to highlight only a few of the activities which we have been doing in improving our rural economy in keeping with the WCARRD Programme of Action.

Let me now refer to some of the lessons we have learned in doing these activities. Firstly in the setting up of local level organizations, we have found that they are more acceptable and workable when due consideration is given to the customs and traditions prevailing among the people in setting up these organizations. Organizations that have been set up on stereotyped dogmatic formulas have often been unworkable and have died a natural death within a few years.

Yet another factor we have observed is to sustain development on a self-reliant basis is to foster economic development to be in harmony with the cultural and religious background of the people.

I will now refer to a few comments in the Report. With regard to the suggestion to establish a coordinating mechanism I must emphasise that depending on the administrative structures in different countries the need for such a super organization may have to be seriously reviewed. We feel that the suggestion for a national strategy for increased commitment to arrest the net outflow of resources from rural areas to urban centres is very important in drawing up national investment programmes. As observed in the Report, "Frequently enlarged resource flows to agriculture have been associated with more benefits to large farmers, marginalisation of peasantry and increasing drift of rural people to urban areas". This type of situation can only be avoided by making a concerted effort in diverting development funds to rural areas. We have already requested FAO to field a mission to review what we have done and to provide necessary assistance to up-date our information data processing systems.

Finally the Sri Lankan delegation endorses the resolutions submitted by Mexico on the subject with the necessary amendments that have been suggested.

GONG SHAOWEN (China) (original language Chinese): First of all the Chinese delegation would like to thank Professor Islam for his concise presentation on this agenda item. Our thanks also go to the Secretariat for its preparation of this comprehensive document C 83/23. This document, having collected data from 41 countries and from 9 relevant national and international aspects, analysed and evaluated the progress of agrarian reform and rural development in the world today. Thus it has provided us with updated and relevant information. At the same time, it has raised some questions for our consideration in the future. Therefore, we think it is a valuable document. We would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm our support for FAO's leading role in this area of work.

We consider that it is still necessary to continue this type of monitoring and evaluation in the future. But we should take note of the fact that the socio-economic conditions in every country are different, their level of development uneven and some developing countries' statistical monitoring and evaluation analysis is not high in standard. That's why we think at present we should do our best to simplify the socio-economic indicators needed for monitoring progress, seize the key problems and gradually perfect the work. Each country should also be allowed to add some necessary socio-economic indicators according to their own conditions. In analysing and evaluating the progress, it is preferable to differentiate the conditions of different countries and include a few typical cases for reference.

We have also submitted a country review as requested by the Director-General in his letter of November 5, 1982 to our Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries. Now, in connection with the subject under review, I would like to make some additional explanations as we feel necessary.

Since the winter of 1978, we have, proceeding from the actual conditions in our rural areas, carried out a series of reforms and readjustments in the management system of the cooperative economy and in the structuring of the agricultural production. Mainly, on the premise of persisting in the collective ownership, the principle of "to each according to his work", the guiding role played by state planning and the policy of achieving common prosperity, the Government introduced the household contracting responsibility system with remuneration linked to output, which takes households or small groups as the contracting units and integrates the commune members' responsibilities, rights and interests altogether, so as to further arouse their production enthusiasm. This has been a major readjustment in the relations of rural production since the two large-scale transformations in the relations of production in our rural areas, namely, the Agrarian Reform and Agricultural Cooperative Movement, aimed at making the relations of production correspond to the current level of productive forces. This readjustment has already played a marked role in promoting the all-round development of agriculture.

At present, our rural economy is switching from a self-sufficient and semi-self-sufficient economy to a large-scale commodity production economy. With the introduction of the household contracting responsibility system with remuneration linked to output and the development of a diversified economy in the rural areas, there have, in recent years, appeared a number of specialized and key households which make up over 10 percent of the country's total peasant households. Specialized households can be divided into two categories: first, contracting households, which engage by contract in certain specialized production organized by the collective at the commune or brigade level; second, self-managing households, which have developed on the basis of household sideline occupations. They have displayed superiority in raising output, increasing commodity varieties, improving economic efficiency and getting rich through hard work, thus becoming the prototype of China's specialized production. Now the Government is making every effort to support them, help them improve management and provide them with guidance. At the same time, we are also carrying out relevant readjustments and reforms in the system of rural commodity circulation in an effort to develop an economic structure which integrates agriculture, industry and commerce.

It should be admitted that development in different rural areas is uneven. Though the superiority of the cooperative economy has been brought into full play, some areas are still in a relatively backward state, due to their poor natural conditions, lack of transportation, and inadequate commercial services. The peasants in those areas have lower income and lower food consumption level. They are classified as poor areas according to our criteria. Until 1978, there were more than 240 such counties in the country with a population of about 100 million. Taking into account the causes leading to their poverty, we have adopted more flexible rural economic policies to allow the peasants more decision-making power in aspects such as production arrangement, management and administration, marketing of products and income distribution, in order to bring their enthusiasm in production into full play. Furthermore, our Government has adopted a policy of reduction of exemption of state procurement quotas and agricultural taxes for those areas to give the peasants opportunities to recover. Coupled with this, the state has expanded agricultural investment in the same areas, developed various kinds of agricultural projects and infrastructure facilities, thus improv-

ing the production conditions of those areas. In this way, their backwardness has been rapidly put to an end. Now, the Government has primarily solved the problem of food and clothing for most of the poor peasants in those areas. Nearly 40 of the 240 poor counties have doubled their gross out-put value of the industry and agriculture and begun to embark on the road of prosperity.

Y. ABT (Israel): My delegation congratulates the Secretariat on the comprehensive Progress Report on the WCARRD Programme of Action presented to this Conference. We note with satisfaction that there is a marked trend to extend agricultural extension and training for peasant communities and small farmers. We would suggest that a parallel now be given to train farm leaders to manage and indeed initiate improvements of the supporting system, particularly in relation to managing input centres, processing facilities and marketing techniques. We are confident about the future of the organized family farm units, provided, however, that more research and development is expanded to introduce technologies and organizational systems relevant to market oriented farming. My country has, for example, developed a system for the village cooperative sector whereby forage mixers *in situ* have released the farmer from the burdens of forage production, enabling him to spend his energies solely on the management of his herd; with the result that today a typical family farm unit or herd on 3 hectares would produce some 300 000 litres with 40 cows in lactation per year.

We note the lack of data related to small-scale fisheries, particularly fresh pond fishing. We are very willing to share with others some dramatic new potentials encountered in our country recently in the field of feeding and breeding. Of late, Israel is cooperating with a number of countries to develop with indigenous fish species, fish farming techniques adapted to peasant community organization systems.

We also note the emphasis now being given by some countries to small livestock development. This aspect in our opinion, holds much promise, provided more research and development is expanded to utilize available industrial by-products for feeding and, in the case of goat and sheep husbandry, provided we find a way to develop adapted agro-pastoral systems. In this connection too, we are able to make a modest contribution both in research and training.

May I mention, on a somewhat sombre note, that my country is facing a rather high inflation and we are now grappling with the problem of how, under high inflationary conditions, the family farm can remain economically viable. Our message to others in this matter is that if the supporting system, which includes agro-industries and processing and village cooperative, is well structured and well managed, the difficulties of high inflation are at least manageable. The job of rural development is never over, it is a dynamic process leading to rural and urban integration and the report under discussion certainly shows up this process.

We therefore strongly suggest an additional post-graduate training effort for future planners and policy makers, to carry the message of WCARRD in practical terms for generations to come.

E.B.M. BARUA CHELE (Kenya): My delegation would like to commend the Director-General and the Secretariat for a job well done, as contained in the Progress Report before us. We are aware in our own situation how difficult it is to pool all the available data in the country for meaningful analysis. The matter is even further complicated when there are several ministries dealing with various aspects of agriculture, that is, crops, livestock, fisheries, forestry and even cooperatives, as well as data collecting. We are among those countries that did not submit our report according to the Director-General's letter of November 1982, the problem being what I have just said. However, we have very close contact with FAO and we have quite a number of publications that filter through the Headquarters. The FAO has been active and I can cite quite a number of areas which are already mentioned in the document; and we have been working very cooperatively on strengthening our development programmes and WCARRD recommendations.

I would also like to state that in our 1979-83 Kenya National Development Plan we did definitely draw up programmes and projects that were tailored to recommendations made by WCARRD. The theme of the Development Plan was appropriately put as poverty elimination, recognizing five target groups.

The socio-economic indicators that are already given by FAO are very much detailed and we have, incidentally, been a country where the test has been carried out and we feel honored, from this point of view, that any improvement could probably be directed to our statistical collection, as was mentioned by previous speakers.

At the moment we are finalizing the Fifth National Development Plan to cover the years 1984-88. The problem that is facing us is that of budgetary constraints, and foreign exchange problems due to reduced earnings from major crops, namely coffee and tea.

On the food scene, we have already greatly improved, particularly from the low of 1979-80 which was one of our shocking areas due to weather vagrancies ,but of late the farmers have already responded to this and we have already attained our self-sufficiency in food production, except that the farmers have to be paid in time and, because of the constraints I mentioned, on our budgetary section, the farmer payments have been delayed. However, this situation has already been solved by friendly countries including the EEC and, of course, the World Food Programme.

Storage capacities have also been increased and these are the areas where we need greater assistance. In my earlier intervention I mentioned our national food policy; this was done in 1981. I am now glad to report that with that drawn up, and with our concerted efforts to reach the farmers, much has been achieved and we hope there will be sufficient food in specific areas through distribution and in the amounts needed to reach the target groups. I do not wish to dwell at length on this issue.

We support all the recommendations under WCARRD and the follow-up and we also support our Centre for Integrated Rural Development in Africa and what it is doing. The document before us is very lucid and, in view of the difficulties that were encountered in data collection and analysis, I would say it is well laid out and an excellent job to begin with.

We would also like to assure the Director-General of our commitment to fight poverty and malnutrition and to raise the standard of living of rural areas. We shall need further assistance in improving data collection and analysis, training of our nationals at various levels, and strengthening the implementation of the WCARRD recommendations.

CHAIRMAN: Let us proceed to some announcements. First in regard to the proposed amendments to the resolution lodged by Mexico the Secretariat has received amendments in writing from several delegations, including Ghana, Cuba, India, Indonesia, Israel, Australia, the Netherlands and Norway. I understand that there is no controversial issue or any great inconsistency involved in those several amendments but there is a problem in getting an agreed final text which it appears would be best and most expeditiously handled by a contact group. I therefore propose that there be a contact group at 3 p.m. today in the German Room and I propose the following membership for that group, Ghana, Australia, Cuba, United States of America, Norway, India, Mexico, Netherlands. Is this agreeable to the Commission? I take it that the proposal is acceptable to the Commission.

The meeting rose at 12.30 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30 horas

conference

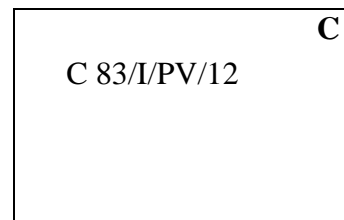
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Twenty-second Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt-deuxième session
COMMISSION I

22° período de sesiones
COMISION I

TWELFTH MEETING
DOUZIEME SEANCE
12ª SESION

(16 November 1983)

The Twelfth Meeting was opened at 14.50 hours

G. Mackey, Vice-Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La douzième séance est ouverte à 14 h 50, sous la présidence de

G. Mackey, Vice-Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 12ª sesión a las 14.50 horas, bajo la presidencia de

G. Mackey, Vicepresidente de la Comisión I

I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)

I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)

I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)

9. Progress Report on WCARRD Programme of Action (continued)

9. Rapport de situation sur le programme d'action de la CMRADR (suite)

9. Informe sobre la marcha del Programa de Acción de la CMRADR (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: I would remind delegates that the Contact Group on the Resolution on WCARRD will meet in the German Room at 3 p.m. The members of that Contact Group are: Australia, Cuba, Ghana, India Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway and the United States of America.

We have a very long list of delegates who wish to speak this afternoon, we must complete this session today; there are meetings to ensure that days are tightly programmed and we cannot eat into the programme for subsequent days. I know that many delegates are anxious to inform the Commission of the progress that they are achieving in their countries, but I would remind you all that the purpose of the Session is essentially to comment on the document before us. We shall not get through the day unless delegates cooperate with us in keeping comments as concise as possible.

Of course, the Conference is anxious to know about the progress you are achieving in your own countries and I would ask that if you wish to make statements about that, you hand them in to the Secretariat for inclusion in the verbatim record.

A. ACUÑA HUMPHRIES (Panamá): Valoramos, señor Presidente, la presentación-introducción de este importante tema (los progresos realizados en la aplicación del programa de acción de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural) realizada por el Profesor Islam, Subdirector General, Departamento de Política Económica y Social.

El primer comentario que la discusión de este tema nos merece, señor Presidente, es el de que la FAO como organismo principal de las Naciones Unidas en lo relativo a la reforma agraria y al desarrollo rural, ha cumplido debidamente con la presentación de este informe cuatrienal conforme a lo emanado de la CMRADR, celebrada en este Sede en julio de 1979.

Paralelamente, tenemos que aceptar que ha habido incumplimiento en muchos de nuestros Estados Miembros, que por distintas causas, la mayor parte de ellas de tipo político indudablemente, no llegamos a presentar los respectivos informes nacionales. Esto indudablemente priva al informe de datos que no dudamos hubieran enriquecido en información el Documento C 83/23, Pero, señor Presidente, en todo caso, estas son responsabilidades de nosotros los Estados Miembros que asistimos a la CMRADR, en un número total de 145 Estados Miembros, y no responsabilidad de la FAO.

Por otra parte, reconocemos las dificultades y limitaciones que se confrontan en la presentación de un denso informe refundido, descriptivo y analítico, como lo pidió el pasado período de sesiones de esta Conferencia.

No hay duda de que la reforma agraria constituye uno de los requisitos básicos del desarrollo de nuestros pueblos.

Ya expresamos en el 82° período de sesiones del Consejo de esta Conferencia que pretender dar solución a los problemas que obstaculizan el desarrollo del sector rural de nuestros países sin superar los problemas estructurales que tiendan entre otras cosas a ampliar y hacer más equitativos, de manera primaria, el acceso a la tierra, al agua y otros recursos naturales, es lo mismo que pretender llegar a una cima sin pasar necesariamente por los necesarios escalones primarios, con el riesgo de dar saltos en el vacío.

Los señalado en el Documento en el sentido del escaso progreso logrado, por ejemplo, en el acceso a la tierra por parte de la gente pobre del campo, refleja -y esto lo sabemos todos, pero no está de más repetirlo en esta Conferencia de la FAO- la tenaz posición de los conocidos intereses internos de presión negativa contra la reforma agraria y el desarrollo rural, en alianza con iguales y aún peores intereses externos.

La historia pasada y presente en América Latina y el Caribe en general y en América Central, en especial, es rica en estos ejemplos.

Con estas consideraciones, no pretendemos buscar meras excusas a las no materializaciones de acciones en materia de reforma agraria y desarrollo rural en nuestros países, sino que objetivamente señalamos causas que han sido freno a la reforma agraria y el desarrollo rural.

Asistíamos el pasado mes de septiembre a la discusión de un Documento que evaluaba la marcha de los proyectos de desarrollo rural integrados por el FIDA, y al escuchar las observaciones que realizaba un distinguido miembro de la Junta Ejecutiva del FIDA, de un país desarrollado, nos quedo la firme impresión de que sus observaciones guardaban relación con proyectos que se estuviesen ejecutando en su propio país y no en un país en desarrollo.

Se trata, señor Presidente, de la conocida posición consistente en decir: "Estamos de acuerdo con la reforma agraria y el desarrollo rural, pero..." y se le anteponen tantos peros, que desvirtúan y desvían el sentido mismo de lo que conceptualmente debe ser la reforma agraria y el desarrollo rural.

No hay mejor vehículo para que definitivamente, real y eficazmente lleguemos a los objetivos que constituyen la tantas veces repetida cifra de 500 millones de hambrientos en el mundo, si no es por acciones que se materialicen en proyectos de reforma agraria y desarrollo rural con los matices y particularidades de cada uno de nuestros países.

Las nuestras no son, señor Presidente, meras consideraciones teóricas sobre el tema, sino, por el contrario, experiencia práctica sobre el particular. Y aquí queremos señalar que escuchamos con mucha atención la intervención de Suecia en representación de los países nórdicos y que la consideramos como positiva, optimista y muy alentadora.

Por estas consideraciones, y muchas otras más, respaldamos plenamente el hecho de que la FAO continúe a través, tanto de su sistema de seguimiento sobre los progresos de la reforma agraria y el desarrollo rural, así como en la materialización de ayuda a los países que así lo soliciten, en la puesta en práctica del programa de acción de la CMRADR. Y esto entraña la preparación de informes en períodos alternos de las sesiones de esta Conferencia de la FAO.

Como bien lo expresamos al principio, reconocemos la función de la FAO como organismo principal de las Naciones Unidas en lo relativo a la reforma agraria y el desarrollo rural. Hemos considerado que éste debe ser uno de los aspectos programáticos a que se le debe prestar mayor atención de la FAO.

En cuanto a las prioridades en las orientaciones, destacamos -sin que ello signifique restar importancia a las otras- la que tiene que ver con la promoción de la participación popular para el desarrollo con su correspondiente componente de capacitación.

Uno de los acuerdos a que se debe llegar igualmente en esta vigésima segunda Conferencia de la FAO, es el de exhortar a los Estados Miembros a redoblar esfuerzos para el cumplimiento en la aplicación del Programa de Acción de la CMRADR, así como el confirmar la Resolución 7/79 de esta Conferencia de la FAO, como asimismo, a que se tienda cada vez más a utilizar los trabajos de seguimiento para mejorar sus programas y políticas de reforma agraria y desarrollo rural.

M. LENSTRA (Netherlands): I would like first of all to thank the Assistant Director-General, Dr Nurul Islam, for his introduction of the document before us, the Progress Report on WCARRD Programme of Action, Document C 83/23. I would also like to commend the FAO Secretariat for the very factual and analytical report on changing trends with specific country examples as to the extent of data availability.

An important aspect of WCARRD follow-up is that countries monitor progress in poverty alleviation and rural development and report the results to every other biennial Conference of FAO. The first of these series of country reports is now analysed and presented to us in the mentioned document.

My delegation regrets that FAO, despite wide ranging efforts to obtain adequate and reliable data on the progress in agrarian reform and rural developments since 1979, the factual description and analyses of the report have been constrained by the lack of adequate and comparable data. The distinctive message of WCARRD is attaining growth with equity and people's participation and redistribution of economic and political power. My delegation has stressed the importance of this message on many occasions.

Concerning people's participation, one of the main objectives of the WCARRD Programme of Action, we feel, is the need to form independent rural organizations and in this respect I would like to refer to paragraph 10 of the FAO Resolution 7/79 on WCARRD follow-up adopted during the Twentieth Session of the FAO Conference. I read this paragraph to you: "... calls upon all states concerned, and FAO, to take effective measures which will assist in the establishment and strengthening of self-reliance and representative rural organizations, including rural women's and youth organizations, so that such organizations can effectively and democratically participate in the implementation of the Programme of Action."

Progress in the ratification and enforcement of ILO Conventions related to the establishment of rural organizations has been very limited. In order to stimulate people's participation in rural development, my Government supports the special programme of FAO on people's participation through the funding of seven projects in Africa and Asia.

My delegation would like to make a comment on another main objective of the WCARRD Programme of Action, namely integration of women in rural development. This has been, as you know, of particular concern to my country for several years. In addition to what is said in the Progress Report of WCARRD on that subject matter, my delegation shares the opinion that development policy regarding women should be based on certain premises. Some of them I would like to mention. First, women should be given more influence and should be enabled to take part in the preparation and implementation of development planning at local, national and international levels, so as to give women the opportunity and the means to help shape the changes taking place.

Secondly, women should be in a position to defend their own interests, and development policy must aim at a larger measure of economic independence for women than is at present the case in most countries.

Thirdly, support must be given to women's groups and organizations that are striving to change the traditional relations between man and woman and give them a fair say in the processes of change taking place in the development context at all levels.

In the policy of the Netherlands Development Cooperation, women in development is a priority area, and that is the reason why the Netherlands is supporting the FAO Women's Programme. This programme is still in the preliminary stage and two projects have recently been approved by my Government, one in Lesotho and another project in Sudan. We are prepared to continue this support during the next biennium.

In this connection I should like to add that FAO projects not especially aimed at women, for which Dutch support is requested, should mention the impact of the project on the situation of women affected by the project. In fact separate projects for women should, at a later stage, no longer be necessary because the interests of women should become an integral part of all rural development projects.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention and that of the distinguished delegates, to the expert consultation on women in food production which is organized in Rome for the beginning of December, and is jointly financed by the Governments of Norway and the Netherlands.

H.L. CHAWLA (India): The Indian delegation is thankful to Dr Islam for his excellent introduction on this important subject. I shall very briefly touch upon the major components of rural development in India, and then make a few points on the presentation of the Report.

In the Agrarian Reforms Policy, there are five elements of our policy. One, the abolition of intermediary tenures. Two, tenancy reforms comprising regulation of rent, security of tenure, and confirmation of ownership rights on tenants. Thirdly, ceilings on land holdings and distribution of surplus land. Fourthly, consolidation of holdings and fifthly, compilation and up-dating of land records. This last aspect is important because we feel that in many cases in some of the States land reforms could not be implemented because there is no record and the tenant cannot establish that he has been on the land for a number of years.

Now, under the land ceiling laws, about 4 million hectares of land were declared surplus, out of which 2 million hectares have been distributed to about 1.5 million landless persons. To reduce the fragmentation of land holdings and create a standard holding size for better farming, consolidation of holdings have been completed, over 49 million hectares in the country, constituting about 31 percent of the area.

Among the other programmes, a programme of key importance is the integrated rural development programme. The operational strategy under this programme includes action plans for increasing production and productivity of agriculture and allied sectors, based on better use of land, water, etcetera. The object is to increase the incomes of the poorer sections. Diversification of agriculture through animal husbandry, dairy, forestry, fisheries, silviculture, etc., also is an important part of this programme. This programme is expected to provide assistance to 15 million of the poorest rural families during the five-year period 1980-85.

Our Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, has been showing special interest in rural development, and recently, for the small and marginal farmers a special scheme involving an outlay of 2,500 million Rupees was taken up. Under this scheme farmers in dry areas are being given subsidies for land and water development, and they are also being provided with free minikits of improved seeds of pulses and oil seeds and planting materials for horticulture and forestry. There are special area development programmes for drought-torn areas and desert areas. Under this rural development, employment aspect is considered most important because in many cases unemployment, poverty and malnutrition go together.

We have a country-wide programme which is called National Rural Employment Programme. The main interest of this Programme is the provision of employment to two sections of the rural poor who have very little or no assets. Both the development project and target group orientated employment relation projects are closely intertwined in the Programme. This Programme is expected to generate additional employment to the extent of 3 to 4 million man/days per year during the current Plan period.

A special scheme of benefit to women has been started in the rural areas. The object is to increase the incomes of women workers. Another programme called Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme, which was announced by our Prime Minister in August last and it has been introduced. Its object is to tackle the hard core of rural poverty by giving employment opportunities to the landless worker during the lean agricultural seasons. Under this programme about 300 million man/days of work will be generated during 1984-85.

In the matter of price policy and marketing support to which reference has also been made under rural development, substantial price incentives have been given. In the last three years prices of rice and wheat have been raised by about 30 percent, pulses by up to 50 percent, and for other crops also there is improvement. Then there is marketing support, under which about 15 million tons of rice and wheat are produced by government agencies. As from this season, the Government has undertaken the purchase of coarse cereals also, so that the poor people working in dry areas are able to get the right price for their produce.

A good deal of emphasis has been laid during the discussions on the draft resolution on monitoring and evaluation aspects.

In this connection, I would like to submit that the Government of India has set up a standing committee of social economic indicators for monitoring and evaluation of rural development programmes and agrarian reform. These committees are working under the National Statistics Board. India has a sophisticated system of data collection providing sufficient basis for monitoring and evaluation of the follow-up on the WCARRD Programme of Action.

Now, there is a recent development which might be of interest to developing countries. As you know, in crop production, timely availability of key inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, diesel electricity and credit is essential. In this sphere, India has tried an innovative approach from last season. We organised two input fortnights prior to the start of our two crop seasons. All the States in the country were asked to mobilise extension and administrative personnel at the field level to ensure that various agencies arranged all the inputs well in time and the farmers are able to get credit and inputs in their villages or nearby places before the start of the sowing season. The emphasis is on proper coordination, proper arrangements for availability at the distribution centres needed by the farmers. Both these fortnights have been very successful, and the farmers' response from various parts is very encouraging. It may be of interest to some countries.

I agree with many of the observations made by Australia in regard to the desirability of focusing our efforts on rural development, primarily on production and production-orientated infrastructural works, etc. The only limitation, as he also mentioned, is the cost-effectiveness of all these projects. I have only to submit that there are some families in our rural areas who have absolutely no assets and no resources, and a measure of rehabilitative effort is absolutely necessary if they are to be brought to a point from where they can walk and run, or a particular section will have to be treated with that measure of relaxation, although the method of production is most important.

Lastly, as regards FAO's Progress Report on WCARRD Programme of Action, I want to suggest in all humility that this presentation should be capable of further improvement, knowing fully the limitations and difficulties of presenting the progress of 150 countries is quite difficult, but still the point is that FAO might like to decide on certain indicators of rural development. There might be some benchmarks for each country, and progress could be measured in relation to those benchmarks.

Secondly, I would think that I have seen in many cases a draft being prepared by the World Bank on their economic service to be shown to the governments concerned for comments. If that type of production could be feasible - although it is going to be difficult - whatever comments are prepared, on that day the view of the country government is also asked. That may be helpful.

Thirdly, there could be scope that under very specific heads, a sort of questionnaire is circulated to different countries and they are asked to fill in information on the points where calculations are needed, etc., and thereafter, the same could be scrutinised by FAO.

These are the few comments which I wanted to make on this item.

N.K. BASNYAT (Nepal): First of all, I would like to thank Dr Islam for his lucid presentation of the Progress Report on WCARRD Programme. I would also like to express our appreciation for the task done by the Secretariat in preparing this comprehensive Report.

As you are aware, the economic conditions of a large segment of the rural population in most developing countries remain very low. The follow-up of WCARRD progress and support from FAO to these programmes is of great importance to us. It has been very clearly mentioned in the Programme of Work and Budget 1984-85 that the rural poor generally lack effective organisations of their own through which they can participate in planning and implementing programmes, market their produce, get a fair price for their food, and secure the necessary inputs and services. This is where my delegation feels we should put more emphasis. This calls for promotion and strengthening of rural organisations, that is cooperatives at the village level owned and operated by small and marginal farmers and small artisans.

While making a statement, the head of my delegation mentioned the rural development programme being carried out in the context of WCARRD follow-up and launching of an intensive cooperative programme. Under this intensive cooperative programme, cooperative societies owned and operated by only small and marginal farmers are organised, which are known as Small Farmers' Cooperatives. Planning and implementing programmes and services being provided through their own groups, they have organised these societies based on certain commodities. Training of group leaders and members is being carried out to expose them to the management of group activities. This we think could be a very effective way and an institution of their own where they can participate in decision-making which affects themselves. This would be the cooperative way of reaching the rural poor and could be of importance to other developing countries and needs substantial support.

We are seriously considering the establishment of an apex Level cooperative organization with direct linkages up to primary levels where FAO's support would be of great importance.

I also would like to mention at this juncture that we recently held a National Workshop in appropriate management systems for agricultural cooperatives where an integrated approach to cooperative development has been a major focus area, and FAO's support to this is highly appreciated.

Women are being encouraged to join village cooperatives, and a national Plan of Action regarding women in cooperatives, agriculture, cottage, industries and forestry has been made, and training is being organised in various fields by the respective agencies.

H. CARRION (Nicaragua): Nuestra delegación se complace, de manera muy especial, de intervenir en este tema. Por esto, haremos referencia necesaria a nuestra experiencia nacional, pero seremos breves para cumplir con el apelo que usted nos ha hecho.

El informe sobre la marcha de las actividades complementarias de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, plantea algunos asuntos que nuestra delegación considera de particular interés. Las medidas de Reforma Agraria al interior de los países, así como las acciones tendientes a apoyar dichos planes y proyectos nacionales, constituyen, a nuestro entender, el punto de partida de cualquier esfuerzo serio que busque resolver los graves problemas del hambre, la desnutrición y demás lacras sociales que aquejan a nuestros pueblos.

Los países del área enfrentamos situaciones similares en el sector agropecuario. Nicaragua heredó del somocismo un modelo de desarrollo agropecuario, en el cual el sector de agroexportación ha subordinado a su dinámica de crecimiento a una economía campesina tradicional sobre cuyos hombros ha recaído históricamente el grueso de la producción de alimentos. Al influjo de los precios en el mercado internacional, y según el crecimiento de la demanda en los países industrializados, el café primeramente, y después el algodón, la caña de azúcar, la ganadería de carne, fueron asentando progresivamente su predominio en el agro.

A través de un proceso intenso de concentración y acaparamiento de las mejores tierras, los latifundistas despojaron enormes contingentes de campesinos y dedicaron dichas tierras a la producción agroexportadora. Estos campesinos, separados de sus tierras a través de métodos generalmente violentos, fueron absorbidos, como asalariados permanentes de las plantaciones; otros emigraron a los centros urbanos a engrosar las filas de los desempleados o subempleados, o bien a la frontera agrícola donde encontraron su alternativa de sobrevivencia, en la tumba de bosques para la siembra de granos básicos. Una proporción importante de ellos, lanzados a tierras marginales u obligados a buscar el acceso a la misma mediante el pago de una renta en efectivo o en especie, sembraban granos básicos durante una parte del año, y emigraban a los cortes de café, algodón y caña de azúcar para completar sus ingresos como mano de obra barata durante los meses restantes.

Este modelo de desarrollo, concentrador y excluyente, no podía ofrecer más que despojos, hambre y miseria a los campesinos. El 50 por ciento de las tierras, generalmente aquellas de mejor calidad y dotadas de infraestructura, se encontraban al momento del triunfo revolucionario en manos de solamente el 2 por ciento de los propietarios. El índice de analfabetismo en el campo era superior al 75 por ciento, y en amplias zonas del país ascendía prácticamente al 100 por ciento. La desnutrición y las enfermedades azotaban a la población infantil del campo, registrándose un índice de mortalidad de 121 niños menores de un año por cada mil nacidos.

El somocismo impulsó, a través del llamado Instituto Agrario, supuestos planes de reforma agraria así como proyectos de colonización en zonas de la frontera agrícola que no constituyeron otra cosa que un intento para mediatizar la justa resistencia de los campesinos frente al despojo. Estos proyectos no lograron sino lanzar a los pequeños productores a condiciones de vida aún más deterioradas, y provocar irreparables daños en los suelos y bosques. Posteriormente, el somocismo creó el Instituto de Bienestar Campesino, el cual dispuso de un amplio apoyo financiero de la AID, en una versión modernizada del antiguo Instituto Agrario. Ninguno de estos programas pudieron mediatizar la conciencia de los campesinos, a quienes la experiencia había enseñado que sólo una revolución que transformara profundamente las antiguas estructuras, sería capaz de satisfacer sus más profundas aspiraciones y reivindicaciones. Fue así que los pequeños y medianos productores se incorporaron masivamente a la lucha revolucionaria y contribuyeron de manera decisiva al triunfo popular del 19 de julio de 1979.

Señor Presidente, Nicaragua lleva adelante actualmente un proyecto de reforma agraria que recoge muchos de los lineamientos contenidos en el Programa de Acción de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural. Este proyecto es consecuente con la opción adoptada por la revolución nicaragüense en el sentido de hacer de la transformación de los productos de la agricultura y demás recursos materiales, el eje alrededor del cual giran los esfuerzos de reconstrucción y reestructuración de nuestra economía, dentro del contexto de un plan nacional de desarrollo.

La reforma agraria nicaragüense se propone, en el marco de política de reconstrucción y unidad nacional, modificar profundamente el modelo de desarrollo heredado del somocismo, como condición indispensable para mejorar las condiciones de marginalidad y atraso en que fueron sumidos la gran mayoría de los productores agropecuarios, así como para sentar las bases de un verdadero desarrollo nacional. En ese orden se avanza hacia la eliminación de la tradicional subordinación de la producción alimenticia a la agroexportación, y se promueve la más amplia y generalizada participación de los campesinos y obreros agrícolas organizados, incluyendo la participación de la mujer.

La reforma agraria ha hecho pasar para siempre a la historia el esquema tradicional de concentración de la propiedad de la tierra. Solamente a través del decreto número 3, emitido pocos días después del triunfo revolucionario, se confiscaron un millón de hectáreas que pertenecieron a Somoza y a sus allegados, lo cual representó un decisivo golpe al latifundismo.

La campaña de alfabetización, dirigida principalmente hacia el campo, redujo el índice nacional de analfabetismo de más del 50 por ciento a solamente el 12 por ciento. El crédito otorgado a los campesinos a través del Programa de Crédito Rural, pasó de 95 millones de córdobas como máximo durante el somocismo a más de 900 millones de córdobas en el primer año de la revolución.

La reducción de la renta de la tierra, el incremento de los salarios de los obreros agrícolas, los programas de salud, abastecimiento y educación popular, representan los pasos trascendentales a través de los cuales se concentran las reivindicaciones por las que lucharon por tantos años los campesinos nicaragüenses.

La ley de reforma agraria, promulgada en agosto de 1981, proporcionó el marco jurídico para la profundización del proceso.

Esta ley, si bien no establece un límite a la propiedad individual de la tierra, faculta para la aceptación de las grandes propiedades ociosas, rentistas, deficientemente explotadas o en estado de abandono, habiéndose aplicado en unas 180 000 hectáreas adicionales. Asimismo, una vez promulgada dicha ley se dio inicio a la titulación de cooperativas y productores individuales por más de 2 000 hectáreas que desde el triunfo les habían sido entregadas a través de distintos mecanismos. Todas estas medidas han dado como resultado el que, solamente en cuatro años, los campesinos pobres hayan pasado de poseer el 3 por ciento a ser dueños de más del 20 por ciento de las tierras cultivables, lo que significa que para finales de 1983 se habrán distribuido aproximadamente 580 000 hectáreas de tierra que benefician a 25 580 familias del campo.

Es así como ha ido surgiendo y consolidándose un nuevo perfil del agro nicaragüense, en el que participan el Estado, los pequeños y medianos productores cooperativizados y los productores individuales. Son casi 100 empresas de reforma agraria entre las que se encuentran ingenios azucareros, empresas ganaderas tecnificadas, así como plantaciones de algodón y tabaco, contribuyen al estado revolucionario con el 20 por ciento del total de la producción agropecuaria del país.

Políticas de incentivos han sido orientadas a estimular a los productores cooperativizados, cuyo peso en la agricultura es significativo para participar en la reactivación económica y en el esfuerzo nacional por desarrollar la producción agropecuaria.

Particular énfasis ha puesto el Gobierno de reconstrucción nacional en los programas alimentarios, los cuales están estrechamente asociados al proyecto de reforma agraria que fomenta la incorporación a la producción de áreas anteriormente ociosas. El programa alimentario nacional se propone alcanzar a corto plazo para el país la autosuficiencia y la generación de excedentes exportables, y en un breve período de tiempo ha obtenido importantes éxitos, aunque nuestros esfuerzos en este sentido enfrentan graves problemas provenientes de situaciones climatológicas, y en especial, los que se derivan del escaso financiamiento internacional del intercambio desigual de productos primarios y productos manufacturados en el mercado mundial, del proteccionismo comercial y de las constantes agresiones que sufre nuestro país.

Para finalizar, apoyamos el proyecto de resolución sometido a la consideración de esta Comisión e instamos al Director General de la FAO a que nos continúe informando de los progresos que se han realizado en la aplicación del programa de acción de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural. Instamos también al Director General de la FAO a que siga prestando asistencia a nuestros países en este campo.

A.H.M. ABDUL HYE (Bangladesh): Mr Chairman, though I have prepared a written statement incorporating the progress under the various areas as covered by the local Declaration of Principles and particularly the Programme of Action, I will refrain from going through it in deference to your wish and in order to save time.

First of all, I should like to congratulate Professor Islam on his brief, lucid and very effective introduction to a rather lengthy and complicated paper. He has very succinctly initiated us into the main subject covered in the report. Conference document C 83/23 is a very important one because it has initiated a global monitoring system on the progress of agrarian reform and rural development. In this sense it is truly a turning point for judging the progress in alleviating rural poverty.

The WCARRD recommendations expected the developing countries particularly to undertake regularly the collection of data on various aspects of agrarian reform and rural development and monitor the progress towards meeting the objectives and quantifiable time-bound targets set by themselves. It appears from the Report that not many countries have complied with this requirement or have implemented this recommendation. As this Report is a compilation and consolidation of the country reports received by the FAO Secretariat, the shortcoming is based on this limited coverage. But more important than the limited coverage is the manner in which the reports have been collected. In most cases, if Bangladesh is anything to go by, the country reports were prepared hastily by consultants or by consulting firms which went around different Ministries and then put together the paper for submission to FAO. I do not question the quality or the competence of the people who prepared the country reports, but, because of the time constraint and the logistic problem, they had to make do with inadequate information, inadequate data, and to that extent the country reports must be less than adequate. If instead a continuous reporting system is initiated for monitoring regularly the progress in the various areas of agrarian reform and rural development, and the reports are compiled centrally, either at the Planning Commission or at any other agency, preferably with the participation of the FAO Representative, then FAO Headquarters will have a better input for the preparation of this type of document. I hope this will be done in future.

The quality of this Report, the quality of the analysis, the merit or justification of the conclusions regarding the major trends in the progress of achievement in the various areas covered under WCARRD, depends very greatly on the benchmark data for each area. I am not sure if the benchmark data were collected or are available in every case. If these are not available, then there is no basis of comparison and one can only make subjective judgements. It would also be very helpful if quantifiable time-bound targets are available. This may not be possible in every case. For instance, a quantifiable time-bound target cannot be set for an area like people's participation, or, for that matter, in respect of access to inputs. But some more devices can be found in order to get around this problem, because the aim should be to arrive at quantitative figures objectively, as far as possible.

The developing countries are not an undifferentiated mass. They belong to different categories, such as less developed countries, countries in the lower range of developing countries and countries which are developing at a faster rate. If we want to review the progress in the various areas covered by agrarian reform and rural development, it may not be proper to draw conclusions on the basis of the experience of developing countries with a disparate rate of development. If data from a developing country which is relatively developed are used to draw conclusions regarding trends in certain areas, such data may not be applicable in the case of other developing countries which might be at a different stage of development. Therefore, the Secretariat of FAO should consider the desirability of making separate chapters or sections to review the progress under WCARRD to identify the major trends for different categories of developing countries.

Finally, the basis for monitoring the progress under WCARRD has already incorporated some socioeconomic indicators. There is no doubt that responsibility for improving the data base for quantifying things like the development of land, access to inputs and people's participation lies primarily with the developing countries, but there is a good deal that international agencies, particularly FAO, can do in terms of providing technical assistance, in identifying projects which will have a direct bearing on the amelioration of poverty, the improvement of economic conditions of the rural poor and the disadvantaged.

An agency like FAO should go even beyond that by taking follow-up action for providing funds to take up the implementation of and to continue priority projects. In this respect, I must mention the good work done by the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) in monitoring the progress of WCARRD. I understand similar good work has been done by CIRDAFRICA who played a very effective role in this area and therefore, I expect that those regional organizations who are exclusively dealing with rural development will be given the necessary assistance and will be adequately strengthened.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks the delegate of Bangladesh for his constructive comments and for his forbearance in agreeing to lodge with the Secretariat the statement concerning progress in his own country. While I am sure all members of the Commission and Conference are anxious to hear of the progress in individual countries, in fairness to all delegates who wish to speak we will have to seek your cooperation on that.

Mine M.T. GUICCIARDI (Observateur pour la Confédération internationale des syndicats libres): Monsieur le Président, nous syndicalistes attachons une importance extrême à la présentation du premier rapport sur la mise en oeuvre du Programme d'action de la CMRADR pour lequel la FAO avait une responsabilité particulière. Nous voulons tout spécialement féliciter la FAO des efforts qu'elle a accomplis en ce domaine, et avec le Directeur général nous déplorons que les résultats en soient si lents et que si peu de gouvernements aient donné suite aux engagements pris en juillet 1979.

Pour sa part, la CISL et ses Organisations affiliées qui représentent plus de 80 millions de travailleurs urbains et ruraux des pays en voie de développement comme des pays industrialisés, des pays riches comme des pays pauvres, est bien décidé à poursuivre son action pour un développement fondé sur la justice économique et sociale, et sur la participation de tous les protagonistes y compris les travailleurs et les pauvres ruraux, hommes et femmes.

Dans les pays en voie de développement, atteindre les objectifs de la politique alimentaire n'est pas seulement une question d'augmentation de la production. Au moins aussi importants - si pas plus - sont les problèmes de l'inégalité rurale. Il existe d'énormes barrières, sociales, culturelles, politiques et économiques à la participation des pauvres au processus de développement. Une stratégie efficace pour l'élimination de la pauvreté rurale doit inclure des mesures qui permettent aux masses rurales pauvres d'élever leur propre niveau de vie. Parmi celles-ci, les mesures de financement, d'ouverture de crédit, sont peut-être les plus faciles à prendre. Surmonter les barrières sociales et politiques qui empêchent les pauvres d'entreprendre eux-mêmes une action pour améliorer leur propre condition, présente des problèmes beaucoup plus complexes. La réforme foncière et le fonctionnement d'organisations de travailleurs ruraux en sont les deux éléments-clés.

Dans de nombreux pays les meilleures terres agricoles se trouvent sur les grands domaines qui appartiennent souvent à des propriétaires fonciers absenteïstes et qui sont exploités par des méthodes de production extensive, en premier lieu pour le marché d'exportation.

Morceler les grands domaines et redistribuer les terres parmi les employés et les petits agriculteurs locaux devrait améliorer la santé de l'économie locale et mettre un frein à la répression sociale et parfois politique, que les propriétaires fonciers imposent aux communautés rurales. Toutefois, la seule réforme foncière n'est jamais suffisante et dans certains pays il existe des problèmes tout aussi importants dus à la trop petite dimension des propriétés terriennes.

La productivité agricole chez les petits cultivateurs peut être matériellement accrue grâce à l'assistance technique. Toutefois les facteurs de production tels que des engrais, de meilleures semences, la gestion de l'eau, des facilités de stockage, de meilleures méthodes de culture et un meilleur équipement, même s'il s'agit de modèles les plus simples, leur restent souvent inaccessibles. Dans ces circonstances, des organisations de travailleurs ruraux peuvent jouer un rôle important dans des programmes collectifs qui répartissent le coût de l'investissement dans des techniques améliorées et les bénéfiques qui en découlent. De même les facilités de distribution et de crédit accordées par des organisations à base communautaire sont davantage susceptibles de garantir aux petits agriculteurs une part équitable du prix atteint par leurs produits sur le marché urbain et de leur éviter le recours aux prêteurs et à leur taux d'intérêt ruineux. Une organisation est également un fondement essentiel pour la réussite des efforts de formation et d'éducation déployés non seulement dans les techniques de production mais encore en matière d'alphabétisation, de santé, de nutrition, de petits négoce, et d'emplois liés à l'agriculture.

Bien entendu, le rôle du gouvernement et d'autres organisations publiques est lui aussi important pour les programmes de développement rural. La réforme foncière et le développement des organisations de travailleurs ruraux, dans le sens large accepté par la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural, et codifiés par la Convention No 141 de l'OIT, ne peuvent avoir d'effet que si les gouvernements adoptent une attitude positive à l'égard du changement et résistent à l'opposition des gros propriétaires fonciers et autres puissants intérêts qui se manifestent dans l'économie rurale. Nous attachons une grande attention au Programme de participation populaire sur les activités duquel nous avons cependant quelques réserves. En effet nous avons connu le cas de projets proposés par les gouvernements et soutenus par la FAO, qui, avec les meilleures intentions du monde, entrent en compétition sur le terrain avec des organisations authentiques de travailleurs ruraux et de petits paysans indépendants des gouvernements, parfois même soutenus par les mêmes agences donatrices. C'est justement là où est l'ambiguïté et le danger de ce programme, et ce n'est certes pas ce qui a été voulu par la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural.

La CISL et ses affiliées sont convaincues que tout effort pour établir un nouvel ordre social et économique ne peut réussir que si la liberté d'organisation est respectée.

Nous faisons appel aux Etats Membres de la FAO pour qu'ils réfléchissent aux changements politiques nécessaires afin de donner un contenu aux programmes adoptés. Nous tenons à souligner combien nous déplorons le peu de progrès réalisés dans le domaine des droits des travailleurs ruraux et des petits paysans. En dépit de l'élaboration des normes par l'OIT et des efforts de persuasion de la FAO, peu de gouvernements respectent les droits des petits paysans et des travailleurs et ceux-ci continuent à être battus, emprisonnés, assassinés, quand ils veulent s'unir pour améliorer tant soit peu leur niveau de vie. C'est à les défendre que la CISL et la Fédération internationale des travailleurs des plantations, de l'agriculture et des secteurs connexes consacrent leurs efforts. Nous sommes convaincus qu'il ne peut y avoir de véritable paix ni de développement économique sans respect des droits fondamentaux des individus et des peuples. Il va sans dire que nous appuyons la Résolution et notamment son paragraphe 8.

Mohsen CHEBIL (Tunisie) (langue originale arabe): Je voudrais remercier le professeur N. Islam pour l'exposé fort intéressant sur l'application du programme d'action sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural et sur le document C 83/23 élaboré par la FAO qui a donné un aperçu assez général sur les progrès réalisés par un grand nombre de pays en développement et sur les mesures prises par nos pays en vue de réduire les affaires de la pauvreté, d'aider les petits exploitants agricoles et d'élever leur niveau socio-économique.

Dans ce contexte, la République tunisienne a pris une série de mesures législatives et réglementaires pour répondre à cette exigence.

Permettez-moi, Monsieur le Président, d'en aborder brièvement les plus importantes et notamment celles prises à l'issue de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural tenue à Rome en juillet 1979.

En 1982 a paru le code relatif à l'encouragement des investissements dans le domaine agricole et celui des pêches. Le code encourage particulièrement le développement agricole par le biais de projets agro-industriels intégrés, en accordant des avantages fiscaux et financiers aux petits et moyens agriculteurs et aux gens de mer. En outre une importance particulière est accordée à l'intégration des jeunes dans le secteur agricole. Ils sont encouragés à acquérir des terres agricoles et bénéficient de prêts à des conditions avantageuses.

De plus une partie importante des terres domaniales est réservée aux jeunes techniciens diplômés des instituts agronomiques.

S'agissant de l'encouragement en matière de développement agricole, le gouvernement tunisien a pris un certain nombre de mesures législatives et de modalités pour renforcer les coopératives de services et les sociétés agricoles d'assurance qui regroupent les petits et moyens exploitants. Ce renforcement se traduit surtout en termes d'encadrement de ces institutions et leur encouragement à s'autofinancer.

En matière de réforme agraire, les efforts se poursuivent en vue de réorganiser le système foncier des superficies irriguées qui atteignent aujourd'hui 74 000 ha. Les mêmes efforts sont menés par les services du Cadastre à l'effet de donner les titres de propriété aux agriculteurs qui leur permettent ainsi d'acquérir des prêts et de restaurer leur terre. Parallèlement à ces actions, le gouvernement tunisien entreprend des projets dans le cadre du développement rural et de l'encouragement des femmes rurales et des familles productrices.

A cet effet, il a été créé un ministère qui s'intéresse aux affaires de la famille et de la femme. Ce ministère a été confié à l'Union des femmes tunisiennes. C'est là une preuve supplémentaire de l'importance du rôle de la femme dans l'émancipation de la famille en général et de la famille rurale en particulier.

De même que la femme participe aux travaux de formation, d'éducation et de recherche scientifique en matière agricole en faisant profiter les exploitants notamment les petits et moyens agriculteurs qui représentent en fait plus de 90 pour cent de l'ensemble des agriculteurs tunisiens.

Je ne voudrais pas m'étendre davantage, car toutes ces mesures que je viens de signaler brièvement vont en droite ligne avec les recommandations de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural. La Tunisie a eu l'honneur d'abriter la réunion des experts sur les indicateurs socio-économiques relatifs à l'application de la réforme agraire et du développement rural pour le Proche-Orient tenue du 15 au 19 juin 1982. Cette réunion a donné lieu à des recommandations et à des conclusions qui ont été soumises à la Conférence régionale.

Je voudrais enfin remercier la FAO pour son rapport analytique sur l'application de la réforme agraire et le développement rural contenu dans le document C 83/23, et dire notre approbation aux recommandations qui y figurent.

Talal NASSAR (Jordan) (original language Arabic): Jordan was one of the Near East Region countries visited by the mission headed by FAO to report on progress in the implementation of the WCARRD Programme of Action. We were also amongst the first countries to respond to the request made by the Organization on an institutional and statistical basis for monitoring and evaluating activities in order to achieve popular participation and an increase in the role of rural women in development and to provide extension and training services, as well as production for farmers, especially the smallholders and the poorest amongst them.

We have reviewed the comprehensive report prepared by the Secretariat on progress towards the implementation of the WCARRD Programme of Action and here we wish to congratulate Mr Moreno and his collaborators on this well-prepared document.

Despite what has been achieved so far in the field of agrarian reform and rural development, much remains to be done. More effort and work are required on the national, regional and international levels. The Organization must therefore continue providing aid to developing countries in this field. The developing countries in turn are called upon to pursue their efforts in implementing the WCARRD Programme of Action.

Needless to say, the first step that developing countries need to take is to establish the statistical and institutional basis for continuous monitoring and evaluation.

As for regional action in the Near East area, the Plenipotentiaries Conference held here in FAO Headquarters last September agreed to the setting up of a Regional Centre for Rural Development and Agrarian Reform in the Near East Region. This Centre is to be based in Jordan. My country's delegation wishes here to express its pleasure and appreciation to the countries of the Region for choosing Jordan to host this centre. I also wish to thank FAO and the Near East Region Secretariat for their efforts and I would like to express our thanks to the Human Resources, Institutions and Agrarian Reform Division for their efforts.

I would like to seize this opportunity to urge the countries of the Region to speed up their ratification of the agreement establishing this Centre. I also hope that the draft resolution to be passed by the Conference on this subject will contain an item urging developing countries as soon as possible to join the Regional Centres already established or about to be set up.

As is well-known within the United Nations system, FAO is the pioneering and lead agency in the area of agrarian reform and rural development. We therefore wish to express our support for its continued action in this field, and hope that there will be cooperation with other international organizations, such as Unesco, the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, as well as the various United Nations Economic Commissions and UNICEF. We hope that all these organizations will cooperate and coordinate their activities on the national and regional levels. Joint missions should be sent to developing countries to help them in re-designing and planning their strategies and policies in the fields of agrarian reform and rural development.

These are some of the considerations that my country's delegation wishes to stress, hoping that the resolution to be passed by the Conference will also contain reference to them and support for them.

D.C.P. EVANS (United Kingdom): Mr Chairman, I am not clear whether these blinding floodlights have been brought in to support your appeal for brevity, but they will certainly have a salutary effect on my comments right now. I would like to make a brief statement and then hand in some comments to the Secretariat which I think will also help.

Along with many previous speakers, we can indeed commend the Secretariat for producing this latest Progress Report on WCARRD and we support the recommendations that have been included in paragraph 5 of page xiii, under the heading Policy Issues for Consideration by the Conference. This paper is indeed very valuable and it shows the ways in which FAO can assist countries in rural development.

My delegation wishes to draw particular attention to monitoring and evaluation as an important tool in ensuring that in this complex field, activities are still correctly related to the real issues. Without this information our governments would be particularly unable to make day-to-day decisions which are necessary to keep the plans on course.

We appreciate that with different data and indeed with different methods of assessment monitoring progress world wide would be particularly difficult. Much of the material in this report seems to derive from an understanding arising from social scientific research and evaluation. What may well be needed, however, is that much more operational social science research is necessary to provide solutions to the problems which have been identified.

It is not clear what percentage of the funds available to WCARRD activities is devoted to this kind of operational social scientific research, but it is important.

It is encouraging to see the way in which the paper covers specific areas where bodies like FAO can actually help at the grass roots level, such as support to small scale fisheries and to the development of small farm units and to the improvement of TCDC.

Chapter II, paragraph 1, Changes Towards Equity and People's Participation, is reassuring, as we learn that the national development plans of a number of countries are showing an increasing emphasis on meeting the objectives outlined in the WCARRD Plan of Action. The efficient implementation of these plans is of paramount importance, if the rural population is to benefit. We have already heard comments to this effect during this debate.

The comments on inadequacies of conventional cooperatives in paragraph 3 of the summary and on pages 26 and 27 are indeed valid in many countries. However, in the main they have been recognized and it is generally fair to say that attempts are being made to design cooperatives which can better serve the poor.

Many of the small development groups which have been created through our own bilateral assistance programmes rely very much on conventional cooperatives for input supplies and for credit guarantees.

In Chapter II, paragraph 2, the Identification of Intended Beneficiary Groups of the Rural Poor, the policy shifts in forestry and livestock developments are indeed most welcome. However, the close interrelationships between agriculture in its broadest sense and forestry are not, in our view, sufficiently emphasized. A change in policy for forestry will inevitably affect agriculture and livestock production and again vice versa.

The boundaries that exist between ministries in all countries make it difficult for coordinated development programmes to be set up either at national, regional or farm level.

In Chapter III, section A, paragraph 4, Access to Inputs, Markets and Agricultural Services, we very much endorse this section of the document, especially paragraphs 4 (a) to (d). In particular, allied to the provision of credit in support of the development of the small producer, the need for conventional collateral needs to be relaxed.

It is encouraging that this has been confirmed from experience in Asia and elsewhere. Indeed, wherever possible collateral should be production-oriented.

In relation to the integration of women, we can endorse the recognition in the report that specialist women's affairs units can result in isolation and inadequate plans. For this reason we support the long-term objectives of increasing the number of female extension workers. This is important in the technical field of agriculture, and the short-term aim of creating awareness among male extension workers. However, such awareness is more likely to be created by ensuring that all extension workers are given some degree of training in sociological aspects of agriculture, including the importance of wholesale structure for farm management decision making.

Finally, regarding the section on Aid, pages 45 to 49, I would like to refer to developments arising from the work of the international Agricultural Research Centres. These Centres are playing an increasing emphasis on the development of new technologies suited to the small and poorer farmers, and it is regrettable that we find very little reference to them.

While we welcome this Report, the first reaction must be that the Report in 1987 should show much greater progress in follow-up action to the WCARRD Conference of 1979. We have always appreciated that progress was likely to be slow, that the pressures against change in some developing countries were severe, and that therefore it would take a considerable time for real changes to emerge.

The Report is correct in recording concern about the very slow pace of development since 1979 in the case of land reform. Land reform is a key issue in this very difficult field. We need not, however, be under any illusion about the likely efficiency of a sudden land reform programme; there are examples where land reform, though well intentioned, has not led to the results expected in the time-scale envisaged; there can even be a drop in production following the reform, even where the peasants individually benefit from it. The process is a long-term one.

The same problem arises with other socially-advanced notions, such as women's participation in development, but it is apparent from the Report that little has really happened on the ground. The value of women's participation in economic development as a whole should be recognized. There is real value to developing countries in supporting the development of women's participation - a point which does not quite emerge in the Report itself, which seems to stress the social value of women's participation rather than its economic importance.

Another important element in the Report is the contrast which it paints between developing countries in different economic and social circumstances. There is no real attempt to gloss over the differences between many developing countries on this score, and the implications of poor social or economic development are well set out. Without social justice, development is not going to be of great value to most of the people in many countries; and social structures must therefore form part of any true development programmes.

It becomes clear in the paper that assessments of progress vary from country to country, and that therefore it is almost impossible to obtain any uniform measure of real progress - although the Report tries manfully to do this in Chapter IV. Variations in the data base, in the methods of collecting data, and indeed in social assessments of the data, are so wide that it is very difficult indeed to reach any conclusions of universal validity.

Our additional views are as follows:

(a) Chapter II

- i. We can support the proposed changes for forestry and in small-scale fisheries development; indeed, we are active in helping in these fields and have taken note of the PWB proposals in this respect.
- ii. We can also support the concentration on nutritional considerations as part of a general programme of food development, rather than as a specific problem in its own right.
- iii. We must be a little concerned about the variations in the assessment of criteria for poverty in different countries; this may well reflect their different social structures, but it does nonetheless to some extent affect the validity of the conclusions reached by the Report.

(b) Chapter III

- i. The first lesson must be the effect of social injustice on rural development and reform.
- ii. The problems in Africa appear to be different ones - more a case of lack of infrastructure and archaic land tenure procedures than of actual injustice; but the end results are very much the same.

- iii Decentralization also poses big problems, and it is fairly clear that words are not followed by action in many countries, where control from the centre is very strong indeed. It is significant that in Nepal, where decentralization has actually worked, there has been real progress.
- iv The question of women's access to land and property is also clearly constrained by very complex and difficult legal and social requirements rather than by overt discrimination against women; this must be corrected if there is to be real progress.
- v Access to credit and to support finance has been very poor and the gap between theory and practice is nowhere wider than here action must be taken to make credit really available to small farmers it should be recognized that on the Report's own assessment they are good credit risks.

(c) Chapter IV

The quantitative analysis is in some ways rather disappointing because of the very varied bases on which the figures were drawn up. Nevertheless certain lessons do emerge - none of them very surprising ones. In the first place it is clear that the high risk countries are throughout worse off than the low risk and this reflects not merely calorie intake but also health and education. In other words as expected the poor are getting poorer, and less able to cope, while the comparatively rich are beginning to prosper slightly. The policy adopted by donors to combat this phenomenon concentration on the poorest - is clearly the only one to pursue, even though one must know that the results will often be disappointing. It is useful however to have these figures showing the different results from aid inputs in different kinds of country. We can also welcome the very wide spread of countries used in this sample and acknowledge that this makes the sample all the more valid although China could included in view of its size and importance in the developing world.

Other more detailed comments are: (a) page xi and elsewhere - the inadequacy of statistical services is widely recognized and for example very few African countries have adequate statistical services. Better designed and cheaper survey techniques are generally necessary in order to achieve more reliable statistics. (b) While the need for fuel wood is mentioned for example on page 10, too little emphasis is given to this crucial need. Generally the pressure on wood resources is increasing and much needs to be done in the context of agro-forestry. The work of the International Council for Research in Agro-forestry is worth noting here.

H.M. CARANDANG (Philippines): The Philippine delegation, like many other developing countries, labour under many constraints in its efforts to promote rural development. We have found, for example, no formula on how to solve the problem of excess farm labour when there is only a limited outlet into the other sectors for such labour, because of the limited capacity of the industrial and secondary sectors to absorb more labour. Many remain on the land with the consequent underemployment and seasonal unemployment.

We have not found any formula for solving the problem of agricultural commodity prices which are subject to very violent fluctuations and in the long term tend to decline in real terms, yet prices of inputs continue to increase, and this problem is further aggravated by the protectionist policies of some countries to which we export.

We have not found any way of preventing typhoons, we have 26 of them every year, and droughts are wrecking our harvests. We find it difficult to overcome this obstacle and other vicious circles of poverty, all of which have depressing effects on the incomes of farmers. We have some misgivings about the findings of document C 83/23 regarding the incidence of poverty in our country because of dubious methodology. I do not know how comparable are the data over the time period, likewise I am not sure whether the data regarding incomes are adequately reported. Some questions are also raised about the modification of the design and coverage of income and expenditure surveys on which these estimates are based. Having said this, the Philippine Government would like to reaffirm its support for the Action Programme of WCARRD. The Philippines has done its part to implement this Programme. Under its land reform programme, the Philippines has succeeded in transferring millions of hectares of rice to farmers who till it. Efforts to increase agricultural productivity in rice and corn have achieved some breakthrough so that from a rice-exporting country they have become a marginal exporter of rice. This has been made possible by the creation of an appropriate technology backed by the adequate increases in inputs and a large extension force. Our Government furthermore has established programmes directed to the upliftment of the socio-economic conditions of the rural poor. Relevant to this is the creation of the National Council for Integrated Area of Development (NACIAD), which was created in 1979 by the President, and which has been supportive of national objectives of meeting the demands of industrialization and at the same time preparing for the resource requirements of the future generations. Various programmes and projects have been initiated in the natural resource sector geared towards rural development.

Programmes such as the National Livelihood Programme, which in our dialect we call Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran, and the Biyayang Dagat Programme and likewise the Integrated Social Forestry Programme, also known as PROFEM II, have been launched. Forestry projects such as the Programme for Forest Ecosystem Management, Communal Tree Farm, Family Approach to Reforestation and Forest Occupancy Management are also under implementation.

We are happy to note that these programmes have had some major accomplishments in 1982, in the Philippines forestry and fishery sectors which have direct impact on the rural development. I shall not go through them, because I have given to the interpreters a copy of all these figures and I am not going to bore you with them.

The Philippine Government has also focused its attention on the development of the small scale fisheries and aquaculture sectors in the country. To cite an example, we have had a project, the Small-Scale Fisheries Development Project, with assistance from FAO through the Canadian International Development Agency, which is intended to serve as a model for a broader programme in small-scale fisheries development in the Philippines.

With regard to the development of the Philippine aquaculture sector, the Government, through its Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran Programme extends assistance to fishermen concerned through the granting of loans. Training and demonstrations on aquaculture technology is likewise provided to them through the extension workers of our Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

The Philippines will continue to direct its activities towards the achievement of its ultimate goal of improving the quality of life of its people and also of making national progress as a joint undertaking of the government and the people it serves. We look forward with optimism towards collaborative and consultative efforts concerning rural development on the national as well as on the international level.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): La delegación de Cuba se congratula nuevamente por la inclusión de este importante tema en nuestras deliberaciones, considerando además que debe seguirse incluyendo en futuras reuniones.

Agradecemos a la Secretaría por la elaboración del documento C 83/23, y en especial al Director General por el interés que ha prestado al mismo, y como es lógico, al profesor Islam por la presentación tan elocuente a la que, sin duda, ya nos tiene acostumbrados.

Mi país como es conocido, dio gran importancia y da gran importancia al tema de la reforma agraria, siendo la Ley de Reforma Agraria la primera ley promulgada por el Gobierno revolucionario en 1959.

Nosotros circulamos un documento de seguimiento de nuestro proceso de reforma agraria por las casetas; por lo tanto, no vamos a hacer referencia en esta Sala al proceso en nuestro país.

Queremos hacer algunos comentarios específicos sobre el documento y sobre el proceso. La Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural y el Plan de Acción por ella establecido, con la participación activa de 145 gobiernos representados, es sin duda, uno de los hechos más importantes acontecidos en la FAO. A nuestro entender, la Declaración de Principios y Programa de Acción es el documento más completo en materia de desarrollo rural integral que hemos elaborado. En él se conjugan las ideas y acción de la FAO y de los gobiernos representados. Es un programa que abarca todos los elementos necesarios para la erradicación del hambre y la pobreza. Lamentable es que la falta de voluntad política de muchos gobiernos, no permita el avance esperado por su cumplimiento.

Refiriéndonos a algunos aspectos específicos, hemos podido constatar que, por ejemplo, con relación al acceso a la tierra, el agua y otros recursos naturales, el documento elaborado por la FAO nos plantea que el período posterior a la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural no se caracteriza por importantes redistribuciones de la tierra en favor de los campesinos pobres, prosiguiendo en algunas regiones, la elevada concentración de las explotaciones asociadas con un grado elevado también de pobreza rural.

Ha disminuido asimismo la superficie per cápita disponible para la agricultura, citando el documento C 83/23 de la FAO que es lamentable tener que reconocer, y cito: "es precisamente en este contexto de creciente escasez de tierra y continuo aumento del número de trabajadores sin ella, en el que la eficaz aplicación de medidas de reforma agraria junto con otras encaminadas a aumentar la productividad de las pequeñas explotaciones y la asignación de recursos para responder a las necesidades de empleo de los miniagricultores y los campesinos sin tierra, asume más importancia en los años ochenta que en los setenta"; fin de la cita.

Otro aspecto que para mi delegación tiene importancia vital es el referido a la capacitación y extensión. Si el campesino no participa en los trabajos de extensión agrícola de manera convencida mediante el seguimiento de programas de capacitación según las necesidades, los cuales deben comenzar en algunos países por la alfabetización misma, su participación no podrá ser adecuada, inclusive, para sus propias necesidades.

Relacionado con la participación de la mujer, mi gobierno reconoce plenamente el papel vital de las mujeres en la vida socioeconómica del país junto con el hombre, tanto en el sector agrícola como en los demás sectores. Tienen los mismos derechos constitucionalmente, y por consiguiente, exhortamos a que se cumplan en todos los países, los aspectos referidos a la integración de la mujer al desarrollo rural contenidos en el Programa de Acción de esta Conferencia.

En lo referente a las cuestiones específicas y de política que debe analizar esta Comisión sobre este tema, mi delegación apoya una vez más el papel rector de la FAO en las labores de seguimiento de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, considerando de gran importancia la preparación de un nuevo informe para la Conferencia General de 1987. En cuanto a los tres sectores prioritarios para la orientación del Programa de Acción del Grupo de Acción, nos permitimos sugerir que se de un lugar prioritario también al aspecto de la capacitación. Quisiéramos también expresar que nos preocupa que a estas alturas sean necesarios trabajos conceptuales y metodológicos para cuantificar los niveles de pobreza y para elaborar criterios que han de iniciarse para identificar a las pobres gentes del campo. Se trata de que los pobres y hambrientos no están plenamente identificados. Habrá que descubrirlos, no quisiéramos pensar que se incrementarán los estudios para identificar a los hambrientos en lugar de eliminar el hambre misma. En tal sentido, apoyamos las palabras de la delegación de Suecia, en el sentido de que no son necesarios más slogans de palabras y no acciones, consideramos que si bien en materia de legislación agraria pueden apreciarse muchos adelantos, la práctica lo contradice.

En efecto, durante las últimas décadas se van produciendo transformaciones importantes, por ejemplo, la creciente utilización de insumos tecnológicos y equipos modernos, la difusión de nuevas formas empresariales de carácter mercantil, el aumento del número e importancia de trabajadores asalariados como fuerza de trabajo agrícola, la monetización generalizada de las relaciones económicas, el aumento y la diversificación de la producción comercializada, ello evidencia la presencia de un proceso de expansión en casi todos los países, por lo que es difícil seguir calificando a la agricultura como predominantemente atrasada, lo que no significa negar la supervivencia de relaciones tradicionales de producción en ciertos subsectores, actividades o regiones. Sin embargo, hoy persiste con más fuerza los problemas socioeconómicos que históricamente han dominado la escena rural, que motivaron los diagnósticos que nos llevaron a la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, casos son: la subocupación de la fuerza de trabajo agrícola, parece haber aumentado a pesar de las migraciones y la marginalización hacia zonas urbanas. Se mantienen en gran medida los patrones dominantes de la utilización de la tierra y del agua; los problemas de la malnutrición se agudizan siendo pavorosas las nuevas cifras a pesar del relativo crecimiento de la producción agrícola y los declarados niveles porcentuales alimentarios medios que han alcanzado muchos países.

Los crecimientos de la producción y del consumo interno de los productos agrícolas han sido marcadamente insuficientes si les confrontamos con la potencialidad de los recursos disponibles y fundamentalmente con las necesidades de amplios grupos de la población.

Todo esto se trata de justificar con expresiones e interpretaciones defensoras del orden económico actual y se habla de inflexibilidad de la oferta agrícola, distorsiones inexistentes en el sistema de estímulos económicos, insuficiencia de la demanda agrícola, deformaciones estructurales del sector, estas cuestiones son útiles para identificar unos problemas específicos, son insuficientes como explicación comprensiva del necesario crecimiento de la agricultura en la medida que hay más tecnología. Además, esto es totalmente inteligible, para las grandes masas rurales es una dicotomía. Nosotros preguntamos ¿son realmente estos problemas consecuencia del deficiente desarrollo de la agricultura? o, por el contrario, ¿es precisamente este tipo de desarrollo con sus modalidades específicas lo que ha contribuido a la persistencia que de una Conferencia a otra seguiremos llevando? ¿Hasta qué punto las estructuras actuales, en muchos casos económicas y sociopolíticas son compatibles con la superación de dichos problemas e insuficiencia? Es totalmente contradictorio que la penetración del progreso técnico en la agricultura empeore las condiciones de vida de la población rural, que la expansión de la producción sea a costa de la preeminencia de las deficiencias nutricionales, que la disponibilidad de nuevos recursos productivos se transforme en hambre y miseria.

La Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural llamó fuertemente la atención a los países sobre la necesidad de dar mayor apoyo a la agricultura, sin que esto ocurra, como señalan las previsiones de estudios de agricultura en el año 2000 de la FAO, será imposible aumentar la producción de alimentos en la proporción necesaria para evitar el agravamiento de las ya gravísimas deficiencias que presentan millones de personas, tanto en el campo como en la ciudad.

De este mismo modo, no se podrá disminuir la situación de pobreza aguda en que se encuentran presentes millones de campesinos. Otorgar mayor apoyo a la agricultura no es tarea simple, dicho apoyo significa en sustancia llevar hasta el pequeño agricultor, hasta el minifundista, al trabajador sin tierra, servicios que hasta hoy se han destinado casi exclusivamente a la agricultura comercial de mayor peso económico. En efecto, como varios estudios lo han demostrado, el crédito agrícola es prácticamente acaparado por un número reducido de grandes empresas agrícolas, mientras la mayoría de los productores no reciben crédito alguno de los bancos oficiales. Los recursos para la investigación, a su vez, se destinan en su mayor parte a productos de exportación o industriales.

¿Cómo lograr apoyar realmente la agricultura? Reforma administrativa, nuevos tipos de proyectos de inversión, capacitación de personal técnico, y otras medidas similares, todo eso viene a la mente rápidamente. Nada de esto es novedad, desde hace cuatro décadas todos los que se han preocupado seriamente por el desarrollo agropecuario, han tenido que involucrarse de un modo u otro con tales programas, pero si las cuestiones y las medidas que son antiguas, el contexto global es y sigue siendo nuevo ¿cómo hacer frente al problema en un mundo mucho más poblado, con un número mayor de pobres en una crisis económica mundial perenne en fase de una serie de limitaciones -de recursos energéticos tradicionales y en un medio ambiente severamente castigado por decenios en una agricultura predatoria? Esta es una realidad, es el desafío que la Conferencia de Reforma Agraria planteo a los países y a la FAO. Es por ésta y por otras muchas razones que la crítica- situación de la agricultura está evidenciada en el mundo de hoy, que la FAO reitera sistemáticamente que la reforma agraria debe seguir siendo un prerrequisito para el desarrollo rural, mirada como proceso integral, no mirada subsectorialmente como un proceso solamente de colonización o de expansión rural, ni de redistribución de tierras, un proceso integral de transformación. De este prerrequisito o punto de vista precisamente les gusta hablar a los que expresaron sus reservas en la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural y que hoy lo hacen con un paternalismo impreciso, a veces humillante, como perdonándonos. Se refieren exclusivamente a la explosión demográfica y soslayan el hecho cierto de la potencialidad alimentaria del mundo, si fuera justo su distribución.

Por tanto, si se incrementa el hambre y la agricultura en el mundo se mantiene en crisis perenne, no podemos sino seguir manteniendo vigente la lucha por un nuevo orden económico más justo y equitativo.

Sra. Rosibel ZUÑIGA (Honduras): La delegación de Honduras desea expresar su satisfacción por la inclusión del tema, Informe sobre la marcha del Programa de Acción de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural en el Programa de la Conferencia y para la discusión en la Comisión I. Además, expresa su deseo y sugiere que el tema sea incluido en todas las subsiguientes conferencias, tanto regionales como en las conferencias a nivel mundial.

Para mi país la reforma agraria y el desarrollo rural continúan siendo la piedra angular en que deben fundamentarse todos los esfuerzos y acciones de desarrollo. Consecuente con estos principios, Honduras ha impulsado durante las dos últimas décadas una reforma agraria concebida en términos coincidentes con los postulados de la declaración de principios y del Programa de Acción, aprobados por la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y de Desarrollo Rural celebrada en Roma el 10 de julio de 1979.

En otras palabras, Honduras concibe la reforma agraria como un prerrequisito para el desarrollo rural y la reforma agraria según nuestra política debe basarse en la organización campesina como mecanismo para promover y lograr una efectiva participación de los beneficiarios, incluyendo en estas organizaciones y mecanismos de participación a la mujer y a la juventud. Nuestra experiencia ha demostrado que los programas y proyectos deben surgir de las bases y de no existir esta participación organizada, los resultados de la aplicación de las políticas serán muy limitados.

Junto a una política de fomento y apoyo a las organizaciones campesinas se da énfasis y se concibe como parte de la misma política un apoyo a la promoción y capacitación de dichas organizaciones.

En este aspecto deseamos enfatizar que en el pasado, el Instituto Nacional Agrario, organismo encargado y responsable de la aplicación de la ley de reforma agraria, realizó un programa de promoción y capacitación campesina con el apoyo financiero del Programa de Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo y al apoyo técnico de la FAO. Infortunadamente, por las restricciones financieras de los organismos de Naciones Unidas, este apoyo ha sido discontinuado, pero dada su importancia deseáramos que en lo posible la FAO y las otras agencias del sistema reanuden su asistencia al país en este importante campo de la capacitación campesina.

Otra de las características importantes del proceso de reforma agraria hondureña es el hecho de fomentar y apoyar las formas asociativas de producción, sin menoscabo de dar atención a la propiedad individual o unidad familiar. Es importante resaltar que la experiencia nos ha demostrado que las formas asociativas pueden ser un modelo efectivo y eficaz para lograr la superación del campesinado en un tiempo relativamente corto, dentro de este modelo las cooperativas han jugado un papel importante. Como resultado de esta política, en la actualidad existen en el país más de 2 000 empresas asociativas como parte del proceso de reforma agraria.

En el aspecto específico de acceso a los recursos productivos, los programas y proyectos además de tierra y derecho de uso del agua, incluyen un recurso importante en el país, los bosques, fomentando el sistema forestal social.

La política incluye la colonización, pero como un complemento a la reforma agraria y no como un sustituto.

Lo anterior es una síntesis muy resumida de los aspectos importantes de la política de reforma agraria hondureña. Sin embargo, queremos recalcar que no obstante los progresos alcanzados dada la complejidad y magnitud de los problemas todavía falta mucho por hacer, pero el Gobierno de mi país está empeñado en acelerar su programa dirigido a beneficiar las áreas rurales.

Habiendo expresado nuestra política reformista, deseamos felicitar a la FAO y a su Director General por la atención que está dando a estos programas, y en este caso específico deseamos expresar nuestro apoyo al documento C 83/23 sobre los procesos realizados en la aplicación del Programa de Acción de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, consideramos que este documento contiene un examen y análisis profundos de las acciones realizadas y pautas para acciones futuras. También Honduras está en la disposición de apoyar la resolución sobre el seguimiento de los progresos realizados en la aplicación del Programa de Acción de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural.

Deseamos aprovechar esta oportunidad para pedir a los países que tienen capacidad para contribuir que continúen aportando a la FAO recursos extrapresupuestarios para el apoyo en la aplicación del Programa de Acción y que ojalá pronto se cumpla la meta de 20 millones de dólares que nosotros trazamos en la Conferencia de la FAO celebrada en 1979, y que ahora debido a factores inflacionarios es muy pequeña para cumplir el programa trazado. Sin embargo, el cumplimiento de esta meta indicaría que los países donantes tienen un serio interés y deseo de apoyar a los otros países en sus esfuerzos de mejorar las condiciones de los sectores de población menos favorecidos.

Finalmente, Honduras expresa su decidido apoyo al establecimiento del Centro Regional sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural de América Latina y el Caribe; el funcionamiento de este Centro vendría a auxiliar a los países en los campos prioritarios para el mejoramiento de las condiciones de vida de los grupos de pobres de áreas rurales.

S. PILLAY (Observer for the International Alliance of women): Mr Chairman, I make this intervention on behalf of the International Alliance of Women and take this opportunity to express our appreciation of the place given to the role of women in the document on the Progress Report in WCARRD Programme of Action, as well as the strong support this subject has received from all the delegates who have spoken today, especially the delegate of the Netherlands who touched on many points vital to the integration of women in development.

Since the World Conference, the WCARRD, held in 1979, we have indeed made substantial progress in recognizing the significant role of women in rural development the world over. It could not have been otherwise, considering that women are responsible for over 50 per cent of rural food production. Nevertheless, I have to stress here that our efforts to date have fallen short of the importance of the problem. Women do not - and I stress do not - get an equal share in the benefits that accrue from their labours. In many countries in the rural set up the wages a woman earns for her work are even today lower than what a man would earn for the same work. To add insult to injury, at the end of the day the wages for both husband and wife are handed over to the man. The woman obviously is not supposed to have independent rights to the benefits of her labour.

We have laid great stress on the training and education of women in development activities and their right to benefits from these. I should like to add that men in rural areas should also be educated on the rights of their women to equal benefit-sharing and the need to take upon themselves equal family responsibilities for the welfare of all.

It was heartening to hear of the progress made in various countries regarding collateral and credit facilities for women, but in this area, again, we still have a long way to go. Women still do not have equal legal rights. My organization is committed to establishing real equality of liberties, status and opportunities between men and women in all spheres of life. I therefore request that FAO, along with ILO, if necessary, should undertake in-depth studies into the legal status of women in the various countries with the object of ensuring that women, as individuals, get equal inheritance and land ownership rights with men.

The International Alliance of Women, in their extensive contacts with affiliated organizations the world over, find that overseas aid rarely reaches women in developing countries, especially in the rural areas. We therefore urge the governments, the FAO, and all funding agencies to include representative from women's non-governmental organizations on all planning committees for aid to developing countries and to ensure that all national women's organizations are involved in the distribution of aid.

Finally, I should like to request the FAO to include women's NGOs in their field programmes as well as in the WCARRD follow-up country missions. The instinctive distrust of government personnel by rural people, and the consequent lukewarm response to governmental efforts to organize them are well-known. It is only the NGOs of voluntary women's organizations that can win the confidence and trust of rural women. I would therefore suggest that financial provisions be made at the time of project formulation to include the appropriate NGOs as vital and necessary participants in rural development projects. A reorientation in development-planning strategies in this direction seems very essential to make them more need-oriented.

I. MARINCEK (Switzerland): Mr Chairman, my delegation commends the Secretariat for the elaboration of the first Progress Report on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. It is an excellent, and at the same time very important, review. It deals indeed with the crucial question of how to have the rural population, and in particular its poorest section, benefit from, and actively participate in development.

My country has repeatedly supported and encouraged the efforts aiming at the implementation of the Programme of Action of WCARRD. We highly appreciate the important contribution of FAO in this regard. We also commend the Secretariat for its substantial and continuing methodological work in developing generally applicable socio-economic indicators. These are indeed indispensable tools for the systematic analysis of the different aspects of rural development.

We do hope that FAO will make maximum use in its field programmes of the insight gained through this first analysis, which was carried out in close collaboration with a number of developing countries.

As far as our own bilateral aid programmes are concerned, growing emphasis has been laid on the participation of the rural poor in development.

With regard to the report submitted to us, we have noted with regret that the overall progress made since the adoption of the Programme of Action has been rather modest. We deplore in particular that the access of the rural poor to land and other production factors has further deteriorated in many developing countries. On the other hand, we are glad to learn that equity and participation have received more emphasis in a number of national development plans in the last few years. We sincerely hope that the next progress review will be able to tell us more about the successful translation of such policies into action.

We are of the opinion that small and landless farmers should not merely be looked at as social problems but rather as an important production potential which deserves to be made best use of. It remains a fact that poor production conditions in agriculture are poor working conditions in agriculture. They need to be improved in the first place in order that the rural poor can effectively participate in, and contribute to, development.

AZIZ UL HAQ (Observer for Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific): Mr Chairman, CIRDAP, the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific, has been in operation for just over four years. It has initiated a chain of useful activities. CIRDAP's major objective is to foster national action and assist national institutions in the promotion of rural development activities in countries of the Asia/Pacific region. CIRDAP's activities centre mainly around the activities of the WCARRD. CIRDAP's studies include subjects like integration of women in development, delivery system in support of small farmers, participation of non-governmental organizations in rural development, the role of rural youth in development, services available to rural children, planning implementation, monitoring and evaluation of rural activities, and so on.

CIRDAP's training programmes take place usually in CIRDAP's link institutions in its member countries. Such programmes cover training of farm leaders, cooperative managers, local government functionaries, production brigade workers, project managers, supervisors, etc.

CIRDAP's information services cover publication of information on innovative approaches and success stories in fields of rural development. CIRDAP publishes regularly a three-monthly newsletter. It publishes periodic reports and reports on seminars and consultations and study reports. CIRDAP facilitates inter-country exchange and sharing of experiences and facilities, TCDC.

A programme under implementation at the moment is a group study tour of six trainers on rural development of Afghanistan to research and training institutions in India, Nepal, Bangladesh and finally to CIRDAP under the auspices of CIRDAP and with funding from TCDC.

CIRDAP is a new inter-governmental regional institution. Its initiatives are well-appreciated by its member countries. Its services are available to non-member countries of the region also. There is considerable scope for learning from each other in the region. CIRDAP has access to the institutions of non-member countries also, such as China, the Republic of Korea, etcetera. It is in close touch with other regional institutions such as CIRDAfrica.

Like many other organizations, CIRDAP has problems of funding. Its main administrative funding support comes from its member countries. In its initial years it has received funding support for administration from the FAO and the Government of Japan. It received project support from the FAO and the Government of Japan on a year to year basis. It has received some project support from the Swedish SIDA and the Government of Canada. CIRDAP is now poised to undertake bigger project activities, subject to availability of funding from bilateral donors and UN organizations. Such support may be in the form of funding for projects already listed by CIRDAP or such others as may be agreed upon by CIRDAP and potential donors. Funding is at this moment particularly needed for action research projects as follow-up of studies, training programmes and consultations.

CIRDAP welcomes ideas, resources and constructive criticism.

I. M. KADUMA (Observer for Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Africa): Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, I should like first of all to thank the FAO for inviting our Centre to attend as observers to this most important Conference. Secondly, I should like to join all the other delegates in congratulating the FAO for a most comprehensive report on the WCARRD follow-up action.

Mr Chairman, as delegates will have noted from this report, the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Africa (CIRDAFRICA) is one of the products of the follow-up action. It is the second Centre to come into stream after CIRDAP and it begun operations in January, 1982. I wish to use this opportunity to thank the FAO for the support they have extended to the Centre thus far. Indeed, young as we are, we have been able to collaborate with the FAO in organizing the First Regional Inter-Country Consultative Meeting on WCARRD for Africa as well as two important seminars on "Women Cooperatives" and on "Agrarian Systems in Centrally Planned Economies in Africa". We hope that this FAO support and cooperation will not only be continued in the future, but above all, we hope that it will be increased.

Indeed the concept behind these Regional Centres on Integrated Rural Development is not only an important innovation in inter-governmental cooperation, but in my view, it is an extremely wise initiative. For this is the first time that Regional Inter-Governmental Institutions have been established with a provision in the Statutes establishing them, for the designation or establishment of strong national links in the name of National Integrated Rural Development Centres which are to act as the focal points in coordinating national initiatives. This thus enables the Regional Centre to plan in accordance with the national development philosophy of each member country.

Besides, the Centres have been established to facilitate the exchange of experiences across international boundaries. It is hardly necessary for me to emphasize the importance of such a deliberate exercise; for by so doing, countries will be able to avoid costly mistakes on social development initiatives experienced by other countries. It is my firm belief and conviction that the existence of these Centres will help minimise the rate of social experimentation and shall instead enhance the pace of social development a crucial factor in the development of our part of the world.

In this regard, I wish also to use this opportunity to thank the Governments of Norway and the People's Republic of China for the assistance they have extended to the Centre. We do hope that as we mature in our thinking and action programmes, other governments which are members of this organization will extend their assistance to the Centre. Indeed, in this connection also, we thank the Government of Sweden for the generous grant given to FAO to prepare the establishment of the Centre. We hope we shall soon prove that we are worthy of the effort they have put into the Centre.

Mr Chairman and distinguished delegates, I thank you for your attention and we look forward to working with you in this most important field of developing the rural poor of Africa. I thank you, Sir.

ABDUL WAHIL JALIL (Malaysia): In accordance with your request, Mr Chairman, I will not take up too much time in the Commission, but I will hand over to the Secretariat for inclusion in the verbatim report a substantial portion of my statement pertaining to the rural development activities in Malaysia implemented in the concept and ideas of WCARRD.

The progress report on the WCARRD Programme of Action before us, is, in my delegation's view, a very comprehensive and analytical document and together with Professor N. Islam's clear introduction this morning, makes our understanding on the subject very clear. My delegation would therefore like to commend both the Secretariat and Professor Islam for their efforts.

At this moment, my delegation would like to focus on only two general issues of the Report. My first point is similar to that expressed by the delegate from Bangladesh earlier today. We appreciate the efforts of the Secretariat in preparing the Report on all aspects of the WCARRD programme of activities but nevertheless, it is the view of my delegation that some of the conclusions, based on the analysis of submission of only 29 countries, will be very general. Therefore, we suggest that FAO undertakes a more comprehensive global study in order to include the majority of the developing countries. It is also our feeling that it would be more meaningful for the Conference and for member countries if the study were stratified so as to reflect the major socio-economic and development stages of member countries. In doing so, we feel we can establish more clearly the nature and progress of WCARRD programmes in these countries.

The document contains the analysis of progress made in WCARRD programme of activities in member countries. Malaysia was able to prepare a report indicating the progress made in the implementation of our rural and agricultural development.

I would therefore like to highlight some of the programmes that we are now undertaking.

The rural and agricultural development programmes in Malaysia have been drawn up and implemented in consonance with the guidelines and principles adopted by WCARRD in Rome in 1979. These guidelines and principles are already embodied in our new economic policy of achieving rational unity through the two-pronged objectives and strategies.

- 1) Eradicating poverty by raising income levels and increasing employment opportunities through increasing productivity and expanding opportunities for movement to higher activities and provision of social services.
- 2) Accelerating the process of restructuring Malaysian society to correct economic imbalance through modernisation of rural life, establishment of new growth centres and creation of industrial communities among the Malays and other indigenous people

The overriding objective of the agricultural sector shall continue to sustain agriculture as a major sector of the economy and to maximize farm income more specifically. This sector aims to increase farm income, achieve national food security, intensify efforts and diversify the production of crop commodities.

The approach in our rural and agricultural development efforts has shifted from that of focussing infrastructure development during the early period of development planning, to those of specific programmes and projects designed to directly increase productivity and income of the rural smallholders through the integrated provision of agricultural services and infrastructure incentives and institutional development.

Consistent with the objectives of increasing productivity and income level of the rural population the following strategies will continue to be adopted across the whole spectrum of agricultural development. They are: i) consolidation and optimal use of land and settlements on new land schemes; ii) improvement and intensification of agricultural services and infrastructure; iii) provision of input subsidies and incentives on selected commodities; iv) effective adoption of technology; v) institutional development for people's participation and involvement of NGO's.

In recognition of the vital role of women in the national development programme, the Government has set up a National Council on Integration of Women in development. This Council functions as a national machinery for raising and channelling issues pertaining to women.

My delegation regards the monitoring and evaluation of rural development programmes as an essential part of any project cycle. Since development is multi-dimensional, monitoring and evaluation require indicators which capture not only economic progress, but also the various dimensions of human well being in a national context. We should therefore welcome the study undertaken by FAO for testing the socio-economic indicators already developed which were considered useful and necessary for the monitoring and evaluation of the WCARRD programme of activities.

On its own, Malaysia has carried out a study on the use of these indicators. We hope that our experience will help to bring about more comprehensive knowledge in carrying out monitoring and evaluation of these programmes. We also feel that regional institutions like CIRDAP can play a significant role in the development and use of these indicators.

Finally, my delegation welcomes the proposed resolution put forward by Mexico, and hopes that the Contact Group now studying this proposal will not have much difficulty in forwarding a resolution that will be agreeable to us all.

M.R. KANBAR (Syria) (original language Arabic): Allow me to congratulate the Secretariat on the excellent preparation of this valuable document, C 83/23, dealing with the Progress Report on the implementation of the WCARRD Programme of Action.

The Syrian Arab Republic is in the lead not only in the Near East but in other regions in the field of agrarian reform and rural development, and to achieve this we have taken fair and sincere steps. Proof of the great importance we attach to achieving agrarian reform lies in the fact that we have recently reduced the limit of the area of privately owned arable land. Our five-year plan, for economic and social development accords rural development top priority. This can be seen in our efforts to combat illiteracy and also to raise nutritional standards. We are marshalling our efforts to achieve cooperation with farmers, young people and women in rural areas. My government provides all production inputs where they are needed. Pricing policies are set up to provide the producers with remunerative prices and to raise their nutritional and living standards.

I shall not dwell at length on our efforts in the field of agrarian reform and rural development, but may I be allowed to express our satisfaction for the visit to our country by the FAO head of mission. This visit was undertaken last April to review the follow-up of the WCARRD Programme of Action. With the mission we undertook a joint review and a comprehensive evaluation of the strategies, policies and Programme of Action related to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. The mission identified the shortcomings in our policies, and agreement was reached on the correct basis for future action.

On the basis of these considerations and to highlight the importance my country attaches to the aid that FAO can provide to member countries in this sphere, and as a result of our own recognition of the leading role played by FAO in agrarian reform and rural development, we support the adoption of a resolution by this Conference stressing these ideas. We join with the member countries of our region who have expressed their desire to support the adoption of such a resolution concerned with the subject under discussion.

H. MOHAMADI (Sudan) (original language Arabic): I would like to comment on the excellent quality of this first report on the progress and implementation of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development contained in document C 83/23. Allow me first of all to point out that the Government of Sudan is willing to continue to give increasing attention to the issue of rural development. We have sought to adopt the principles and strategies required for integrated rural development. We are seeking to improve all aspects related to the integrated economic, social, cultural and spiritual development of life and the individual. We are trying to meet the basic needs of the individual, and his requirements. Within its capability the Government is striving to undertake these actions in a comprehensive manner, reaching to the remote parts of our land in order to achieve justice in social and economic growth, and to strengthen the bonds of national unity.

We are doing this with the participation at all levels of rural dwellers, who represent a large majority of our population. I find that the partial and slow progress achieved in fulfilling justice in economic and social growth as reported in the document before us, is due first of all to the dearth of resources in developing countries, and in general to the economic recession. Other secondary factors are related - social, political and technical considerations as well as the variations in the natural and environmental characteristics of every nation.

So far as concerns land tenure and access to it, in Sudan the situation is unique of its kind. We are attempting to increase the area of arable land available to small farmers to guarantee them and their families a decent life. The population-to-land ratio is a high one in my country, and more than 98 percent of it is government-owned. However, citizens and collectives have their legally vested rights. These regulate the use of land to produce crops, irrigation, and meet other requirements such as forestry products. The use of soil and water resources to meet immediate needs is widespread amongst the various population groups in my country. Accordingly, interest is given to the need to ensure the continuing productivity of the soil. Therefore, we are currently seeking to find an appropriate formula to organize the use of soil to ensure its conservation and its productivity. We are trying to avoid conflict between the various interested groups over the use of land.

We hope that FAO will help us to achieve all this. I wish to point out here that among the declared principles and policies in the field of rural development are those of national ownership of renewable and nonrenewable natural resources. We seek to ensure the fair distribution of the former, and the maximum benefits of the latter.

We have sought to maximize investment returns for the development of renewable resources. This is done in an integrated manner for all plant and animal production methods. We have taken into account on the vertical level the relative advantages of the various economic systems, and on the horizontal level the complementarity of the various ecological systems. Due to the public sector's expansion of the economic structure, our policies also take into account the implementation of a mixed economy system that combines the different systems of ownership: public, cooperative, private and joint.

Some important developments that have taken place since we drafted the report for this document on agrarian reform and rural development are, for example, the official authorization for the setting up of a Supreme Council for Natural Resources. The various regions are represented in this Council and are concerned with the setting up, the approval of and the review of policies and techniques dealing with the use, development and conservation of renewable natural resources. This Council is also in charge of the allocation of land for the various agricultural purposes.

This is the foundation of our integrated rural development. However, considering that national development in the past was undertaken in a sectoral manner without taking into account links with other sectors, another council was set up for planning. There regions are also represented in order to strengthen decentralization in our country. We have also set up an authority to coordinate rural development. This authority helps the various regional centres in setting up the integrated formulae for rural development.

I would like here to refer to this decentralization in our policies and population participation, especially that of women. I would like to assure the representative of the Women's Alliance and point out to her that women in the Sudan benefit from all rights and women play a part not only in agricultural fields but also in construction and other sectors of activity.

Popular participation plays an important role in decision-making and in strengthening local government. The latest decision in this field was taken a month ago in the Governorate of Khartoum. Steps taken in this define the relationship, authorities and responsibilities among the national, regional and local authorities. Under these measures the local authorities were given wide authorities in the fields of integrated rural development. An important point in the area of increasing production is the implementation of new standards in production for 1981-1982 for artificially irrigated projects, as a result, production increased twofold (especially for cotton) in the harvest year 1982/83.

Another point I wish to briefly refer to deals with forests and their role in rural development. Latest approximative statistics acquired by satellite surveys indicate that overall volume of wood in an area of 112 million hectares are estimated at 2 000 million cubic meters. Annual consumption for all purposes especially for fuel - fuelwood and charcoal - is estimated at 67 million cubic meters; logging limits for this renewable source are set at about 23 million. Abusive logging exceeds allowed limits by about 44 million cubic meters p.a. If this situation continues this resource will disappear completely. I would like here to refer to what was said during the 1981 Conference about energy policies and the need to increase the use of renewable sources of energies. In our developing countries, in the absence of the desired balance between cutting and reafforestation, the situation is dangerous not only for rural life where fuel is concerned, but also for food-producing soil as a result of rapid soil erosion and advanced desertification.

Finally Mr Chairman most of what we wanted to say about the document is contained in the draft resolution and we support it, we only wanted to express a few additional comments as Dr Islam and you yourself have requested.

L. SMITH (Barbados): I wish to congratulate the FAO Secretariat on this report on the progress of agrarian reform and rural development. Barbados was one of the countries that provided a fairly comprehensive report to the FAO Secretariat on this matter. I would, however, wish to add a few observations on some of the problems experienced in agrarian reform and rural development projects.

Since rural development projects do and must have a high component of social service improvements in areas such as domestic water supply, electrification, communications, etc., as a result there is often some difficulty in obtaining external financing for these projects since funding agencies do not wish to appear to be giving material budgetary support to national governments. Consequently, there is a tendency to over-stress the capability of these projects, to increase agricultural output of the project area to pay for the projected social improvements.

As a result, target levels of production are set high so as to satisfy the cost/benefit analysis required by funding agencies. Subsequently, when these target levels of output are not reached, there is considerable frustration at all levels, both at the farmer level and at the administrative level, and there is a waning of political commitment to agrarian reform projects because of this apparent inability of the projects to deliver projected outputs.

On the question of credit, our experience is that whilst the agricultural development banks within the lending countries try to accommodate the rural poor and the small farmers, they face problems from the fact that they are using money from various sources and on that money they have to pay interest. Therefore, the tendency is to require farmers to provide some collateral although the banks do try to accommodate farmers by providing unsecured loans for production-type credit.

The problem faced by the farmers in the rural development projects in agrarian reform is that they are unable to borrow any money for significant capital improvements to the farms for items such as farm buildings, pens for housing animals and small dairy equipment and things of that nature. For the moment they are unable to borrow any money or obtain any credit for rural housing improvement, and even those farmers who are able to obtain some credit in these areas find that early in a rural development project the costs of insurance, the repayment of the debt and interest place additional financial burdens on the farmers, particularly at the early stages. Consequently, the people's participation in these agrarian reform rural development projects becomes problematical for the people who are trying to promote and administer it.

The other area which appears to be in some difficulty is extension and I think that all the underdeveloped countries would agree that there is a lack of sufficient personnel and training in the extension area. Our experience is that in spite of the inadequacy of the numbers, many countries do not get the optimum help of the extension service for three main reasons. One is that the extension services in the rural development projects are not sufficiently well coordinated with the research activities going on in the country.

Secondly, there is very seldom any provision for the continuous training of extension personnel, to make sure that new agrotechnical information is being delivered to the farmer constantly. Thirdly, I think one of the most important areas has been overlooked by most developing countries and in Barbados we have only come up against this in the last year. That is the absence of the audio-visual equipment; in the Plenary Session the recipient of the B. R. Sen Award indicated how important this is. We have only recently realized this problem, particularly for farmers who are illiterate. There audio-visual techniques are almost the only area in which important information can be transferred, not only in terms of agrotechnical information, but in terms of public health, nutrition, sanitation and generally many important areas of agricultural education.

The other area that we feel is problematical is the area of management of rural development projects. Our experience is that the types of decisions that the management of agrarian reform and rural development projects requires are usually outside the scope of the authority which can be politically delegated to the technocrat who has to manage agrarian reform projects. Consequently, the decision-making is slow and creeps into the whole policy and there is inconsistency between a decision taken in one rural agrarian reform project and one taken in another rural agrarian reform project. So there tends to be a conflict which leads to frustration at the management level which, in time, is sensed by the farmers involved in the agrarian reform projects. Therefore they themselves lose confidence in the management of the projects and in the projects themselves.

We have recognized that agrarian reform and development are a dynamic process and in solving the first order of problems, the solutions themselves generate second orders of problems. The follow-up work in this whole aspect of agrarian reform and rural development must be undertaken by the FAO for the foreseeable future. We would therefore wish to give our support to the FAO continuing its activities in member countries in agrarian reform and rural development. Also in its agrarian aspects, we feel that an analysis of the various organizational structures and their effectiveness should be looked at.

We also feel that the FAO should give some consideration to other indicators such as rural health, nutrition, and those other socioeconomic indicators that are referred to in the document. We feel these are important indicators of social rural progress and we would like to see in the future reports that some consideration is given to analysing those matters.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany welcomes the fact that the FAO Secretariat has submitted such a comprehensive, well-structured and informative report in document C 83/23, on the progress in the field of agrarian reform and rural development since the 1979 World Conference.

This report shows that the FAO is fully aware of its role as a leading agency and that it is consequently performing its tasks in this important field. It is, however, to be regretted that the Secretariat was obliged to draw up the report on the basis of such a small number of national reports. I think it was the distinguished delegate from Panama who made this point very clearly. This situation diminishes the desired information content of the document before us and, of course, it increases the risk of false conclusions should the information available to date from individual countries be translated to the whole group of developing countries. We hope that more countries have meanwhile submitted their reports to the Secretariat, or if they have not already done so, that they will do so soon.

Perhaps the outline of the Secretariat for the national reports might have been somewhat too complicated. We would, therefore, like to ask that this be borne in mind for the next report in two years' time, and we hope that there will be greater response.

Despite FAO's important role in this field, there is no doubt that the main responsibility for agrarian reform and rural development lies with the individual countries themselves. However, no one can turn a blind eye to the fact that many developing countries will not manage alone to overcome the many and often enduring difficulties by their own forces. For that reason outside support in the form of personnel and other help will continue to be desirable and necessary.

I would like to make a few comments on a number of activities which I regard as being particularly important. We welcome the fact that the activities carried out under the WCARRD Programme have also focused on socio-economic measures, with the objective of improving rural populations' income, living and working situations.

We also support the inclusion of some not purely agriculturally orientated measures in some countries, such as efforts to reduce child mortality or illiteracy. In particular we support these because this sort of measures can help to stabilize the situation of the rural population on a long-term basis. We regard it as being particularly important to involve the rural population in planning and implementing development measures. That is the only way one can ensure that the programmes initiated will also be accepted by the people, and that they will continue to be applied after the time during which they have been promoted.

More concrete indications and guidelines are expected with increasing practical experience in accordance with bilateral experience, although, of course, one must work on the assumption that these have to be adjusted to the individual conditions. In this connection we also welcome the efforts to help rural populations to form associations for their own interests, economic associations and other self-help groups. Attempts to politicise the rural population which has surfaced here and there should however, not be the objective of an internationally promoted programme.

Integration of women in rural development, which has received so much support here, is of great significance. For that reason the measures which have been initiated to improve the legal status and social position of women should be further supported and increased. Here however, there are certain discrepancies still to be noticeable between claim and reality, which should in future be eliminated, not only in Africa. It is quite properly the active role of women in farm work and management that has been highlighted. However, we have seen that often women are not sufficiently trained for these tasks. Therefore, public programmes should lay particular emphasis on relevant extension measures. In our experience extension focusing on the couple running the farm, giving them advice on farm matters, including home economics, is of special benefit. More attention in the development programmes should also be paid to pinpoint possible income combinations by including non-farm activities like work at home, small craft work and also marketing products. This is something which ought to be a way of combating the rural exodus from regions with a small-scale farm structure. In the credit and marketing field, the general conditions, that means in this connection national price policy, is of particular importance. Production stimulating effects of attractive producer prices conflict in this respect with efforts to ensure the food situation for large sections of the population. Various observations in bilateral cooperation show successful results which are attributed to an increase in producer prices. A target-oriented promotion of self-help organizations linking credit and marketing is also supported from the bilateral point of view. As far as the granting of funds is concerned we feel that in many countries, as in the past, the agricultural sector does not receive its fair share from the national budget, and here there is a clear contradiction with the recommendations agreed to in 1979 at the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. In our view the situation of the priority target groups can only be improved in the long term if there is a clear change of course in this respect. The generally tight economic situation in recent years has not supported the multilateral and bilateral efforts to improve the living conditions for the mass of rural populations. One has to see to it that the food aid programmes which in our opinion should primarily meet acute emergencies should not thwart the self-reliance efforts towards national food supply.

The elimination of hunger as a priority aim is to which many bilateral and multilateral programmes are meanwhile geared. Here a closer cooperation and coordination is absolutely necessary, as well as a more intensive exchange of information and experience; the sort of information and experience which is contained in this report.

To conclude, as far as monitoring, financing, and the development of strategies and policies in this field are concerned, in the future more than in the past it will be necessary for the relevant organizations, and institutions, actions to be coordinated with one another. Experience and knowledge must be exchanged, and incorporated in even more effective concepts and strategies. The developing countries' own responsibility on the one hand, and enhanced joint efforts on the other, should not remain concepts to which mere lip service is paid, but they should be translated to a greater extent than in the past, into practical cooperation.

CHAIRMAN: We have received statements for inclusion in the verbatim record from Tanzania, Poland, New Zealand, and from the representative of the Trade Unions International of Agricultural, Forestry and Plantation Workers. Several delegates who have made statements here this afternoon have lodged supplementary statements with the Secretariat, and I would like to thank those delegations, and the others I have just named, for their cooperation.

It is not surprising that so many delegations should wish to speak on this subject, since after all agrarian reform and rural development are the very front line of the fight against poverty and hunger.

The proposed Resolution on the food situation in Africa has been distributed this afternoon. It is document C 83/LIM/26. This Resolution will be dealt with in the Commission immediately after the conclusion of the WCARRD item tomorrow morning.

B.H. KATANI (Tanzania): Mr Chairman, on behalf of the Tanzanian delegation I would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for their elaborate paper which covers many useful issues that focus to the development of the rural poor. My delegation also would wish to thank Professor Islam for the concise presentation this morning.

The paper presented to us under discussion is very elaborate and has covered all the important issues and we therefore support the observations made in the document. However my delegation would like to make the following comments:

We in Tanzania, Mr Chairman, have been since the Arusha Declaration in 1967 implementing several Rural Integrated Programmes with similar objectives to those pertaining to CIRDAFRICA. Many countries and agencies have provided us with assistance for these programmes. The objectives of these programmes which constitute an important part of our efforts to develop a balanced society, is to improve the economic, cultural and social conditions of the rural disadvantaged.

Our experience shows that, in order to meet the intended goals, the target group should be tailored so that it could benefit through a change in attitude by adopting innovations in these programmes that provide services. Although not all the Regional Development Programmes have been evaluated thoroughly, preliminary investigation indicates positive results in the rural inhabitants of the area where they were established.

Mr Chairman, my delegation would like to speak on this important Institution, CIRDAFRICA, which has got off to a good beginning.

Tanzania would like to use this opportunity to highlight this fact as a follow-up on WCARRD. Africa has already established a Regional Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Africa (CIRDAFRICA) as an instrument for the sharing of experiences and resources in Africa as well as the future vehicle for the planning, monitoring the Implementation and Evaluation of Rural Development Programmes on the Continent.

We are in this regard most grateful to the FAO for the cooperation and assistance rendered to the Centre, for through FAO assistance the Centre has been able in its short existence to organize two important workshops on Women Cooperatives as well as on Agrarian Systems in the Centrally planned countries of Africa. The Centre also collaborates with FAO to organize the first Inter-Country Consultative Meeting on the WCARRD. We do hope therefore that FAO assistance will not only continue in future, but that it will actually be increased.

Here I wish also to take this opportunity to thank the Governments of China and Norway for the assistance they have extended to the Centre. We hope that other governments represented here will emulate their initiatives and give generous assistance to this most important Centre for the Economic Development of the Continent. 1/

Z. GROCHOWSKI (Poland): Mr Chairman, the Polish delegation would like to congratulate the Secretariat on the valuable document before us, which shows the progress made in agrarian reform and rural development in recent years.

This analysis, which shows clearly the changes in agriculture of different regions, will help many countries in improving the Programme of Action. It gives many new ideas to the method of economic and social analysis.

In the last three years, Poland has carried out many fundamental changes in its agricultural and rural policy which are in line with those recommended by WCARRD and presented in the analysis prepared by FAO and now under discussion.

The new agricultural price policy introduced in Poland, and subsidies and tax policy, are intended to increase production initiatives of farmers as well as the effectiveness of the socialized sector in agriculture. Thanks to the new income policy, farmers' incomes per one fully-employed person have risen to the level of the incomes of the non-agricultural population. The process of improvement of agrarian structure in the individual sector was initiated. The scope of social insurance was increased and State administration and administrative methods of managing agriculture were limited.

There has been substantial extension of the rights of agricultural self-management and co-operatives in organizing production, marketing, life in the village and in shaping agricultural policy. Changes in the extension service system and improvements in agricultural education have been introduced. Agriculture, the first sector of the national economy broke down the difficulties caused by the recession.

Poland, despite many difficulties has developed co-operation with many countries and wishes to participate actively in this kind of analysis hoping to broaden it by reflecting the changes occurring in the agriculture of our country and our region. 1/

J.B. JACKMAN (New Zealand): The New Zealand delegation reaffirms its support for the principles of WCARRD. We believe the momentum of FAO's work should be maintained and we believe FAO has a special responsibility, amongst the UN agencies, to take co-ordinating initiatives.

Clearly, the WCARRD principles are permeating the national policies of member countries, maybe not as quickly as we would like but progress is significant.

We believe that further progress depends on the political will of member governments on one side and on the other, the ability of FAO to collaborate effectively with Member States and to collaborate with other international agencies.

In essence, the WCARRD principles are founded on participation. To be able to participate all people - men and women - must have equitable access to land, credit and training resources.

Mr Chairman, my delegation believes that the world community must continue to emphasise these principles if we are to capitalize on the latent ability of all our people. 1/

V. KALACHNIKOV (Observer for Trade Unions International of Agricultural, Forestry and Plantation Workers): My organization expressed together with the World Federation of Trade Unions and the Trade Unions International of Food, Tobacco, Hotel and Allied Industries Workers some ideas on the WCARRD Programme of Action in our joint document presented to the delegates of the Twenty-second session of the FAO Conference.

1/Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request

My organization would like to state that the national and international action envisaged in the WCARRD Programme of Action has remained largely unimplemented, except in the case of a few positive examples. Access to the land is being more and more limited to a minority, lawlessness, unemployment are on the increase, the transnational corporations, making use of their political and economic power, are continuing to exploit to the utmost the resources and rural labourers of many developing countries, most cruel oppression, killings, different obstacles are put to the organization of the rural workers, peasants in their representative unions.

The international action in favour of implementing a New International Economic Order, as envisaged in the WCARED Programme of Action has made very little progress. Our organization is fully aware that the disorganization of international markets in agricultural products constitutes an obstacle to the general economic and social advancement. The arms race consumes horrendous sums which are indispensable for rural development. With regard to the possibility and necessity of the utilization of funds destined for armaments to be diverted for the purposes of rural progress my International would even more actively organize all rural workers and peasants for the struggle against this misuse of the productive resources.

Our Conference, which was held recently, stressed the necessity to mobilize all agricultural, forestry workers and peasants for the intensified struggle for the full utilization of the potentials of agriculture and forestry, for the demands of the rural workers, peasants, for disarmament and peace. It is the intention of my organization to develop cooperation with the FAO and other UN bodies to secure implementation of the WCARRD Programme of Action. ^{1/}

The meeting rose at 17.45 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h. 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.45 horas

^{1/} Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C 83/I/PV/13

C

Twenty-second Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt-deuxième session
COMMISSION I

22º período de sesiones
COMISION I

THIRTEENTH MEETING
TREIZIEME SEANCE
13ª SESION

(17 November 1983)

The Thirteenth Meeting was opened at 9.50 hours,
G. Mackey, Vice-Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La treizième séance est ouverte à 9 h 50, sous la présidence de
G. Mackey, Vice-Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 13ª sesión a las 09.50 horas, bajo la presidencia de
G. Mackey, Vicepresidente de la Comisión I

I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)

I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)

I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)

9. Progress Report on WCARRD Programme of Action (continued)

9. Rapport de situation sur le programme d'action de la CMRADR (suite)

9. Informe sobre la marcha del Programa de Acción de la CMRADR (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: I call this Thirteenth meeting of Commission I to order. The order of business for the Commission this morning is, first, to complete discussion on the WCARRD Programme of Action. We are running behind time and we aim to complete this item as quickly as possible this morning. Following completion of the item there will be the arrangements for adoption of the resolution related to Item 6.1, on the critical situation of food and agriculture in Africa. The arrangements for that will be discussed. The third item will be to commence discussion on Item 10 of the agenda, the Progress Report on World Food Day Activities.

Before moving to the speakers for this morning, there are a couple of other announcements. First, in relation to resolutions, I am pleased to inform the Commission that the Contact Group established to elaborate a final text of the draft resolution on WCARRD has successfully concluded its work. The text of the draft resolution as agreed by the Contact Group will be included in the Commission's draft report that will come up for adoption on Monday next week.

Following some hard work by member delegates of the Contact Groups, three of the four resolutions moved in this Commission are now ready for inclusion in the draft report and adoption next week. They are the resolutions on food security, on international agricultural adjustment and the WCARRD one that we have just discussed. The fourth resolution on the food situation in Africa will be dealt with in the course of this morning.

The Drafting Committee has made good progress. The draft reports on all the items concluded thus far have already been reviewed by the Drafting Committee. Therefore, the Committee will not have to meet to-day. Its fourth and last meeting to review the Draft Reports on Item 9, the WCARRD debate, and Item 10, World Food Aid, is scheduled to take place tomorrow, Friday 18 November, in the afternoon. The exact time and place will be announced later.

Now we move on to the completion of the WCARRD debate. I remind delegates that we are running behind time and reiterate my request of yesterday that if delegates wish to inform the Conference of progress in their own countries, they try to confine those remarks to a written statement to be handed to the Secretariat, and in this Commission speak only on the document before us.

E. SCHRODER (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): When will the final text of the resolutions on world food security and international agrarian adjustments be available? Will the documents be available beforehand or will they be incorporated in the Report of this Commission?

Jan B. VAN AS (Secretary, Commission I): The arrangements for our work in the Commission with regard to the resolutions are as follows: The Contact Group established by the Commission to deal with the resolutions on food security, international agricultural adjustment and WCARRD have finished their work. The resolutions as agreed on by these Contact Groups will appear in the Draft Report that is to be adopted by this Commission on Monday morning. The resolution on the critical food situation in Africa will come up next and will be dealt with in a similar manner. Therefore, the Commission will see the final text of the four resolutions on Monday, but the Draft Reports including the resolutions will be distributed as from tomorrow mid-day so that delegates may have ample time over the week-end to look at them before their adoption on Monday.

T. OKAMOTO (Japan): I would like to congratulate the Secretariat on this Report. This work on the implementation of the WCARRD Programme of Action is very crucial. The report contains analytical and quantitative data on the progress made in the eradication of hunger and rural poverty.

As the delegation of Japan has pointed out on many occasions, it is very important for our rural development that a comprehensive plan should be formulated, to include agrarian reform and an improvement in the social system. Keeping this in mind, we support the WCARRD principle and Programme of Action. In the light of the need to support international activities, my Government is ready to contribute US\$165 000 to assist the activities of the Centre for Integrated Rural Development in Asia and the Pacific in the 1983 Japanese fiscal year.

I would now like to make some brief comments on specific areas. According to the report distributed to us on access to land, many countries have been paying more attention to measures aimed at the effective implementation and improvement of existing laws pertaining to agrarian reform. The report also refers to people's participation. There has been marked progress in its conceptualization in development plans, but its translation into operational terms has been slow. I believe that land is a fundamental factor in food production and also that people's participation in development is a natural right for human beings. Each government should formulate its rural development strategies in the context of its own social, economic and political situation. The Japanese delegation welcomes the growing awareness of the importance of education, training and extension activities in rural development. Japan has been advocating the importance of cooperation on the development of human resources in the developing countries, and we place particular emphasis on the training of personnel as agricultural experts, and extension workers, who will provide the basis for rural and agricultural developments.

Finally, we support FAO's work towards achieving the WCARRD Principles and Programme of Action.

M. M. AL-HAMOUD (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of): Since the debate deals with the evaluation of success reached in the implementation of the WCARRD Programme of Action to determine the progress achieved in this respect, taking into account the importance of the document under consideration, allow me Mr Chairman, to make the following remarks:

First, concerning the land tenure, we in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, are distributing freely arable lands to our citizens. We seek to increase the surface of agricultural land and to improve the income distribution. This is to be brought about by giving every citizen a surface of 5-20 hectares per head, and for major projects distribution goes up to four hundred hectares. The farmer is responsible for exploiting the land and for realizing land reclamation within the span of 5 years. Once the land is appropriately developed, the farmer receives the property deed of the land.

As far as forestry is concerned, a major part of the document has been consecrated to forestry development policies, forestry conservation and efforts exerted to encourage the citizens to develop, protect and exploit forests on a continuous basis. With regard to systems combining agriculture and forestry exploitation on the one hand and the cultivation of orchards and pastures, we do support this trend. However, we in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, give much attention to forests for the direct and indirect benefits of such resources for mankind. This is why we protect and develop natural forestry resources through enlightening and convincing the citizens of the importance of forestry conservation. Hence, we re-afforest mountains, stabilize sand dunes and we distribute plants to the farms to be grown around their land to serve as wind breakers.

Besides, every year we celebrate the week of tree plantation, in a bid to cultivate them in the streets and other areas in need of plants.

The document also indicated that the neglected groups of population concerned with the production of farm animals defined by the WCARRD are the nomads and the shepherds.

This group receives a great deal of attention in my country. We have been able to ameliorate the standard of living of those nomads as well as of the small farmers by providing support and by giving animal feed in large quantities and at a low cost. This served as an incentive for the nomads and the small farmers to develop animal wealth they possess and lessen over-grazing of pastures.

Mr Chairman, we in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, gave women their due rights in terms of responsibilities. In conformity with the Islamic legislation, she is entitled to possess and inherit. She works within certain limits that suit her capabilities and go in accordance with our religion.

The document demonstrated that the various studies carried out in the developing countries indicated that the production of small farmers per hectare is much higher than that of other farmers. Their share in the total food and agriculture production proved to be much higher than their share of land. It became evident that they have un-exploited potentials to contribute to the realization of food objectives and to the eradication of poverty.

Therefore, as mentioned by the document, further efforts should be made to promote the use of inputs leading to the expansion of agricultural surface and the application of appropriate technology.

As far as agricultural credit is concerned, and considering that the agricultural investments in Saudi Arabia are very costly, an agricultural bank has been created a few years ago. It gives large loans to all categories of farmers without any interest. Besides, the Government provides the farmers with agricultural machines and fertilizers, in order to encourage them to use up-to-date technology in farming.

Agricultural extension and training receives a great deal of attention, in order to promote the standard of small farmers and their families as well as that of agricultural extension officers.

R. LIEBERS BALDIVIESO (Bolivia): Mi país no necesita reiterar su posición de un firme y entusiasta apoyo a las políticas y programas de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, ya que los esfuerzos y actividades que hemos realizado en esta materia, han sido ampliamente expuestos en foros internacionales, y conocidos en América Latina y otros continentes.

Bolivia inicio el proceso de reivindicación del campesinado con su revolución agraria en el año 1952. Ese proceso revolucionario en las áreas rurales bolivianas fue el segundo en América Latina, después del de México realizado hace 7 décadas.

La revolución agraria constituyo un hito en el desarrollo socioeconómico boliviano; sin embargo, su aplicación no generó cambios sustanciales en la estructura de producción del agro. La ejecución de la ley se orientó hacia el minifundio surgido por el crecimiento vegetativo y el fenómeno paralelo de la excesiva parcelación de la tierra, ocasionando problemas tan graves como el déficit alimentario, la desocupación abierta o disfrazada y la migración desesperada a las ciudades.

Por otra parte, se omitió la redistribución total de las tierras cultivables asignadas, y se empantanó el proceso en una lenta titulación burocrática, sin empalmarlo a una fase cualitativamente superior, ya prevista en 1953. Me refiero a la necesidad de dotar al agro liberado, de una moderna base técnica que convierta a las masas campesinas en un factor altamente protagónico, que coadyuve al ingreso del país a un desarrollo económico independiente.

A treinta años de la Reforma Agraria boliviana, no se ha cumplido con el objetivo básico de la misma. Así lo delata la pavorosa diferencia entre el agro y nuestras ciudades. Mientras los campesinos siguen sumidos en la peor de las postergaciones, sin viviendas adecuadas, sin energía eléctrica, sin servicios de salud, sin sistemas integrales de educación que permitan la enseñanza básica y la educación técnica agropecuaria, en las ciudades se advierte no sólo un avance relativo de infraestructura, sino también el enriquecimiento de minorías sociales que disponen del confort y de las comodidades materiales propias de un país altamente desarrollado. Las posibilidades de cambio revolucionario en el agro fueron cortadas por la sucesión de regímenes autoritarios a partir de 1964. Políticamente se neutralizó a las masas agrarias con el pacto militar campesino, lo que eliminó el principal escollo para la implantación de un modelo de política agropecuaria destinado a beneficiar a la burguesía intermediaria de las ciudades, con los frutos y el esfuerzo de los campesinos.

Frente a estos problemas de la política agropecuaria del país y a la situación en la que se hallan las masas campesinas, el Gobierno constitucional ejecutaría medidas destinadas a superar las deficiencias y conducir el proceso de la producción agraria a una fase cualitativamente superior, que incorpore efectivamente al campesino a la vida nacional y lo convierta en un agente decisivo del desarrollo.

Por otra parte, se han adoptado estrategias que tienden a llegar a objetivos concretos: alcanzar una mejor organización de la producción agropecuaria; tender al desarrollo armónico y equilibrado entre las diferentes regiones del país; incrementar el autoabastecimiento en alimentos y materias primas y sustituir en forma selectiva y progresiva las importaciones; incrementar el nivel de ingresos y el nivel de vida de la población rural; y reducir la subocupación rural utilizando mejor y más racionalmente las tierras, el agua y, en general, los recursos naturales de que dispone el país.

No obstante las limitaciones señaladas, el Gobierno constitucional ha continuado con esa línea de acción reivindicadora de las clases menos favorecidas y ha participado activamente en los eventos mundiales y regionales auspiciados y apoyados por la FAO y otras Agencias del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas.

Fue Bolivia el país que propuso, en ocasión de la celebración del Comité Preparatorio para la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, celebrado en la sede de la FAO en 1979, la creación de un Centro Regional de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural y, consecuente con esta propuesta, ha participado en todas las reuniones tendientes a la creación del mencionado Centro.

Fuimos sede de la consulta Regional de Expertos sobre indicadores socioeconómicos para el seguimiento y la evaluación de la reforma agraria y el desarrollo rural en América Latina. En esta consulta, y luego de un extenso examen y análisis de los estudios de casos preparados para tal propósito, se llegó a conclusiones y sugerencias importantes para poder cuantificar y medir el impacto a la aplicación de las políticas orientadas a la erradicación de la pobreza.

Mi país en conformidad con esta trayectoria histórica en reforma agraria y desarrollo rural, desea apoyar al Director General de la FAO en todos los esfuerzos y asistencia que pueda brindar a los países en la aplicación del Programa de Acción aprobado en la Conferencia Mundial antes referida.

También deseamos en esta oportunidad, expresar nuestra satisfacción y felicitar al Director General por el documento C 83/23, que contiene un amplio análisis de los progresos realizados en materia de reforma agraria y desarrollo rural a nivel mundial.

Finalmente, deseo manifestar que Bolivia tiene la mejor disposición de apoyar la Resolución sobre el Seguimiento de los Progresos realizados en la aplicación del Programa de Acción de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural.

TESEMA NEGASH (Ethiopia): My delegation finds document C 83/23 very informative and well prepared. However I would like to note that some of the indicators used for monitoring the progress of countries' alleviation of rural poverty are difficult to estimate with the kind of data one gets now in the developing countries.

With this note, my delegation fully endorses the policy proposals and affirms my country's preparedness to follow them, as they are consistent with our current rural development policy. Ethiopia promulgated a proclamation to provide for the nationalization of rural land in 1975. This proclamation enabled each peasant to have access to land resources. The land reform paved the way for unprecedented participation by the rural masses in the process of rural development and administration.

Today in Ethiopia nearly all peasants are organized into peasant associations and services cooperatives. Some are also organized into producer cooperatives.

There are currently about 19 500 peasant associations with a membership of six million farmers. We have over 3 600 service cooperatives in which almost all peasant associations are members. These service cooperatives provide to their members marketing services of farm inputs, farm produce and consumer goods. In addition to this there are over 1 000 producer cooperatives.

These production systems have considerably increased farmers' access to such services as extension inputs, credit and training. But, there remains a lot to be done in order to obtain a meaningful increase in per capita food production and in providing income which may ensure better quality of life for the rural mass. Such problems as poor infrastructure, out-dated agricultural practices and dependence on the highly erratic rainfall, have to be significantly redressed.

Ethiopia has been one of the most successful countries in eradicating illiteracy. Some seven years ago, the illiteracy rate was as high as 95 percent. In 1979, a National Literacy Campaign was launched all over the country. Since then nine campaigns were conducted. Through these campaigns the illiteracy rate has now been reduced to 54 percent, and will continue to reduce until all the adult citizens of the country are literate.

The campaign is not only emphasizing illiteracy, but functional literacy is a major component. The rural sector the literacy drive is supported by field training, short-term farmers training in peasant enters scattered throughout the country.

Women in Ethiopia constitute over 50 percent of the working force in the rural sector. In recognition of this fact the Land Reform Bill of 1975 entitled women to become full members of the peasant associations and their cooperatives. As a result, women members in these peasant organizations are ever increasing, and they are being fully associated and assimilated in the extension system.

In addition to this, and in order to enable women to participate in the country's political, social, cultural and administrative mechanisms, they are organized in women's associations with their own organisational structure, starting from the grass roots to the national level. Through these organizations, women today take an active participation in rural development, such as afforestation, water development, literacy campaign and health programmes, and child care.

Ethiopia has made clear in its development strategy, that agriculture is, and will remain, the leading sector. Hence it has allocated, and will allocate a great share of its financial, human, and material resources to the development of agriculture.

In the international economic relations, as it is clear to most of the distinguished delegates, Ethiopia is a primary commodity exporting country. As most, if not all, primary commodity exporting countries, Ethiopia is suffering from unfavourable terms in international trade. My delegation would like also to note that Ethiopia, although in the list of the LCD, receives the lowest per capita international aid.

Ethiopia has been successful in making land, and land-based resources accessible to all rural people. It has been successful in organizing farmers, women and youths and has also been successful in trying to eradicate illiteracy. Therefore, a conducive development climate is created, but due to the country's extremely limited investment resources, lack of appropriate technology, persistent drought, man-made and other natural calamities, we have not been able to achieve or alleviate the rural poverty. But, I entertain no doubt that with the resolute determination of our Government for economic development and with the increased external development assistance, Ethiopia will make a definite break-through in overcoming rural poverty.

C. SANCHEZ CUESTA (España): Mi delegación desea hacer un reconocimiento a la labor de la Secretaría por este documento, ya que en el actual estado de los datos no es fácil hacer una evaluación sobre los programas derivados del CMRADR. Por eso, apreciamos, más aún, el informe que nos ofrece.

En cuanto a los programas, consideramos que a través del tiempo se obtendrán mejores resultados, ya que gran parte de los mismos son programas educativos enfocados a una mejor producción y reparto más equitativo.

Esta delegación quiere referirse a algunos de estos programas para cuya realización son importantes las políticas nacionales. El aumento de la participación de la población, fomentando el cooperativismo y cualquier clase de asociacionismo, incluso de tipo no formal. Insistiendo en Organizaciones no gubernamentales, de modo que se consiga la mayor descentralización.

El fomento de programas de capacitación agraria dirigidos a la mujer y la participación de mujeres en los servicios de extensión y capacitación. Ha sido un gran paso reconocer la función, importante, que desempeñan las mujeres en la producción y comercialización agraria.

La importancia de la extensión y capacitación agrarias dirigida a los más pobres, instrumentando la participación de la población en estos servicios, ligados al mismo tiempo con la investigación agraria.

La creciente atención a las actividades no agrarias en el medio rural como aportación de nuevos recursos a las familias y los más desfavorecidos.

En cualquiera de estos programas son fundamentales el seguimiento y la evaluación continua en los que FAO puede y debe ayudar con instrumentos científicos y técnicos.

Finalmente nuestra delegación se une a la felicitación que otras delegaciones ya han hecho, a los países que han dado pasos en la dirección señalada por la CMRADR y desea ver reforzada la acción de la FAO en facilitar el conocimiento de estas experiencias a los campesinos y gobiernos de todos los países para el mejor éxito de estos programas de la FAO.

KYO-EUN KIM (Korea, Republic of): First of all I would like to congratulate the FAO Secretariat for its excellent work done in the progress report on the WCARRD Programme of Action. My thanks also go to Dr Islam for his comprehensive and excellent introduction of the subject matter.

According to the report, several countries have begun to change their national development plans towards equity and participation since 1979, the year in which the WCARRD was held. My Government really welcomes the expanded self-reliant development efforts of developing countries. However, it is not encouraging to note that such changes, in particular in setting time-bound quantifiable targets, and identification of intended beneficiary groups of the rural poor, have been partial, slow and also in many countries are still evolving.

In this connection, Mr Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to brief the Commission on our priorities and strategies which have been taken in the process of agricultural and rural development in Korea. Agricultural and rural sectors in Korea have been developed, going through four stages during the last three decades.

In the beginning of the 1950s, the land reform had been completed, and all farmers were able to have equal access to land, based on the principle "the tiller should have the land". On this basis, the multi-purpose agricultural cooperatives and offices of rural development, were established in the beginning of the 1960s. The rapid development of the multi-purpose agricultural cooperatives and ORD in Korea have provided all the farmers with equal access to agricultural credit, farm input supplies, agricultural marketing, farm extension services and new farm technology. At the same time, the cooperatives have also promoted the rural people's participation in the agricultural and rural development process.

On the basis of the equity and participation above-mentioned, the integrated rural development programme, namely, Saemaul Undong, has been implemented, placing a special emphasis on the improvement of rural living environment at the initial stage since the early 1970s.

In addition to this, farm price policies were adopted. These two policies have given the farmers both the positive incentive to increase agricultural production and also a strong will to live better with their own self-reliant efforts.

In the beginning of the 1980s, my Government also has adopted the three new policies. The first: encouragement of specialized diversification of farming system, in order to respond to the rapidly changing socio-economic farming condition of the country. The second: the fostering of young farmers. The basic objectives of the programme is to check the continued excess outflow of the rural youth from agricultural sector, and at the same time, to bring them up as a core future farmers group by providing the better farming environment and the financial support. For this purpose, a special support fund was established in 1980.

Thirdly, it is also inevitable for me to mention here, the establishment of farmer's leader's training centre. The centre is now operating under the auspices of the National Agricultural Cooperative Federation from this year. Our experiences, I hope, would be helpful to member countries and I here again would like to say that my Government is ready and willing to share our experiences with member countries within the framework of TCDC and ECDC. In this respect, my Government welcomes and supports FAO in its continued efforts for assisting countries in implementing the programme of action and in actions required for the exchange of experiences of the developing countries among developing countries. And also, my Government is willing to support the Conference to adopt the Resolution concerned in the agenda.

J.R. LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Mexico): Nuestra delegación felicita efusivamente al Director General y a la Secretaría de la FAO por el magnífico documento presentado y también al Dr. Islam por su brillante y equilibrada presentación, ya que somos conscientes de que éste es un tema complejo y controvertido.

Es evidente que en materia de Reforma Agraria y desarrollo rural y los resultados del Programa de la CMRADR la voluntad política de los gobiernos es indispensable para enfrentar las estructuras de poder en el campo, tan arraigadas, y apoyar la organización de los campesinos para lograr un adecuado desarrollo rural.

Sabemos que es difícil, pero éste es un aspecto donde la responsabilidad de cada gobierno adquiere dimensiones de la máxima trascendencia, porque estamos convencidos de que es condición para todo esfuerzo efectivo en materia de seguridad alimentaria.

Debemos superar estructuras de explotación sobre estructuras de explotación. De otra manera, toda aspiración al desarrollo rural con justicia social, seguirá siendo un sueño.

Desde su Revolución de 1910, México ha inspirado y hecho importantes esfuerzos en materia de reforma agraria y desarrollo rural integral. El proceso no ha culminado, es dinámico y tenemos que responder a circunstancias nuevas, a demandas presentes y a fenómenos que muchas veces revierten u obstaculizan avances deseables.

Por eso, en materia de desarrollo rural integral, el esfuerzo de planificación democrática realizado actualmente en México plantea que el objetivo fundamental debe seguir siendo el mejoramiento constante de los niveles de bienestar de la población rural, con base en su participación organizada y la plena utilización de sus recursos naturales y económicos, con criterios sociales de eficiencia productiva, permanencia y equidad, fortaleciendo su integración con el resto de la sociedad.

De este objetivo, señor Presidente, se desprende como propósitos específicos, el fomentar la participación e incorporación al desarrollo nacional de la población rural y en especial de la mujer, a través del fortalecimiento de su organización y su capacitación, mejorar los niveles de alimentación, vivienda, salud, educación y, en general de vida de la población rural, dando preferencia a los más desprotegidos; aumentar la generación de empleos permanentes y mejorar la distribución de ingresos; ampliar y fortalecer la producción de alimentos básicos para el consumo popular, prioritariamente en las zonas de temporal; propiciar el establecimiento de términos de intercambio más

justos entre el sector agropecuario y los sectores industrial y de servicios; articular eficientemente las actividades agrícolas, pecuarias y forestales entre sí y con el sector industrial, a través de la agroindustria, y con las actividades comerciales y de servicios; aprovechar racionalmente el potencial de desarrollo del medio rural; y mejorar la balanza comercial sustituyendo importaciones y promoviendo las exportaciones de los productos agropecuarios, forestales, pesqueros, agroindustriales y artesanales.

En materia de Reforma Agraria Integral buscamos repartir toda la tierra legalmente afectable; otorgar seguridad jurídica a las diversas formas de tenencia de la tierra en áreas rurales y regularizar los asentamientos humanos en ejidos y comunidades; consolidar la estructura interna de los grupos campesinos, superando mediante la organización agraria el problema del minifundio y promoviendo el aprovechamiento integral de los recursos naturales; generar aumentos en el empleo productivo que contribuyan a detener los movimientos migratorios; hacer esfuerzo en los ingresos de los jornaleros y núcleos agrarios y una auténtica democracia participativa en la toma de decisiones. Somos conscientes de que esto sin duda influirá también en el atemperamiento del crecimiento demográfico y por tanto de su adecuada distribución geográfica.

En lo general, señor Presidente, es indudable que lo verdaderamente importante es el reparto de la riqueza. En ello y para ello, el reparto efectivo, no solo formal de la tierra, tiene un lugar primordial. Sin embargo, es indispensable reconocer en la organización de los productores la mejor vía para mejorar sus condiciones de vida. Debemos buscar integrar unidades de producción y enlazarlas a la cadena alimentaria. En el reparto del excedente económico, la capacidad de negociación de los sectores rurales debe ser y se debe ver fortalecida a través de sus organizaciones.

Estamos también conscientes de que la actual crisis internacional y la recesión económica con todas sus variables, que afecta a la balanza de pagos, a las necesidades de divisas, etc., también afecta íntegramente a la condición de nuestros conciudadanos y por tanto afecta igualmente al progreso y desarrollo en materia de desarrollo rural y de reforma agraria. Por tanto esto forma parte de un todo, y si actuamos en un lado, debemos igualmente saber la importancia de actuar en los otros.

Los actuales patrones de modernización del sector rural han tendido a marginar a grupos numerosos de su población. Una revisión de estos patrones y la formulación de un modelo de modernización participativa para el medio rural es necesario para incorporar plenamente a los grupos de subsistencia y marginados de los países en desarrollo.

En esta perspectiva, la incorporación tecnológica y la capacitación deberán responder y adecuarse a las limitaciones de factores productivos del medio rural, característica de los países en desarrollo y por tanto darle el máximo apoyo al desarrollo de la agricultura de temporal.

Por su parte, el Estado deberá correr el riesgo de la incorporación de cambios tecnológicos y organizativos con los productores, como la única vía para integrarlos plenamente al desarrollo rural.

Fórmulas para compartir el riesgo con los campesinos han sido probadas eficazmente en México.

En asimismo necesario avanzar en los aspectos técnicos del desarrollo rural y la reforma agraria. En ese sentido, México tiene una larga y amplia experiencia en la materia. En la formulación del plan nacional de desarrollo de 1983/88 se destaca prioritariamente el papel del desarrollo rural integral y de la reforma agraria como pivote del desarrollo económico de México.

Consecuentemente se han realizado las reformas constitucionales para elevar a rango constitucional en nuestro país el desarrollo rural integral dentro de nuestro artículo 27 de la Constitución y también se procedió a realizar las reformas administrativas correspondientes.

En el aspecto técnico y en colaboración con la FAO, México ha revisado y formulado sus indicadores socioeconómicos para diagnosticar adecuadamente nuestra realidad rural y agraria como prerequisite para la formulación de políticas eficaces en la materia.

Apoyamos el papel de liderazgo de la FAO en el seguimiento y promoción de los objetivos del Programa de Acción de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural.

Finalmente, consideramos que FAO debería seguir mejorando su información de los indicadores y solicitar a todos los países organicen una base estadística más confiable y oportuna que permita conocer con mejor fidelidad los progresos del programa de acción y sus respectivas consecuencias.

Por último y para concluir, Señor Presidente, queremos dejar constancia en las actas de esta Comisión del interés de nuestro país por la Resolución que presentamos sobre el seguimiento de los progresos realizados en la aplicación del Programa de Acción de la Conferencia Mundial y nos congratulamos de que dicho proyecto de Resolución haya sido revisado y mejorado por el Comité de Resoluciones y el grupo de contacto creado al efecto.

Esperamos que la Conferencia adopte dicha Resolución.

S.J. KAO (Lesotho): Mr Chairman, document C 83/23 is a very important landmark in the global struggle against hunger and poverty. For that reason my delegation supports the follow-up action proposed on page XIII of the report. This report is a revelation on the state of agrarian reform and rural development in the world. The state of rural poverty has been quantified adequately to justify special attention by the UN system. It is for this reason that my delegation views IFAD and its work with admiration and as a credit to the international community and supports the call for replenishment of its resources. This Fund has been established to address itself to the poorest of the poor who usually do not - I emphasize do not - qualify for assistance by other conventional organizations by virtue of their poverty.

Section 6 of Chapter II of the report dealing with monitoring and evaluation of agrarian reform and rural development demands the special attention of this Conference. In particular, my delegation wishes to refer to refinement of concepts and development of uniform or comparable indicators of progress. Such indicators should be simple in order to be understandable to both extension agents and the rural people themselves. Education and training of both officers and rural people is the foundation of people's participation. There is very little to be achieved if the people cannot take their own developments and liberation from hunger and poverty into their own hands. They can only do so if they have received education and training that makes them responsive to WCARRD principles. For example, there is a repeated call, which Lesotho is happy to have responded to, for support for women's programmes. Unless women are educated and trained to appreciate the measures that are proposed to ease their burden, they will not be committed to those action programmes and such programmes would remain the property of the extension agents. As such, those programmes are doomed to failure once that external initiative stops. This should not be allowed to happen as it is counter development. Similar examples can be quoted, for example from other fields such as cooperatives. Resources allocated to education and training can never be enough, nor be misplaced: the more the better.

Lastly, my delegation wishes to register its appreciation for the assistance in the form of the WCARRD follow-up mission which came to Lesotho in December 1982. This multi-agency (mission was led by FAO and with it the Government had the opportunity to assess progress on the implementation of the principles of WCARRD.

R. SENTÜRK (Turkey): Mr Chairman and Distinguished Delegates, we have very much appreciated the analysis made by FAO and presented to us in a very lucid manner by Professor Islam on the WCARRD follow-up activities since the Conference held in 1979. Within this context I would like to appraise you briefly of Turkey's related experience.

There are several key problems and constraints encountered in the implementation of rural development programmes in Turkey. These stem from the fact that a large proportion of the population of the country lives in rural areas, in small and fragmented farms spread over a large number of villages, and the number of organizations serving the rural population in general, and farming societies in particular, are many.

Objectives and targets set for rural development within the fourth five-year development plan period which ends at the end of this year will not be achieved. This is mainly due to the major socio-economic difficulties Turkey had to face in the late 1970s. A recovery has been witnessed in the economy since 1980, especially in the international trade component. About 100 percent increase was realized in exports during the 1982-83 period. The majority of this increase came from the exports of industrial products.

A number of important activities have been accomplished, however, by both the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the Ministry of Village Affairs, in the fields of land and water resources development, rural infrastructure, building, with due attention to the participation of the beneficiaries, the integration of women, farmer's access to agricultural inputs, credit, market facilities and other related services like education, training and extension.

Some hundred agreements and/or protocols have been signed with developed and developing countries for economic, technical, commercial, financial and sectoral cooperation, and Turkey has paid considerable attention to developing close relations and cooperation with other developing countries.

With readjusted formalities and regulations for foreign investments, positive results have been achieved in attracting foreign capital to Turkey since 1980, mainly in the field of agro-industries. Turkey has been receiving loans and credits from the World Bank for financing development projects within various sectors since the 1950s. The loans received from the World Bank have always played important roles in the implementation of agricultural and rural infrastructural development programmes, mostly integrated in nature.

United Nations organizations such as FAO, UNDP and IFAD are also assisting and supporting the identification and implementation of important projects leading to developments in the rural sector.

Believing that close monitoring of the effectiveness of strategies, policies and programmes launched in support of rural development places a central and crucial role in achieving the set objectives, Turkey is now refining its system for monitoring and evaluating the progress and impact of the implementation of related programmes by adopting most modern techniques and management tools.

Agriculture is considered to be the backbone of the economy and one of the most important motivating powers of socio-economic development in Turkey. In spite of the fact that considerable efforts have been made since the foundation of the Republic early in the 1920s, the potential of natural resources, especially in the field of the agricultural sector, has not been fully developed. We therefore believe that, with the supporting policies and programmes, this potential could be realized in a reasonably short time and provide a solid base and stability in the overall socioeconomic development of our country. In this endeavour we appreciate, and are ready to cooperate with, the assistance of FAO and other interested countries.

A. SAISSI (Maroc): Je voudrais tout d'abord joindre ma voix à celle des délégués qui m'ont précédé et remercier le Secrétariat de l'organisation pour l'effort louable qu'il a déployé en présentant une note claire faisant le point sur les programmes d'action dans le domaine de la réforme agraire et du développement de l'agriculture. Ce rapport aurait toutefois gagné en intérêt s'il avait concerné la majorité des pays auxquels il s'adresse.

Je profite également de l'occasion pour marquer notre approbation et notre appui aux résolutions contenues dans la note 24.

Partant des recommandations de la Conférence mondiale de la réforme agraire et du développement rural tenue à Rome en 1979, le Royaume du Maroc a confirmé sa politique en matière d'aménagement des structures agraires de l'espace rural productif et d'amélioration des conditions de vie des ruraux. Il a accordé un intérêt particulier au secteur de la Réforme agraire en place et aux projets de développement intégré en zones bours, c'est-à-dire non irriguées.

Le plan de développement économique et social 1981-85 traduit clairement cette volonté politique. Ce plan a retenu un certain nombre de principes d'ordre réglementaire ainsi que des mesures d'encouragement et de crédit en vue de garantir un meilleur aménagement des structures d'exploitation. Des programmes d'amélioration de l'environnement socio-économique du secteur de la Réforme agraire sont à un stade de réalisation satisfaisant.

De même, les aspects touchant à la participation populaire, la décentralisation des structures de gestion, l'intégration de la femme dans l'effort de développement rural, l'amélioration des circuits d'approvisionnement et de commercialisation ont été l'objet d'une attention toute particulière et ont bénéficié d'un effort financier et d'encadrement très important.

Mais il faut souligner :

Primo, que la mise en application des mesures adoptées nécessite du temps et de la patience du fait que l'on vise à changer des mentalités et à modifier des traditions séculaires. Cela implique de la prudence, des études sociologiques approfondies et demande des efforts intenses d'encadrement et de vulgarisation.

Deuxièmement, que les programmes tracés nécessitent des moyens humains et surtout financiers importants difficiles à mobiliser compte tenu de la conjoncture économique que connaissent la plupart des pays en voie de développement.

C'est pourquoi nous estimons que l'aide extérieure devrait pouvoir jouer un rôle non négligeable dans ce domaine qui constitue un élément de base pour l'essor économique et social du monde rural.

Enfin, je me félicite que certains délégués de pays industrialisés aient mis également l'accent sur cet aspect de la gestion et se soient déclarés favorables à l'engagement d'aide bilatérale pour la réalisation de projets spécifiques.

A.R. PIRES (Cap-Vert) : Je voudrais d'abord commencer par féliciter le Secrétariat et

appuyer l'important rapport sur la situation du Programme d'action de la CMRADR - document C 83/23.

Ensuite, nous voulons appuyer toutes les actions qui ont été entreprises par la FAO dans le cadre des résolutions et recommandations faites par la Conférence de la réforme agraire et du développement rural.

Nous souhaitons que ces recommandations soient discutées dans toutes les réunions de la FAO qui traitent du développement rural et de la réforme agraire.

Nous voulons affirmer l'importance et le rôle des femmes à tous les niveaux, tels qu'ils ont été formulés et recommandés par la Conférence mondiale.

Nous pensons qu'il faut favoriser les échanges de coopération technique entre les pays en voie de développement, notamment la coopération régionale et sous-régionale.

Dans ce contexte, nous espérons que le Centre pour le développement rural intégré en Afrique, le CIRDAFRICA, jouera le rôle de promoteur dans la coopération interafricaine dans les secteurs agricoles.

Nous félicitons la FAO d'avoir organisé récemment deux importants séminaires qui ont eu lieu en Tanzanie au siège du CIRDAFRICA en septembre et octobre derniers.

Pour terminer, nous voulons exprimer nos remerciements à la FAO pour l'aide fournie au Cap-Vert, lui permettant de concrétiser, au niveau national, certaines actions préconisées par la CMRADR dans le cadre du Programme de la coopération technique et du Fonds de dépôt de la Norvège.

D. CASTELLANOS (República Dominicana): La República Dominicana tiene una extensión total de 48 442 km²: según los datos del último censo nacional de población y vivienda de 1981, la población del país es de 5,8 millones de habitantes con una densidad de 117 personas por km²: La población urbana representa el 52 por ciento del total, y el restante 48 por ciento vive en las zonas rurales.

El país dispone de una superficie apta para la producción agropecuaria de 2,7 millones de hectáreas; de dicha superficie, 1,2 millones de hectáreas tiene vocación para la ganadería; 1,0 para la agrícola; 0,3 para la foresta; y 0,2 para otros usos. La densidad poblacional en base a las tierras agrícolas es de 2,4 habitantes por km².

Las características socioeconómicas de nuestro país son similares a las de la mayoría de los países en vías de desarrollo, tanto en lo que respecta a la estructura de su aparato productivo, como a las condiciones y dinámicas de sus relaciones con el exterior.

El sector agropecuario ocupa un lugar de primer orden dentro de la economía, ya que aporta el 16,3 por ciento del producto bruto interno, y genera el 25 por ciento de los empleos de todo el país. Los principales productos agrícolas de exportación son el azúcar de caña, café, cacao y tabaco; para el consumo interno, se produce arroz, habichuelas, plátanos, maíz, yuca, batata, carne y leche, entre otros.

Respecto a las relaciones con el exterior, debemos destacar los problemas derivados de los términos desiguales de intercambio, que se reflejan en crecientes déficits de la balanza de pagos, ya que nuestras exportaciones están constituidas por bienes primarios de origen agrícola y minero, cuyos precios descienden continuamente en el mercado mundial, mientras que por otro lado, el país importa principalmente bienes industriales y otros insumos, cuyos precios se elevan constantemente.

El consumo de alimentos de la población dominicana ha ido en aumento en términos absolutos, durante los últimos años; y ese aumento ha tenido que ser satisfecho con importaciones, como sucede con el caso del maíz y la soya, los cuales son fundamentalmente para la producción avícola y porcina, el primero, y para la producción de grasas, el segundo. Para el año 1981, el valor de los productos importados tales como el arroz, maíz, trigo, leche en polvo y otros, alcanzó la cifra de 124,3 millones de dólares, y de éstos, sólo el arroz, el maíz y las grasas vegetales constituyeron el 70 por ciento de las importaciones para un valor total de 97 millones de dólares.

Lo anterior sirve como marco de referencia para determinar el esfuerzo cuantitativo que hay que realizar en la oferta agropecuaria, para mantener los actuales niveles alimenticios, y más aún, elevar esos niveles para lo cual será fundamental, además de aumentar la producción y productividad, mejorar los ingresos de las clases más necesitadas.

Como lo señalara el señor Secretario de Estado de Agricultura de nuestro país, en la Plenaria de esta Conferencia, dentro de esa situación, la República Dominicana está empeñada en lograr la seguridad alimentaria a través del autoabastecimiento, el manejo adecuado de nuestros recursos naturales, el control de la tecnología agropecuaria y el acceso de los productores a los servicios de apoyo.

La estrategia de desarrollo agropecuario que ejecuta el Gobierno de la República Dominicana, asigna alta prioridad a las actividades encaminadas a acelerar el proceso de reforma agraria, mediante la intensificación de las acciones dirigidas a captar, habilitar y distribuir nuevas áreas, así como a la consolidación de los antiguos y nuevos asentamientos para impulsar el desarrollo de las actividades productivas; también crear nuevas fuentes de empleo, aumentar la productividad agropecuaria y elevar los ingresos de las familias beneficiadas.

El Programa de Reforma Agraria ha concentrado sus esfuerzos en aspectos prioritarios que están relacionados directamente con las áreas de trabajo que se detallan a continuación:

Realización de nuevos asentamientos en las áreas captadas, asegurando su incorporación a la producción agropecuaria.

Consolidación de los viejos y nuevos asentamientos, y saneamiento y rehabilitación de las antiguas colonias agrícolas.

Promoción de la organización campesina, a través de la capacitación, que permita la participación efectiva de los beneficiarios en la gestión de los asentamientos.

Y ampliación de la oferta de servicios de apoyo a la producción y creación de facilidades de acceso a los mismos.

Queremos destacar, entre estos aspectos, los programas y proyectos dirigidos a consolidar los asentamientos, mediante la construcción y habilitación de infraestructuras productivas, y la dotación oportuna de servicios sociales y de apoyo a la producción agropecuaria, que se ejecutan en la actualidad, y que han ido transformando progresivamente la fisonomía de las unidades productivas involucradas en los mismos.

Los efectos de la política agropecuaria implementada a partir del mes de agosto de 1982, han determinado una mejoría en el comportamiento de algunas variables fundamentales de la economía dominicana. Citaremos entre estas, el aumento de la producción y de las exportaciones; la disminución de las importaciones de alimentos, principalmente del arroz, renglón básico en la alimentación de la población; y una mejor distribución de los ingresos generados en la agricultura, lo que permite visualizar el logro de los objetivos estratégicos planteados, en términos de la elevación de los niveles nutricionales y de ocupación, así como de la ampliación de los mercados internos y externos que permitirán, en sentido general, dotar al país de una nueva dinámica en su economía y mejorar las condiciones de vida de la población dominicana.

La República Dominicana se desenvuelve hoy en condiciones económicas precarias, lo que limita en gran medida la ejecución de diversos programas y proyectos de desarrollo en las zonas rurales.

En la actualidad una alta proporción de los proyectos de consolidación de los asentamientos se ejecutan mediante la cooperación técnica y financiera de instituciones internacionales como el PNUD, FIDA, FAO, IICA y CEE, así como de Agencias de Gobiernos amigos como USAID, SIDA, CIDA, GTZ, Fundación Frederick Ebert y los Gobiernos de Israel e Italia.

Debemos destacar en el caso de la FAO, su participación activa en diversos programas agropecuarios en nuestro país, y particularmente en dos proyectos dirigidos, uno, a la capacitación de las familias asentadas y, otro, a la reducción de pérdida postcosecha en el cultivo de arroz de los asentamientos de la reforma agraria, así como su decisiva participación en el diagnóstico socioeconómico de los asentamientos, finalizado en la primera mitad del presente año.

Finalmente, señor Presidente, queremos reafirmar el apoyo de nuestra delegación al Programa y al Presupuesto de la FAO para el próximo año, en los cuales se asigna prioridad a la solución de los problemas de insuficiencia alimentaria y desarrollo de la zona rural, de los países en vías de desarrollo.

En nuestro país estamos preocupados por la producción de alimentos, porque con ellos resolveremos grandes problemas sociales que tenemos hoy en día. Trabajamos muy fuerte en los cultivos en que hoy no somos autosuficientes, logrado esto lo haremos con productos para la exportación y la agroindustria. Con esta meta, además de la solución de los problemas sociales, fortaleceremos nuestra democracia política, democracia estable que hoy exhibe la República Dominicana.

E.T. VALENZUELA (Observer for the Asian Non-Governmental Organization Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development - ANGOC): The Asian Non-Governmental Coalition is a regional non-governmental institution whose main objective is to identify and bring together NGO networks who agree to use the WCARRD Declaration of Principle and Programme of Action as a framework for rural development. The Asian NGO Coalition acts as a clearing house for; information relating to NGOs in agrarian reform and rural development, and serves as a focal point for NGO involvement in WCARRD activities in the Asian Region.

In his presentation yesterday morning, Professor Nurul Islam made reference to the increasing recognition of people's participation since WCARRD. In the Asian region three government consultations in the WCARRD follow-up and the last two FAO Regional Conferences stressed the importance of people's participation and the complementary role that NGOs and people's organizations can play in WCARRD follow-up. It was stressed that dialogue be initiated at country level between national institutions, agencies and NGOs working within the framework of WCARRD. The third government consultation on Follow-up to WCARRD recommended that governments and NGOs undertake studies on participatory monitoring and evaluation.

This well prepared Secretariat document C 83/23 mentions the role of the regional centres for rural development. In his intervention yesterday morning Mr Aziz-ul Haq, Director of CIRDAP, mentioned people's participation as one area of CIRDAP's involvement. Allow me, Mr Chairman, to take this opportunity to draw the attention of the Commission to the report of the joint CIRDAP/ANGOC programme entitled Selected Asian Experiences on People's Participation in the follow-up to WCARRD, which was circulated yesterday. This overview report demonstrates how governments and NGOs work together in WCARRD follow-up. With FAO's guidance and assistance this joint CIRDAP/ANGOC programme provided an opportunity to bring together the CIRDAP link institution and the NGOs associated with ANGOC at the country level with advisory support from the government focal point on WCARRD follow-up and the FAO representative in six South and South-east Asian countries.

The overall strategy to initiate the dialogue was to stimulate and promote NGO involvement in a field survey, using data gatherers from either the NGO or the village to be surveyed. A questionnaire was prepared following the core socio-economic indicators developed by FAO for the monitoring and evaluation of agrarian reform and rural development. Once the data had been gathered at village level, a village consultation meeting was organized to verify the findings and trends, as well as to discuss the needs and priorities at village level. Each village survey report and village consultation meeting was discussed at the national workshop, to share the findings and experiences gained, as well as to discuss follow-up plans.

An Asian Regional Workshop was held in Bangkok in October 1983 which brought together the governments and NGO focal points to review the joint programme, to exchange experiences, and discuss the key issues, as well as the mechanisms for continuing government and NGO relationships at country level, and possible areas for further CIRDAP/ANGOC collaboration.

Before I end, I would like to take this opportunity to thank FAO, CIRDAP and the member countries who participated in this joint CIRDAP/ANGOC programme. It is hoped that the report circulated to you illustrates how people's participation can be realized through the promotion and involvement of NGOs in WCARRD follow-up.

B. WILLIAMS (Observer for International Federation for Home Economics): The International Federation for Home Economics is very heartened by the many statements to this Commission supporting the integration of women in rural development within the context of the follow-up of WCARRD. The rural woman is a very remarkable person in her capacity for hard work, and her strength under poverty and difficult living conditions. If she is made a true partner in rural development, the battle is well on its way to being won. The most valuable resource in most countries and the largest corps of fieldworkers for bringing education, training and services to rural women is the women's extension service.

For some years my Federation has supported the concept that a portion of the training of home economics extension fieldworkers should be in agriculture so that they can assist rural women engaged in food production. But, as we all know, improving food systems and decreasing malnutrition is much, much more than increased food production. Thus home economy extension agents also work with rural women on improved methods of food storage to lower post-harvest losses, food preservation, to provide families with a year-round food supply, proper food preparation to preserve nutrients, and sanitation and feeding practices to prevent infant disease and malnutrition and consequent high infant mortality.

Because we believe that the family unit is the very core and substance of the community, we recommend that the training of all extension workers include curriculum content from both agriculture and home economics so that all extension workers, including male extension agents, can better deal with the family as a whole. Thus, rural women will receive greater attention as food producers and their men will gain training for a more equal family role by receiving information on nutrition, consumer education, child care, management of family resources and family planning.

Considering the importance of competent, well trained female extension staffs in serving rural women, we urgently request that governments, aid donor agencies and FAO consider devoting additional resources to first, a revision of curricula of institutions training home economics extension workers to ensure that these workers are capable of responding to the many needs of rural women. You know, by that we are talking, as the representative of Lesotho mentioned earlier, of training the village level workers in a participatory way of working with village women, learning how to help them identify their own problems and build on their own strengths, in working out solutions. This is the only way that real change takes place. The women might decide that the most important thing for them is to organize for income generation projects. Or they might decide that they need a well in the community, or that they would like some appropriate technology assistance to help them build an oven which consumes less fuel, or a solar dryer for their foods.

The home economics extension agent at the field level cannot be competent in all these areas, but at least she should know where to turn for assistance. We also request additional resources.

Secondly, we request frequent in-service training opportunities for the tens of thousands of field-workers to continually upgrade their skills in working with rural women. Finally, we request higher education, fellowship opportunities and equitable pay for home economists at the supervisory level, to put them at the same level of education and remuneration as their male colleagues in agricultural extension. This is the only way to attract top talent to a very difficult position.

"Women in development", "the integration of women in rural development", these are phrases on everyone's tongues these days. But the litmus test of conviction on this issue is whether the amount of resources - budgetary and well trained man and woman power - allotted to bringing services to rural women is proportionate to the share rural women carry in food-related family and community activities.

H. ZANNETIS (Cyprus): I shall confine my comments to the policy issues related to the implementation of the WCARRD Programme of Action.

Let me stress at the outset that Cyprus supports both the principles and the objectives of the WCARRD Programme of Action. With reference to organizational arrangements for the monitoring process, we agree with the necessity for the collection of reliable data for establishing an adequate monitoring system on a continuing basis. This system is not just necessary in order to assist in the preparation of the monitoring and evaluation report for 1987, but most important, to guide the countries themselves in their development strategy.

In this respect, we wish to emphasize that if such monitoring and evaluation is to be effective, there should be adequate expertise and the proper infrastructure to carry that out. It is my conviction that in most developing countries such expertise and infrastructure is not available, or if it is available, it is not up to the required standard.

I would therefore propose that the FAO take appropriate action for the extension of specialized training to developing countries in the field of monitoring and evaluation, and assist these countries in building up an appropriate infrastructure to carry out monitoring and evaluation on a continuous basis and on sound principles.

This training can be done through regional workshops.

Under Item 2, we agree with the necessity for increased resources to be devoted to agricultural development. It is, of course, up to individual countries to define the proportion of resources of their budgets to be allocated to the different sectors of their economies, and to ensure that the agricultural sector gets its fair proportion.

But it is also necessary for the international financing institutions to secure adequate development credit for the developing countries. We therefore express the wish that the present decline in available funds in those institutions will not last long.

Furthermore, we would like to call upon donor countries to assist FAO with extra budgetary resources, to assist the organization in its efforts to follow-up the WCARRD Programme of Action.

With reference to Item 3, we believe that domestic policies in developing countries should focus on improving the living conditions in the rural areas. Given the higher employment and educational opportunities, as well as the better social conditions in urban, as compared with the rural areas, people seem to be attracted to those centres, abandoning the rural areas. The consequences of this movement are well known and I will not expand further.

Along these lines, we agree that rural institutions, like cooperatives, credit marketing extension and non-farm activities, should be directed towards the rural poor.

In Item 4, given the present situation in Africa, which is far from satisfactory to anyone, the delegation of Cyprus supports the proposed expansion of expenditure for the rural development of African countries.

Referring to Item 5, we respect the principle that individual countries have the primary responsibility for the implementation of the WCARRD Programme of Action. We also believe that FAO should continue its efforts to assist those countries in implementing the Programme of Action, and it should take any action necessary for the preparation of the next progress report to the 1987 FAO Conference.

Finally, I would like to reaffirm the support of Cyprus for resolution 7/79 on the WCARRD Programme of Action.

M. HERSI BAHAL (Somalia): The task of rural development is crucially important for Somalia where 60 percent of the population still pursue a nomadic life and 20 percent are sedentary. Against this background the Government has made number one priority improving the socio-economic pattern of the rural people. In our 1982/86 Development Plan, the development of rural areas has received utmost priority.

It is a recognised fact unless the economic situation of the rural people is improved it is inevitable to face transmigration. Having this in mind the Somalian Government embarked upon a number of projects aimed at improving the rural occupation of the people. To mention just a few, we have a multi-donor assisted Range Management Project whose aim is to afford protection against drought and to prevent degradation of the natural vegetation through overstocking. The project has introduced grazing reserved systems whereby the land is used for grazing during the dry season and the rest during the rainy season.

Another multi-donor project involves the extension of farm management. The project is aimed at the farming communities in order to raise their farm incomes, through the adoption of better techniques in their farming practices.

In order to resettle the nomadic population which was affected by drought in 1974/75 the Government undertook a very bold settlement programme aimed at transforming the occupational life of nomadic people into settled farmers.

This task was not an easy one. However with the strong policy determination of the Government and the support of many friendly governments this programme is proving to be a success.

The task of rural development involves many facets. Without improving the health situation of the rural people it would be very futile to expect a tangible result from any other economic measures undertaken. Sometimes irrigation projects at massive cost, are undertaken while neglecting the health hazards of these projects to the beneficiaries, for example the control of water-borne diseases, such as bilharzia, greatly reduce the productivity of the farming communities.

We are tackling the problem of rural development in an integrated approach, involving the improvement of rural roads, setting up literacy programmes, rural health care and raising the occupational techniques of the people. In view of the complexities of the work involved, and its high value costs, it is imperative that development assistance has to be sought from the developed countries, as well as from all international agencies, in assisting the countries with a high rate of rural population in achieving their rural development goals.

In this connection FAO has a vital role to play, in acting as catalyst in assisting the developing countries to secure funds for the implementation of projects aimed at improving the socio-economic life of the rural people.

D.D. BALLAYAN (Liberia): I am very sorry to take the floor at this late hour. I do not wish to go into all the details that have been expressed by my fellow delegates, who share similar problems. I would just briefly like to touch on one aspect. My delegation would like to associate itself with previous speakers who took the floor before, in congratulating the Secretariat for the excellence of this document which we are now discussing. My delegation wish to underline one aspect which is briefly touched upon in the document. That is, the statistical data aspects of monitoring and evaluation of agrarian reform and rural, development. For any meaningful analysis we need statistics on all relevant phases of agriculture, and we need statistics on a continuous basis. The way my delegation sees the situation is that the provisional guidelines prepared by FAO need to be improved to open the way to a broader understanding of agriculture.

We believe an information system, instead of piecemeal information, needs to be developed. We believe FAO can contribute to the establishment of such an agricultural information system through its technical guidance.

M. FENWICK (United States of America): We have this morning heard a continuous and well-merited paean of praise for the FAO on this very fine and empirically-based report and all of us I am sure are equally happy to be able to say so with full sincerity and full heart.

Our delegation is encouraged by this evidence of progress, and that is what development is all about. I do not even like to use the words "rural population", I am talking about men, women and children and old people, families, living on farms and the farming communities. We lose sight of the humanity, in using these words that get so "shopworn" that they have lost all their poignancy. So, yes, we have seen, I am happy to say, progress for these human beings, for these people trying to live, but we need a great deal more.

Country after country has reported progress and how welcome that is, but there is a great deal more to do. We know that there are men and women, many women, in many of these agricultural occupations and helping them to become active participants in achieving a better life for themselves and for their families is what it is all about. Whether they are going to make a little income on or off the farm, whether it will be a little subsidiary enterprise of some kind that will enable them to see themselves as free and independent, not depending on our government, or their own government, but on their own efforts and the success of those efforts. That is what we have to make possible. We know we can. We have country after country, project after project. We can point to some, I am happy to say, that have been the particular attention of my own country. For example, there was a private organisation, a private cooperative volunteer organisation, an American group, that assisted with the United States Food Aid in the development of oil seed production in India. An idea which was a conspicuous success, and there have been others of that kind where IFAD and others have really brought about a substantial difference in the earning capacity of thousands of people.

There is going to be new technology, very necessary in order to create food production. But, what WCARRD can do with its programme is to take that into account, make plans for those areas where this new technology will be introduced. It seems to me only a matter of common sense, a matter of a little bit of foresight and of a sincere concern for the people that we are talking about. That is what is good about this report. This report is directed where it should be, to all those who are families, men, women and children working and living, trying to live better and we can help in that process, helping as partners not ordering, not directing, not thinking we know everything but listening to what they hope and want. That is part of the whole picture and I trust that we will move in this spirit which is so well embodied in this document and in the remarks of those who have spoken before me here, and continue so that next year we will have even better news.

A.H.M. ABDUL HYE (Bangladesh): In 1979 the World Conference on agrarian reform and Rural Development mandated an agreed Declaration of Principles and a Programme of Action which in the view of FAO's Director-General "is a moral commitment on the part of the governments of the world to new directions of change." The Government of Bangladesh believes that it is the duty of every government to pursue policies and implement programmes for the promotion of welfare of the people. My country is convinced that without economic emancipation which involves amelioration and ultimately eradication of poverty, political independence has little significance.

After the disappointing redistributive results of the development strategies pursued in the past, many developing countries including Bangladesh have come to realize that the problems of poverty and economic inequality have to be frontally attacked and not left to be resolved through the 'trickle-down' effect.

Though belated, the convergence of views among the developing and developed countries over the basic issues of growth with redistribution augurs well for the future.

The significance of WCARRD Declaration of Principles and Programme of Action lies in the fact that they reflect this unanimity of the international community about the urgent need to ameliorate poverty, particularly rural poverty, through appropriate measures at national and international level.

Since developing countries experiencing deterioration in the standard of living of the majority of their population had already adopted policies or revised existing policies on socio-economic development, the WCARRD Declaration of Principles and Programme of Action should be viewed as having given impetus in clarifying their development objectives or sharpening the instruments for their achievement. It would therefore be incorrect to think that programmes and policies in each of the areas of the WCARRD Programme of Action were initiated by the countries only after WCARRD.

I would like briefly to review the progress in each of the areas of the WCARRD Programme of Action in Bangladesh within this context of gradual shift in the objectives of national development.

Access to land -Bangladesh has recently carried out an agrarian reform to facilitate access to land and to effect changes in land tenure. This reform measure provides for: (a) Reduction of the maximum ceiling on land holding from 33 acres to 20 acres and redistributing the surplus among landless and marginal farmers; (b) protection of the occupancy rights of the share-croppers and other tenants; (c) equitable sharing of the cost of production and the gross produce between the landowners and share-croppers; (d) restriction on the rights of absentee landowners; (e) distribution of newly accredited land among the landless.

It is felt that even after the land reform has been carried out successfully, not enough land would be available for distribution among the landless and the near landless. As they could be absorbed immediately in the industrial sector, measures have been taken to provide off-farm employment opportunities. Fisheries, community forestry, livestock rearing and cottage industries are some of the activities that are being provided and supported by the Government.

People's participation - Development projects sponsored by both Government and NGOs increasingly provide scope for people's participation because of the realization that scarce resources are better utilized when the intended beneficiaries participate both at planning and implementation stages.

Under the BRDB and the Co-op Project cooperatives for different professional groups are being promoted and strengthened. Besides cooperatives, various other organizations have also been encouraged to participate in development activities in the rural areas. The recent decentralization of administration has not only brought public service to the doorstep of the rural population but has integrated local level administration with local bodies, making them proud of development activities. The elected chairmen and members of local government bodies will be responsible to coordinate and take decisions in all development matters concerning their area and through this ensure the participatory development. The planning and budgeting procedures of the government have already been decentralized towards this end.

The strengthened local government bodies with greater delegation of powers and village cooperatives are expected to participate in the implementation of the recently introduced law reform.

Training and extension - Cooperatives, farmers' organizations and the local government bodies are being increasingly involved in agricultural and rural development training. But while one ministry is giving greater emphasis on agricultural extension through cooperatives and farmers' leaders, another ministry, at the behest of an international financial institution, has to rely more on government extension staff at the field level, which only shows the difficulty of pursuing a uniform policy with regard to rural development when resources come from external sources prescribing different approaches.

Women's participation - Recognizing the important role of women in the rural household, as well as the economic activities where they are traditionally engaged or can be potentially productive, specific programmes have been designed for rural women. The women's cooperative and other women's groups in the rural areas have greatly helped them to overcome their handicaps on account of poverty or sex and have provided services to enhance this role in economic activities and their status in the society.

Through various ministries we pursue programmes for the welfare of women and to ensure their participation in development. The continuancy of a separate Ministry for Women's Affairs speaks of the heightened awareness of my Government about the role of women in the development of the country in general, and in the rural development in particular.

Credit and marketing - Realizing that credit for agriculture and other non-farming activities is a very important input and that marketing provides the necessary incentives for producers, the existing programme on rural credit of the banks and the cooperative societies has been streamlined and strengthened to ensure that the small and marginal farmers and the landless, including women, have access to credit. An innovative credit programme known as "Government Bank" (Rural Bank) for the landless has recently been expanded with IFAD assistance. Unfortunately, another successful innovative project, known as ASARRD for the benefit of the small farmers and landless could not expand for lack of adequate support from international agencies. It is all the more regrettable because FAO had sent consultants and missions on three occasions and positive recommendations were made by all of them. (This raises the question: is FAO's role to be confined to fielding of consultants and not taking any follow-up action?)

The marketing of agricultural and non-agricultural produce through Government agencies and cooperatives is gradually being extended, but progress in this respect has been slow. Introduction of crop insurance and the continuing policy of providing support prices for major crops underpin the efforts of the Government to strengthen rural marketing.

Commitment of Resources

In spite of severe resource constraints, the Government of Bangladesh continues to allocate sizeable quantities of resources to the agricultural and rural development sector. The allocation of more than 30 per cent of the public sector outlay in recent years reflects the high priority attached to this sector.

International Economic Relations

Bangladesh, like most other developing countries, faces an unfavourable international environment. The price of jute, which earns 70 per cent of our foreign exchange, has sharply declined while the prices of manufactured products and oil imports have gone up, making it difficult for the country to devote increasing resources to the rural sector. The stagnation or even decline in the external resources flow in recent years has further aggravated the situation.

Alleviation of Poverty

It has been estimated that about 80 per cent of the population in the rural areas live below the poverty line as defined by calorie intake. These marginal farmers who constitute 25 per cent of the farm households and the landless (now accounting for 50 per cent of the total farm households) belong to this category. Though the major thrust of the development programmes and institutional reforms has been directed to the rural poor and disadvantaged, it will be quite some time before large scale improvement can be expected. However, present policies in respect of providing employment through food-for-work programme, rural works programme, rural health infrastructures, and free primary education have already shown some improvement in the areas of nutrition, lower child and infant mortality and literacy. The poverty-oriented strategy adopted by the Government, which has received great impetus from the WCARRD Declaration of Principles or Programme of Action, can accelerate the amelioration of poverty if the international economic environment improves.

Policy Issues

The methodological basis for monitoring progress in agricultural and rural development incorporating socio-economic indicators has already been laid. Though the major responsibility of improving the data base and quantification of poverty line, criteria for measuring access to inputs and people's participation, lies with national governments as well as international agencies, particularly FAO as the leader of the ACC Task Force can provide valuable technical assistance. In this regard the role of CIRDP is very much appreciated and we feel that further strengthening of these regional bodies on rural development will be a positive step towards implementation of the follow-up actions. At the national level there is urgent need for greater functional linkages between the monitoring agency and the planning body or the concerned ministry on a continuous basis. The involvement of FAO country representatives in the monitoring process can provide updated data to FAO Headquarters which will facilitate the overall assessment of the situation with respect to the WCARRD Programme of Action as prevailing in different countries. Mr Chairman, my delegation feels that FAO should continue its efforts for assisting countries in implementing the Programme of Action through technical assistance and wherever warranted to provide funds from extrabudgetary means as part of the follow-up actions 1/.

A.S. OULD MOLOUD (Mauritanie): Monsieur le Président, n'ayant pu m'insérer pour mon intervention en plénière, la délégation mauritanienne remercie l'équipe de son travail et du document qui nous a été présenté.

Effectivement, c'est grâce à la Conférence sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural que plusieurs pays en développement ont pris conscience de la nécessité d'une très bonne distribution des terres cultivables.

En Mauritanie, depuis l'entrée en vigueur de la Loi sur la réforme agraire, chaque citoyen est protégé contre toute spéculation. Toute personne qui ne possède pas de titre foncier peut en faire la demande auprès des ministères concernés; une fois la procédure terminée, elle deviendrait propriétaire avec toutes les garanties. Comme vous le savez, la Mauritanie est un pays d'élevage extensif, mais depuis les années de sécheresse, et la crise économique mondiale, le gouvernement a décidé d'encourager le retour à la campagne: facilités, exonération de droits de douane et taxes, distribution gratuite des semences, d'engrais, encadrement des agriculteurs et éleveurs.

Je dois vous dire que la Mauritanie, malgré les difficultés climatiques, prône, comme priorité, le développement rural.

La Mauritanie fut un pays d'élevage; par la force des choses; elle est devenue, ou essaie d'être un pays agricole: création des coopératives agricoles, d'élevages, et tout cela malgré les difficultés incalculables: avancée du désert, pluies irrégulières, etc.

Encore une fois, la Mauritanie remercie la FAO de son aide ponctuelle, sans oublier le Secrétariat qui nous a présenté le document C 83/23; nous remercions toute l'équipe de ce travail excellent.

Nos remerciements vont aux hommes du terrain qui sont chargés de l'exécution des projets.

La délégation mauritanienne demande au Secrétariat d'être son interprète auprès du Directeur général pour lui transmettre nos remerciements les plus sincères 2/.

1/Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

2/Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal,

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): The Secretariat is very grateful indeed to the distinguished delegates for the various comments and suggestions they have made which we hope will help us in the improvement of our next documentation for the 1987 Conference. A great deal of questions, suggestions, and comments were made or directed towards the improvement of the information base for such a progress report. We indeed are grateful to the delegates for appreciating the limitations from which we suffered in this work: a) the time span, the time limit in the sense that since the last conference four years have elapsed. That is not much time for reporting much progress in such a vital and complex area. b) the inadequate data base on which you had to work. This problem is likely to haunt us for the future as well unless concerted efforts are made by all concerned to improve the situation.

I shall explain in some detail as to how we went about preparing this report, so that in the future we may have more cooperation and also improve our efforts in the preparation of the 1987 report. The Director-General had sent to member countries a request for submission of the country report. This is attached to our document, the request and the format of the report. It explained what is supposed to be included in such a country report, in terms of analyses of policy changes since the WCARRD Programme of Action and in terms of quantitative information indicators. Thirty-three countries sent such reports which obviously, because of the time limitations and also data limitations, could not be as satisfactory as they themselves wanted them to be. FAO in addition undertook 26 case studies. Out of those 26, 8 case studies undertaken by FAO were considered by the countries themselves to be bare country reports - that is how they informed us. In addition, we rely on other types of information: for example, the reports of WCARRD follow-up missions to various countries. We also have the reports on socio-economic indicators development and case studies - pilot studies - in a number of countries, 23 of them. In addition, we have relied upon the kinds of published and unpublished material accumulated in FAO and other agencies, including publications by private institutions or scholars. For certain aspects of the report, we had special surveys undertaken, such as the survey on public expenditure, on resource flow to agriculture, on which we had a lot of discussion earlier this week and last week. For such indicators on health, infant mortality, and education, we have relied on the data collected from other UN agencies such as Unesco, WHO, ILO, etcetera. The country studies and our in-depth studies, country reports, etcetera, cover about 75 per cent of the population of the developing countries.

A remark was made yesterday that the country studies in the report covered a very small number of the world population in the developing world, and we wanted to give you a rough estimate of the population of the developing countries which was covered by these reports. Admittedly they suffer from a lot of shortcomings. In order to achieve a greater coverage and to accumulate improved data, we need the active, extensive, and systematic cooperation of member countries. After all, as a few distinguished delegates have emphasized, collection of benchmark data on socio-economic indicators, monitoring and evaluating them with the data on progress of agrarian reform and rural development - this task is not intended for FAO. It is primarily intended for the member countries to monitor their progress for their own development programming and planning. We therefore suggest that the socio-economic indicators programme which you have launched, which has been developed after (a) regional consultations in various regions over the last several years, and (b) a world wide expert consultation with experts drawn from all parts of the world, held in Rome last year, we have developed a whole set of indicators.

The next stage is for us, and we are preparing a manual containing these indicators, with instructions and detailed descriptions as to how these indicators can be developed in the, context of the surveys and censuses which the countries do undertake from time to time. This programme has to be integrated into the statistical development system of each member country. We intend to hold regional and national development courses with a view to assisting member countries to implement such a programme. When all is said and done, this job is a rather skilled, manpower-intensive job for the member countries and needs an allocation of resources. This is not a cheap or inexpensive operation: therefore it depends on the priority which member countries attach to such an exercise - how seriously they intend to undertake this exercise.

Secondly, the whole programme of socio-economic indicators extends beyond the exclusive responsibilities of FAO. There are indicators which are in the realm of other United Nations agencies. We have informed the UN Sub-Committee on Statistics: they are aware of our socio-economic indicators programme. So we need a cooperative effort, even system-wise, as well as primary and heavy involvement of the member countries in achieving any success in this programme.

Some distinguished delegates have referred to our problem in the measurement of rural poverty - the poverty-line, as well as under-nutrition. This is indeed a tricky problem, and the controversy is unabated as to what exactly is meant by these measurements. We in FAO are involved now in what I have referred to in earlier debates as 'the Fifth World Food Survey', in which we are engaged in the light of new advances in methodology and new, additional data, to derive new estimates of under nutrition. We hope that by 1985 we will come out with estimates for a large number of countries, and hopefully for regions in the world as a whole.

I would also like to mention that developed member countries may have a role in this respect, in terms of providing information, analysis, and appraisal of activities in respect of progress in agrarian reform and rural development. If you recall, at the time of the WCARRD Conference itself, developed member countries did submit country reports on this subject in which they included an analysis of their development assistance activities in the field of agrarian reform and rural development in the developing world, and they were very useful inputs to the preparation of documentation for the WCARRD Conference. It may be therefore that in the next round of reporting in 1987 the developed member countries can also contribute in providing information and analysis in respect of their activities in the developing countries in the field of agrarian reform and rural development.

Questions are raised about the nature of the studies on which we rely for the preparation of this document. The distinguished delegate from the United Kingdom raised the issue that most of the studies are of the socio-economic risk type, and not of an operational nature. I would like to add here that indeed we have both types of studies, even though the report mentions mainly the macro-studies of socio-economic types. The operational studies were related of course - usually, as they are carried out here - in the context of specific programmes and project formulation. There were a large number of such on-going studies specially relating to some subjects which have been included in the document - people's participation, women's role, training and extension, delivery services, decentralization of administration of rural development, etc.

Reference has been made to the lack of adequate discussion on technology for the poor and small farmer, especially in the context of the activities in the International Agricultural Research Centre. We do recognize this, and we hope to have more during the next time around.

Many comments have been made on the role of people's participation, non-governmental organizations, in the implementation of the WCARRD Programme of Action. The FAO Secretariat does indeed attach considerable importance to this problem. As many distinguished delegates may be aware, we do have regular consultations with international, non-governmental organizations; and at the country level FAO Representatives now have contacts with national NGOs with a view to exploring how we can cooperate with them in the implementation of specific projects and programmes in this area. At the international level we cooperate very closely with an international-level organization, ILO, which has special expertise and experience in working with people's NGOs and people's organizations. In fact, under the auspices of the ACC Task Force on Rural Development we have a group working on people's participation of which the convenor agency is ILO. We are exploring with them the possibility of working jointly at the country level as well. ILO, being of a tripartite nature in their constitution, have a special advantage in this respect. For example they have a rural education programme for rural workers and leaders of people's organizations at the grass-root level in cooperation with NGOs, and we are exploring possibilities of how we can participate in this rural education programme.

So far as the role of people's organizations in the implementation of the WCARRD Programme of Action was concerned, as the document points out - and also as the FAO Resolution of 1979 on WCARRD Programme of Action emphasizes, the need for ratification of ILO Conventions in this regard - as the distinguished delegates are aware as of 1983, 11 developing countries have ratified the ILO Convention on

Rural Workers' Organizations, which was I suppose agreed upon in 1975, and the earlier ILO Convention on Freedom of Association 47 countries have so far ratified, and 4 countries have ratified since 1979.

Comments were made as to "How do you make more effective WCARRD Follow-up Missions?" We have been learning through experience, and we are improving our work in connection with WCARRD Follow-up Missions not only in terms of our preparation at the headquarters and involvement of other UN agencies in terms of participation, but also preparatory work at the country level by the country itself. We have made significant progress in this respect as we go along, extending the numbers of the missions that we are launching.

Suggestions have been made that these missions should be in two stages: first we should have the review of policies and programmes, and in the second stage the mission should be concerned with formulation of specific projects. In fact, in some of the cases this is exactly what we have done.

Much has been said about the critical role of women's organizations in the implementation of the WCARRD Programme of Action. Indeed, as the document points out, this is an area in which there has been increasing awareness, international as well as national. FAO has been consistently expanding its activities in this area. We have developed guidelines and check lists in order to ensure that the projects and programmes could incorporate women's concerns. We are cooperating with the International Training and Research Centre for Women in finalizing a common set of guidelines which could be used by international agencies as well as by national organizations.

I might here inform the Conference that as a part of our work on women in development we are holding an expert consultation this year right after this Conference on women in food production. Experts from 30 countries will participate in this consultation, which will be directed towards assisting us and advising us on policies and programmes relating to various aspects of women's involvement in food production.

One item which came up earlier in the discussion is the role of a national coordinating mechanism for the effective monitoring and evaluation of progress in agrarian reform and rural development at the country level. We have collected information on this. The document points out that at various regional intercountry consultations this was an item which came up repeatedly and on which there was universal agreement, but we are afraid that, in terms of effective implementation of a national

mechanism for coordinating various ministries and agencies, of which invariably a large number is involved in this area, this will not only create problems for consistent and systematic implementation of the Programme of Action but will also create complexities in the task of monitoring and evaluation. As distinguished delegates will readily realize, much of this monitoring data collection and indicators, etc., does not necessarily lie with the Ministries of Agriculture. As you will very well appreciate, it spans various other Ministries, including Ministries of Planning, so unless a systematic attempt is made to involve others, and in a coordinating effort, success is bound to be limited, I'm afraid.

Much has been said on the role of training in various aspects: training for improving agricultural technology; training for improving women's participation; training for leaders of rural organizations, etc. This, indeed, is a very large part of FAO's activities, scattered all over the Organization, in terms of both general education and training programmes, as well as project related ones.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Dr Islam. Ladies and Gentlemen, I am not going to attempt to summarize the discussion. We are well over time as a result of this debate, and that indeed gives me a very good excuse not to try to match the performance of the real Chairman of this Commission, Señor Portillo, with the very able summations he has given of earlier sessions of the Commission. Let me say, however, that I have been most impressed by the importance which all delegates have attached to the subject matter of this item, and I think rightly so, because, as I have mentioned before, it is at the very core of the problems of overcoming poverty and hunger. I have been tremendously impressed by the enthusiasm of so many speakers from developing countries in referring to the progress that has been achieved in their own countries and the extent of dedication and commitment which exists to continue with the work and overcome the problems that still remain. I think it augurs well for having some spectacular results to report in 1987.

It has been an honour and a privilege to be your Chairman for this session of the Commission and it is with some regret that I hand the Chair back to your real Chairman, Señor Portillo.

José Ramón López, Chairman of Commission I, took the chair

José Ramon López-Portillo, Président de la Commission I, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia José Ramón López-Portillo, Presidente de la Comisión I

6. World Food and Agriculture Situation: (continued)

6. Situation mondiale de l'alimentationriculture: (suite)

6. Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo: (continuación)

6.1 State of Food and Agriculture,

- The Situation of Food and Agriculture in Africa (continued) (C 83/2; C 83/2-Sup.1)

6.1 Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture,

- Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en Afrique (suite) (C 83/2; C 83/2-Sup.1)

6.1 El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación

- La situación de la agricultura y la alimentación en Africa (continuación)(C 83/2: C/83/2-Sup.1

- Adoption of Resolution related to Item 6.1 on Critical Situation of Food and Agriculture in Africa (C 83/LIM/26)

- Adoption d'une résolution relative au point 6.1 sur la situation critique de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en Afrique C 83/LIM/26)

- Aprobación de la resolución relativa al tema 6.1 sobre la situación crítica de la agricultura y la alimentación en Afrique (C 83/LIM/26)

El PRESIDENTE: Antes de pasar al siguiente punto de nuestra agenda, deseo que tratemos, en este momento, el Proyecto de Resolución sobre la situación crítica de la alimentación y la agricultura en Africa, notificado el día de ayer por la mañana, por la delegación de Cabo Verde a nombre de otras delegaciones.

Esta Presidencia sugiere el siguiente procedimiento para tratar este Proyecto. Si hubiere algunos comentarios sobre ese Proyecto de Resolución que ustedes tienen ya en sus manos, desde hoy en la mañana en todos los idiomas, les suplico se lo turnen a la Secretaría con el propósito de que tome debida nota de ellos. Pero en caso de que dichos comentarios sean complicados, y por su cantidad no podamos resolver eficazmente en un trabajo rápido en esta Comisión, esta Presidencia solicitará el que se cree un grupo de contacto para tratar dicho aspecto. De manera que si ustedes tienen alguna observación concreta que hacer en torno a este Proyecto de Resolución, les suplico la hagan en el sentido de que el tema correspondiente, es decir, el de la situación crítica de la alimentación y la agricultura en la región de África, fue tratado en las primeras dos sesiones de esta Comisión, por lo que les ruego, no hacer referencia de nuevo a tal tema.

¿Hay algún comentario en torno a este Proyecto de Resolución?

M. HERSI BAHAL (Somalia): Mr Chairman, the resolution before us on the critical situation of food and agriculture in Africa is very well drawn and it addresses the FAO and the world community to the gravity of the food situation in Africa. However, our delegation would like to add one important item to this resolution, namely support for national and regional research institutions.

Investment in research is lower in Africa than elsewhere. In view of this our delegation proposes that the following additional paragraph be inserted: "Understanding that provision of food assistance for the countries facing critical food shortage in Africa is a temporary measure aimed at alleviating the impending food problem, it is imperative upon FAO that regional and national research institutions be strengthened in order to result in a breakthrough in the low-yielding food varieties of seeds currently in use in Africa".

El PRESIDENTE: Le suplico el que turne por escrito a la Secretaría la redacción que propone en torno a tan importante sugerencia.

H. MOHAMADI (Sudan) (original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, first, with regard to the second paragraph of the preamble in the Arabic text, in the second line of the Arabic text referring to such factors as persistent drought, poor rainfall and bushfires, this could be valid for the English text, but I want to add bushfires and "desertification" because this is one of the main problems faced by the African continent.

I will hand over these amendments to the Secretariat. Then the Arabic text should read as follows: "...bushfires and desertification which could be considered as factors aggravating the situation."

With regard to paragraph 6: "Underlines the need to ensure urgently the rehabilitation of agriculture and animal husbandry," here we should add "and to resist the desertification in the affected countries." Further amelioration of the formulation could be made by adding: "... in the affected countries, inter alia through the donation of agricultural inputs, such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and farm equipment...", and then we could mention "vaccines". We could mention "farm equipment" first and then comes the word "vaccines", and then we should mention "the increase of assistance to resist desertification."

With regard to paragraph 8, I think that the words "to redress their productive capacity in the field of agriculture and animal husbandry" should be deleted and replaced by "in the field of agricultural and animal production and desertification". And, of course, this applies to all other fields such as forestry and range lands which we have previously mentioned.

J. OLIVEIRA (Guinée-Bissau): Je n'ai pas de commentaires à faire sur le projet de résolution, mais en ce qui concerne la situation critique de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en Afrique, la délégation de la Guinée-Bissau ne faisant pas partie de la liste des 22 pays qui, jusqu'à maintenant, ont été mentionnés par la FAO comme des pays ayant une situation difficile, veut vous confirmer ce qui a déjà été dit dans le message du Ministère du développement rural de la Guinée-Bissau à la Conférence en ce qui concerne la situation agricole. Notre pays souffre depuis des années des problèmes de sécheresse et d'irrégularités des pluies. Cette année, encore une fois, la situation n'a pas changé. On prévoit une nette réduction dans la production des principales denrées alimentaires de base; dans certaines zones, on prévoit une réduction de 50 pour cent. A cet effet, la délégation de la Guinée-Bissau insiste pour que notre pays soit inclus dans la liste des pays africains touchés par les pénuries alimentaires pour pouvoir bénéficier des aides d'urgence et d'un appui pour pouvoir relancer son agriculture.

Pour toutes ces raisons, notre délégation soutient et approuve le projet de la résolution présentée par la délégation du Cap-Vert.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Nosotros, específicamente, no tenemos ningún comentario sobre la resolución; pero nuestro país quiere reiterar expresamente su pleno apoyo a todo lo que constituye aliviar la gravísima situación alimentaria de África que, a pesar de los esfuerzos internos que realizan los países africanos por su agricultura, la infraestructura, heredada del colonialismo, insuficiente a todas luces, necesita una ayuda rápida. Consideramos ayuda rápida a como está concebido en el proyecto sobre la base de la entrega de material de la ayuda ya prometida.

Creemos muy justa la inclusión en la resolución de la felicitación al Director General y a la FAO por la constante vigilancia por la situación alimentaria y agrícola de África, así como por los esfuerzos desplegados en su ayuda. Apoyamos plenamente la resolución.

P.G. SCALIERIS (Grèce): Comme vous le savez la Communauté économique européenne et ses dix Etats membres attachent une grande importance à la situation alimentaire en Afrique. C'est pourquoi je vous demanderai de bien vouloir donner la parole au représentant de la CEE qui exprimera à ce stade le point de vue de la Communauté sur cette résolution relative à la situation critique de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en Afrique.

G. DESEQUELLES (CEE): Je veux d'abord vous dire que la Communauté économique européenne attache une grande importance à la situation alimentaire en Afrique. C'est ainsi que, dans le cadre du Programme spécial de la CEE de lutte contre la faim dans le monde, 70 pour cent des 50 millions d'écus seront délivrés à l'Afrique (l'écu a une valeur sensiblement égale au dollar). La CEE est aussi consciente de la situation alimentaire critique actuelle dans 22 pays d'Afrique à la suite de la sécheresse et des inondations qui ont frappé durement certaines régions du continent africain.

A cet égard, je dois vous informer que le Conseil des ministres du développement des Communautés européennes siège actuellement à Bruxelles et est saisi de ce problème. Vous comprendrez que la CEE et ses Etats Membres ont donc noté avec un intérêt particulier la résolution qui est présentée sur la situation critique de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en Afrique. Après un examen approfondi de cette résolution par les dix pays de la Communauté, nous considérons, après acceptation de certaines modifications et notamment du quatrième considérant du préambule, et à l'article 2 du dispositif que nous pourrions présenter dans le cadre d'un groupe de contact-ce dont nous avons déjà informé certains pays africains, qu'il nous serait possible de supporter cette résolution.

De toute façon nous remettrons nos propositions de modifications au secrétariat. Je vous remercie.

M. FENWICK (United States of America): I am happy to join in this; I wish I could have been included as a co-sponsor, the situation is so grave. I have a small amendment to line 1, paragraph 2 in the Preamble, "Noting that population of Africa is increasing and that the present food supply ...", and so on; in other words, to insert that we note the population is increasing. This is necessary because it is true, because it adds to the crisis, because it refers to something which FAO has reported on. I am happy to say it has the approval of my colleagues from Cameroon and Senegal to whom I have had the opportunity of speaking. I wish I had been able to speak to all sponsor members, but I offer that as a small and sensible suggestion for that item.

S. ALI KETRANJJI (Algerie): Je me réfère au paragraphe 2 de la version française où il est dit "souscrit aux appels qu'il a lancés en faveur des pays d'Afrique menacés par des pénuries alimentaires et exhorte la communauté internationale à y répondre généreusement ..." : je recommande de supprimer le mot "généreusement" et de le remplacer par la phrase : "à y répondre de manière conséquente".

El PRESIDENTE: Señores, nos hemos referido a la totalidad de las sugerencias por escrito, aquellas que se han hecho oralmente y que resultan sencillas se han tomado en cuenta, de manera que vamos a pasar al siguiente tema, y una vez que organicemos los comentarios que nos han formulado regresaremos al tratamiento de esta resolución, antes de terminar la sesión de la mañana.

Pasamos ahora al tema 10 de nuestra agenda, relativo al informe provisional sobre las actividades del Día Mundial de la Alimentación. El documento sobre el que se basa este tema es el C 83/9. Quiero invitar al Sr. Moreno Rojas a que presente este tema.

10. Progress Report on World Food Day Activities
10. Rapport d'activités sur la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation
10. Informe sobre las actividades del Día Mundial de la Alimentación

R. MORENO ROJAS (Director de la Dirección de Recursos Humanos, Instituciones y Reforma Agraria): Me corresponde a continuación presentar a ustedes la evaluación de los resultados conmemorativos del Tercer Día Mundial de la Alimentación y referirme brevemente a sus perspectivas futuras.

En el documento C 83/9, titulado: "Informe provisional sobre las actividades del Día Mundial de la Alimentación" se presenta una evaluación general sobre lo que fue la celebración del Día Mundial en el año 1982 y se ha entregado una información preliminar sobre cuál era el estado de los preparativos para este día en el presente año. Como es obvio en dicho texto sólo se incluyeron los informes que se disponían hasta julio del presente año; por lo tanto, teniendo como base la información de ese documento, entregaré a continuación la información que ilustra lo que ha ocurrido en el curso de la celebración de este día en octubre de 1983.

Múltiples fueron los eventos que este año se realizaron tanto a nivel internacional, regional y nacional. A nivel internacional, como es del conocimiento de todos los delegados, tuvo particular relevancia la ceremonia realizada aquí en la sede central de Roma de la FAO, el día 17 de octubre, en la que el orador principal de dicha ceremonia fue el Excmo. Sr. Olaf Palme, Primer Ministro del Reino de Suecia, eminente personalidad ampliamente conocida en el área internacional, entre otras cosas por su contribución al desarrollo del diálogo Norte-Sur, y a la búsqueda de soluciones a los problemas que amenazan la paz mundial.

En dicha ocasión, junto a la intervención que el Director General de la FAO dirigiera a todos los países en su mensaje, hizo también uso de la palabra en representación del Gobierno de Italia al Sr. Giulio Andreotti, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de la República de Italia y ex Presidente del Consejo de Ministros. Todos los oradores, desde diversos puntos de vista, enfocaron el tema de los problemas mundiales del hambre y la desnutrición y lanzaron un vigoroso llamado a la comunidad internacional para reforzar el sistema mundial de seguridad alimentaria, otorgando una mayor prioridad, tanto al aumento de la producción de alimentos, como a la distribución más equitativa de los mismos para que dichos beneficios fueran asequibles a toda la población rural y global del mundo.

Simultáneamente a la ceremonia realizada en Roma, se celebró en la sede de las Naciones Unidas, en Nueva York, el día 17 otro acto solemne que contó con la participación de todas las delegaciones que se encontraban atendiendo los trabajos de la Asamblea en su período ordinario de sesiones. Fue particularmente relevante la intervención del Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas, Sr. Pérez de Cuéllar. También dicha oportunidad hicieron uso de la palabra el Vicepresidente de la Asamblea General Sr. Mohamed Shanoun, el Sr. Sergio Correa de Acosta, Presidente del Consejo Económico y Social, así como los representantes de todos los grupos regionales acreditados ante la Asamblea General.

A nivel regional este año surgieron algunas nuevas iniciativas, las cuales me gustaría recalcar en esta oportunidad.

En el caso de Africa, la ceremonia principal se realizó en Arusha, Tanzania, bajo auspicios del Centro Regional de Desarrollo Rural Integrado para el Africa, CIRDAFRICA, el cual, junto con la FAO organizaron unos seminarios sobre los problemas de la seguridad alimentaria y la autosuficiencia en Africa. Este seminario, que fue organizado, como ya lo he dicho, bajo los auspicios del Centro Regional, contó con la participación de S.E. el Ministro de Estado de Tanzania, Gertrude Mongella, y al mismo tiempo con la participación del Ministro de Agricultura del Congo, quien viajó expresamente invitado para dicha reunión.

De especial relevancia fue la forma en que el tema escogido para Africa fue tratado tanto en esta reunión como en otras dado que el Continente Africano, escogió como tema tópico de la celebración del Año 1983, aquello que se denomina "salvemos la cosecha", para lo cual se preparó un documento que fue distribuido masivamente dentro de los países miembros.

En el caso de América Latina y el Caribe, se realizó en la ciudad de Santiago, sede de la Oficina Regional, una ceremonia que contó con la presencia de las autoridades nacionales y autoridades eclesiásticas, las cuales en dicha oportunidad se refirieron a problemas relacionados con la ética y los problemas alimentarios mundiales. En dicha oportunidad, la Oficina Regional de la FAO preparó un documento que se encuentra en este momento en distribución, enfocando los problemas de la urbanización, la alimentación y la nutrición en América Latina, el cual está siendo en este momento distribuido.

En nuestra Oficina Regional para el Asia y el Pacífico, localizada en Bangkok, se realizó un simposio regional sobre estrategias alimentarias a partir de las experiencias de algunos países seleccionados en el área. En este simposio, junto con el debate que fue transmitido por la televisión tailandesa, participaron en ella los Ministros de Agricultura, de Cooperativas y de Educación de Tailandia, junto con nuestros representantes regionales en dicha área.

La extensa cobertura de prensa, radio y televisión que fue otorgada en todo el mundo para este día sería casi imposible de ser resumida en esta presentación y creo que no hacemos justicia solamente al mencionarlo como tal.

La Secretaría y el Comité para el Día de la Alimentación han venido realizando una evaluación cuidadosa del material que los distintos medios de prensa, radio y televisión han venido publicando con motivo de la celebración del día Mundial de la Alimentación y es para nosotros motivo de verdadera satisfacción y orgullo señalar que la cobertura del año 1983 es no sólo meritoria en espacio sino también en profundidad, en relación a lo que hemos visto en los años precedentes. A nivel nacional, que es precisamente donde el Día Mundial de la Alimentación tiene su mayor realce, este año fue celebrado en más de 140 países, cuyos informes se están recibiendo hasta este momento.

Es difícil hacer un resumen de todo el tipo de actividades, eventos e iniciativas que se han desarrollado a nivel nacional. Sólo quisiéramos señalar algunas de ellas que sirvan de elementos-guías para actividades que pudieran desarrollarse en el futuro: reuniones de agricultores, de campesinos, de trabajadores rurales, seminarios y debates sobre las causas del hambre y de las soluciones propuestas, problemas literarios, artísticos y educativos, así como un crecimiento en el número de actividades diversas, unido a la concesión de premios para artistas, agricultores y campesinos destacados, junto con medallas conmemorativas, han sido las principales cosas que pudiéramos destacar.

Este año, con ocasión del Día Mundial de la Alimentación, el Director General de la FAO ha recibido una cantidad importante de mensajes de Jefes de Estado y de Gobiernos, de Ministros de Relaciones Exteriores, de Ministros de Agricultura y de dirigentes internacionales de organizaciones no gubernamentales, tanto a nivel mundial como regional. En ellos no sólo se reitera el apoyo a la celebración de este Día y se rinde un homenaje a nuestra Organización (dado que en esa fecha es cuando se conmemora la creación de la FAO), sino que se reiteran los esfuerzos que tanto los gobiernos como las organizaciones no gubernamentales vienen realizando para tratar de enfatizar la prioridad que tiene el problema de la agricultura en el mundo y los esfuerzos que deben ser realizados para apoyar la prioridad que este sector tiene.

De especial significación es el mensaje que con esta oportunidad dirigiera al Director General Su Santidad Juan Pablo II, en el cual reitera su solidaridad a la campaña emprendida por la FAO.

El Día Mundial de la Alimentación, más que una actividad o una festividad, es un proceso, un proceso en el cual toda la comunidad internacional y nacional va tomando conciencia de los problemas que enfrentan al mundo de hoy y de los esfuerzos que estamos en condiciones de realizar. Es por ello que sería ilusorio pensar que el Día Mundial de la Alimentación por sí mismo representa una solución a los problemas escritos. Más bien debe ser elemento que nos está surgiendo en un momento culminante de reflexión, que nos permita evaluar lo que realizamos y sobre todo tomar conciencia de lo que aún no hemos sido capaces de realizar para resolver los problemas que destacamos.

Este año el Director General de la FAO sugirió que el tema central fuese el de la seguridad alimentaria, que debería movilizar a los países y a la comunidad internacional para actuar con la mayor eficiencia en los temas escritos.

En las programaciones de las actividades del Día Mundial de la Alimentación de 1983 debemos destacar y hacer justicia al crecimiento de la dinámica actividad desarrollada por las organizaciones no gubernamentales. Más de 3 000 organizaciones no gubernamentales han actuado en el año 1983 en torno a esta celebración. Su número es cada vez mayor y ellas constituyen un rango cada vez más rico y profundo de lo que significa la organización social en los distintos países, tanto en desarrollo como desarrollados de este tipo de universo.

Y de especial significación hay que señalar la actividad de los grupos de las organizaciones no gubernamentales en los Estados Unidos de Norteamérica, en Canadá, en Inglaterra, en Australia y particularmente en el Continente Asiático, donde han adquirido un gran dinamismo y vitalidad las acciones de estas organizaciones, concentradas en torno a esta temática.

En el año 1983 hay dos elementos más que debemos señalar en torno a lo que es la posibilidad de percibir esta temática. Uno de ellos, que tiene un gran alcance, es el que se relaciona con las actividades escolares y estudiantiles. Tomando conciencia de ello, el Director General de la FAO conjuntamente con el Director General de la Unesco, dirigieron una carta a todos los ministros de educación del mundo pidiéndoles que el Día Mundial de la Alimentación pudiera ser incorporado como un elemento permanente en el calendario de las actividades escolares. Y cada año en cada país del mundo se observa que este mensaje está siendo bien recibido. Por ello, con gran satisfacción queremos señalar en este informe que ésta es probablemente una de las áreas en las cuales creemos se debe seguir con persistencia, respondiendo a los esfuerzos que se han venido desarrollando en el año 1983.

De igual significación es el esfuerzo que vienen realizando las organizaciones religiosas para que el Día Mundial de la Alimentación adquiriera una perspectiva en los términos en que se está desarrollando.

Por todo ello, señor Presidente y señores delegados, quisiéramos en esta oportunidad, a la vez que presentar este informe del año 1983, señalar que la Secretaría de la FAO y el Director General ven con gran perspectiva que este proceso pueda continuar desarrollándose en una forma dinámica. Tenemos consciencia de que la fecha se va estableciendo en la mayoría de los países del mundo y tanto los jefes de Estado como los ministros de agricultura y la prensa, la televisión y la radio van tomando conciencia de que esta fecha, que coincide con la creación de nuestra Organización es la oportuna para discutir los problemas de la alimentación en el mundo. Y por ello queremos reiterar la determinación de prestar, dentro de los limitados recursos con que contamos, un renovado y continuado apoyo al esfuerzo que los países vienen desarrollando y establecer este tipo de evento en sus calendarios.

Quisiera poner término a esta intervención recordando que el Día Mundial de la Alimentación debe ser de toma de conciencia que responda a lo que es un sentimiento de tipo nacional e internacional. Es a ese sentimiento al que apelamos, porque creemos que no sólo basta tener la convicción de los puntos en que estamos comprometidos, sino que también en un mundo en el cual existen elementos de confusión en la discusión de temas que nos atraen, es precisamente en torno a esta confusión donde tenemos que hacer un esfuerzo para establecer las prioridades y en torno a ellas poder hacer claridad, para resolver los problemas de la justicia, de la paz y de la soberanía nacional.

EL PRESIDENTE: Agradezco al Sr. Moreno su comprensiva y entusiasta exposición, que sin duda viene a complementar y a actualizar el documento C 83/9 de este punto 10 de nuestra agenda.

No es necesario que señale yo ninguno de los aspectos trascendentales que ha manifestado el Sr. Moreno en torno a la importancia de ese que llamó momento culminante de reflexión en torno a los avances y situación relativa al hambre así como a los esfuerzos distributivos de la FAO. Estoy convencido de que todos nos hallamos plenamente conscientes de ello.

Señores, no quiero abrir en este momento debate en torno a dicho punto. Ello sería hoy por la tarde; pero quisiera, eso sí, informarles de que la Secretaría ha pedido revisar los comentarios y las sugerencias habidas en torno al proyecto de resolución. Para facilitar la creación de un grupo de contacto, deseo consultar a la Comunidad si las sugerencias hechas han sido a nombre de cada uno de los países de la comunidad y si esos países las suscriben.

G. DESESQUELLES (CEE): Le texte qui vient d'être présenté au nom de la CEE et de dix Etats membres est une position commune de dix pays. C'est une position de départ et il est évident que, compte tenu des discussions qui pourraient avoir lieu, elles pourraient être aménagées, adaptées, compte tenu de la sensibilité des différents textes de chacun des pays de la CEE. A ce stade, c'est une position commune des dix pays de la CEE.

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores, si así es, entonces el grupo de contacto podrá disponer de una sala, que dentro de unos momentos nos informará la secretaría de cuál será.

Es la sala de Alemania, que estará disponible hoy a partir de las 15.00 horas.

Sugiero que los integrantes de tal grupo de contacto seamos los siguientes países: Por supuesto, uno o dos de aquellos que hicieron la notificación en relación a esta resolución. Quizá Cabo Verde pudiera consultar cuáles de esos países pudieran estar presentes. Esta Presidencia sugiere también que Camerún pudiera estar en ese grupo de contacto, en unión de otras naciones que esperamos designe Cabo Verde.

Así, sugerimos: la delegación de Somalia, Sudán, Guinea-Bissau y de Grecia (a nombre de la Comunidad Económica Europea), así como los Estados Unidos de América, y la delegación de Cuba pudiera estar presente también en dicho grupo de contacto.

Si alguna de dichas delegaciones no desea estar presente, suplico que lo diga y si alguna otra deseara participar, que lo solicite.

¿La delegación de Australia desea participar? (afirmaciones). También se incorpora el grupo.

¿Hay alguna otra delegación más? La delegación de Francia desea inclusive participar, y asimismo las de Argentina y de Lesotho.

No deseamos que este grupo que comienza en la totalidad de la Comisión, porque entonces no vamos a poder trabajar y los avances serían muy difíciles. Les suplico moderen su entusiasmo. Estamos convencidos de que las delegaciones que se han incorporado sabrán responder con eficacia a sus intereses y representar apropiadamente a las diversas regiones.

Voy a dar lectura a la lista de delegaciones que se han incluido en este grupo de contacto, y que son: Cabo Verde, Camerún, Somalia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Grecia, Estados Unidos, Cuba, Australia, Francia, Argentina, Lesotho y Sudán.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Yo estoy dispuesto a utilizar todo el tiempo en favor de cualquier grupo de contacto. Lo que quiero aclarar es que nosotros, en el Comité de Resoluciones, aprobamos la Resolución y planteamos plenamente aquí, que estamos de acuerdo totalmente con la Resolución como está presentada. Por tanto, para nosotros el Grupo Africano es quien debe decidir directamente dentro del grupo. Nosotros no tenemos ninguna objeción.

De todas maneras, si se cree que podemos ser útiles, participamos; si no, creemos que es Africa quien debe decidir.

EL PRESIDENTE: Le agradezco mucho su comentario; nos permite hacer más manejable este grupo y estamos convencidos de que las delegaciones de Africa sabrán responder a sus intereses.

The meeting rose at 1255 hours

Laséance estlevée à 12 h 55

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.55 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

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Twenty-second Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt-deuxième session
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COMISION I

FOURTEENTH MEETING
QUATORZIEME SEANCE
14ª SESION
(17 November 1983)

The Fourteenth Meeting was opened at 14.55 hours

José Ramón López-Portillo, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La quatorzième séance est ouverte à 14 h 55, sous la présidence
de José Ramón López-Portillo, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 14ª sesión a las 14.55 horas, bajo la presidencia de
José Ramón López-Portillo, Presidente de la Comisión I

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

6. World Food and Agriculture Situation; (continued)
6. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture: (suite)
6. Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo: (continuación)

- 6.1 State of Food and Agriculture:
- The Situation of Food and Agriculture in Africa (continued)
6.1 Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture:
- Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en Afrique (suite)
6.1 El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación:
- La situación de la agricultura y la alimentación en Africa (continuación)

- Adoption of Resolution related to Item 6.1
on Critical Situation of Food and Agriculture in Africa (continued)
- Adoption d'une résolution relative au point 6.1
sur la situation critique de l'alimentation et de
l'agriculture en Afrique (suite)
- Aprobación de la resolución relativa al tema 6.1
sobre la situación crítica de la agricultura y
la alimentación en Africa (continuación)

EL PRESIDENTE: El Grupo de contacto está constituido por los siguientes países: Argentina, Australia, Camerún, Cabo Verde, Francia, Grecia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Somalia, Sudán, Estados Unidos de América, y se han agregado los siguientes cuatro países: Angola, Malí, Mauritania y Senegal. Los esperamos, repito, a las 16.30 horas en la Sala Alemania.

10. Progress Report on World Food Day Activities (continued)
10. Rapport d'activités sur la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation (suite)
10. Informe sobre las actividades del Día Mundial de la Alimentación (continuación)

H. LAUBE (Austria) (original language German): It is a particular pleasure for me, as the first speaker, to congratulate you on the excellent and enthusiastic introduction by Mr. Moreno Rojas on the present point on the agenda. For us, this is one of the most important points of the whole agenda. The Austrian delegation has closely studied document C 83/9. As in many other countries, World Food Day has been celebrated in Austria in recent years. Activities have included the issuing of a special stamp from the Austrian Post Office, television discussions, and the provision of information by all the mass media with regard to the world food situation and the various conferences which were initiated. In particular, we would mention that in exhibitions which have lasted for several weeks, the activities of FAO in solving the world food problems were presented. In this connection, I would mention that information which is as topical as possible should be made more available to Member States. Measures taken by various individual Member States of FAO seem particularly effective in increasing the awareness of people with regard to world food problems. In particular, the Fortieth Anniversary of FAO seems to us to be an important occasion on which to prepare for World Food Day 1985. The proposed review of work done by FAO could be a valuable aid in this preparation.

M. A. CORREIA DE PINHO (Portugal): A la suite de la résolution prise en novembre 1982, la Commission portugaise de la FAO n'a pas seulement célébré le 16 octobre, ce qui aurait eu certainement peu ou pas d'effet sur la population, mais elle a décidé de réaliser régulièrement pendant toute l'année 1983 toute une série d'actions pour mettre en évidence l'importance de l'événement.

Parmi ces actions, on signale les plus importantes:

- Le Président de la République portugaise a adressé pour la première fois au Directeur général de la FAO, le Dr Edouard Saouma, un message pour la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation.
- Trois monnaies de 2,55 - 5, et 25 escudos, décorées avec des motifs relatifs à la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation, vont être mises en circulation d'ici la fin de l'année.

- Materiel de documentation: On a fait 5 000 posters qui ont été distribués aux entités publiques davantage en contact avec la population pour qu'ils soient affichés dans leurs départements; une série d'articles, traitant de divers problèmes alimentaires et aussi de l'éducation alimentaire se rapportant à la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation ont été envoyés à la presse pour être publiés; toute la correspondance de la Commission portugaise de la FAO et du Centre d'études de nutrition de l'Institut national de santé a émis des timbres relatifs à la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation. Ces timbres nous ont été remis par la FAO; le quotidien de grand tirage "Diário Popular" a publié le 16 octobre 1983 une longue interview du président de la Commission portugaise de la FAO sur les nombreux problèmes de la politique alimentaire en signalant la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation. Des revues scientifiques et des journaux médicaux ont signalé l'événement en publiant des notes ou des articles sur ce sujet; à la radio nationale, des conférences sur des problèmes alimentaires ont été émises pour rappeler au public la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation; à la Société de géographie, à Lisbonne, on a fait une exposition bibliographique des publications de la FAO. On a aussi décoré avec des motifs faisant allusion à la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation deux vitrines du Palais Foz situé dans un endroit très fréquenté de Lisbonne. La propagande BIC a mis de nouveau en vente, comme l'année dernière, du matériel avec une légende relative à la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation. La radio nationale a transmis, dans son programme du 11 octobre 1983, une séance d'une durée d'une heure et demie sur la FAO, la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation et les problèmes alimentaires de notre pays. La radiotélévision a présenté, le 16 octobre 1983, un court métrage ainsi qu'un message du Dr Saouma envoyé par radio de notre ambassade à Rome, suivi d'une entrevue avec le président de la Commission portugaise de la FAO.

Je dois souligner qu'au Portugal il y a eu une grande adhésion de la part de la presse, de la radio et de la télévision aux problèmes liés à la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation. On compte par dizaines les articles et les notes que les journaux et les revues ont publiés pendant l'année.

Je voudrais encore faire l'éloge du Service de distribution de l'information de la FAO qui a fait parvenir aux plus importants journaux portugais les nouvelles considérées comme les plus importantes, lesquelles ont été publiées ou bien ont servi de base à de nombreuses interventions de ces journaux.

L.J. EAKIN (Australia): First of all, Mr Chairman, I support your words and those of the delegate from Austria in commending the able and enthusiastic presentation of this topic by Mr. Moreno Rojas. He is obviously very concerned about matters covered by World Food Day, and is enthusiastic in trying to ensure it reaches the widest possible field of observers.

World Food Day is an annual event, and celebrates the founding of FAO in 1945. As Mr Moreno Rojas said, and as document C 83/9 before us shows, World Food Day has a broad level of national participation. I think the document mentions that some 147 countries took part in the 1982 events. The document also notes that a high level colloquium presented the Rome Déclaration on Hunger in 1982, and Mr Moreno Rojas referred to a similar activity at this year's observance of World Food Day, at which were present some very eminent speakers - including the Prime Minister of Sweden and the Italian Foreign Minister and former Prime Minister Mr Andreotti. The level of response from world leaders to the previous two World Food Days and also this year's, indicates that there is a very broad level of support for the concept of a World Food Day. I would think such a concept is very firmly embedded in the annual calendar of days on which the world notes particularly important matters.

Mr Moreno Rojas referred to a number of initiatives being taken already, or being contemplated, for future World Food Days as they are outlined in the document, and I think some of these have already occurred. For example, he referred to approaches to Ministers of Education jointly by FAO and UNESCO; this is a very good move, because it is in the schools, by the children, that these problems will have to be addressed in future. It is also noted in the document that it is proposed to improve contact with the media and non-governmental organizations. Again, Mr Moreno Rojas referred to the importance he attaches to non-governmental organizations, I will come to that in a minute.

The document also notes that it is proposed there be much greater use of FAO Regional Offices in producing World Food Day material. I think I should join with the preceding speaker in complimenting FAO on the material it puts out on World Food Days, and it should continue to do this.

The document further notes that the conceptual content of World Food Day could be broadened perhaps to include things like conservation and, if we look back at the item just completed on WCARRD, perhaps one might think about the role of women as well.

I think the document looks at assessing the nature and extent of FAO support for future World Food Day observances. This an important matter, too, because while we look forward to seeing the fruits of the proposals that FAO has put forward for taking new initiatives and perhaps concreting the broad support World Food Day already has, we should never lose sight of the fact that effort expended should be in proportion to the results one hopes to attain - the question of cost effectiveness, if you like.

Australia supported the inauguration of the World Food Day at the end of the Twentieth Conference and the Australian Government participates actively in observances throughout the country. I would just like to make a few brief comments on what has been done in Australia to promote World Food Day this Year. Australia cooperates very actively with the non-governmental organizations and this year the Commonwealth Government put forward a dollar-for-dollar subsidy to the Australian Council for Overseas Aid or ACFOA which is our main, peak non-governmental organization. ACFOA represents more than 50 non-governmental organizations working in the aid field, and it is our understanding that it was to use this subsidy to fund a range of Australia-wide World Food Day activities organized by its constituent bodies.

A main theme for ACFOA's World Food Day activities this year was child nutrition, and ACFOA this year sponsored a visit to Australia by an eminent Philippino nutritionist and breast-feeding authority, Dr Natividad Clavano.

Australia also participated in a media campaign using radio promotion. We had a song developed which gained fairly broad community support, and we had television and cinema promotions, as well as media kits and newspaper advertisements, all centering on the World Food Day Theme. In Australia this year we took up the "Food Comes First" theme which I think a number of countries used last year as well.

The activities were also taken up in Australia by independent commercial radio stations, the regional television stations, and the National Broadcasting Corporation the ABC.

In closing my remarks on this item, I think I would like to reiterate the importance of World Food Day in heightening the awareness or, if you like in making people more aware of the problems the world faces in the food area and the solutions to those problems. I think World Food Day is another mechanism for making people aware. Its significant contribution, I believe, is in its ability to bridge the gaps in understanding between developing and developed countries. Specifically, I think it can bridge these gaps from the highest professional and political levels to the level of children who will ultimately have to deal with these problems in the years ahead.

L. GRUNDBERG (Sweden): I cannot let this opportunity pass without mentioning how honoured my country felt by the invitation of the Director-General to the Prime Minister of Sweden, Mr. Olaf Palme, to give the Keynote Address at the observance of the World Food Day here in Rome one month ago.

I would also like to thank delegates for the positive references that have already been made by the Secretariat and other delegations to the speech by Prime Minister Palme. His message consisted of three parts: he urged concerted international action in the economic field, including the fulfillment of the 0.7 percent objective by industrialized countries and changing and refining pragmatically international financial institutions. Secondly, he urged disarmament and mentioned the scope for massive transfers of resources for development, once real reductions in spending for military purposes start. In that context, he also pointed out the tragic relationship between armed conflicts and hunger.

Thirdly, Mr. Palme underlined the need to struggle on two fronts in order to reach lasting solutions in the food and agriculture field, mainly, both to ensure adequate incomes for people to buy food and to ensure food supplies.

He also underlined the need for land reform, price policy reforms, people's participation and other political actions in developing as well as developed countries. He concluded that those important measures could not be left to the so-called "magic" of the market place. What is needed, and particularly in the dramatic emergency food situation which the world is facing today, is what Prime Minister called for, human compassion.

Once again I would like to thank the Director-General for the honour that was shown to my country by the invitation to Prime Minister Palme to the FAO Headquarters last October.

R.C. SERSALE DI CERISANO (Argentina): Queríamos felicitar a la FAO y al Sr. Moreno en particular por la intensa y entusiasta y cada vez más integrada actividad que se realiza en este Día Mundial de la Alimentación.

Paso ahora a lo que hace mi país. Queremos decir que cada vez en Argentina existe mayor preocupación en integrar los esfuerzos para su celebración a distintos niveles, esto es, a nivel de gobierno, de medios de difusión, de instituciones de carácter académico y en el medio rural.

Voy brevemente a contar las principales actividades que tuvieron lugar en la celebración del Día Mundial en este año. A nivel gubernamental hubo un mensaje de nuestra Secretaría de Agricultura, Sr. Santirso, que se publico en los distintos medios de prensa.

Por otra parte, se celebraron afiches en conmemoración de este día. Se celebraron exposiciones sobre actividades del Programa Nacional de Investigación de Alimentos. Hubo una reunión de trabajo sobre el tema "Alimentos no tradicionales y complementos alimenticios" en la Universidad Nacional de Salta. Por otra parte la Subsecretaría de Asuntos Agrarios en la provincia de Buenos Aires también publicó afiches alusivos al tema. Hubo un espacio radial también dedicado a difundir el mensaje del Director General de la FAO, el Dr. Eduardo Saouma, hubo actos alusivos en la escuela provincial de Buenos Aires y además el Ministro de Agricultura y Subsecretario también de la provincia de Buenos Aires mencionaron el tema del "Día Mundial de la Alimentación" y sus avances en el discurso que pronunciaron en diversas exposiciones rurales.

En lo que hace referencia a la radio y televisión en uno de los canales nacionales de la Argentina hubo un programa dedicado a difundir films, entrevistas relacionadas con el tema. La radio de las provincias de Santiago, Rosario y Capital difundieron también el mensaje del Director General de la FAO.

En lo que hace a actividades académicas en el auditorio de la Universidad de la capital se debatió sobre nutrición y ecología organizado por el Centro de Enlace para el Medio Ambiente (CEMA).

También otro tema de debate fue la situación alimentaria nacional y mundial en el aula magna de la Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales de Buenos Aires.

Por otra parte, en lo que hace referencia a organismos que tienen sede en Buenos Aires, el Sr. Arturo Goetz, Secretario del Comité de Acción para Seguridad Alimentaria del SELA, pronunció una conferencia sobre seguridad alimentaria en el Centro de Información de las Naciones Unidas. Por otra parte, ese mismo Centro de Información de las Naciones Unidas integrando esfuerzos del sector privado en la Argentina hizo entrega de bolsas de maíz a las poblaciones rurales en la provincia de Salta.

Por otra parte, este Centro de Información y el Programa de Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo, sobre el fondo proporcionado por la FAO, publicaron una doble página en el diario "Tiempo" argentino con más trabajos editados por la FAO.

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan) : My delegation would first of all like to commend the Secretariat for the brief and elaborate progress Report on World Food Day activities contained in C 83/9. Equally commendable was the excellent exposition by Dr Moreno.

It was indeed a significant decision of the FAO Conference held in 1979 to establish the World Food Day, to be observed on 16 October every year, to coincide with the anniversary of the founding of the FAO in 1945.

The observance of the World Food Day goes a long way in highlighting the gravity of the problem of poverty, hunger and malnutrition still prevalent in many parts of the world. We believe that food is a basic human need. We also believe that all people in all parts of the world should have an equal physical and economic access to it. Unfortunately, instead of decreasing, the problem of hunger has been further accentuated over the period of time. The dependence of the developing countries on the developed countries for their food needs has increased, while their ability to pay for their food needs has been eroded, in view of their growing economic crisis. It is indeed a moral challenge to those who have enough to eat that 900 million people should be undernourished, and 500 million endemically hungry.

We appreciate in this context the bold and imaginative initiatives being taken by the Director -General, Dr Edouard Saouma, to develop an effective international system of food security aimed at eliminating hunger and malnutrition from the world.

We, in Pakistan, join most of the Member Nations of the FAO every year on World Food Day to lend our full support to the crusade against hunger and malnutrition.

In this context we also appreciate the close collaboration proposed between FAO and UNESCO, to be developed to support national initiatives in the observance of World Food Day.

In Pakistan every year we make elaborate arrangements, with the cooperation of educational institutions, non-governmental organizations and the information media, including the press, television and radio, to highlight the significance of the World Food Day. Special ceremonies are held to commemorate the Day and messages are issued by the president of Pakistan and the Minister for Food and Agriculture. Besides demonstrations on the importance of health and nutrition, religious leaders deliver sermons to spotlight the ethical concern related to the world food problem.

We believe that the observance of the World Food Day will help rouse the conscience of mankind to the grave problem of poverty, hunger and malnutrition. In this context, let the world be reminded of the message of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (Peace be upon Him) that a person cannot sleep in peace if his neighbour is lying awake because of hunger. That is the main raison d'être of the World Food Day, and it is to attain this goal that we must all strive.

Z. GROCHOWSKI (Poland): Poland actively supports the idea of a World Food Day celebration. This is a very important initiative which creates larger social bases for all great FAO undertakings, for better understanding of the actual world food situation and therefore contributes to development and modernisation of world agriculture.

The very important role which World Food Day could play is to involve young people in the problems of agriculture and the food situation in the different regions of the world.

For all peoples, the observance of World Food Day brings the realisation that food is produced by the whole of society and not only by farmers, and that the most important needs of society are not satisfied. Hence the world spends huge amounts of money on armaments-.

During the observance of World Food Day in Poland, different events were taking place, especially at schools, related to the subject. Also, special materials, information and posters were prepared.

The subjects relating to world food and agriculture situations will be introduced into the permanent secondary school programme in the near future.

On the occasion of World Food Day, meetings of agricultural scientists and students of the Universities and extension workers, took place. Also the press and media forecasted special educational and socio-political programmes with the participation of former FAO staff workers and experts.

Each year World Food Day is celebrated more actively and we shall expand this important and valuable initiative.

J. NGOULOU (Congo): C'est avec beaucoup d'attention que la délégation congolaise a suivi le brillant exposé de M. Moreno, sur la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation. Je saisis cette occasion pour le féliciter et à travers lui la FAO.

La célébration de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation, le 16 octobre de chaque année, est rentrée dans la tradition de la plupart des pays membres de la famille de la FAO. Elle correspond fort heureusement à l'anniversaire de la création de notre Organisation, la FAO, et donne une fois de plus l'occasion aux différents pays de jeter un coup d'oeil sur ce qu'a été le passé, et d'envisager l'avenir avec de plus en plus de détermination, dans le but ultime de rayer la faim et la malnutrition, par l'accomplissement des objectifs fixés en vue de l'augmentation de la production alimentaire.

La République populaire du Congo oeuvre chaque jour et chaque année à la réalisation d'un tel objectif.

Au Congo il y a cette volonté politique de produire toujours davantage, de satisfaire de manière continue les besoins alimentaires de la population, besoins qui se font de plus en plus exigeants tant sur le plan de la quantité que de la qualité.

Je voudrais parler de la célébration de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation; la République populaire du Congo l'a marquée, cette année, sur deux plans: le plan national et le plan régional.

- Au plan national, le Congo a, de connivence avec la représentation permanente de la FAO à Brazzaville, mis tous les moyens nécessaires pour sensibiliser la population congolaise des villes et des campagnes au problème de la faim, de la malnutrition, et sur la nécessité d'accroître la production alimentaire et agricole, et enfin sur l'aspect fondamental d'amélioration des revenus des paysans partant de leur niveau de vie.

La célébration, au Congo, de cette Journée en 1981, 1982 et 1983, a bénéficié d'un appui logistique appréciable de la part de la FAO, notamment de la mise à disposition des organisateurs et autres mass média d'un matériel varié de promotion et d'information. Je peux noter les affiches et pochettes de matériel graphique, films, spots à la télévision, etc.

- Au plan régional, nous saluons hautement l'idée de la célébration régionale de la journée du 16 octobre en Tanzanie, à Arusha, petite ville située au pied du majestueux Kilimandjaro.

Permettez-moi, Monsieur le Président, de porter une mention spéciale au Directeur, M. Ibrahim Kaduma et à l'ensemble du personnel du Centre de développement rural intégré pour l'Afrique, pour le cadre combien agréable de travail qu'ils ont offert à tous les participants à cette manifestation.

Le Congo, qui a été représenté par son Ministre de l'agriculture, voudrait ici exhorter le Bureau régional de la FAO pour l'Afrique de tout mettre en oeuvre pour que les ministères de l'agriculture des Etats africains membres comprennent la nécessité d'une telle rencontre au niveau régional, car elle permet, entre autres à la région d'Afrique, de faire le bilan sur l'accomplissement des objectifs fixés dans les plans agricoles pour l'augmentation de la production alimentaire, et de bénéficier des expériences des autres pays de la région Afrique. Je vous remercie.

H. MENDS (Ghana): My delegation wishes to report that we have been celebrating World Food Day with strong enthusiasm in Ghana. I would like to seize this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation for the active support given to our country by FAO on this occasion, and would welcome FAO's continued support for these activities. One observation we would like to make on World Food Day celebrations is, as we spread our net wide on this particular day to involve schools, churches and other nongovernmental organizations, we do not lose sight of the fact that in reality we, in Africa, have nothing really to celebrate on World Food Day.

We have facing us now, and in the near future, the climate of hunger, malnutrition and starvation as a result of the unprecedented changes in the weather that grow worse each year. We need to plan and adopt a strategy that can save us from this unpleasant expectation. My delegation's proposal, therefore, is that orientation on World Food Day, especially in Africa, should shift from the commemoration to the creation of public awareness of the food situation that looms ahead of us.

My delegation hopes that the world body will keep up the momentum of World Food Day activities but to reflect more the strategies we want to adopt to avoid a climate of world food shortages that lies ahead of us.

C. SUVIPAKIT (Thailand): My Government has a high commitment to commemorate the World Food Day. Annually an ad hoc committee comprising government and non-government representatives from policy making, academic and the private sectors, was established to organize the celebration. The Prime Minister of Thailand himself delivered a statement commemorating this annual event, which was broadcast throughout the national radio network.

As a special opportunity to gather the various thoughts on national food matters, a meeting at ministerial level with those ministries concerned with food production, nutrition and social welfare was held to exchange views on the subject of "Food and Quality of Life".

In addition, an exhibition on nutrition was arranged during the official event aimed at informing the people of the achievement in food processing, as well as ways of improving daily consumption. Children, viewed as the national strength in the future, were actively involved in this event. Their participation was shown in a nationwide painting contest entitled "My lunch".

In cooperation with the FAO Regional Office the ad hoc Committee held a Seminar on Food Production and Distribution at the Regional Office. The seminar was well attended by interested persons from the Government agencies, academic and private sectors. The Seminar's recommendations made an impact on national policy makers.

In conclusion, my delegation believes that the observance of World Food Day has stimulated the people to recognize their role and to participate in the process of food and agricultural development and the effect on man's well being. Therefore, my delegation supports the World Food Day and believes that the World Food Day is useful for all.

G. Van Der GRIND (Netherlands): First of all I want to thank the FAO Secretariat for the report on the World Food Day activities.

It shows clearly that in the past two years there have been a lot of countries which gave attention to World Food Day and organized a lot of activities in this respect.

The aim of these activities is to make the public aware of the problem of hunger and malnutrition in the world.

The report gives an impression of the many ways this can be done and stresses among other things that schools and non-governmental organizations are indispensable in organizing activities on a large scale.

They can make an important contribution to reach the objectives of World Food Day. Whilst activities on a national level are more and more important, regional involvement is needed in order to reach a lot of people.

In my country we have good experience with these regional activities in the form of regional meetings of members of farmers' organizations and organizations for development cooperation. In particular, relationships between agriculture and food problems are discussed in these fora.

I hope that in the coming years the organization of activities on World Food Day will be intensified and that an increasing amount of people and organizations will be involved. Hopefully, this will lead to a greater concern of governments for the agriculture and food production of their countries, which can contribute to a solution of the world food problem.

N. MACDONNELL (Canada): Canada has been a strong supporter of World Food Day since it was first established. We recognize that efforts to inform and raise the level of debate on world food issues in all our countries are essential if we are to generate necessary political will for change. We talk a lot about political will, but unless there is popular understanding and support for overcoming the food problems throughout the world, unless the implications of our growing interdependency on space ship Earth are fully appreciated, Governments will continue to shy away from taking difficult decisions. In recognition of this, Canada has made strenuous efforts to promote world food activities. Our Department of Agriculture, especially the National Steering Committee with representatives from a broad cross-section of non-government and government organizations, set up the World Food Day secretariat in our Department of Agriculture to serve as a reserve group to national, regional and provincial World Food Day coordinating committees.

The Secretariat produced and distributed a number of promotional and informational materials. These included posters, brochures, newsletters, fact sheets, and various FAO information brochures, for which we are most grateful.

A wide variety of activities have been undertaken of the kind mentioned by Mr. Moreno in his statement this morning. These include seminars and workshops involving schoolteachers and students, displays and exhibits, open houses and tours at agricultural experimental farms and research stations, fasts where people's pledges are donated to voluntary non-profit organizations involved in alleviating hunger, television and radio broadcasts, media coverage, proclamations of World Food Day, new releases, school essay contests, benefit concerts and a speaker's bureau for meetings and gatherings.

In order to broaden World Food Day coverage and reach the widest possible sectors of the Canadian population, a World Food Day Association of Canada is being constituted this month to assume the responsibility for future planning and programming of activities. Our Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable Eugene Whelan, will be the patron of the World Food Day Association of Canada. The Secretariat role will be transferred from the Department of Agriculture to a non-governmental voluntary organization active in rural development and hunger alleviation work in developing countries. The Board of this Association will comprise representatives from 7 groups of Canadian society, namely, voluntary non-profit organizations, educational organizations, the food industry, the Federal Government, Provincial Governments, consumer groups and the media. We believe that this combination offers a unique opportunity for the private and public sectors in our country to cooperate in furthering the aims of World Food Day. We would commend this approach to others, and we believe that non-governmental organizations can and do play an important role in this regard.

With all this in mind, the Canadian delegation would like to offer its strong support for the continuation of FAO's activities in supporting and coordinating World Food Day activities throughout the world. We believe it important that all countries intensify their activities in this regard. In connection with this, we believe that this Conference should make a strong statement in this regard. I realise that it is quite late in the day to be proposing a resolution, but I have a text with me which with your permission I would like to propose to the Commission. It has the support of a number of delegations, including those of Kenya, Mexico and the United States of America, and I believe it will not prove contentious. I understand that there are precedents for such non-controversial resolutions to be considered directly by the Commission. With your permission I will read the text.

The title would read: "Encouraging the Continuing Support by FAO of the World Food Day Programme", and the text would read as follows: "The Conference, recalling that the Twenty-first Session of the FAO Conference strongly recommended that World Food Day efforts be intensified in future years, recognizing that global technical capacity to overcome hunger does not necessarily imply the existence of sufficient social development and political commitment;

"Recognizing that the support necessary to create this commitment will only be established when the realities of global economic interdependence are more fully understood by all:

"1. Acknowledges that World Food Day can strengthen citizen support for development assistance, particularly within developed countries, since World Food Day has and can help people move to a greater commitment towards development that is based upon enlightened self-interest;

"2. Further acknowledges that World Food Day provides an important source of support for the implementation of a country-by-country basis of the WCARRD Programme of Action;

"3. Urges member governments to foster the development and enhancement of national World Food Day committees comprising both government and non-government representatives;

"4. Requests that the Director-General continue the international coordination of World Food Day through the FAO Secretariat."

Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. I hope that it would be possible for the Commission to consider it.

EL PRESIDENTE: Efectivamente, como usted lo menciona, existen antecedentes para el tratamiento de cierto tipo de Resoluciones que no habiendo mayores complicaciones y debido a lo precipitado, vamos a llamarlo así, del tiempo se puede consultar directamente a la Comisión sin que pasen necesariamente por el Comité de Resoluciones. Esta Comisión está, por tanto, exhortada a hacer sus comentarios en torno a esta notificación de Proyecto de Resolución hecha por Canadá, con los siguientes comentarios de parte de la Presidencia. Sentimos que este Proyecto es perfectamente congruente con aquella Resolución que dio lugar al propio Día Mundial de la Alimentación, y que viene a fortalecer, a apoyar, los trabajos de la FAO, de los países, de las regiones y del mundo en torno a este Día Mundial de la Alimentación.

De manera que, si ustedes lo tienen a bien y así lo aceptan, podemos en este momento interrumpir por unos segundos el debate general, y verificar si existe consenso en torno a esta Resolución, a este Proyecto de Resolución, y actuar en consecuencia.

Me han solicitado la palabra la República Federal de Alemania, los Estados Unidos de América, y antes de darles la palabra a la delegación de la República Federal de Alemania, la Secretaría va a hacer algún comentario en torno a esta propuesta de Proyecto de Resolución.

J.B. VAN AS (Secretary, Commission I): Not so much with regard to the resolution itself but to the procedure in this particular case: I was just informed that the Secretariat will try to have a meeting of the Resolutions Committee tomorrow morning to deal with this subject. After review by the Resolutions Committee the text will be distributed as a LIM document for your consideration and adoption when we discuss the Draft Report on the World Food Day activities, on Monday next week. If there is now a general consensus here on the content of the proposed resolution there is no need for a Contact Group to be established or for the Committee to convene again to discuss the text. This legalises the procedure and means that we don't have to meet again with the Commission before Monday, 21 November.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): First of all, my delegation is agreed with regard to the procedure proposed, namely that the text of the resolution should go first to the Resolutions Committee and then directly here to the Commission, when we discuss the draft Report of this Commission. That is the first point.

Secondly, my delegation completely supports the ideas and objectives which are in the proposed resolution which Canada has just presented. But we do have two remarks. First of all, on point 3, we do not think that it is necessary for each country to have a World Food Day Committee. Every country can have one if it wants. We do not have such a committee. We have cooperation between the Federal Government, the German Freedom from Hunger Campaign and each year with one of our Federal States. For that reason I would propose that in point 3 instead of saying "creation of World Food Day committees" we should say "promotion of world food day activities". Every country should be held free to do what it wants in that respect.

On point 4, yes, we agree, and we support the idea that the FAO should continue to be the interface and to pursue World Food Day activities, but we think that this should not become a sort of celebration. The significance of the day should be borne in mind. It should recall to all of us the importance of the task that is set. For that reason, we think, first of all, that we should also try in the future to choose a central theme. This year it was food security. Next year it can be water, soil, forestry, or any other theme.

Secondly, the Secretariat should try to get documents ready early for World Food Day and distribute them to all countries concerned in good time. Perhaps that could be done on the cheapest sort of paper, recycled paper. That would also be a contribution to World Food Day.

EL PRESIDENTE: Antes de reaccionar a sus comentarios, desearía escuchar a las otras delegaciones que tienen puntos que hacer en torno a esta cuestión.

M. FENWICK (United States of America): Mr Chairman, I shall be very brief. I am not going to speak again about the value of World Food Day in opening the ears, the hearts and the minds of the public in each of our cultures. Indeed it does that. I should like to speak for a moment, if I may, about a remarkable person in my own country, a volunteer, a woman who, without support, entirely on her own, with her heart and spirit, has arranged for a World Food Day nationwide in our country, lining up some 300 organizations - labor, business, private organizations, everything you can imagine. I am referring to Mrs. Patricia Young. I think it is proper. Certainly in our country the volunteer aspect is what has so appealed to the imagination of the people, because here is someone who is doing something because they care about it and not for any other reason; because they are concerned when they hear about hunger in the world. This is what is convincing.

Let us not espouse here, when we are dealing with the lives of human beings, theories that do not work. Let us look and see what kind of an economy has produced the best for the people, and I am not talking about the developed world, I am talking about the developing world, too. Where do people live and eat without fear? Let us espouse the kind of economy that produces that kind of life with opportunity for the hungry and most deprived.

I should like to support this resolution and the procedure by which it is going to be handled, and I congratulate the Chairman on those efforts.

F.H. JAWHAR HAYAT (Kuwait) (original language Arabic): When I decided to ask for the floor, I intended to give the delegates an idea of the preparations of the Kuwaiti national committee to celebrate World Food Day. But I felt you were only prepared to hear remarks concerning the draft resolution. I will not touch upon our activities in Kuwait, for in the last three years accounts of these activities were made before FAO.

Regarding this resolution, I hope priority will be given to point 4 if you decide to adopt it, i.e. I quote "requests that the Director-General continue the international coordination of World Food Day through our FAO Secretariat".

I agree to this point and would like to support it for the following reasons. In the last three years we have heavily depended on the Secretariat to send us communications which would have helped us immensely in our preparations to celebrate this Day. We now feel that our national committee could have completed preparations on its own.

Yet I believe it is in our general interest that this Secretariat should continue its activities to guide us especially that each year a particular theme is chosen. For example, Food for all or Food Security this year.

It was our main source of inspiration and my sole correspondent to which I sent our activity reports which were later distributed to other Member States.

Hence, if this Secretariat is dismantled I will not be able to inform the other 156 FAO Member States of our activities.

I'd like to stress that the Secretariat had carried out its role as a relay or post-office to distribute incoming and outgoing communications.

Therefore, I hope that the administration will duly take into account point 4 for its extreme importance. I also agree to the other points included in the draft resolution.

J.M. SCOLAR (United Kingdom): Mr Chairman, I have terrors of another drafting group or contact group meeting. I think we are all really agreed on the intent behind this resolution. I wonder whether we might adopt it by applause.

El PRESIDENTE: Bien, ese procedimiento es difícil de adaptar en nuestra Comisión, pero quizá podrá procederse de otra manera, escuchemos a todas las delegaciones que tienen algo que decir en torno al proyecto. Tiene la palabra Australia, Indonesia y Kenya. Solicito que si hubiera por parte de otras delegaciones consenso en torno al proyecto de resolución propuesto, que no hicieran uso de la palabra para confirmar, sino exclusivamente para manifestar los comentarios en contra o solicitar alguna modificación. Tiene pues la palabra, por este orden, Australia, Indonesia y Kenya.

L.J. EAKIN (Australia): Mr Chairman, I think I agree with your proposed handling of the matter, except perhaps that there have been a couple of amendments already proposed to the Canadian original draft. None of us has the text before us. I would probably also agree with the U.K. delegate that the resolution could be adopted unanimously eventually, but I think it would help delegates if we had a text before us, and your proposed handling of the matter seems to be in accordance with that idea.

I. MADE SANDI (Indonesia): Mr Chairman, to observe World Food Day is acceptable. We can accept it. But, if I am not mistaken, to set up a special permanent national committee would not be necessary at all.

M. MUKOLWE (Kenya): Mr Chairman, being supportive of this resolution which has been read to us, we feel that the ruling that you have made and the procedures being advised can be followed.

El PRESIDENTE: Por último, tiene la palabra la delegación de Francia. Esta Presidencia ha formado ya un criterio en torno a esta cuestión, les suplico que no se apunten más delegaciones, de otra manera estaremos aquí toda la tarde. La República Federal de Alemania me sugiere que desea hacer uso de la palabra porque ha sido una de las que ha propuesto modificaciones importantes al texto, se la daremos también después de que hable Francia.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): J'interviens uniquement sur le point de la Résolution, tout d'abord pour dire que nous approuvons la procédure que vous avez suggérée, le renvoi du texte au Comité de résolution. Il convient en effet d'examiner si cette résolution est conforme en ce qui concerne les critères de l'Organisation et qui sont relatifs à l'élaboration des résolutions, c'est le premier point.

Le second point concerne le fonds, et plus particulièrement sur un des paragraphes de cette Résolution; création en quelque sorte presque obligatoire, par les Etats, d'un Comité national de journée de l'alimentation; nous sommes réservés bien que notre pays ait un tel comité. Nous pensons que ce sont les états eux-mêmes qui doivent apprécier sous quelle forme ceci doit être organisé. C'est tout ce que je dirai aujourd'hui.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of)(original language German): I do not want to anticipate what you have to say, Mr Chairman, but you said you already have an idea about what should be done. I assume you are thinking of what my delegation proposed, which was supported by the delegations of Indonesia, France and others, and perhaps also incorporating a somewhat altered text. Through you, Mr Chairman, I would like to ask if the delegation of Canada would have any objection to the text being improved in this direction. Could Canada tell us?

El PRESIDENTE: Le agradezco mucho su propuesta, efectivamente estaré dispuesto a escuchar a Canadá nuevamente y posteriormente determinaremos el procedimiento.

N. MACDONNELL (Canada): When I introduced this text I truly hoped it would prove uncontroversial, but I seem to have been not one hundred percent correct! I recognize the concern expressed about paragraph 3, and in the interest of reaching a speedy consensus on this, perhaps I can propose a slight modification to the text which might meet with the concern of delegations here. May I suggest that paragraph 3 should read: "Urges member governments to foster the development and enhancement of national World Food Day activities" - not commitments - "involving both government and non-government representatives". With that modification, I hope it will be possible to reach consensus.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Estarían de acuerdo con esta modificación? Si están de acuerdo con ella le voy a solicitar a Canadá que dé lectura a la totalidad de la Resolución para que la vuelvan a tener en cuenta y de esta manera podamos llegar a una conclusión y enviemos el proyecto de resolución al Comité de Resoluciones para salir directamente de ahí a su aprobación el día 21 de este mes.

Por favor Canadá, le solicito dé lectura otra vez al proyecto de resolución.

N. MACDONNELL (Canada): The resolution would be entitled "Encouraging the Continuing Support by FAO of the World Food Day Programme". The text would read:

"The Conference, recalling that the Twenty-first Session of the FAO Conference strongly recommended World Food Day efforts be intensified in future years, recognizing that global technical capacity to overcome hunger does not necessarily imply the existence of sufficient social development and political commitment, recognizing that the support necessary to create this commitment will only be established if the realities of global economic interdependence are more fully understood by all: (1) Acknowledges that World Food Day can strengthen citizen support for development assistance particularly within developed countries since World Food Day is helping and can help people to move to a greater commitment towards development that is based upon enlightened self-interest: (2) Further acknowledges that World Food Day provides an important source of support for the implementation on a country-by-country basis of the WCARRD Programme of Action: (3) Urges member governments to foster the development and enhancement of national World Food Day activities involving both government and non-government representatives: (4) Requests that the Director-General continue the international coordination of World Day through the FAO Secretariat."

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, veo que algunas delegaciones asintieron cuando se dio lectura a este texto. Si ustedes pueden aceptar y admitir este proyecto de Resolución como ha sido leído, en ese caso, lo pasaremos inmediatamente al Comité de Resoluciones y del Comité de Resoluciones a su aprobación el día 21 cuando aprobemos también nuestro informe. En caso de que no estuvieran de acuerdo y manifestaran importantes cambios o dudas, constituiremos inmediatamente, sin abrir otra vez el debate, un grupo de contacto que se reuniría el día de mañana a las 16 horas. Les suplico que solamente hagan uso de la palabra si lo estiman verdaderamente importante.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): Je voudrais être sûr d'avoir bien compris, parce que je me demande ce que vous avez dit, (ou en tout cas cela a été traduit), C'est-à-dire, que si on était d'accord, le texte pourrait être transmis tel quel pour étude au Comité de rédaction. Je crois que c'est au Comité de résolution. Si c'est ce Comité qui se réunit demain matin, alors je retire ma question.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, usted seguramente podrá el día de mañana ver este proyecto en sus términos de forma en el Comité de Resoluciones. Señores, si no hubiere ningún comentario, procederemos como hemos previsto, esta Comisión enviará este proyecto de Resolución para el cuidado respectivo de forma al Comité de Resoluciones, y de ahí lo pasaremos para su respectiva aprobación el lunes día 21.

La Secretaría tiene un anuncio para hacer en torno a este tema.

J. B.VAN AS (Secretary, Commission I): We have just been informed that the Resolutions Committee will meet tomorrow morning at 8.30 to consider this proposed Resolution.

POINT OF ORDER
POINT D'ORDRE
PUNTO DE ORDEN

EL PRESIDENTE: Bien señores, Australia tiene la palabra para una cuestión de orden.

L. J. EAKIN (Australia): I do not want to hold up the proceedings, but I would like the Chairman to clarify what happens with the resolution after consideration by the Resolutions Committee. Does it come back to the Commission for consideration by the Commission tomorrow morning? Would you clarify this, please, Mr Chairman?

EL PRESIDENTE: Sí, cómo no, esta Comisión ha revisado el contenido y el fondo del proyecto de resolución que ha notificado la Delegación de Canadá a nombre de otras delegaciones. En tanto que esta Comisión está de acuerdo con su contenido, solamente deberán hacerse los ajustes de forma que el Comité de Resoluciones considere pertinentes, por lo cual esta Comisión no deberá reunirse otra vez para tratar específicamente este asunto, sino que se incluirá dentro del tema cuando examinemos el tema 10 de nuestro informe para su respectiva aprobación. Por supuesto, el lunes día 21 de noviembre.

La delegación de Francia tiene la palabra para otra cuestión de orden.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

P. ELMANOWSKY (France) : Alors là, je suis un peu surpris de cette procédure. Je n'ai pas compris que lors du débat qui vient d'avoir lieu, on s'était prononcé pour l'adoption de la Résolution. En effet si on s'était prononcé pour l'adoption de la Résolution, véritablement, elle serait adoptée. Il n'y aurait donc plus besoin d'aller devant le Comité de résolution. Le Comité des résolutions est chargé de vérifier si les textes sont conformes aux critères définis pour la proposition et l'adoption éventuelle de projet de Résolution. Alors nous pouvons avoir un débat préalable sur l'idée contenue dans la Résolution, qui ensuite véritablement inspire le texte qui va au Comité de résolution. Celui-ci le renvoie en séance avec ses observations et à ce moment-là la Conférence doit adopter le texte ou refuser, mais il y a actuellement, et c'est pour cela que je ne me suis pas prononcé définitivement, la question que l'on peut se poser de savoir si la nature d'une telle Résolution correspond bien aux critères élaborés ? Et là, je pourrais relire ces critères mais ce serait réengager le débat. Je crois qu'il ne faut pas à ce stade dire que la Résolution est adoptée, qu'elle ne viendra pas devant nous. Ce n'est pas le Comité de rédaction qui peut engager un débat mais c'est d'abord le Comité des résolutions qui voit la justesse de la nécessité d'une Résolution sur un tel sujet et ensuite après, la Commission.

EL PRESIDENTE: No sé si me he explicado mal o hay algún problema de comunicación aquí; pero el procedimiento que hemos adoptado esta tarde ha sido el aprobar una posible discusión, posterior a que el Comité de Resoluciones examine la forma del Proyecto de Resolución.

De otra manera, esta Presidencia jamás hubiera solicitado que se pronunciaran los Sres. Delegados en torno al contenido del texto, porque hubiera sido totalmente inútil hacerlo.

Lo que hemos hecho en la tarde de hoy es verificar que la Comisión concordara con las cuestiones de fondo del Proyecto de Resolución presentado, a fin de enviarle al Comité de Resoluciones, con el conocimiento de parte de todos los Sres. Delegados de que el contenido, en el fondo de dicho Proyecto de Resolución estaba en principio aprobado como tal, no la Resolución; aprobado el contenido por parte de todos.

De ninguna manera estoy implicando el que esta Comisión va a aprobar la Resolución en estos momentos o que lo hará en el momento en que la adopte para su confirmación en la Conferencia.

Reitero que lo que estoy diciendo es que se considera aprobado el contenido, el fondo, y que, por lo tanto, estimo que no será necesaria el sábado una discusión sobre esta Resolución.

Eso es lo que yo intentaba decir. No sé si he sido poco claro. En todo caso, les agradezco su comprensión.

Y si no hay ninguna otra observación sobre este punto, les ruego nos permitan pasar al debate en torno al Tema 10 de nuestra Agenda.

Inmediatamente daré la palabra a la Delegación de Nigeria y posteriormente a las siguientes Delegaciones de las que voy a dar lectura: Camerún, Arabia Saudita, Egipto, Kenya, Nicaragua, Japón, Reino Unido, Estados Unidos, México, Grecia, Guinea y la Confederación Mundial del Trabajo.

Como he indicado, concedo la palabra a la Delegación de Nigeria y suplico a todas las Delegaciones que hagan uso de la palabra en forma breve y moderada. Muchas gracias.

A. O. NNODI (Nigeria): Nigeria has embraced the idea of celebrating a World Food Day with enthusiasm since its inception. We congratulate FAO on getting this idea going and we particularly congratulate Mr Moreno for the enthusiasm expressed in the delivery of the paper under discussion.

We have had a whole week's programme for World Food Day 1983. Our national television and radio networks each devoted at least one hour a day for the whole week to programmes connected with the 1983 World Food Day. There was an essay competition for secondary school children and also a competition for young farmers' clubs. There were separate radio and TV panel discussions by experts in different fields of agriculture. The message from the government was delivered by the Permanent Secretary for Agriculture, the keynote address was by a professor from one of our Universities, Professor Ango Abdullahi, of A.B.U. His topic was "Food and World Politics".

Exhibitions were staged on Saturday 15 October and as we had no National Agricultural Show this year, the Ministry of Agriculture used the opportunity to show the public what is happening in the Ministry during the year with emphasis on food, its production, processing and preparation in tasty Nigerian dishes. The lady in charge of our Home Economics Division was the Chairman of the Committee for this year's national preparation for the World Food Day celebration and the Committee's emphasis was very much on the involvement of rural women in the preparation of tasty menus which people in the cities are neglecting.

We are working hard to improve the use of our food materials; although we have had access to the World Food Day celebrations this year, we are still anxious to see that the celebration is carried more effectively to the people who do not have radio and television. That is most of our rural dwellers. I must point out that shortly after our celebrations this year, we were hit by a severe drought which has ruined most of our late crops in the northern part of the country. The drought problem is still serious, it is working against optimum agricultural production and it deserves regular consideration by the FAO.

D. E. DANG MEKOULA (Cameroun): Monsieur le Président, la délégation du Cameroun appuie avec beaucoup d'attention la présentation, par M. Moreno, du document C 83/9 relatif au rapport d'activités sur la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation. Cette introduction claire nous a permis de mieux apprécier le contenu du rapport qui, de par sa forme condensée aussi, donne une image précise sur l'organisation et le déroulement des manifestations ayant marqué la célébration de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation, tant au niveau du Siège de l'ONU et de la FAO, que dans les 147 pays qui ont pris part activement à ces manifestations en 1981, 1982 et même 1983.

Le Secrétariat, par cet effort de concision et de synthèse, mérite toutes nos félicitations.

Nous avons relevé qu'en 1982 par exemple, dans les activités des Journées mondiales de l'alimentation se rapportant, entre autres, aux séminaires et sessions d'étude, à la participation des jeunes élèves et étudiants à différents niveaux, à la participation des organisations non gouvernementales, les expositions agricoles ont pris une grande part sur l'ensemble des manifestations programmées dans la majorité des pays intéressés.

Nous ne pouvons que nous féliciter de cette ouverture qui a permis, comme on s'en doute, de sensibiliser les couches les plus actives de la population aux problèmes de la faim et de la malnutrition dans nos pays respectifs.

Au Cameroun, les manifestations retenues dans le cadre de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation s'inscrivent dans le scénario que je viens d'évoquer.

Au titre de la première journée, de la seconde et de la troisième journée mondiale de l'alimentation, les activités programmées ont consisté principalement en l'organisation de concours de dissertation et de rédaction, de dessin, dans les écoles, sur les thèmes se rapportant aux problèmes alimentaires; en l'organisation de tables rondes radiodiffusées sur la base des thèmes choisis par province et au regard de la situation alimentaire spécifique qui prévaut; en la publication et la diffusion par la presse écrite et parlée des articles ayant trait aux thèmes de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation ou de problèmes connexes.

En l'état actuel des choses il n'est certes pas facile de présenter une évaluation correcte de ces différentes manifestations quant à l'éveil de l'opinion publique sur les problèmes de la faim, mais nous avons noté que depuis deux ans, grâce à ce programme, les différentes couches sociales, surtout celles des zones urbaines notamment, se font de plus en plus une idée précise de l'importance de l'alimentation et du rôle que joue le secteur de la production alimentaire dans le processus du développement global.

C'est donc pour cette raison que pour la célébration de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation, à l'avenir le gouvernement se veut plus dynamique. Des programmes spécifiques sont en cours de préparation à l'intention des producteurs et surtout des petits paysans dont la participation active et effective reste déterminante.

H. A. AL-GHAMDI (Saudi Arabia, kingdom of) (original language Arabic): After having reviewed the document on World Food Aid activities, I would like to thank the Chairman for providing me with this opportunity to speak on the subject. I would also like to thank all those who have participated in the preparation of this useful document which is a sincere reflection of all the creative initiatives and measures taken to organize World Food Day activities, to combat hunger in the world.

References in the document of FAO initiatives the preparation of documentary material such as posters, booklets, series of articles in various languages, as well as stamps, are of great importance, as such endeavours have a great impact on making public opinion more sensitive.

As is well known, food problems are complicated and are related to large aspects of scientific, economic and financial problems and considerations. The basic solution of any food problem in any country must be found within the country concerned. World Food Day is an opportunity for every country to realize that what in the world required it to reinforce and support all measures for agricultural production and the provision of food for its own nationals.

Hunger is a human tragedy and indignity for humanity. Efforts must be redoubled, and the impossible must be attempted to eradicate this phenomenon from the world.

World attention on agriculture is evident in the financial incentives provided to farmers, and the use of most modern technology that allows an increase in agricultural production and hence the provision of adequate food.

Humanity at present possesses, more than at any time in the past, the resources, the capital, the technology, the knowhow to increase agricultural and food production. My country, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, has exerted efforts to ensure food security on the international level, through providing loans and increasing our participation in international projects, especially those aimed at the solution of problems of food for millions of citizens of the world.

The World Food Day is celebrated in my country in all the agricultural Directorates. Pamphlets are distributed to our citizens which contain information on food security in Saudi Arabia, as well as documentary material. We broadcast a daily radio programme on this matter. A number of posters and other printed material are also prepared; radio and television also take part in our activities through special programmes on World Food Day.

The Ministry of Information undertakes special campaigns in schools; pupils are invited to draw special posters to celebrate World Food Day. Exhibitions are also organized on food and home economics, especially in girls' schools. The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications has issued a special stamp to commemorate World Food Day. The press also reserve special pages in their daily publications for the celebration of World Food Day.

Finally, I would like to stress that the celebration of World Food Day and the combating of hunger are of vital importance and that all nations must give this subject the greatest attention, to overcome unemployment, poverty and hunger in the world.

A. EL SARKY (Egypt) (original language Arabic): In the name of Allah the Merciful and the Compassionate. Allow me first of all to commend the efforts exerted by the Director-General and his collaborators to eradicate hunger in the world. I would also like to thank them for their effort in coordinating action with governmental and non-governmental bodies to overcome the problem. Our thanks also go to FAO for having provided the resources to achieve this purpose. These efforts were especially evident in World Food Day celebrations where questions of world-wide importance were highlighted, especially that of the need to conserve the environment.

Since the 1979 Conference Resolution, Egypt has celebrated World Food Day. Extensive celebrations were planned for 1981 but due to the sad events that befell our country that year, these celebrations were not fully implemented.

In 1982 World Food Day celebrations involved the convening of a colloquium at national level under the chairmanship of the Minister of Agriculture. The colloquium was attended by high officials in charge of the various sectors responsible for policy planning in the field of agriculture and food production. During that colloquium questions- were discussed relating to food and agriculture. Gold medals were also distributed to agricultural officials and farmers' leaders who had achieved outstanding performance in food crop yields. A number of agricultural programmes were broadcast on radio and television. In 1983 an impressive celebration was held in the presence of officials from the Ministries of Planning, Irrigation Industries, Health, and Food Supply. Reports were also presented on the efforts of the various sectors to achieve food security and to increase production. Certificates were also awarded to agricultural engineers who particularly assisted in the transfer of modern technology and in the extension work for farmers, as well as in irrigation and pest and weed control projects.

Some farmers who have achieved particularly high yields in crops, were awarded financial and material prizes.

Egypt commends the Organisation for its effort and hopes that the necessary measures will be adopted to organize appropriate activities for World Food Day in 1985 as it coincides with the fortieth anniversary of the Organisation's establishment.

M. MUKOLWE (Kenya): I would like to compliment the efforts the Secretariat is putting into World Food Day. The World Food Day has come to stay so long as food is in demand. Its scarcity in some areas of the globe makes it even more imperative for every nation to be concerned since food is a human right.

The past three observations of the day have certainly drawn great attention to many groups especially youth and journalists. Their participation and support are a clear reflection of the future.

The dissemination of the word - emphasising food and its production - is our concern at the FAO as a lead agency in food production.

Communication in any form should be encouraged. For instance the composition of songs, as it is with many African traditions, and music in general, can go a long way in strengthening communication with the rural community, many of whom cannot read and write. Poems in local dialects or languages, in our case Kiswahili, are also composed and recited, making it possible to intensify our communication with the rural people.

When looking at various activities that we are already organizing particularly this year we have a secretariat which is located in the Ministry of Agriculture, then we have districts which are the focal points for our planning and implementation. Here we have to organise the activities. We cover quite a number of areas including TV coverage, and radio broadcasts, art and essay competitions for schools and primary schools. Then what we call "the common man's dinner", which takes in a sample of local foodstuffs or dishes, was also organised for the 14th October 1983 before the World Food Day itself.

We have cultural performances which is entertainment from various groups who reside in Kenya. Traditional dancing is always a welcome activity where we can get in contact with the rural poor. There were poems and recitations as I mentioned. Prayers were said at churches of various denominations. Certificates and awards including cash, were made to the very best people who performed well. Women's groups, youth cooperatives and small farmers have been discussing the recommendations under WCARRD.

We are indeed pleased to note that the Director-General in collaboration with UNESCO have extended their joint letters to Ministers of Education proposing that WFD be established in their annual educational programmes and that food issues be given greater prominence in school curricula. We hope other inter-agency organizations could support the same course - I have in mind UNEP, HABITAT, UNIDO, etc.

We welcome the decentralization of future material production to regional level and hope our region will also be included later.

On NGOs - many are doing a commendable job. A case here is the statement from the representative of Asian Group at WCARRD, the discussions have just concluded. My country enjoys the same support and such organizations have effective communications with the rural poor or areas. The Kenya National Freedom From Hunger and Development Committee is well known and fully recognised by FAO and other NGOs internationally. They, together with many religious organizations, serve on the National WFD committee that organises activities each year.

My delegation supports the adoption of a theme each year so that efforts can be focused on a single problem or topic for emphasis. We have adopted the same at our National Agricultural Shows run by the Agricultural Society of Kenya, an organization that promotes agriculture supported by farmers themselves.

In order to organise all these activities and others not mentioned here, there is an element of resource commitment - personnel, time, funds. By expanding to include other inter-agency bodies as you rightly made the move, is fully supported. It will facilitate the pooling together of funds to further this worthy cause.

It is very gratifying to see that in a predominantly agricultural country such as ours, members of the private sector engaged in agro-industries have given our National, WFD Committee great support in kind. This has enabled us to run a pre-observation/celebration on the what we term "the common man's dinner". This, as I mentioned, is simply the sampling of local dishes which are made and consumed by various communities.

We support the idea of starting preparations for the 1985 World Food Day, since it will be depicting 40 years of FAO activities which calls for even more funds.

A few hours ago we concluded the discussions on WCARRD. Earlier on we stressed food production but all these hinge on applying all the resources at hand for increased food production. The World Food Day is such a vehicle in our intensive communication particularly to the rural poor.

If I may suggest that the Director-General's message that is read on World Food Day could be sent to us in time, we could have it read in many areas, where we can get in touch with the local people in particular districts and villages.

My delegation would like to appeal and urge member governments to foster and enhance the development of national World Food Day committees in the draft resolution that is before you and for the FAO Secretariat to continue to coordinate activities as they are.

R. TREMINIO (Nicaragua): Nuestra delegación felicita al Sr. Moreno por la excelente presentación del resumen-informe de las actividades en el Día Mundial de la Alimentación.

Mi intervención será breve ya que nos identificamos con los propósitos del informe de FAO y las inquietudes que han expresado los señores delegados en esta oportunidad.

En Nicaragua hemos institucionalizado el Programa Alimentario Nicaragüense, el cual ha iniciado esfuerzos desde junio de 1962, con el propósito de definir y desarrollar una estrategia nacional de seguridad alimentaria.

Este Programa ha sido o es el responsable institucional de coordinar y ejecutar los actos y actividades de celebración del Día Mundial de la Alimentación.

Esta efemérides reviste mucho interés e importancia en nuestro país; porque ello permite también crear las condiciones de conocimiento y conciencia de la situación alimentaria nacional y mundial.

Las actividades desarrolladas en el Día Mundial de la Alimentación se centraron en exposiciones agrícolas, afiches, sellos, publicaciones, propagandas y anuncios por todos los medios de difusión; ello con el propósito de dar a conocer los esfuerzos que nuestro pueblo y su Gobierno revolucionario con la cooperación de la FAO, llevan a cabo para enfrentar la problemática nacional agroalimentaria. Así como también, todos aquellos esfuerzos que la FAO realiza en el campo de la alimentación mundial.

A pesar de los esfuerzos iniciados, estamos conscientes de que debemos estimular aún más, el interés y la participación popular a nivel urbano y rural.

Apoyamos los esfuerzos de la FAO para reforzar la celebración del Día Mundial de la Alimentación. Es importante que la niñez conozca y tome conciencia desde los primeros años de escolaridad de la trascendencia y prioridad de trabajar solidariamente por alcanzar una verdadera seguridad alimentaria y nutricional en el mundo.

A. NAGA (Japan): My delegation would like to associate itself with the previous speakers in congratulating the FAO on the celebration of the World Food Day in 1983. Please allow me to give you briefly the World Food Day activities which took place in Japan in 1983.

This year my Government appealed to the people on the importance of food security. Japan is one of the largest importers of food and agricultural commodities. Therefore, Japanese people are always concerned with the food problem in the implementation of World Food Day activities. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries planned and promoted these activities with the assistance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Prime Ministers office, the Japan Broadcasting Association and the Japan FAO Association. The Japan FAO Association which took the role of the national committee of the world today also implemented various activities including a symposium and the publication of pamphlets celebrating World Food Day.

My Government also utilized nation-wide, area-wide and local newspapers, television, radio and other media for the publicity activities.

A symposium entitled "The Food Problem in Asia and Japan" was held in Tokyo on 17 October.

Sophia University in Tokyo also held another symposium entitled "Hunger and Our Life Style".

My Government considered World Food Day to be a very good opportunity to make the people further aware of the food and agriculture problem and is planning to further strengthen the World Food Day activities for the future.

J.M. SCOLAR (United Kingdom): Many distinguished colleagues have given most interesting accounts of their activities on the occasion of the last World Food Day. Rather than follow them directly, however, I would like to turn to policy for the future in the light of FAO's most useful paper C 83/9,

First of all, let me say that we welcome the proposals in paragraphs 8 (ii) to 8(v) of the paper. We consider that closer liaison with the news media should be encouraged and feel that special briefing materials for the media in industrialised countries are probably needed. The needs of industrialised and developing countries are different particularly for materials aimed at schools and the media. We therefore also support the concept of decentralized materials production aimed at meeting the real needs of specific regions.

In the same spirit, we would encourage the setting up of national and regional World Food Day NGO committees, covering the rural/agricultural sector as well as the well-known development-orientated NGOs. I agree here with Canada about their importance.

We support the increasing involvement of religious leaders of all faiths. The major churches are well represented in the UK group for World Food Day, and at the local level, "One World Week" is observed in the churches in October each year and used to promote World Food Day activities.

As to paragraph 9, we support a widening of the concept of World Food Day. The narrow concept has been difficult to get across to the media in particular. A wider idea involving long-term development issues and other concerns, such as conservation, might make its relevance and importance clearer in industrialized countries. It would also, we think, gain greater acceptance in the formal education sector. We also support inter-agency collaboration, of course, and FAO might next consider collaboration with the ILO to involve the trade union sector.

Pakistan reminded us at the very outset of this debate that 16 October 1985 is the fortieth anniversary of the founding of FAO, and this is surely an occasion to bear very much in mind. In Europe, we think there is scope for a major media event, perhaps a television series involving the cooperation of national broadcasting networks coordinated by the European Broadcasting Union. A useful spinoff from such a venture would also be the provision of films or video for secondary educational and NGO use.

A. GAYOSO (United States of America): I will be very brief, because our Ambassador has already said the few things we have to say. I think that we have here a concept that works. For the United States, the major value of the World Food Day celebration is sensitisation and awareness. Effective action in a truly democratic society must be preceded by the people having the knowledge to take and support such actions.

Both the Government and the people of the United States have joined in celebrating World Food Day. Tens of thousands of volunteers and full participation by Government, both at the federal level, including the President, and at the state level in all 50 states of the Union, have assisted in the preparation of the many activities organized in the United States. Volunteers have played a leading role, as the US Ambassador highlighted earlier, in all of its activities which have ranged from school education material to public symposia with a whole variety in between. Volunteers in non-governmental organizations, I may recall, also played a leading role in fostering assistance and cooperation with developing countries in fighting hunger, and this is indeed the link we cannot lose sight of as we discuss World Food Day, for its end ultimate objective remains the fight against hunger and malnutrition. Thus, increased awareness that leads to effective action is the goal. The WCARRD follow-up recently discussed provides in this context or, in my view, a framework for FAO to continue its own efforts.

M. RUIZ ZAPATA (México): Antes que nada, deseamos felicitar al Sr. Moreno por la clara y brillante presentación. La Delegación de México considera que la institución y celebración del Día Mundial de la Alimentación ha sido muy útil y responde plenamente a la idea y el espíritu que lleva-roa a la Conferencia a instaurarlo. Deseamos felicitar al Sr. Director General de la FAO por el impacto que este ha tenido para la concientización sobre el problema del hambre, especialmente, sobre la posibilidad real de solucionarlo, si todas las capas de la población de las naciones, presionan a sus gobiernos para que sean obligados a actuar políticamente en este sentido.

Es por eso, que se debe continuar haciendo énfasis en la participación de los niños y los jóvenes en el Día Mundial de la Alimentación, para que el efecto del mismo sea de largo plazo. La participación de la mujer no debe tampoco menospreciarse.

Nuestra delegación considera que las futuras celebraciones de este Día deberán vincularse aún más, con el concepto ampliado de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, con las orientaciones relativas al Reajuste Agrícola Internacional, y con el cumplimiento del Programa de Acción de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural.

En nuestro país, se ha dado gran importancia al Día Mundial de la Alimentación, y transmitiremos si usted lo tiene a bien, a la Secretaría, una información detallada sobre los diversos eventos que se han llevado a cabo, en especial, lo relativo al Plan Nacional de Alimentos que fue dado a conocer, con este motivo, en el curso del presente año.

Por último, queremos dejar constancia que la Delegación de México apoya plenamente el contenido del documento C 83/9 y el Proyecto de Resolución presentado por Canadá.

C. PAPADOPOULOS (Greece): For the third successive year our country participated in the celebrations for World Food Day. The responsibilities were undertaken jointly by the Ministries for Agriculture, Health and Social Security, Education and Trade. These activities covered the following: lectures with the main subject being the concept of world food security and exhibitions with photographs and other printed matter and brochures. These exhibitions will cover the whole country during 1983 and will continue also in 1984; posters; articles in newspapers and journals; broadcast discussions in radio and television.

The main aims of these activities were to remind the people of the problem of malnutrition and hunger in the world, incorporate the concept of elimination of hunger to the nutritional aspects of foodstuffs, thus emphasizing that the problem is not only "enough food" but also "better food quality"; combine the problem of hunger and malnutrition with the problem of waste of huge amounts of money for nuclear and other sophisticated weapons, thus underlining that the fight against armaments is at the same time a fight against hunger and underdevelopment.

A.T. KEITA (Guinée): En Guinée, à l'instar de tous les pays appartenant à la grande famille de la FAO, la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation a été célébrée avec un éclat non des moindres, attendu que le problème de la faim intéresse au premier chef les enfants, devenir de toute la nation. Cette année mieux que l'année précédente, la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation a été célébrée avec la participation quantitative et qualitative de tous les jeunes du pays.

Elle a été l'occasion de faire une profonde réflexion sur les problèmes nutritionnels dans le monde en général, en Afrique et en Guinée de façon singulière. Elle a connu à cet effet la mobilisation de tous les jeunes depuis les écoles élémentaires jusqu'aux universités en passant par les facultés. Des conférences, qui ont eu pour thème fondamental la nutrition, ont été organisées, conférences suivies de larges débats.

Sous l'égide du Ministère de l'agriculture, le Ministère de l'éducation a procédé au classement des oeuvres artistiques réalisées par les jeunes élèves. Des soirées artistiques et théâtrales sur la vertu de l'agriculture ont été organisées dans les universités et les médias ont consacré de longues colonnes à cet événement.

A la télévision guinéenne, des films illustrant les expériences acquises par les pays amis ont été projetés; des timbres philatéliques commémorant cette journée ont été émis.

Très prochainement, à la clôture du douzième Congrès qu'abrite en ce moment-même notre pays, il sera procédé à la distribution de médailles, de coupes et de symboles aux meilleurs agriculteurs et artisans.

Concernant le rapport d'activité qui nous a été soumis sous la cote C 83/9 notre délégation lui donne son plein appui et se prononce en sa faveur.

Pour conclure, la délégation de la République populaire de Guinée voudrait saisir cette opportunité pour remercier la FAO, son Directeur général, M. Edouard Saouma, pour toutes les inestimables assistances que l'Organisation a bien voulu accorder à notre pays jusqu'à ce jour.

T. KITLELI (Lesotho): My delegation would like to make only one comment, as per your request that we should be brief. My delegation wishes to commend you for having led this Commission well up to the present time.

Having listened to the deliberations, my delegation wishes to add only one essential element in the interventions already made by delegations: this is youth in agriculture. There were little if any mention of youth activities in WCARRD. Without formulating challenging programmes for youth, the world is likely to be faced with irrecoverable losses unless programmes are diversified. The focus here and the priorities should be for the rural community. This will alleviate the problem of youth drifting into towns where life is more comfortable because of the available amenities like better schools, health facilities and maybe other numerous social activities.

Rural youth constitutes the farmers of tomorrow, and it is the responsibility of farmers and administrators of today to ensure continuity in food production and rural development. Thus, activities of youth should be fully promoted in WFD.

M.E. JIMENEZ ZEPEDA (El Salvador): Quisiera, en primer lugar, felicitar a la FAO por la realización de esta importante actividad. Nos complació muchísimo escuchar el informe que de estas actividades nos hiciera esta mañana el Dr. Rafael Moreno, en forma brillante y con un entusiasmo tan vivo que merece nuestra más sincera felicitación.

No detallaré, señor Presidente, las actividades llevadas a cabo en mi país por este motivo, ya que son similares a las mencionadas por otros delegados; haré más bien unos pocos comentarios generales.

Señor Presidente, en nuestro país se celebra con mucho entusiasmo el Día Mundial de la Alimentación, ya que consideramos que representa una excelente ocasión para llamar la atención del mundo en la búsqueda común de soluciones que nos permitan eliminar el hambre y la malnutrición.

Hemos establecido un Comité que se encarga de la organización de esta celebración, el cual recibe todo el apoyo del Gobierno.

La delegación de El Salvador considera que la participación de las escuelas en esta actividad permitirá, como bien lo expreso esta mañana el Dr. Moreno, formar las conciencias de los que en el futuro deberán tomar las decisiones sobre el destino de nuestros pueblos. Por ello, nos parece muy acertada que se amplíe la colaboración entre organizaciones, principalmente la iniciativa escolar de FAO/Unesco, mencionada en el párrafo 9 del documento C 83/9.

Apoyamos todos los conceptos contemplados en este párrafo e instamos a la FAO a continuar con la celebración del Día Mundial de la Alimentación, principalmente la motivamos a iniciar los preparativos para que se realicen en forma muy especial el de 1985, en ocasión de cumplirse los 40 años de vida de la Organización. Apoyamos asimismo, los esfuerzos que está llevando a cabo la Organización, mencionados en el párrafo 8 del documento que permitirá darle aún más realce a esta celebración tan importante. Muchas gracias.

A.H.M. ABDUL HYE (Bangladesh): Mr Chairman, I should like to congratulate Mr Moreno for his very interesting, lucid and effective presentation of the paper. I should also like to thank the staff of the Secretariat for preparing a very brief but helpful and useful document.

Like other members of FAO, Bangladesh is also observing World Food Day with due solemnity and enthusiasm. This year World Food Day was observed through the holding of seminars at different levels, the publication of special supplements in the newspapers, the organization of exhibitions, several programmes on television and radio, and publication and distribution of posters. In keeping with the general line of activity as laid down by FAO, programmes were also organized for school students.

Bangladesh hopes to observe World Food Day in similar manner, with great enthusiasm, in future years also.

But, lest the observance of World Food Day degenerates into a lifeless ritual, it is very important that innovative ideas and new programmes are thought of. These innovative ideas and new programmes should be invited from member countries. They can also be thought about by the FAO Secretariat and passed on to member countries for consideration and adoption in the observance of World Food Day.

When we search for these innovative ideas and programmes and adopt them in the observance of World Food Day, we must guard against extravagance and expenditure in terms of time and resources. Not infrequently food conferences and events like World Food Day have come to be ridiculed by the common man for the extravagance in terms of resources spent and not least the amount of food consumed after the observance of the day or the event. It would be fitting that we should aim at a very modest but very effective programme to bring home the message of the day to the largest possible number of people. Resources are scarce, and we must realize that the time, energy and money that is spent on the observance of World Food Day could also be utilized for the direct production of food.

A. CAVERO MONCANUT (España): Voy a ser muy breve. Quería felicitar al Dr. Moreno por su brillante informe y al Director General de la FAO por el impacto que ha tenido la celebración del Día Mundial de la Alimentación.

En España se ha dado gran importancia a esta celebración y se ha hecho especial difusión entre los escolares.

Esta delegación ha facilitado los datos escritos y el informe sobre todo cuanto se ha celebrado en mi país en esa fecha.

Para terminar quiero apoyar lo dicho en el documento C 83/9 y el proyecto de resolución presentado por Canadá. Muchas gracias señor Presidente.

H.S. BAR-SHAI (Israel): Mr Chairman, I should like, first of all, to commend the Secretariat for its efforts to strengthen the consciousness and the importance of the idea that food should come first and the message of World Food Day. We share the recognition by the Secretariat of the leading role of young people in World Food Day observances. The little exhibition in the entrance to the Conference building with which we have all been impressed so much, and for which we thank the Secretariat, gives ample proof of how well African children, like children in other places in the world, understand and express so well the various aspects and facets of food production. In fact, they are also those who will carry in the future the burden of supplying food for the benefit of the future generation.

Without elaborating too much, I will just mention that World Food Day was marked in Israel by various activities, meetings, on television, and so forth, stressing the importance of interventional cooperation in enlarging food production. We plan for next year a more extended programme, together with the issuing of a special World Food Day postage stamp.

I think that one of the FAO bodies, whether it be the Council, or regional commissions such as suggested by colleagues of mine, should decide upon a certain annual motto or theme around which the World Food Day celebration should centre. Every year should have such a motto, and such a subject or theme - for example, the fortieth anniversary of FAO in 1985 - should be decided long enough beforehand to enable preparations to be made early enough.

I should also like to see more pictorial and graphic material, photographs, movies, and so forth, sent out by the Organization itself; material that can be used by the television, newspapers and schools. There is some material, but I think it is not enough.

All this should assist in giving a more uniform character in which World Food Day is celebrated all over the world.

NGUYEN VAN TANHN (Observateur pour la Confédération mondiale du travail): Mon Organisation, la Confédération mondiale du travail, Organisation non-gouvernementale, a toujours soutenu l'effort très louable de la FAO en créant cette Journée mondiale de l'alimentation afin de mettre en lumière les aspects moraux du Programme de l'alimentation mondiale et nous nous associons à tous les efforts dans ce sens.

Nous avons entendu avec beaucoup d'intérêt et d'enthousiasme les diverses réalisations entreprises dans les différents pays à travers le monde, mais nous sommes restés sur notre faim en ce qui concerne la célébration de cette Journée mondiale de l'alimentation. Les activités ne manquent pas d'imagination et ne s'arrêtent pas à la liste reproduite dans le document C 83/9 soumis à cette Conférence,

Au nom des millions d'êtres humains qui souffrent de la faim, mon Organisation voudrait demander à tous les pays qui ont à faire face à ce problème de la faim, combien de vies ont pu être sauvées et combien d'affamés ont pu accéder concrètement à un repas traditionnel convenable en célébrant cette Journée mondiale de l'alimentation? Avons-nous des chiffres statistiques disponibles?

Dans son discours d'ouverture, le Directeur général a rapporté que "800 000 millions de dollars sont consacrés pour les dépenses militaires". Nous déplorons profondément et nous condamnons énergiquement un tel gaspillage. A ce propos nous voulons inviter tous ceux qui détiennent le pouvoir à penser aux moyens matériels qui doivent être mis à disposition pour la célébration efficace et utile de cette Journée mondiale de l'alimentation. Nous voulons poser concrètement à tous les gouvernements des pays industrialisés et des pays du Tiers monde une action concrète, à savoir : cesser pendant cette Journée mondiale de l'alimentation de produire ou d'en faire usage, des armes et des munitions qui suppriment inutilement des vies humaines et que l'argent ainsi économisé soit utilisé à préparer et à servir gratuitement des repas convenables aux affamés du monde.

Notre intention est de proposer à la Communauté internationale, à travers l'action de la FAO, de changer les missiles, les roquettes, les obus, les balles, les avions bombardiers, les sous-marins, les chars d'assaut, bref, en un mot toutes les armes stratégiques et conventionnelles afin de donner du pain à ceux qui ont faim et de libérer le monde de la faim.

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores Delegados, observo que la India está pidiendo la palabra y se la voy a dar en este momento como ultimo orador.

Les informo que las Delegaciones de Cuba y China han presentado sus declaraciones por escrito para ser tomadas en cuenta en el verbatim y también para los efectos del informe de nuestra Comisión.

Ahora tiene la palabra la Delegación de la India y posteriormente se la daremos al Sr. Moreno (PAUSA).

Como parece que la India no va a hacer uso de la palabra ahora, se la pasaremos al Sr. Moreno.

R. MORENO-ROJAS (Director de la Dirección de Recursos Humanos, Instituciones y Reforma Agraria): Procuraré ser lo más breve posible, Sr. Presidente, en este resumen final.

En primer término, en nombre de la Organización quisiéramos agradecer las palabras con que nos han testimoniado su reconocimiento por el esfuerzo que nuestra Organización viene realizando en el curso de estos tres años para trabajar conjuntamente con los Gobiernos, las Organizaciones Gubernamentales y otras entidades, a fin de realzar este tipo de evento que se genera en torno al Día Mundial de la Alimentación.

Es precisamente ésta la terminología que quisiéramos emplear resumiendo algunas de las proposiciones que se han hecho en el curso del debate.

Como muy bien ha sido planteado, este día no debe ser considerado como una festividad; no es una ocasión para celebraciones, sino que, de acuerdo con el texto, el espíritu y la orientación que fueron dados desde la primera vez que se discutió el tema en la Conferencia de 1979, el propósito del Día Mundial de la Alimentación es crear una conciencia pública nacional e internacional acerca de los problemas que enfrenta la humanidad en torno a la situación del hambre, la pobreza y la malnutrición.

Por ello es por lo que recogemos con mucho agrado y entusiasmo las sugerencias que hemos escuchado esta tarde, en particular aquellas que algunos países africanos han formulado en el sentido de que es necesario reiterar el carácter de este evento y no perder de vista cuáles son los parámetros y el marco en que debe ser desarrollado.

Recogemos igualmente, Sr. Presidente, las sugerencias en el sentido de intensificar las actividades en los medios escolares y estudiantiles, y en particular los esfuerzos para acoger en nuestras actividades de tipo nacional e internacional a la juventud rural como un estamento importante de la población que normalmente no recibe la instrucción que debiera.

Asimismo recogemos las sugerencias aquí formuladas para fortalecer los contactos con otras Organizaciones Internacionales, como es el caso de la Organización Internacional del Trabajo, que, unidos a los esfuerzos ya en marcha con la Unesco y otras Agencias del Sistema, puede dar probablemente una cobertura más profunda en torno a lo que son los objetivos de esta actividad.

Finalmente, Sr. Presidente, quisiera también recoger la recomendación en el sentido de que todas las Delegaciones que aquí se han expresado han reiterado que el año 1985, que coincide con el 40° Aniversario de la fundación de nuestra Organización, debiera tener una característica especial respecto a la forma que en tal fecha tenga el Día Mundial de la Alimentación.

Hemos de hacer lo posible porque en el año 1985, el Día Mundial de la Alimentación, tome nuevos rumbos, adquiera mayor relieve y eficacia.

Lo consultaremos con el Director General, y estamos ciertos de que se tomarán las providencias necesarias para que inmediatamente comience a prepararse en su debida forma la celebración del Día Mundial de la Alimentación con motivo de la cuarta década de nuestra Organización, que estamos seguros tendrá lugar de una forma especial.

EL PRESIDENTE: En nombre de la Comisión, le doy las gracias, Sr. Moreno y le agradezco sus comentarios.

A continuación, voy a intentar hacer un resumen de las deliberaciones que han tenido lugar en esta Comisión en torno a este Tema 10 de nuestra Agenda.

La Comisión destacó la importancia de este tema y constató la utilidad del Documento C 83/9.

Agradeció asimismo la excelente y eficaz presentación hecha por parte del Secretario.

La Comisión felicitó al Director General de la FAO por su iniciativa en torno al Día Mundial de la Alimentación y por la forma eficaz con que ha cumplido con sus postulados.

Se confirmó y cumplimento la evaluación general sobre los resultados de la celebración del Día Mundial de la Alimentación en 1982 y en 1983, presentada en buena parte en el Documento C 83/9.

Muchas Delegaciones hicieron amplios comentarios sobre el interés y el desarrollo de este evento a nivel nacional y aun local.

Se hizo también referencia a ciertas actividades desarrolladas a nivel regional.

A nivel internacional, varios países expresaron su reconocimiento por la labor desempeñada por el Director General y la Secretaría de la FAO, y a la trascendencia de las últimas dos celebraciones por el impacto que tuvieron sobre la conciencia universal en torno a la importancia de la lucha con el hambre y en pro de la seguridad alimentaria.

Se hizo referencia a la importante declaración del Primer Ministro de Suecia Olaf Palmer en la pasada celebración hecha en este año, y la trascendencia que los conceptos por él vertidos han tenido a los efectos de la celebración de este Día.

Se expuso también la importancia y trascendencia del discurso pronunciado por el Director General de la FAO, y se sugirió que debiera distribuirse lo más extensamente posible.

Sobre los objetivos futuros de este evento, se hicieron las siguientes consideraciones:

Se subrayó que el Día Mundial de la Alimentación es momento culminante de reflexión o acto de toma de conciencia en torno a los avances y situación relativos al hambre, a la malnutrición y al esfuerzo productivo y distributivo de alimentos.

Se enfatizó que no debiera ser solo una celebración, sino una lucha permanente por hacer participar a toda la población en la concepción y en el diseño de estrategias en pro de la lucha contra el hambre y la malnutrición.

Se solicitó avanzar hacia objetivos más amplios, a temas e ideas nuevas para no convertir este Día en un evento ritual, y menos en una irrisoria celebración con posibles derroches o excesos criticables y también contraproducentes.

Se hizo hincapié en vincular más el evento a la problemática de la seguridad alimentaria, al balance entre armamentos y alimentos, a las implicaciones y logros en torno a las orientaciones del reajuste agrícola internacional, y a los logros y retos relativos al Programa de Acción de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural.

Y también se enfatizó sobre los temas relativos a la mayor incorporación de la mujer en el desarrollo en términos de igualdad.

También se pidió información más detallada de los eventos realizados a nivel nacional, para que la FAO pudiera incorporar en su futuro informe estos datos concretos y una discusión minuciosa de sus actividades a todos los niveles.

Se solicitó la inclusión de temas tales como el deterioro ecológico y la necesidad de conservación del medio ambiente, temas que podrían y deberían incorporarse en estas celebraciones del Día Mundial de la Salud.

Se reconoció la importancia de hacer extensivo el acto de conciencia que implica el Día Mundial de la Alimentación a todos los seres humanos del planeta, por lo cual se coincidió en que la FAO debería continuar con sus exhortaciones y su colaboración, no sólo para estimular la voluntad política de los Gobiernos, sino para lograr una participación mayor de sectores específicos de la sociedad, tales como Organizaciones Religiosas, Organizaciones no Gubernamentales, y especialmente la juventud y los niños de todos los países.

Se comentó sobre la utilización y la necesidad de mayor apoyo de todos los medios de comunicación masivos para hacer llegar mensajes más claros e inteligibles a toda la población en función de su condición cultural y educativa.

Se describió cómo se llevaron a cabo y deberían continuarse realizando medidas precisas en cuanto al tipo y cantidad de materiales impresos o de otra índole para ser distribuidos entre los distintos grupos y círculos sociales. Se puntualizó sobre el cuidado que debiera tenerse en los mensajes que debe contener este material.

Se subrayó la conveniencia de introducir este tema en los programas escolares, y educar a los niños y a los jóvenes sobre la prioridad que nos debe merecer a todos la lucha contra el hambre y la mal-nutrición.

Se instó a FAO a que estableciera un contacto y colaboración mayor con otras Organizaciones del Sistema de Naciones Unidas, particularmente con la UNESCO, y también con la OIT.

Se solicitó que la FAO exhortase a los Gobiernos para que crearan mecanismos de contacto con la FAO para la organización de este evento de manera más eficaz.

Se presentó un proyecto de resolución que, conforme a antecedentes, fue puesto en conocimiento de la Comisión, revisado, debatido y aceptado su contenido -lo subrayo: solo su contenido- para pasarlo a su vez al Comité de Resoluciones, sin que esta Comisión tuviera que reunirse previamente a la discusión de nuestro Informe, para su revisión final este lunes 21 de noviembre.

Hasta aquí, Sres. Delegados, mi resumen sobre los debates habidos en torno a este tema 10 de nuestra Agenda, y paso a hacerles algunos anuncios.

En primer lugar, que, como ya he manifestado anteriormente, las Delegaciones de China y de Cuba han enviado a la Secretaría, por escrito, sus declaraciones con propósito de que sean incluidas en el verbatim sobre este punto y contempladas para la Redacción del Informe de nuestra Comisión.

En segundo lugar, deseo comunicarles que el Comité de Redacción se reunirá mañana a las 14.30 horas en la Sala de Alemania para revisar el borrador del informe sobre los últimos dos temas de nuestra Agenda; es decir, el noveno relativo al seguimiento del Programa de Acción de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, y el 10, relativo a la información de las actividades sobre el Día Mundial de la Alimentación.

Y en tercero y último lugar, manifestarles que esta Comisión se reunirá de nuevo el lunes 21 de noviembre a las 09.30 para revisar y adoptar su informe. Este estará a disposición de los Sres. Delegados a partir de mañana a medio día, y conforme el Comité de Redacción vaya trabajando y facilitando material, a lo largo de la tarde se irán entregando copias.

Si no hay comentarios u observaciones que hacer, esta Presidencia da por terminados los trabajos de esta Cuarta Sesión.

GONG SHAOWEN (China): Three years have passed since the launching of commemorating activities of the World Food Day in the world over. FAO has made a timely assessment on these activities and put forward suggestions for expanding these activities in the future so as to make more people aware of the current world food problems and mobilize them to participate actively in the fight against hunger. We welcome and commend the initiative taken by FAO.

The Chinese Government and people have always attached great importance to solving food problems. Our Government has taken a series of integrated measures ranging from developing production to rational distribution of food. Thus, the problem of ensuring food and clothing for more than one billion people has been basically tackled. But hard work still has to be done to improve the people's living standards. At the same time, we are also concerned about the hundreds of millions of people who are suffering from hunger and malnutrition in the other parts of the world. Therefore, we feel obliged to educate our people to display the spirit of internationalism, be concerned with world affairs and take actions to support the struggle of "eliminating hunger and malnutrition in the world". It is proceeding from this background that we have arranged the commemorating activities of the World Food Day.

In 1981, our Government leaders personally organized the World Food Day activities in our country. Necessary publicity was carried out on a considerable scale. Since then, efforts have been made to further the activities in a more thorough and meaningful way. We adopted a two-pronged approach: on the one hand, we spread the activities to the grass-root level, and on the other hand we see to it that these activities result in concrete actions. For instance, this year, apart from mobilizing all means of mass media to further strengthen publicity, we shifted the emphasis of the activities to young students. In Beijing, the Capital, we launched an essay competition with "food problems" as its themes. This is one of our positive responses to the appeal jointly issued by the Director-Generals of FAO and UNESCO.

We believe that the significance to observe the World Food Day not only lies in its publicity, but more in its impetus to inspire actions and generate real impact. Different countries face different food problems, and so every country should unfold activities in the light of its prevailing conditions and urgent needs. In addition to publicity, emphasis should be laid on actions; activities should be simple and plain with tangible results; and their forms should be diversified without any fixed pattern. Only by so doing, can the commemorating activities of the World Food Day be conducted in a vivid and vigorous manner 1 /.

1/Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

G. SOTO CARRERO (CUBA): Quisiera ante todo, a nombre de la delegación de Cuba agradecer al Sr. Rafael Moreno por la presentación del tema sugerido a las actividades en conmemoración del Día Mundial de la Alimentación, mediante la cual nos ha actualizado perfectamente sobre el alcance de las mismas.

En mi país, se conmemora esa fecha con gran entusiasmo. Se presentaron programas radiales, y televisivos; se gestionaron entrevistas en la prensa escrita y televisada al Representante de la FAO con el objetivo de dar difusión a la labor de la FAO en favor de los hambrientos y desnutridos del mundo.

Se difundió también el mensaje del Director General de la FAO.

Se publicaron artículos en los cuales se difundió la cooperación de la FAO al desarrollo de nuestro país.

Se efectuó un simposio auspiciado por el Ministerio de Salud Pública en el cual calificados especialistas en nutrición hicieron importantes aportes.

Se celebró una exposición de los productos pesqueros y la ayuda de la FAO a ese sector con la participación de altos dirigentes de ese organismo incluyendo el propio Ministro.

El acto central del país que organizado por el Ministerio de la Agricultura en una provincia en el centro del país que cuenta con un gran desarrollo agropecuario, efectuándose un acto de masas, la inauguración de una feria agropecuaria así como la inauguración de un puesto con cerca de cien viviendas entregadas en forma gratuita a trabajadores agropecuarios y sus familias.

También se efectuó un concurso entre los centros de investigación agropecuaria con un premio al mejor trabajo presentado.

Mi país, Sr. Presidente, apoyó la instauración del Día Mundial de la Alimentación y seguirá realizando estas jornadas que consideramos razones de estímulo para seguir luchando contra la erradicación del hambre en el mundo. 1/

The meeting rose at 17.45 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.45 horas

1/. Texto incluido a 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/I/PV/15

Twenty-second Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt-deuxième session
COMMISSION I

22° período de sesiones
COMISION I

FIFTEENTH MEETING
QUINZIEME SEANCE
15ª SESION

(21 November 1983)

The Fifteenth Meeting was opened at 10.10 hours

J.R. López-Portillo, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La quinzième séance est ouverte à 10 h 10, sous la présidence

de J. R. López-Portillo, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 15ª sesión a las 10.10 horas, bajo la presidencia

de J.R. López-Portillo, Presidente de la Comisión I

ADOPTION OF REPORT
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT
APROBACION DEL INFORME

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART 1
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - PARTIE 1
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE 1

EL PRESIDENTE: Buenos días señores delegados, se abre la decimoquinta sesión de trabajos de nuestra Comisión I. Como ustedes saben en el día de hoy revisaremos y aprobaremos nuestro Informe, que está constituido por los siguientes documentos: C 83/I/REP/1, C 83/I/REP/1-Suplemento 1, C 83/I/REP/2, C 83/I/REP/3 y C 83/I/REP/4, y C 83/LIM/30.

Señores delegados, antes de comenzar, esta Presidencia desea agradecer al Comité de Redacción y a su Presidente la magnífica labor que han hecho en la presentación de este proyecto de informe de nuestra Comisión.

La manera en que procederemos será la siguiente: discutiremos primero el documento REP/1 y su Suplemento 1, les suplico que solamente hagamos comentarios referentes al contenido de los informes y que de ninguna manera abramos la discusión o los debates sobre cualquiera de los temas, en caso de que así fuera yo tendría que interrumpir esos comentarios.

A continuación hago los siguientes anuncios: en la versión francesa, en el párrafo 24 del REP/1 está equivocado el número del párrafo, en tanto que debería comenzar a la mitad de lo que ahí es el párrafo 23. Es decir, la versión francesa contiene en el párrafo 23 parte del párrafo 24, por tanto, les suplico tomen nota de que el párrafo 24 comienza: "La Conferencia convino en que la situación alimentaria africana, etc.". Esto es en la página 8 de la versión francesa.

En segundo lugar, que en el REP/1 Suplemento 1, en la versión española no existe indicación del lugar donde debe insertarse este suplemento, que es precisamente después del párrafo 24, de manera que los párrafos siguientes, el 25, el 26, etc. se corren un número.

Estas son, señores, las dos indicaciones que quería transmitirles, y a continuación, si nos lo permiten, revisaremos nuestro informe párrafo por párrafo.

PARAGRAPHS 1 AND 2
PARAGRAPHERS 1 ET 2
PARRAFOS 1 Y 2

H. LOPEZ DE MORAL (Colombia): En el párrafo 2 la delegación de Colombia tendría una observación de redacción, solamente se aplica a la versión española. La última oración que comienza: "A pesar de algunos acontecimientos positivos en ciertas áreas", allí se insertarían las palabras que están al final del párrafo en la versión española, "ha vuelto a aumentar". Es decir, "A pesar de algunos acontecimientos positivos en ciertas áreas, (coma) ha vuelto a aumentar la dependencia de la seguridad alimentaria mundial del buen resultado de las cosechas del año venidero".

EL PRESIDENTE: Veo que es un problema exclusivamente de redacción de la versión española, si no hubiera ningún otro comentario daremos por aprobado este párrafo segundo.

Paragraphs 1 and 2, as amended, approved
Les paragraphes 1 et 2, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés
Los párrafos 1 y 2, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 3
PARAGRAPHE 3
PARRAFO 3

EL PRESIDENTE: Sobre el párrafo tercero les quiero advertir que hay un error en la versión en inglés, dice: "países en desarrollo" y debe decir "países desarrollados". Esto es antes de la frase que comienza: "El comercio internacional sigue deprimido". ¿Han localizado el punto? Les suplico que tomen nota.

¿Algún comentario sobre este párrafo tercero?

H. LOPEZ DE MORAL (Colombia): Nuevamente un pequeño cambio de redacción que afecta solamente a la versión española. En el primer párrafo: "La Conferencia considero que...", allí se insertarían las palabras que están al final de esta oración, "sigue siendo incierto". "La Conferencia consideró que el panorama económico general sigue siendo incierto" y se pondría un punto después de la palabra "rural". Solamente afecta a la versión española y es un cambio de estilo.

En la última línea de este mismo párrafo dice: "tendrán efectos beneficiosos", sería mejor "benéficos" que "beneficiosos". En el texto español quedaría más claro.

EL PRESIDENTE: Nuevamente se trata de cambios de redacción. ¿Algún otro comentario? Se aprueba el párrafo 3.

Paragraph 3, as amended, approved
Le paragraphe 3, ainsi amendé, est approuvé
El párrafo 3, así enmendado, es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 4 to 8
PARAGRAPHERS 4 à 8
PÁRRAFOS 4 a 8

B. FURNESS (United States of America): Mr Chairman, in paragraph 4 of the English text there is a mistake in the description of the grains in the last line. It should be "coarse grains", "c-o-a-r-s-e-", not "c-o-u-r-s-e-".

EL PRESIDENTE: Se trata de un error de ortografía, de manera que si están de acuerdo se aprueba el párrafo 4. Queda aprobado.

ZENG XIANRONG (China) (original language Chinese): Mr Chairman, in the name of the Chinese delegation, I should like to make a few remarks on this paragraph. As you know, at present work is still under way to collect statistics of the actual grain harvest in China, so that it is too early to draw the conclusion that "there is a drop in the rate of increase in the current year ...". What is gratifying is that the harvests in most of the areas in the country have convinced us that we shall surely have a bigger harvest than last year. Therefore, we suggest that the sentence "Despite a drop in the rate of increase of the current year ..." should be re-written to read "Based on the bumper harvest of last year, China's food output this year will register new increases."

EL PRESIDENTE: Bien, hemos tomado nota de ello, podríamos decirlo así: "Basados en la cosecha abundante del año pasado, las perspectivas para este año indican que se podrán consolidar los beneficios reales alcanzados en la producción alimentaria en los cinco años anteriores".

R.C. GUPTA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I would suggest a slight modification, if I may, on the proposal of our distinguished colleague from China. Could we say, "Following the bumper harvest of last year ...", because the production this year would not be based upon last year's bumper harvest but just following that. That is for consideration.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Estaría de acuerdo la delegación de China? Perfecto. ¿Algún otro comentario?

J. NGOULOU (Congo): Sur ce paragraphe 6 je crois qu'il y a une faute de frappe. On dit que "la Conférence a noté le développement satisfaisant de la mousson"; la mousson est un vent, alors que nous voulons faire état de la "moisson" qui est une récolte. Est-ce clair? Vous m'avez saisi?

EL PRESIDENTE: Perfecto, me parece un problema exclusivamente en francés y se ha tomado nota de ello. ¿Algún otro comentario sobre el párrafo sexto? Se aprueba el párrafo sexto con la enmienda propuesta por la Delegación de China, complementada por el Presidente del Comité de Redacción y con la corrección en la versión francesa sobre la palabra francesa "moussons". ¿Alguna aclaración sobre el párrafo 7?

H. LOPEZ DE MORAL (Colombia): Nuevamente una pequeña observación de redacción en el párrafo 7; Se trata de la primera oración, no afecta a las otras versiones, se trata solamente de una observación de tipo lingüístico. La primera oración tendría un punto después de la palabra "Conferencia" que aparece en la segunda línea. Después, la palabra "también" comenzaría con mayúsculas, e incluiríamos "se consideran con alarma" después de "también", de manera que quedaría "También se consideran con alarma los acontecimientos a corto plazo".

EL PRESIDENTE: Es simplemente un reajuste de la sintaxis. ¿Alguna otra observación en otra lengua?

L.J. EAKIN (Australia): Mr Chairman, it is just a point of consistency. In the second to last sentence the "joint FAO/WFP Task Force" is referred to. That appears in the resolution as the "joint FAO and WFP Task Force", and I think that the correct name is the joint FAO and WFP Task Force.

EL PRESIDENTE: Bien señores, se hará como debe quedar formalmente. Sí, efectivamente estamos viendo en la resolución escrito FAO y PMA, incluida la conjunción, de cualquier manera la Secretaría me solicita que se verifique esto en función de cómo debe quedar formalmente. Es un problema de forma y no creo que a nadie afecte el que se corrija la barra y se incluya la conjunción, o sea que se corrija en la resolución, en última instancia, la conjunción y se ponga una barra, eso dependerá de una cuestión formal si tiene a bien la delegación de Australia aceptarlo.

L.J. EAKIN (Australia): I have no problem with it, Mr Chairman. It was checked up during the meeting of the Resolutions Committee and was found to be the FAO and WFP Special Task Force. The wording in the resolution was taken from the title of the reports put out by that Task Force.

EL PRESIDENTE: Se toma en cuenta, de cualquier manera para evitar cualquier posible confusión y se va a verificar este punto. Tengan la conciencia de que quedará como formalmente debe estar escrito.

G. SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): En la última frase del párrafo 8, en la versión española que comienza "Como todavía no se había alcanzado", mi delegación propone que después que se habla de las 500 000 toneladas de cereales, donde dice "La Conferencia consideró importante que se adoptaran todas las medidas posibles para alcanzar este objetivo y, de ser necesario" mi delegación propone que "en vez de ser necesario" se pusiera "o inclusive superarlo", porque en realidad tanto en esta Comisión como en otras reuniones hemos llegado a la conclusión de que es necesario superar esas 500 000 toneladas. Nos parece que con eso estaríamos de acuerdo con lo que se manifestó por un gran número o tal vez la mayoría de las delegaciones en esta Comisión.

Nuestra propuesta concreta fue que se adoptaran y tomaran las medidas posibles para alcanzar este objetivo, e inclusive superarlo, ya que dicha cantidad podrá no ser suficiente para satisfacer las necesidades de urgencia.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Alguna otra observación sobre este punto en especial? Grecia tiene la palabra y posteriormente los Estados Unidos para resolver este problema.

Perdón, simplemente deseo saber si están de acuerdo con la enmienda de Cuba, porque si no nos vamos a confundir.

Solicita la Delegación de Cuba que se diga "para alcanzar este objetivo inclusive" y suprimir la palabra "necesario".

D. MOUATSATSOS (Greece): As representative of the EEC, I would like to give the floor to the EEC to make some comments on this paragraph.

G. DESESQUELLES (CEE): Il s'agit bien de ce point. Je me suis permis de demander au collègue grec une intervention car la phrase telle que libellée correspond à l'amendement tel que la Commission des Communautés européennes l'avait présenté au cours des débats ainsi que dans le cadre de la résolution sur la sécurité alimentaire, et nous étions arrivés à un consensus sur le libellé tel qu'il est dans le texte proposé par le Secrétariat. Toutefois, dans un souci de compromis, afin de ne pas rallonger le débat, nous pourrions accepter le texte du délégué de Cuba, c'est-à-dire "le cas échéant" au lieu de dire "le dépasser au besoin": "le cas échéant le dépasse".

EL PRESIDENTE: En ese caso, se incluirá la frase propuesta por la Delegación de Cuba, que diría en español "y de ser necesario, inclusive superarlo".

¿Algún otro comentario sobre este punto en particular?

H. LOPEZ DE MORAL (Colombia): Sobre ese punto en especial, Señor Presidente, primero para apoyar la posición mantenida por Cuba y posteriormente aceptada por la Comunidad Económica Europea. Y añadir que tal vez se podría modificar un poco la redacción de esta idea, puesto que así quedaría mejor reflejado el espíritu del debate mantenido en esta Comisión, agregando en el mismo párrafo, después de las palabras "Como todavía", agregar "en algunas ocasiones no se había alcanzado etc. ..." El resto igual, con la enmienda de Cuba.

Pretendo esto para que queden reflejadas mejor varias intervenciones de Delegaciones, entre otras de India y Bangladesh, indicando que en años anteriores aquella meta de 500 000 toneladas había sido superada.

B. FURNESS (United States of America): We can accept the change proposed by the delegate of Cuba and as subsequently modified by the delegate of the European Economic Commission so that it will read "and possibly exceed it", substituting for the words "if necessary, exceed it" in the last sentence. We have no objections, either, to the inclusion of the phrase, "in some cases the minimum replenishment target", and so on.

The other point we want to make is that in the English text there should be a fullstop after the words "wars and civil strife" so that "As the minimum annual replenishment target" and so on should begin a new sentence. I am not sure if that is reflected faithfully in the other texts as well.

EL PRESIDENTE: Efectivamente, ya se había tomado nota de ello, Sr. Delegado de los Estados Unidos.

¿Algún comentario sobre la inclusión de la propuesta de Colombia; es decir, mencionar "como todavía en algunas ocasiones no se había alcanzado plenamente el objetivo mínimo? etc.

G. SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): En realidad, no sería "en algunas ocasiones", sino "en la mayoría de las ocasiones", porque, hasta donde nosotros conocemos, solamente se ha alcanzado una vez.

EL PRESIDENTE: Le agradezco mucho sus palabras, pero eso parece que complicaría las cosas con otras Delegaciones, particularmente con la Comunidad Económica Europea.

G. SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): No haríamos ningún problema sobre esto. Lo aceptamos.

EL PRESIDENTE: En ese caso, ¿estaría de acuerdo la Comunidad Económica Europea?

G. DESESQUELLES (CEE): Nous sommes d'accord pour "dans certains cas", mais je voudrais rappeler qu'il y a des traductions différentes selon les interventions. Comme le dit le délégué des Etats-Unis, et comme je l'avais dit lors de mon intervention, c'est: "le cas échéant le dépasser", et non pas "et même le dépasser". Nous ne sommes pas d'accord sur les termes traduits par l'interprète: "même le dépasser", mais sur "et le cas échéant le dépasser", comme je l'avais dit dans ma première intervention et comme l'a rappelé ensuite le délégué des Etats-Unis.

EL PRESIDENTE: Sobre eso ya se tomó nota. Le suplico al Presidente del Comité de Redacción que nos haga una aclaración sobre el particular.

R.C. GUPTA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I would like to explain that this sentence specifically refers to the year 1983 when we use the words "have not yet been fully reached". We are talking of a specific period; we are not talking of a long-term trend. Whether this target was reached or not we are specifically talking about what is happening in 1983, and it says that this has not yet been reached and that is why there is a possibility of exceeding it. So I plead with delegations that there is no necessity to add anywhere "in certain cases" or "in most cases", or anything else here, because we have a specific case. The facts are known, that this target has not yet been reached in 1983. This is what we are trying to reflect. I urge delegates to consider this point, and not to make changes so as to confuse the whole thing.

EL PRESIDENTE: Los señores delegados pueden considerar lo expuesto por el Presidente del Comité de Redacción.

L.J. EAKIN (Australia): To clear up any possible misunderstanding there, if the sentence starts with the word "As", as you indicated, and after the word "reached" insert "in 1983", there would be no confusion. The sentence will then read "As the minimum annual replenishment of 500 000 tons of cereals had not yet been fully reached in 1983", and then the sentence proceeds as written, and there is no confusion.

EL PRESIDENTE: Estimo que eso añade claridad al punto que señalaba nuestro Presidente del Comité de Redacción.

Podríamos, en consecuencia, dejar esta oración tal como estaba, con la inclusión de la frase señalada por Cuba de añadir "e inclusive".

¿Está la Delegación de Colombia de acuerdo?

H. LOPEZ DE MORAL (Colombia): Me gustaría, Señor Presidente, que nos dijeran cómo quedaría el párrafo en su totalidad.

EL PRESIDENTE: Quedaría así: "Como todavía no se había alcanzado plenamente el objetivo mínimo anual de reposición de 500 000 toneladas de cereales, en 1983, la Conferencia considero importante que se adoptaran todas las medidas posibles para alcanzar este objetivo e inclusive superarlo, ya que dicha cantidad podría no ser suficiente para satisfacer las necesidades de urgencia."

M.M. AL-HAMOUD (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): With reference to the last sentence where we are speaking about the "minimum annual replenishment target..... which have not yet been fully reached", and so on, it was suggested that we add "and if possible", or "possibly exceed it". I must tell you that in the Arabic text we already have this term. There would be a certain repetition if we were to add it.

EL PRESIDENTE: Entonces, magnífico. Creo que todos estamos de acuerdo.

Sí no hay ningún otro comentario, se aprueba el párrafo 8.

Paragraphs 3 to 8, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 3 à 8, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 3 a 8, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 9 to 14

PARAGRAPHES 9 à 14

PARRAFOS 9 a 14

B. FURNESS (United States of America): Comparing our notes with the draft we have before us, we do not find a consensus in the Drafting Committee that "The Conference noted with concern that a decline of 8 percent in the value of", and so on. We are willing to consider this *de novo*, that is, if there is a consensus here that that is the way this should be phrased. But we recall that this was not agreed in the Drafting Committee, at least according to our notes.

R.C. GUPTA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): This comment is somewhat new to me at this stage because my notes and my recollections do not bear this out. There was complete consensus in the Drafting Committee that the existing wording, "The Conference noted" should be changed to "The Conference noted with concern". I do not recall any lack of consensus on this point. I can even recall who suggested this and how it was agreed, but I do not think it is necessary to go into all these details at this stage. There was no lack of consensus on this point.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿La Delegación de los Estados Unidos quiere hacer alguna observación sobre la preocupación que se manifiesta en este punto?

B. FURNESS (United States of America): Our notes do not show this change but we will not insist on our point.

EL PRESIDENTE: Agradezco mucho su colaboración. Y si no hay ninguna otra objeción, se aprueba el párrafo 9. Pasamos al párrafo 10. El Presidente del Comité de Redacción nos va a hacer algún comentario sobre este párrafo.

R.C. GUPTA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): In paragraph 10 there seems to be a drafting error in the third sentence which reads: "The gain to importing countries arising from the decline in the prices of some inputs, particularly fertilizers, was more than offset by the declines, especially for developing countries in the prices of their export commodities...", and after that it says "especially for developing countries". The phrase is repeated and it is redundant. The last four words: "especially for developing countries" may be deleted from this paragraph.

EL PRESIDENTE: Espero que hayan tomado nota las delegaciones de habla inglesa.

Sra. H. LOPEZ DE MORAL (Colombia): Se trata sólo de un pequeño cambio de redacción. En la última línea del texto español del párrafo 10 se dice que "han descendido por cuarto año consecutivo". En español es más correcto "han descendido por el cuarto año consecutivo". Es decir, incluir la palabra "el".

I. MARINCEK (Switzerland): On the decline in the world market prices of agricultural commodities, I have some doubt as to whether one can refer just to one year. It says in the second sentence: "The overall decline in 1982 was 12 percent." I would suggest that to take some years, perhaps 4 years, would be better, as in the last sentence.

Secondly, the last sentence says: "The terms of trade of developing country agricultural products were down by about 10 percent", but does this refer also to the year 1982?

EL PRESIDENTE: Se refiere, efectivamente, a 1982.

I. MARINCEK (Switzerland): Would it be possible to bring in a figure for the overall decline for several years? Because I have some doubt as to whether one year can really reflect a trend.

R.C. GUPTA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): May I take this opportunity of reminding delegates that in the Drafting Committee as well as in the Report we are only trying to reflect what was stated in the Plenary. The entire paper which was presented for consideration was the situation in 1982 and the comments of most of the delegations were about that situation.

I believe this is neither the time nor the place to reflect things which were not stated in the Plenary.

EL PRESIDENTE: Espero que la delegación de Suiza, teniendo en cuenta estas consideraciones, retire su propuesta.

L.J. EAKIN (Australia): Just to clear up the point, in the last sentence are we going to insert "in 1982" after "10 percent" or is it simply implied?

EL PRESIDENTE: Queda implicado, pero quizás para mayor claridad se podría insertar "en 1982". Si no hay más objeciones, se aprueba el párrafo 10. Párrafo 11.

R.C. SERSALE DI CERISANO (Argentina): Para solicitar dos pequeñas modificaciones que tienen relación con la Resolución 159(VI) del UNCTAD, en la cual se pide a todos los países desarrollados - si mi memoria no falla - "se abstengan de aplicar las medidas proteccionistas". Esta sería la primera cosa que quisiera que se agregara.

Después, donde dice "la Conferencia deploró en general la persistencia del proteccionismo comercial y sobre el efecto que ello tiene en muchos países", agregar "en desarrollo" y continuar "respecto del acceso, etc."

De lo que se trata es justamente de resolver los problemas de los países en desarrollo.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Podría la Secretaría informarnos si la Resolución 159(VI) hace efectiva referencia a los países desarrollados?

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): If we check Resolution 159 (VI) of the UNCTAD meeting, the paragraph on protectionism does indeed refer to developed countries and not to all countries. I can read it out if you wish.

EL PRESIDENTE: Ahora bien, queda entonces propuesto el que en la penúltima oración se aclare que se trata de países desarrollados.

B. FURNESS (United States of America): We are not in a position to support either of the modifications put forward by our colleague from Argentina. The purpose of our discussion here today is to reflect what was said in the debate, and not necessarily what was said in the debate on this particular resolution of UNCTAD (VI). The point of the debate was that trade protectionism has an effect on all countries. During the interventions that I heard in the Plenary debate on trade, all countries were called upon to resist applying further protectionist measures.

I think the text is correct and accurate as it stands, and is a reflection of what was said in the Plenary.

EL PRESIDENTE: Les recuerdo que la sugerencia de la delegación de Argentina era simplemente congruente con lo que decía la Resolución 159(VI). Ahora tiene la palabra el Presidente del Comité de Redacción.

R.C. GUPTA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I would like to recall that in the other draft which was put to the Drafting Group by the Secretariat, the sentence said "It also called on all countries to resist..." and so forth. One of the participants in the Drafting Group was extremely keen to refer to a particular resolution of UNCTAD and insisted that it should be referred to in the Report. If we propose to refer to that resolution, then what we say in the sentence should reflect what the resolution contains. But if you want to stick to the text as it stands in paragraph 11, then to my mind the reference to the UNCTAD Resolution will have to be deleted altogether because you cannot say one thing and refer to something altogether different, it does not make sense. If delegates insist on having it calling upon all countries then the UNCTAD Resolution is irrelevant and the reference to it may be deleted.

L.J. EAKIN (Australia): I would like to support the words of the United States delegate. I think in our intervention in the Commission on this item and also in our Minister's statement to the Plenary we did not refer simply to developed countries resisting the application of further protectionist measures, we also referred to it in a general sense.

Similarly, with the effects of protectionism, the statements we made again in the Plenary and in this Commission referred to the effects on all countries, not simply developing countries, they are widespread.

R.C. SERSALE DI CERISANO (Argentina): Nosotros no tenemos ningún problema. Reconocemos que lo que dice la delegación de Australia es cierto. Podríamos conseguir que en el primer párrafo se diga nada más que el efecto que ello tiene en muchos países respecto al acceso. Eso podía quedar tal cual, pero nos mantenemos en la segunda modificación en relación a la Resolución 159 (VI), no solamente porque nosotros lo hemos dicho en este foro, sino porque lo hemos dicho en otros foros y aquí en los debates, tanto de esta Comisión I como por lo dicho por los jefes de delegación; se pidió a los países desarrollados que se abstengan de poner medidas proteccionistas. Esto no es nuevo. Ha sido ya debatido en el tema 6.1 y 6.2, así como en la Plenaria, dicho por la mayoría de los países miembros de esta Organización, países en desarrollo.

L.J. EAKIN (Australia): If we want to speed this process up and proceed, and if some delegations wish to refer to the UNCTAD Resolution as it stands in the penultimate sentence of paragraph 11, the beginning of the paragraph refers to "The Conference". I think that in order to reflect what was discussed in the Commission perhaps it would be more correct to say: "It recalled UNCTAD Resolution 159 (VI) which called on all developed countries...", if that is the way that one should refer to it. As it stands at the moment, the sentence does not reflect the general feeling of the Commission or the Plenary as I understand it.

B. FURNESS (United States of America): As I see it, our problem here is to try and reconcile the contents of Resolution 159 (VI) of UNCTAD with what was said in the Plenary. The sentence as it is contained in our Report, without the amendment proposed by Argentina, accurately reflects what was said here at this Conference and this Commission.

It seems to me that it would be possible to address the concerns of those who wish to mention Resolution 159 (VI) of the UNCTAD simply by adding in the footnote: "See also Resolution 159 (VI) UNCTAD". I think this would indicate the point that my Australian colleague was trying to make, that it was recalled. But I would put it in the footnote, clearly indicating that this is a supplement to the statement made in paragraph 11.

G. DESEQUELLES (CEE): Le Représentant des Etats Unis vient d'exposer exactement ce que je voulais dire. En fait, donc, je supporte ce qu'il vient de déclarer car cela reflète exactement les débats et on conciliera les différentes positions.

El PRESIDENTE: Bien, lo que debemos resolver es el problema de congruencia entre la afirmación hecha en esta oración y su referencia a la Resolución 159 (VI).

A.H.M. ABDUL HYE (Bangladesh): I should like to support the contention of the Chairman of the Drafting Committee. I think either we make this sentence consistent with the reference to it or we do not make any reference to the UNCTAD Resolution at all. If we make a reference to the UNCTAD Resolution then this sentence has to be consistent with the Resolution otherwise it should stay as it is. There is no indication in any article to "see paper so and so".

R.C. SERSALE DI CERISANO (Argentina): Lamento tener que proseguir el debate de este punto, pero no queda más remedio si queremos ser congruentes con lo que queremos aprobar, ya que estamos hablando tanto de la congruencia. Aquí lo que se está diciendo son dos cosas: por una parte, que los países han hecho mención tanto durante los debates de esta Comisión, como en la Plenaria los jefes de delegación que se han referido a la Resolución 159 (VI), y en la Resolución 159 (VI) se habla de países desarrollados, tal cual nos lo ha confirmado la Secretaría. Entonces, si es así, estamos de acuerdo con lo que acaba de decir Bangladesh y el Comité de Redacción en que tiene que haber una congruencia. Eso por una parte, que confirma nuestro derecho a que se incluya "todos los países desarrollados".

Y por otra parte, otra cuestión más que hace que este texto quede "todos los países desarrollados", es que también lo hemos dicho en los debates de esta Comisión. Nosotros no hemos pedido a los países en desarrollo que dejen de aplicar nuevas medidas proteccionistas. Se lo hemos pedido a los países desarrollados, o a algunos países o a la mayoría de los países desarrollados. Lo hemos dicho con nombres y apellidos. Si aquí se quiere poner que también se pidió a los países desarrollados que apliquen medidas proteccionistas las revisen lo antes posible, de acuerdo. Podemos sacar el "todos", pero nosotros hemos pedido, con Resolución 159 (VI) o sin Resolución, que los países desarrollados dejen de aplicar nuevas medidas proteccionistas.

El PRESIDENTE: Quizás se puede entonces adoptar, en parte, la proposición hecha por la delegación de Australia haciendo referencia a que se recordó la Resolución 159 (VI) donde se pide a todos los países desarrollados que se abstengan de aplicar nuevas medidas proteccionistas. ¿Podrían estar de acuerdo así?

B. FURNESS (United States of America): My delegation is not in a position to agree with "the Conference called upon all developed countries", because I think it is pretty clear that the Conference, to the extent there was a consensus, "called on all countries to resist applying etc. etc.". But, it is also correct to state that some delegations mentioned the contents of Resolution 159 (VI) UNCTAD as applying to agricultural trade and subjects we are talking about here. We had hoped that that could be accommodated in the footnote, perhaps with the suggestion I made earlier on this point. But, would it be possible to consider leaving the sentence we are talking about as it stands and adding the sentence subsequently that would say "some delegations also recalled Resolution 159 (VI) UNCTAD which called particularly upon developed countries", or some such suitable wording.

EL PRESIDENTE: Se trata de llegar a una transacción en torno a este punto. Reconocemos que hubo países que hicieron referencia a la Resolución 159 (VI) misma; que se recordó y también que se enfatizó que se pedía por parte de esos países a todos los países desarrollados que se abstuvieran de aplicar nuevas medidas proteccionistas. Lo que tratamos es de llegar a una situación de transacción que nos permita a la vez buscar la congruencia a la que se refirió el Comité de Redacción.

Quizás el término "se pidió" en tanto que resulta una petición general, pueda ser aceptable por parte de la delegación de Estados Unidos y de esa manera tranzar y llegar a un acuerdo. No sé si guste a la delegación de Estados Unidos volver a reflexionar sobre esto, y la necesidad de tranzar en este punto y llegar a una posición intermedia, como la que había propuesto la delegación de Australia.

B. FURNESS (United States of America): Could you please tell me now how this would read?

EL PRESIDENTE: Esperamos que la delegación de Estados Unidos pueda llegar a una posición intermedia, sobre todo en el entendido de que los países en desarrollo no van a culparse a sí mismos del proteccionismo, y no recuerdo que eso haya ocurrido.

Sra. G. SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): En realidad, nuestra delegación había pedido la palabra para apoyar la propuesta de la distinguida delegación de Argentina. Sin embargo, como parece que hay algunas, no sé si cuestiones de interpretación o tal vez de asimilación de los conceptos, nuestro país, nuestra delegación, teniendo en cuenta un refrán muy común en mi país que dice que al que le sirva el sayo que so lo ponga, pues propondríamos el siguiente texto: "También pidió a todos los países que aplican medidas proteccionistas que se abstengan de aplicarlas y las eliminen lo antes posible".

EL PRESIDENTE: Me parece una solución inteligente y quizás se pueda aceptar. Tiene la palabra el representante de la Comunidad Económica Europea.

G. DESEQUELLES (CEE): Je crois qu'il faut essayer de trouver une solution sage et qui puisse rencontrer l'accord de tous. Il suffirait donc de supprimer la "foot note" qui fait référence à la Résolution 159 (VI) et de terminer ce paragraphe après le mot "multilatéraux" par une nouvelle phrase et dire "certaines délégations ont aussi rappelé la Résolution 159 (VI) de la CNUCED."

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores deseo insistir en la equidad de la propuesta que ha hecho la delegación de Cuba, que sin duda reflejará mejor los debates y no discriminará a nadie. Ojalá consideremos que es una propuesta intermedia que nos evita hacer referencia a la Resolución 159 (VI), y como mencionó la delegación de Cuba que se ponga el sayo quien le corresponde.

B. FURNESS (United States of America): We can support the compromise by our Cuban colleague so that the sentence would read, if I have it correctly, "it also called on all countries which applied protectionist measures to resist applying further protectionist measures and as soon as possible to roll back such measures". Then, if the proposal by the European Economic Community would be adopted and we can support that, the footnote would be abolished and a sentence would be added at the end that would read "some delegations also recalled Resolution 159 (VI) UNCTAD.", to complete the paragraph.

EL PRESIDENTE: Me parece que esto complementa bien todo lo que se ha mencionado aquí, solamente recuerdo que la proposición de Cuba decía "también pidió a todos los países que aplican medidas proteccionistas se abstengan de hacerlo y eliminen estas medida lo antes posible. Luego vendrá la oración que ha propuesto la delegación de Estados Unidos. Algunas delegaciones recordarán en este sentido la resolución 159 (VI) de la UNCTAD. ¿Estarían de acuerdo? No veo que haya ninguna observación. Aprobamos el párrafo 11.

Paragraphs 9 to 14, as amended, approved
Les paragraphes 9 à 14, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés
Los párrafos 9 a 14, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 15 to 19 approved
Les paragraphes 15 à 19 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 15 a 19 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 20 to 24
PARAGRAPHERS 20 à 24
PÁRRAFOS 20 a 24

EL PRESIDENTE:

Párrafo 23, les recuerdo aquí que en la versión francesa se debe separar de este párrafo la parte del párrafo 24. Este párrafo comienza aproximadamente a la mitad del texto que tienen en francés.

N. MACDONNELL (Canada): It is just a minor drafting point. In the second sentence of para. 24, I think a word has been left out at the end, when it talks about urging "that the programme outline approved by the Eighth Session of the Committee on World Food Security be developed further with a view to elaborating a special ..." and I think it should read "long-term programme for Africa" rather than a "long programme for Africa". I think we should insert the word "term" between "long" and "programme", at least in the English text.

G. SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Es para una precisión que afecta al texto español en el párrafo 24. Para que sea congruente con lo que habla del párrafo 22 y no sea repetitivo, donde dice "La Conferencia convino" agregaríamos la palabra "también", por lo tanto quedaría "La Conferencia convino también en que la situación", por lo menos en la versión española ya tiene más congruencia.

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que es aceptable, si no hay otra observación o propuesta al párrafo 24 pasamos al Suplemento 1. Les recuerdo que en la versión española hay una omisión y no se refleja dónde se debe hacer la inserción de este Suplemento en el REP/1.

Paragraphs 20 to 24, as amended, approved
Les paragraphes 20 a 24, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés
Los párrafos 20 a 24, así enmendados, son aprobados

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART 1 - Sup. 1
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - PARTIE 1 - Sup. 1
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN I - PARTE 1 - Sup. 1

PARAGRAPH 1 INCLUDING DRAFT RESOLUTION
PARAGRAPHE 1 Y COMPRIS LE PROJET DE RESOLUTION
PÁRRAFO 1 INCLUIDO EL PROYECTO DE RESOLUCION

G. DESEQUELLES (CEE): Il s'agit du paragraphe 2 et du considérant qui renvoie au paragraphe 2, c'est-à-dire le quatrième considérant de la résolution. A la fois dans la déclaration, en séance de commission et également dans le groupe de contact la Communauté économique européenne et ses Etats Membres ont expliqué pourquoi ils souhaitaient une formule différente de celle qui est exprimée dans le document qui nous est soumis et qui fait référence à l'aide alimentaire déjà promise. La Communauté a expliqué au cours des réunions du groupe de contact les raisons et d'ailleurs le représentant australien avait très bien imaginé le problème qui nous préoccupait et nous avons obtenu un résultat de consensus dans ce Groupe de travail. Il serait donc approprié qu'il soit révélé dans ce document.

Il s'agirait de dire tout d'abord, dans l'article 2, dans le dispositif à la cinquième ligne version française: "de réserver à environ un million de tonnes en sus des engagements déjà affectés" et non pas "en sus de celle qui a déjà été promise".

EL PRESIDENTE: Perdón que le interrumpa, estamos viendo el párrafo 2 del Preámbulo aunque no están numerados, no sé si tiene algún comentario. Este párrafo comienza: "Tomando nota de que está aumentando la población de Africa", disculpe que le haya interrumpido, ahora mismo le doy la palabra, si no hubiera ningún comentario al párrafo 2 se aprueba. ¿Párrafo 3? Se aprueba. La Comunidad Económica Europea tiene la palabra.

G.DESESQUELLES (CEE): Quand vous avez dit paragraphe 2, j'ai pensé que c'était l'article 2.

En ce qui concerne le paragraphe 4 et en relation aussi avec l'article 2 - mais je me limiterai dans mon intervention au paragraphe 4 - il faudrait dire compte tenu de l'explication que j'ai citée il y a quelques instants: "environ un million de tonnes en sus des engagements au titre de l'aide alimentaire déjà affectée pour 1983-1984". Je crois que c'est également un problème de traduction plus qu'un problème de fond. Dans le Groupe de contact nous étions tombés d'accord sur cette formulation.

EL PRESIDENTE: Aunque no sé francés me parece que sí es un problema de traducción, de manera que suplico que tomen debida nota, en la versión francesa, de esta resolución. Si no hubiera algún otro comentario se incluiría la observación hecha por el representante de la Comunidad Económica Europea sobre el texto francés y se aprobaría este cuarto párrafo, párrafo quinto del Preámbulo. ¿Se aprueba este párrafo quinto? Pasemos ahora al párrafo primero de las disposiciones. ¿Algún comentario? Párrafo segundo. La Comunidad Económica Europea tiene la palabra.

G.DESESQUELLES (CEE): Il s'agit donc de la même proposition de modification du libellé à la cinquième ligne de l'article 2. Au lieu de dire "en sus de celle qui a déjà été promise", dire en langue française "en sus des engagements déjà affectés".

N. MACDONNELL (Canada): I would just like to check and see whether the suggestion made by the Representative of the European Economic Community will also be inserted into the text in English as well. I would like to suggest that we be consistent throughout all of our texts.

EL PRESIDENTE: La Secretaría siente que en inglés queda adecuadamente redactada la observación hecha por la Comunidad Económica Europea, pero yo no tengo mayores elementos para definirlos.

G.DESESQUELLES (CEE): Comme mon collègue canadien, je pense que l'anglais ne correspond pas tout à fait aux débats qui se sont déroulés dans le Groupe de contact, et je crois même que nous nous étions mis d'accord avec le Secrétariat sur le texte anglais; c'était le mot "commitments" et non pas "pledge".

EL PRESIDENTE: Me parece que hubo, según me informa la Secretaría, una larga discusión en torno a usar la palabra allocations o pledges y finalmente se decidió dejar pledges. Tiene la palabra la Comunidad Económica Europea.

G. DESESQUELLES (CEE): Je crois que justement on voulait supprimer le mot "pledge" et on avait fait une proposition pour le mot commitment qui avait été accepté au cours de cette réunion.

J.P. BHATTACHARJEE (Director, Policy Analysis Division): I was just trying to recall what went on in the Contact Group, and I may in this connection bring to your attention that in the Contact Group, there was a long discussion on whether the word "pledges" or "allocations" should be used. The word "commitment" was given up, so it was between "pledges" and "allocations", and I recall there was a long discussion, particularly with Australia, and we explained the differences. In the end, I believe between Australia, the USA and the EEC it was agreed to retain the word "pledges" already used in English, at least. Although I know that the EEC had considerable reservations about "pledges", in the end my recollection and that of others is that the word "pledges", at least in the English version, was retained.

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores, no me gustaría que se abriera el debate sobre estas dos palabras. Fueron ampliamente discutidas y se convino así en el Grupo de Contacto, quizás esta Comisión pueda aceptar la palabra pledges, según indica la Secretaría, como se recogió en aquella ocasión, independientemente de que en el texto francés ha sido acogida la expresión correspondiente a la propuesta de la Comunidad Económica Europea. ¿Habría alguna objeción por parte de los países de habla inglesa en aceptar la palabra pledges? No veo que haya ningún inconveniente, les agradezco su colaboración. Quedará entonces en inglés la palabra que ya está actualmente en el texto. Se aprueba el párrafo 2º.

E. SCHRODER (Germany, Federal Republic of)(original language German): I am sorry to return to paragraph 2. My question would be, is there now consistency and conformity between the English and the French texts, because if there is not, then we really cannot accept this.

EL PRESIDENTE: Se hará la consulta a quienes conocen muy bien los dos idiomas.

Ahora podemos seguir con los párrafos y posteriormente cuando se pongan de acuerdo los señores intérpretes para que esto quede con toda claridad, volveremos al párrafo 2°.

Sobre el párrafo 7°, tiene la palabra la Delegación del Congo.

J. NGOULOU (Congo): Je voulais poser une question sur la rédaction.: On "attire l'attention" est-ce que c'est aux pays donateurs d'assurer le transport intérieur dans les pays confrontés à de graves problèmes de transport? Si c'est le cas, il faut le faire ressortir. Parce que au paragraphe 3 on "exhorte les gouvernements des pays touchés à mobiliser au maximum les ressources... pour supprimer les goulots d'étranglement" pour le transport de ces vivres. Par conséquent, à qui est dédiée cette attention-là?

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Propone una redacción diferente la Delegación del Congo?

J. NGOULOU (Congo) Je n'ai pas de proposition à faire, mais je voudrais comprendre: lorsqu'on dit "attire l'attention", c'est l'attention de qui? des pays donateurs? qui doivent assurer le transport intérieur dans les pays ayant des difficultés de transport ou bien est-ce que ce sont ces mêmes pays qui doivent mobiliser leurs moyens de transport?

EL PRESIDENTE: Considero que precisamente la generalidad de la expresión indica que correspondería a todos, igualmente a la asistencia internacional, etc. Con esa expresión de generalidad se puede comprender a todos. Estimo que esa era la idea.

J. NGOULOU (Congo): J'aurais bien voulu que l'on fasse apparaître ici les pays donateurs et les pays qui ont ce genre de moyens, à propos de la nécessité d'assister les pays dans le transport intérieur.

EL PRESIDENTE: En ese caso, tendríamos que incluir también a los propios países en desarrollo, porque, hasta donde yo entiendo, va dirigido también a ellos el asegurar dicho transporte. ¿No le parece bien así, Sr. Delegado del Congo?

J. NGOULOU (Congo): Oui, ça va très bien.

EL PRESIDENTE: En tal caso, podríamos decir "tanto a países donantes como receptores".

El Presidente del Comité de Redacción me propone una redacción en inglés; es decir, que puedan entenderse todos los responsables, todos los involucrados.

¿Puede ser aceptable esto?

Entonces se incluirá la expresión inglesa traducida a sus respectivos idiomas.

E. SCHRODER (Germany, Federal Republic of) (Original language German): Mr Chairman, this is not a point that is of particular importance to my delegation but I believe that it is hardly logical if, on the question of internal transport, we include also the developed countries. I think that it is quite justified that the developing countries would reject the ensuring of internal transport by developed countries. It is really a question of whether the developing countries can ensure that all that reaches them by way of food aid will really be distributed within their territory. I do not think this is in any way the responsibility of the developed countries.

J. NGOULOU (Congo): Effectivement, si les pays donateurs se retirent de la nécessité d'assurer le transport intérieur dans ces pays, je me demande comment ces pays-là pourront effectivement mobiliser leurs moyens pour acheminer les vivres jusqu'aux endroits concernés...

J. DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): Mr Chairman, I think this paragraph refers both to the delivery of food aid and to the delivery of supplies for agricultural production. In the Drafting Group on this resolution, and also in the special meeting that the Director-General called, considerable attention was given on the part of the donors to the need to do more to assist internal transport in developing countries, but at no time did that then mean that the developing countries could do less or could stop themselves trying to do more. Therefore, I think that the paragraph should either stand as it is or that we should insert something like "of all concerned", but quite frankly agricultural inputs in these countries are moving to a large extent, to the degree that they do move, by virtue of the existing infrastructure of the countries themselves. I do not think we should slant the paragraph to put the responsibility on the donor countries.

EL PRESIDENTE: Podría ser aceptada por Alemania y el Congo la expresión inglesa que en español puede traducirse por todos los involucrados o todos los responsables.

J. NGOULOU (Congo): Auquel cas la phrase du paragraphe 3 reste valable pour le paragraphe 7. Et ces pays-là doivent effectivement rationaliser les dispositifs locaux de transport pour acheminer ce qu'ils ont reçu une fois qu'ils ont l'aide des pays donateurs; et ils doivent assurer eux-mêmes la distribution des vivres à l'intérieur de leur pays.

EL PRESIDENTE: Solicito de la Delegación del Congo que considere la medida de transacción de la palabra inglesa, que en español puede corresponder a involucrado. Quizá eso pudiera tener la suficiente generalidad y amplitud para comprender a todos aquellos que pudieran estar responsabilizados en asegurar el transporte.

J. NGOULOU (Congo): Avec votre formulation on attire l'attention de toutes les parties concernées en vue d'assurer le transport intérieur et ainsi de suite.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Se acepta esto por todas las Delegaciones?

Entonces, se aprueba el párrafo 7. Párrafo 8. Párrafo 9. Volvemos al párrafo numerado 2. Hay una recomendación por parte de la interpretación. Si se acepta la versión inglesa debería permanecer la versión francesa tal como está.

G. DESESQUELLES (CEE): Je crois qu'il n'y a pas de choix car si on ne met pas le mot "engagements" déjà affectés", la communauté et ses Etats membres ne peuvent pas accepter la résolution; nous sommes arrivés à un résultat dans le Groupe de contact; la CEE a expliqué pourquoi; je veux bien de nouveau reprendre et expliquer le mot "engagements déjà affectés". Je ne comprends pas pourquoi le secrétariat n'a pas mis dans la version anglaise ce qui a été accepté dans le Groupe de contact. Donc pour la CEE et ses Etats membres en français, il faut mettre "engagements déjà acceptés", et en anglais le mot "allocation" sinon la CEE et ses Etats membres ne peuvent pas accepter cette version.

EL PRESIDENTE: Solicito de los señores intérpretes traduzcan al español la expresión inglesa. Me dicen que la traducción adecuada al español sería "asignación". ¿Se acepta así?. Por tanto, la enmienda de la Representación de la Comunidad Económica Europea se entiende traducida al español por asignaciones,

N. MACDONNELL (Canada): Mr Chairman, I should just like to check that the wording in operative paragraph 2 and in preambular paragraph 4 would both be changed to reflect that in English.

EL PRESIDENTE: Efectivamente, tiene razón. Para ser más precisos, tanto en el párrafo cuarto del Preámbulo como en el párrafo segundo, se debe corregir de acuerdo con lo que hemos indicado.

Se aprueba el párrafo cuarto del Preámbulo y segundo de las Dispositivas.

Paragraph 1, including draft resolution, as amended, approved

Le paragraphe 1, y compris le projet de résolution, ainsi amendé, est approuvé

El párrafo 1, incluido el proyecto de resolución, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART 1 (continued)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - PARTE 1 (suite)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE 1 (continuación)

PARAGRAPHS 25 to 30

PARAGRAPHERS 25 à 30

PARRAFOS 25 a 30

EL PRESIDENTE: Pasamos ahora al párrafo 26, antes 25, del C 83/I/REP/1. Sin comentarios, se aprueba el 26, antes 25. Párrafo 27, antes 26. Respecto del párrafo 28, antes 27, tiene la palabra Colombia.

H. LOPEZ DE MORAL (Colombia): Nuevamente, señor Presidente, para un cambio de redacción en este párrafo, que no afecta más que al texto español, y no cambia su sentido. En la última línea, cambiar la preposición "para" por "en", y que quede diciendo: "recuperación en esta región".

EL PRESIDENTE: No creo que esto afecte a los otros idiomas. ¿Se aprueba, pues, el párrafo 28 con esa enmienda en el texto español? (ASENTIMIENTO.)

Paragraphs 25 to 30, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 25 à 30, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 25 a 30, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 31 to 33,

PARAGRAPHERS 31 à 33

PARRAFOS 31 a 33

J. DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): It is not a large change, but in paragraph 31, which is now 32, the phrase "in particularly" should read "in particular". We should delete the 1-y.

EL PRESIDENTE: Se toma de ello buena nota. Se aprueba el párrafo 32, antes 31. Sobre el párrafo 33, antes 32, tiene la palabra la Delegación de Alemania.

E. SCHRODER (Germany, Federal Republic of)(Original language German): I would like to suggest an amendment which, however, applies only to the French text. The last words there, "déficit vivrier" should read "déficit alimentaire". It is a correction of the French text only.

H. MOHAMADI (Sudan) (original language Arabic): There is a slight amendment in the paragraph 33 which refers to "...inadequate management of marine resources". I think we already talked about land resources in previous meetings. If so, I have three proposals to amend this paragraph: we could say: "The rational management of land and water resources" since water resources include marine resources; "marine resources and other land and water resources"; or, add "other land and water resources" at the end of the sentence.

EL PRESIDENTE: Solamente afecta a la última parte del párrafo: "y la insuficiente ordenación de los recursos marinos y terrestres".

L.J. EAKIN (Australia): I have a very brief point on the same paragraph, where we refer to "irrigation potentials". I suggest that the "s" be deleted from the word "potentials".

H. LOPEZ DE MORAL (Colombia): Le voy a pedir autorización para referirme en realidad al párrafo 32, antiguo 31. Es una pequeña enmienda que afecta solamente el texto español. En la primera parte de la frase se habla de "La Conferencia recalco la importancia de políticas"; haría falta aquí un verbo, en realidad en español. He comprobado la versión inglesa y en inglés está bien sin que se mencione ningún verbo, pero en español habría que hacer algo con estas políticas; aplicarlas, adoptarlas. Me gustaría más la palabra "adoptar". Y quedaría "la importancia de que se adopten políticas nacionales equilibradas".

R.C. SERSALE DI CERISANO (Argentina): Si usted me disculpa, quisiera ajustar algo en el nuevo párrafo 30.

EL PRESIDENTE: Perdón, pero permita un momento nada más para ver si todos estamos de acuerdo con la propuesta de la delegación de Colombia sobre la inclusión de un verbo que nos permita hacer algo con las políticas nacionales equilibradas. Si están de acuerdo, se aprueba el párrafo 32 con la modificación en español, sugerida por la delegación de Colombia.

R.C. SERSALE DI CERISANO (Argentina): Era para referirme al nuevo párrafo 30; en la tercera frase que empieza "Los principales países exportadores", como se está refiriendo a los países desarrollados, tal cual lo enuncia al empezar el párrafo, lo que queremos es que para hacerlo acorde a los países desarrollados, se diga en la tercera frase que empieza con "Los", debiera empezar "Estos principales países exportadores". O sea que en concreto es reemplazar "Los" por "Estos" en la primera palabra de la tercera frase del nuevo párrafo 30.

EL PRESIDENTE: Éso afecta solamente al español. Les suplico que acepten estas dos enmiendas y que no hagan más referencias a párrafos ya aprobados.

B. FURNESS (United States of America): Am I right in thinking that in new paragraph 30 the only change that has been made is the addition of "these" in the third sentence? Can we also have the text of the proposed changes in new paragraph 34?

M.C. WENNER (United Kingdom): I had my flag up quite some time ago to ask precisely the same question on new paragraph 34. I simply do not understand what the revision from the delegate of Sudan was, and I would like it clarified, please.

EL PRESIDENTE: Es coincidente con lo que propone Estados Unidos en la modificación al párrafo 30, antes 29. Implica solamente hacerlo coincidente con la versión en inglés, introduciendo la palabra "Estos" en vez de "Los principales países". Esto me parece, me indica la Secretaría, sí tendría una repercusión en inglés efectivamente. En inglés diría: "These major exporting countries". Si están de acuerdo con ello, se acepta el párrafo 30, antes 29, y respecto al párrafo 34, antes 33, la propuesta de la delegación de Sudán era incluir al final de ese párrafo la siguiente expresión "y la insuficiente ordenación de los recursos marinos, terrestres y silvestres". En inglés se leería así "inadequate management of marine, land and wildlife resources". ¿Están de acuerdo con ello?

H. MOHAMADI (Sudan) (original language. Arabic): I would like to say that the last paragraph is confined only to marine resources and it excludes other life in the waters, in inland waters, and other waters as well. Therefore, my proposal was either to refer to "marine and wildlife resources", including other resources, and if we concentrate here on marine resources we should say "wildlife and other water resources", but preferably we should say "marine and other water resources, and land resources". These are three formulae from which to choose one.

R. C. GUPTA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): If I understand correctly the proposal of the delegate of Sudan, we can perhaps reflect his concern by adding, "inadequate management of marine, inland fisheries, land and wildlife resources". In this case, since we have talked earlier of irrigation and his concern seems to be of water resources and inland fisheries, I suggest we say "management of land, inland fisheries and wildlife resources".

EL PRESIDENTE: Pero, ¿estaría el delegado de Sudán de acuerdo con la proposición que ha hecho el Presidente del Comité de Redacción, que creo comprende su observación?

H. MOHAMADI (Sudan) (original language Arabic): Yes, I agree.

EL PRESIDENTE: Las delegaciones de Estados Unidos y Reino Unido han tomado nota de dicha propuesta. Si están de acuerdo, se aprueba el párrafo 34, antes 33, como ha sido redactado. Quedan pues aprobados, con las enmiendas correspondientes, los documentos C 83/I/REP/I y C 83/I/REP/1-Sup.1.

Paragraphs 31 to 33, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 31 à 33, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 31 a 33, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Commission I, Part 1, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la Commission I, première partie, ainsi amendée, est adoptée

El proyecto de informe de la Comisión I, parte 1, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART 2

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - PARTIE 2

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN I - PARTE 2

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 29 INCLUDING DRAFT RESOLUTION

PARAGRAPHEs 1 à 29 Y COMPRIS LE PROJET DE RESOLUTION

PARRAFOS 1 a 29 INCLUIDO EL PROYECTO DE RESOLUCION

EL PRESIDENTE: Pasemos ahora al documento C 83/I/REP/2. Les hago la siguiente observación. En relación a la Resolución que aparece en el párrafo 29 en la versión francesa, en el párrafo 5 se omite hacer referencia a la Resolución 159 (VI) de la UNCTAD misma que deberá incluirse, como sí aparece en las versiones en inglés, en español y en otros idiomas. Es decir, la nota de pie de página núm. 2, la llamada 2 debe aparecer en la versión en francés.

Pasemos ahora al párrafo 1 de este documento: "Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo".

E. SCHRODER (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): On paragraph 3 of REP/2 in the English text there is a small correction to be made. In the third line from the bottom the reference should be to the "Social Council of the United Nations" and not "Social Commission". ECOSOC is the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

H. LOPEZ DE MORAL (Colombia): Nuevamente una corrección del texto español solamente. En el cuarto renglón del párrafo 3 que habla de que la seguridad alimentaria mundial debería garantizar a todas las personas de todos los tiempos, refiriéndome al texto inglés que dice: "at all times", lo que significa mas bien en todo momento, en cualquier oportunidad, por lo que sugiero que se cambie esta expresión de "todos los tiempos" en el texto español por "en todo momento".

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que es pertinente porque de otra manera, incluiría también a personas del pasado.

Sobre el párrafo 2, la delegación de Australia desea hacer alguna observación.

L.J. EAKIN (Australia): In the last line of paragraph 2 in the English text I thought the word "the" should in fact read "that". The last part of that sentence would then read: "but recognized that overall progress had been limited".

EL PRESIDENTE Se toma nota de ello. Queda así aprobado el párrafo 2.

I. MARINCEK (Switzerland): Paragraph 6 mentions employment, "especially among the poor" and increasing rural employment among the poor. I would also add "among the youth", so that young people also have employment in rural areas.

EL PRESIDENTE: Efectivamente, recuerdo que se hizo mención a ello durante nuestros debates. ¿Hay alguna observación en relación a este punto levantado por Suiza? En ese caso, se aprueba la vision de "y los jóvenes".

G. DESESQUELLES (CEE): C'est une question de forme, ce n'est pas un problème de fond. A la quatrième ligne en français du paragraphe 8 on dit: "un cadre directif approprié". Il serait peut-être préférable de dire: "ligne politique appropriée" car le mot "cadre directif approprié" n'est pas tellement usité. Mais enfin, ceci n'est pas fondamental.

EL PRESIDENTE: No veo que tenga ninguna repercusión sobre otros idiomas. Entonces, se aprueba el párrafo 8 con esa enmienda en francés.

I. MARINCEK (Switzerland): Under paragraph 13 I would like to suggest we include "access to production factors". So where the text has "adequate availability of agricultural inputs, credit facilities", one could bring in "access to production factors".

EL PRESIDENTE: Perdóneme, ¿ puede indicar en qué línea está ese cambio?

I. MARINCEK (Switzerland): It could come after "credit facilities".

EL PRESIDENTE: La delegación de Suiza ha sugerido adicionar después de "servicios de crédito" la expresión "acceso a factores de producción"..

B. FURNESS (United States of America): I noticed in the preceding line in paragraph 13 we see "adequate availability of agricultural inputs". Perhaps this would cover the point made by the Swiss delegate, or perhaps he could explain how his proposal would differ.

I. MARINCEK (Switzerland): The point which is not included in "agricultural inputs" is access to land; "access to production factors" would include this access to land.

J. DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): If that is the case, we could probably drop the reference to "agricultural inputs" and just "access to production factors".

EL PRESIDENTE: Me parece que podría ser conveniente, para mayor claridad, ¿está de acuerdo la delegación de Suiza con la propuesta de los Estados Unidos?

I. MARINCEK (Switzerland): Yes.

EL PRESIDENTE: Perfecto. ¿Algún otro comentario sobre este párrafo? Queda aprobado con la modificación siguiente: En lugar de "disponibilidad adecuada de insumos agrícolas", "acceso a factores de producción".

M. ZJALIC (Yugoslavia): On paragraph 17 there is a small drafting correction to the English text. The fourth line from the bottom says "United Nations Economic Cooperation between Developing Countries" but I do not believe we have ever used this terminology, we say "United Nations Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries".

EL PRESIDENTE: El párrafo 17. comentado por la delegación de Yugoslavia. Queda aprobado

B. FURNESS (United States of America): I have no specific changes to propose in the language of para. 21, but I do have a statement I would like to make for the record at this time.

EL PRESIDENTE: Señor delegado de Estados Unidos no deseamos abrir aquí la discusión en torno a este tema que fue tratado apropiadamente en la reunión respectiva, de manera que le suplico que no nos induzca a abrir el debate sobre este tema porque quizás otras delegaciones responderían, y es un inconveniente a estas alturas de nuestra discusión. Le suplico tome nota de ello.

B. FURNESS (United States of America): My intention was not to reopen the discussion or to change the language in the report, as it is accepted, but simply to make a statement for the record. If this would be preferable, perhaps it could be done in Plenary or it could be submitted in writing.

EL PRESIDENTE: Me parece bien que la pueda transmitir a la Secretaría por escrito, ésta tomará nota de ella y quedará constancia solamente para esos efectos, de manera que no será incluida en nuestro informe, sino solamente como una declaración hecha por la delegación de Estados Unidos in este sentido.

B. FURNESS (United States of America): For the record, my delegation has acquiesced in the approval of this language in reference to a new international wheat agreement as an expression of our willingness to maintain a process of dialogue concerning international cooperation on wheat and grains issues, such as we have in the International Wheat Council, which will consider this issue at its December meeting, and in FAO's Intergovernmental Group on Grains.

Nevertheless, I wish to ensure that our position on this issue is clear. Our doubts continue concerning the desirability, feasibility or advisability of a new international wheat agreement with economic provisions. We have found in the past that it has not been possible to conclude such an agreement nor have we been convinced that such an agreement would be an improvement over reliance on market forces. We are unconvinced that such an agreement would make any meaningful contribution to world food security that could not be achieved in some other fashion. Thus, in our view, a new international wheat agreement is not a prerequisite for world food security and we call upon all countries to implement appropriate national food reserve policies.^{1/}

D. NISSEN (Norway): I think here, in connection with food aid it should be reflected in the debate, the effect on the local food habits were taken up. So, I would propose that after the second sentence of para. 22 it reads: "Food aid was necessary not only to alleviate periodic food shortages and malnutrition but also to promote food production and rural development." I propose we should add the following sentence: "In this respect possible long term effects on local food habits should be taken into consideration."

EL PRESIDENTE: Para que todos tomen nota de la propuesta hecha por la delegación de Noruega, a la mitad del párrafo, después de: "fomentar la producción alimentaria y el desarrollo rural." y seguiría: "En este sentido deberá tomarse en cuenta las costumbres alimentarias de los países receptores." Así sería en español.

D. NISSEN (Norway): I do not know if it is necessary to state that, but if it is, "the recipient countries".

EL PRESIDENTE: Bien señores, este punto está a su consideración.

E. SCHRODER (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): Could I please ask you to repeat this sentence once again.

EL PRESIDENTE: Bien, diría así: "En este sentido deberán tomarse en cuenta los efectos de la ayuda alimentaria sobre las costumbres alimentarias". Ahora, como la oración fue propuesta en inglés, ahora que la estoy mencionando en español, quizá no quede idéntica en su traducción al inglés, por lo que le voy a suplicar a la Secretaría que la lea en inglés.

J.B. VAN AS (Secretary, Commission I): The sentence would read: "In this respect possible long-term effects on local food habits should be taken into consideration".

EL PRESIDENTE: Bien señores, ya lo han escuchado. ¿Tiene algún comentario de la delegación de Bangladesh?

A.H.M. ABDUL HYE (Bangladesh): It is not very clear to me whether this proposal is intended to be used as a caution or as a warning to the recipient countries, that as a result of the food aid their traditional food habits might be changed, or whether it is being suggested that food aid might also be considered by the recipient countries as one of the ways to change the traditional food habits. This is not very clear to me.

Secondly, I do not think this is the appropriate place to insert this statement because one of the guidelines for international agricultural adjustment very clearly points out the desirability of changing the food habits or diversifying the food grains in countries which are agriculturally food deficit and which are also suffering from an adverse balance of payment.

^{1/} Statement inserted in the Verbatim records on request.

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores delegados, lo que tratamos de recoger aquí es el debate que se dio en esa ocasión; hasta donde recuerdo, efectivamente se menciono el que debería cuidarse o tomarse en cuenta las costumbres alimentarias, de manera que no fueran afectadas inadecuadamente. Quizá ésta es una expresión que debería utilizarse aquí, "que no fueran utilizadas inadecuadamente, o prever los efectos indeseables a largo plazo".

No sé si están ustedes de acuerdo en incluir esa expresión, quizá con ello quede usted satisfecho y la propuesta de Noruega pueda aceptarse. Es decir, diría así la propuesta: "En ese sentido debería tomarse en cuenta los posibles efectos negativos a largo plazo sobre las costumbres alimentarias locales".

¿Podrá ser eso aceptable por Bangladesh y Noruega?

A.H.M. ABDUL HYE (Bangladesh): Yes, the purport of this proposal is clear to me. It is acceptable.

L.J. EAKIN (Australia): Just to clear the first point made by the delegation from Bangladesh, I thought that the Chairman had in fact suggested the insertion of the words "all recipient countries", after the words "habits". I thought that was accepted by Norway. So that the sentence would read "In this respect possible long-term effects on local food habits should be taken into consideration".

EL PRESIDENTE: Efectivamente que se agregaría al final de la oración propuesta: "Las costumbres alimentarias locales de los países receptores". Ello quizá complementaría mejor la idea presentada por la delegación de Noruega.

Voy a dar lectura, en consecuencia, otra vez a esta oración: "En este sentido, deberían tomarse en cuenta los posibles efectos indeseables a largo plazo sobre las costumbres alimentarias locales de los países receptores".

I. MARINCEK (Switzerland): Following the amendment, I would suggest that the phrasing in the next sentence should be changed from "cereals" to "cereals equivalent", because otherwise there would be an inconsistency by putting only the word "cereals".

EL PRESIDENTE: Me informa la Secretaría que la Convención misma habla de cereales y que será improcedente cambiar aquí el término. ¿Podrá aceptarlo la delegación de Suiza?

I. MARINCEK (Switzerland): Yes.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias. Se aprueba el párrafo 22 con el cambio solicitado.

Respecto al párrafo 23 quiero hacerles un comentario previo, en lugar de que comience con "La Conferencia", el Comité de Redacción hasta donde sé tomó en cuenta otro término. Le paso la palabra al Presidente del Comité de Redacción para que nos explique en qué forma quedaría finalmente este párrafo.

R.C. GUPTA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): In this paragraph the original draft which was put up by the Secretariat stated, "Many members pointed out ...". During discussions in the Drafting Committee, some of the distinguished delegates wanted it to be changed to say "The Conference pointed out". Now, this was a discussion at 11.30 in the evening and I recall that we could not discuss this point adequately, and perhaps it was passed over without adequate discussion. So, you have both versions before you. The original version was "many members pointed out", and the Drafting Committee suggested that it should be changed to "The Conference pointed out". Since there was no adequate discussion on this point, I would suggest that these two alternatives should be clarified during discussion here, before we accept one version or the other.

J. DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): I think if we read the paragraph in its totality it will be clear that logic would argue, and my delegation would certainly prefer to start the sentence "Many members". The first sentence would read "Many members pointed out" that the limited use attached to the International Monetary Fund compensatory financing and indicated there is need to liberalise conditions. The paragraph goes on to say "Other members considered that the IMF was the appropriate forum".

EL PRESIDENTE: Puede considerarse la expresión "muchos miembros".

E. SCHRODER (Germany, Federal Republic of)(original language German): What I intended to say has already been said by the US delegation. If we read the verbatims, I think it is absolutely clear that a number of delegations expressed doubts, and I would therefore like to second the proposal that we say "many members".

EL PRESIDENTE: Me parece que refleja adecuadamente el debate la propuesta de que se consigne "muchos miembros"

¿Se aprueba esta modificación y en lugar de decir "La Conferencia" se diga "muchos miembros"? Queda aprobado.

Sobre el párrafo 28 el Presidente del Comité de Redacción quiere hacer una observación.

R.C. GUPTA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I would like to point out the same problem which I mentioned a little earlier while talking of paragraph 23. In paragraph 28 also at the end of the first sentence, the original draft of the Secretariat suggested "within its existing terms of reference". There were some suggestions that "within the existing terms of reference" be changed to say "within its mandate".

Since this matter also was not adequately discussed, I would like this to be put up to the Commission here to decide whether the original wording of the Secretariat, which said, "within its existing terms of reference" may be retained or it should be changed to "within its mandate".

J. DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): This paragraph I think suffers from a double problem to which the Chairman referred. The first time this language was discussed was in the discussion of the Resolution itself, paragraph 8 of the Resolution. That paragraph also was considered at the very end of the discussion when the translators were leaving. At that time, the US delegation had a problem with the language and in addition had a problem with its translation into French, so now, if you look at paragraph 28 in English and paragraph 8 in the Resolution, the language is identical. It is not our preferred language, but it gets more complicated, because when you look at paragraph 28 in the French and paragraph 8 in the French, there are two versions. I know that the Drafting Committee had as its object having the language in the Report identical to what was in the Resolution, but we had a problem in understanding what was in the Resolution, so it might be helpful to discuss that first.

R.C. GUPTA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I recall that the Drafting Committee was informed that Contact Group at the time it considered the Resolution had modified it in paragraph 8 of the operative portion of the Resolution to say "within its mandate", and on that note we left, and perhaps the Secretariat rightly interpreted it to mean that in this text also, the word "mandate" should occur, but I said earlier this point was not adequately discussed, and whatever consensus emerges here could be taken as the right version.

L.J. EAKIN (Australia): Just commenting briefly on the points that have been made, the Chairman of the Drafting Committee mentioned a set of words that the original draft by the Secretariat had included and then what has been printed in the document are the words that the Contact Group came up with, and perhaps we could arrive at a compromise between the two sets of words and refer to "within its existing mandate", so that the words in paragraph 8 of the Resolution and paragraph 28 of the Report would refer to "within its existing mandate" and they would be the same.

J. DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): We would accept that. I think that would be a good resolution of the situation.

EL PRESIDENTE: La propuesta a consideración de los señores delegados es "sin incluir en el ámbito de su mandato existente".

Esto afectaría, por supuesto, al párrafo 28, así como al octavo de las Resoluciones.

Entonces, ¿se aprueba el párrafo 28 y también el cambio correspondiente en el párrafo 8 de las Resoluciones?

Tal vez en español deba decirse "en el marco de sus funciones existentes.

Se aprueba el párrafo 28.

Paragraphs 1 to 28, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 28, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 28, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 29 INCLUDING DRAFT RESOLUTION

PARAGRAPHE 29 Y COMPRIS LE PROJET DE RESOLUTION

PARRAFO 29 INCLUIDO EL PROYECTO DE RESOLUCION

EL PRESIDENTE: Entramos en el párrafo 29, y de aquí en adelante iremos párrafo por párrafo del Preámbulo.

L.J. EAKIN (Australia): Just going back to the sixth preambular paragraph, a matter of consistency: in the first sentence, the second line of the English version, "adoption by the Committee of a revised concept of world food security" and then in the second last line, I think we should probably be consistent and also use the words "revised concept of food security "and" implementation of this revised concept".

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que es aceptable por todos lo propuesto por la Delegación de Australia. Se incluye, pues, la enmienda de la Delegación de Australia sobre el párrafo Iº de las Disposiciones.

I. MARINCEK (Switzerland): Paragraph 3(b) says "to formulate and implement, as a part of the national food security programmes, appropriate pricing and marketing policies to assure stable and remunerative prices ; for producers", if after "and marketing policies" we put "including supportive measures", so it would fit with paragraph 13 of this document.

EL PRESIDENTE: En el inciso (b) del párrafo 3º, Suiza, después de "política aplicada de precios y comercialización", solicita adicionar "incluyendo medidas de apoyo para asegurar precios estables".

Creo que es aceptable la propuesta. Si no hay objeciones se incluye en el texto del párrafo.

M. C. WENNER (United Kingdom): Mr Chairman, my comment refers to paragraphs 4 (a) as read with the introductory sentence where we are urging governments of donor countries and other countries and organisations to do certain things. In (a) it says "to assist their efforts to increase food production..." I wonder if we could make that clearer and say "to assist developing countries in their efforts to increase food production..."

There would then be a consequential change further on. It would read "... to reduce still high food losses, to fight against hunger and malnutrition", and I think we could then take out "in developing countries", if I have understood the meaning of this particular phraseology. As I understand it, we are urging basically the developed countries to do certain things and the international organisations to do certain things, and the first one is to assist the developing countries. If I have understood it correctly, perhaps we could take my amendment.

EL PRESIDENTE: Se ha entendido su propuesta. Nos parece que es aceptable por todos. ¿Alguna otra observación ?

A.H.M. ABDUL HYE (Bangladesh): Mr Chairman, on the proposal that has been made by the distinguished delegate from the United Kingdom I think that if you insert "to assist developing countries" then you have to bring forward "especially in low-income food-deficit countries", because if we leave it at the end there might be some confusion.

EL PRESIDENTE: Quedaría la referencia diciendo: "Especialmente en los países de bajo ingreso con déficit de alimento".

M. C. WENNER (United Kingdom): I am not entirely sure that I have understood what the delegate from Bangladesh has proposed. I think there are two thoughts here. Are we assisting developing countries, especially low-income food-deficit countries, or are we assisting developing countries to tackle these particular problems, which are particularly bad in low-income food-deficit countries? If it is the latter - that is to say that our reference is these particular problems of still high food losses and the fight against hunger and malnutrition which are particularly bad in low-income food-deficit countries - then I think that "especially in low-income food-deficit countries" can quite happily stay where it is. But, if we are assisting developing countries, especially low-income food-deficit countries, then, if I have understood the Bangladesh amendment, I would agree with that. My understanding is certainly that it is better where it is.

L.J. EAKIN (Australia): Mr Chairman, I was rising to support the Bangladesh proposal, but suggesting, of course, that we leave out the word "in". But, given the intervention by the United Kingdom, I must say that I am a little confused now. I will leave it to you to sort out.

A.H.M. ABDUL HYE (Bangladesh): I think the idea is to assist the developing countries, particularly the low-income food-deficit countries, in their efforts to increase food production, to reduce still high food losses and to fight against hunger and malnutrition. If you leave "especially in low-income food-deficit countries" after that, then grammatically and structurally it does not sound very nice. But English is not my mother tongue: indeed, the distinguished delegate from the United Kingdom is in a better position. I thought that, if the intention was that the developing countries, particularly the low-income food-deficit countries, were to be assisted, then they should come forward in the sentence.

EL PRESIDENTE: Es un problema de prioridades. Creo que todos reconocen que independientemente de que el universo total a contemplar son los países en desarrollo, especial atención deben merecer aquellos países con bajos ingresos y con déficit de alimentos. En la versión en inglés, es comprensible lo que ha propuesto la delegación de Bangladesh, y en consecuencia, podemos incluir un complemento a países en desarrollo, diciendo "especialmente aquellos de bajos ingresos con déficit de alimentos".

M. C. WENNER (United Kingdom): Mr Chairman, I would be very happy with the suggestion from the delegate from Bangladesh. If I may read out what I understood it to be, it would then say: "to assist developing countries, especially low-income food-deficit countries, in their efforts to increase food production, to reduce still high food losses and to fight against hunger and malnutrition, and covering all basic foodstuffs ...".

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que todos estamos de acuerdo. Se aprueba así el párrafo 4 a).

Párrafo 5. Les recuerdo aquí que en la version francesa hay una omisión. Debería incluirse una llamada sobre un pie de página, el N° 2, que debe rezar: "Véase la Resolución 159 (VI) de la UNCTAD". Por favor, tómesese nota en la version francesa de ello.

¿Algún comentario sobre este párrafo 5?

R.C. GUPTA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): Mr Chairman, when the Resolution 159 (VI) of UNCTAD was referred to in the earlier part of the Report we made modifications so as to ensure that our Report was consistent in its various parts. I feel that modification would be necessary in this paragraph as well, though in what form I would not like to suggest myself. Maybe the Secretariat or some distinguished delegate could make suggestions.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): Mr Chairman, what you could do is to insert here, with some modification, the paragraph which was agreed on earlier in the draft on the State of Food and Agriculture. The sentence was: "Calls on all countries which apply protectionist measures to resist applying further protectionist measures and as soon as possible to roll back such measures." You could modify it here, Mr Chairman, if you wanted to: "Calls on all countries which apply protectionist measures to work for a liberalization of trade and to refrain from protectionist measures, especially in export products of developing countries." Then, of course, you will have to delete the reference to the UNCTAD Resolution, which would have to go out in order to be consistent with earlier paragraph in the earlier section.

EL PRESIDENTE: La propuesta de la Secretaría es consistente con lo que en el párrafo 11 del documento REP/1 se discutiÓ y aprobó.

B. FURNESS (United States of America): Mr Chairman, with all due respect to the suggested compromise by Professor Islam, we very much prefer the language that is in paragraph 5 as it was worked out by the Contact Group, which does include the reference in a footnote to the Resolution 159 (VI) of UNCTAD. During the earlier discussion we had suggested the word "also", to say "See also Resolution 159 (VI) of UNCTAD". Apart from preferring this particular language, which I think not only reflects the discussion during the debate but also is a very important part of the work that this Conference should include in this operative resolution, I think this does go rather beyond the language that we had in the discussion on the State of Food and Agriculture, and we would very much prefer to keep the present wording.

EL PRESIDENTE: Le recuerdo, simplemente, que esto se discutió anteriormente, y que quizás podamos llegar a la posición de, transar, y por tanto, de consistencia con aquel párrafo. Pero vamos a pasarle la palabra a la Comunidad Económica Europea. Después tendremos solamente dos minutos más para nuestras discusiones.

G. DESESQUELLES (CEE): Je crois que nous aussi nous préférierions maintenir le texte tel qu'il est et cela s'explique car nous ne sommes pas dans deux situations comparables par rapport à l'adoption du REP/1. En effet lorsque on lit l'article V du Dispositif, la dernière phrase spécifie bien qu'il s'agit spécialement, en ce qui concerne les produits exportés par les pays en développement ... Donc, en l'occurrence, ce sont les pays développés qui sont mis à contribution, notamment avec cette dernière phrase, sans pour cela négliger tous les pays, comme il est dit au début de la phrase. C'est pourquoi, je crois que l'on pourrait donc laisser le texte tel qu'il est et mettre Résolution 159 (VI), comme l'a proposé le Délégué des Etats-Unis.

R.C. GUPTA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): Mr Chairman, I have no substantive comment to make, but for the sake of formality I would point out that you are calling upon all countries to work for liberalization of trade and especially in products which are of export interest to developing countries, so you are calling upon those very countries also to refrain from applying protectionist measures against their own products. To me, the sentence in its present form does not convey any meaning which is intended to be conveyed. Of course, it is for the house to decide.

EL PRESIDENTE: Estan planteadas diversas posiciones. Esta Presidencia solicita consistencia; y como no podemos seguir más adelante debido a que tenemos un límite para los servicios de traducción, les voy a solicitar a las delegaciones que están tratando este punto, así como a la propia Presidencia del Comité de Redacción, y quizás a otras delegaciones, que se puedan poner de acuerdo informalmente en los pasillos, y hoy a las tres de la tarde, hora a la que se reunirá de nuevo nuestra Comisión, podamos llegar quizás a un acuerdo más coincidente con la postura de todos.

Les agradezco su atención. Se levanta esta 15ª sesión de nuestra Comisión. Nos veremos a las 15 horas de la tarde.

Paragraph 29, including draft resolution, not concluded

Le paragraphe 29, y compris le projet de résolution, est en suspens

El párrafo 29, incluido el proyecto de resolución, queda pendiente

The meeting rose at 13.00 hours

La séance est levée à 13 heures

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/I/PV/16

C

Twenty-second Session
COMMISSION IVingt-deuxième session
COMMISSION I22° período de sesiones
COMISION ISIXTEENTH MEETING
SEIZIEME SEANCE
16ª SESION

(21 November 1983)

The Sixteenth Meeting was opened at 15.10 hours,
J.R. López-Portillo, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La seizième séance est ouverte à 15 h 10, sous la présidence
de J.R. López-Portillo, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 16ª sesión a las 15.10 horas, bajo la presidencia
de J.R. López-Portillo, Presidente de la Comisión I

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)
APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART 2 (continued)
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - PARTIE 2 (suite)
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE 2 (continuación)

PARAGRAPH 29 INCLUDING DRAFT RESOLUTION (continued)
PARAGRAPHE 29 Y COMPRIS LE PROJET DE RESOLUTION (suite)
PARRAFO 29 INCLUIDO EL PROYECTO DE RESOLUCION (continuación)

EL PRESIDENTE: Buenas tardes, se abre la decimosexta sesión de trabajo de nuestra Comisión, nos encontramos actualmente discutiendo y aprobando el Informe de nuestra Comisión, hemos dado ya aprobación al documento REP/1 y Suplemento 1, y a buena parte del REP/2.

Nos quedamos, como ustedes recordarán, en la discusión del párrafo 5 de la resolución relativa a seguridad alimentaria. Recordarán también ustedes que se había solicitado que se hiciera un esfuerzo de coincidencia entre el párrafo 11 del documento REP/1 y este párrafo respectivo a la resolución. Sin embargo, algunos países, inclusive la Comunidad Económica Europea mencionaron que esto lo discutió ampliamente el Comité de Contacto y que se había llegado a un acuerdo como el redactado en el texto del párrafo quinto de esta resolución. Lo que solicitaron esos países es que el texto permaneciera como se encuentra actualmente redactado.

Por lo tanto, abro la discusión en torno a este punto. Tiene la palabra la delegación de Argentina.

R.C. SERSALE DI CERISANO (Argentina): En primer lugar queríamos disculparnos con los que han formado parte del Comité de Redacción y el Grupo de Contacto, ya que Argentina no formó parte de ninguno de los dos, por eso queremos insistir nuevamente en el tema que habíamos levantado al tratar el párrafo 11 del REP/1.

Nosotros depositamos toda nuestra confianza en los países que han participado, pero los intereses particulares a veces son tantos que es difícil mantener todas las posturas y por eso volvemos a levantar este punto.

Decíamos que nos sentíamos responsables, en este párrafo quinto en particular, porque lo hemos traído cuando hemos visto el párrafo 11 en el REP/1. Entonces, en ese contexto nos parecía muy apropiada la propuesta de la Secretaría cuando se decía que este párrafo 5 de la resolución dijera, y pide a todos los países, que aplican medidas proteccionistas, y aún debería agregarse que aplican medidas pro-teccionistas. Ahora bien, somos conscientes de que esa palabra quede en una resolución no es lo mismo que quede en la otra parte del informe, por lo cual sugerimos, sugeriríamos, que como postura de conciliación en el párrafo quinto, artículo quinto de la resolución, se dijera, y si usted me lo permite leería, el párrafo quinto diría: "Acuerda que un comercio de exportación libre y creciente es un fundamento importante para establecer la seguridad alimentaria", y pide a todos los países, y acá viene el agregado, donde diría: "particularmente a los países desarrollados" y sigue "que actúen en favor de la liberalización del comercio".

Este es nuestro agregado y creemos que ésta es la manera más tibia de plantear el problema y este agregado satisfaría nuestra inquietud.

EL PRESIDENTE: Este punto está a su consideración, es un punto intermedio entre las dos proposiciones. Tiene la palabra la delegación de Bangladesh.

A.H.M. ABDUL HYE (Bangladesh): I would like to support the amendment or the new proposal which has just been submitted by the delegate of Argentina. I think this will not only be consistent with the proposal in paragraph 11 of REP/1, but it will also accommodate the desire of some of the delegates, particularly the delegate of the United States, who suggested that there should be a reference to Resolution 159 (VI) of UNCTAD. As you will recall, UNCTAD Resolution 159 (VI) specifically calls on the developed countries and not on all countries and therefore in order to keep the record straight it is very important that we use the words "developed countries".

I would only add a very minor amendment to the one which has already been proposed by the delegate of Argentina and it would read as follows: "The Conference agrees that a free and growing export trade is one of the important foundations for establishing food security, and calls on all countries, particularly developed countries ...". After "developed countries" I would like to add the number "1/" which will refer to Resolution 159 (VI) of UNCTAD as a footnote.

EL PRESIDENTE: Sería en todo caso la llamada 2/.

POENGANTO (Indonesia): I would just like to add my voice in support of the proposals made by the delegates of Argentina and Bangladesh. If my recollection is correct, Resolution 159 (VI) of UNCTAD refers particularly to the "developed countries".

G. DESEQUELLES (CEE): A ce stade des débats, je constate que nous rouvrons la discussion sur ce point et que nous risquons de prolonger le débat. Pour la CEE et ses 10 Etats Membres, à ce stade de la discussion, nous ne pouvons pas accepter l'amendement qui vient d'être proposé par les différentes délégations.

Je rappelle, parce qu'il faut être précis dans la discussion, comme l'ont dit ce matin le délégué des Etats-Unis ainsi que d'autres délégués, que ce sont tous les pays intéressés par le protectionnisme et non pas seulement les pays développés qui font du protectionnisme. On peut rouvrir le débat si vous voulez sur ce point.

En second lieu, si les pays développés ou certains pays développés ont voulu faire référence à la résolution de la CNUCED 159(VI) c'est parce que cette résolution vise uniquement les pays développés, que c'est l'objet même de la CNUCED, parce que dans cette résolution il est dit que le protectionnisme doit disparaître au fur et à mesure de la reprise économique. Il faut être clair sur les positions des différents délégués des différents Etats, et qu'ensuite on ne vienne pas nous dire que par un souci de cohérence il faut essayer d'adopter ou d'avoir toujours la même position. Je pourrais très bien vous démontrer que dans ce propre rapport de la Commission I à différents endroits il n'y a pas toujours cohérence et après les débats je pourrais peut-être le faire voir. De toute façon, il faut maintenir ce que nous avons réussi dans le Groupe de contact, d'autant que, comme l'ont dit les délégués et même en mettant dans le texte référence à la résolution de la CNUCED, il n'y a pas incohérence.

Je dois dire aussi que pour la CEE c'est essentiel; et si on n'arrive pas à se mettre d'accord en Commission I, cette question sera débattue en plénière éventuellement avec des déclarations interprétatives.

B. FURNESS (United States of America): I must say that we share many of the opinions of our colleagues from the European Economic Community. It seems crystal clear to us that it is necessary for all countries to work for a liberalization of trade. As a number of delegations have pointed out here, it is above all important that the developing countries work to see that agricultural trade should be liberalized.

Speaking for ourselves, we feel rather less strongly about this compromise solution proposed by a number of delegations, but we would prefer to take a position after we know more that the European Economic Community has arrived at in its deliberations.

H.S. BAR-SHAI (Israel): May I go back a little? Perhaps we could find a solution in different wording, a rewording of the sentence. I suggest that it could read as follows: "and calls on all countries to work for a liberalization of trade and on the countries which apply protectionist measures to resist applying further protectionist measures". This will, I think, reflect what was said in REP/1, paragraph 11.

EL PRESIDENTE: Hay una nueva propuesta que quizá pueda ser aceptada. tanto por la Comunidad Económica Europea como por los Estados Unidos, Argentina y Bangladesh.

Argentina y la Comunidad Económica Europea hacen signo de que asienten.

A.H.M. ABDUL HYE (Bangladesh): It is very unfortunate that one international forum is being used to negate the decision and progress achieved on the same issue in another international forum. My delegation does not agree to that. I think it is very important that we make reference to the progress, whether it is accepted grudgingly or ungrudgingly, that has already been achieved in the UNCTAD forum UNCTAD VI which specifically mentions the obligations of the developed countries gradually to withdraw the protectionist measures.

But in order to make this Resolution more palatable, more acceptable, I have agreed to the original proposal submitted by the delegate of Argentina, that: we retain the words "all countries", but after that we insert "particularly developed countries". In order to make reference to the UNCTAD Conference, after "particularly developed countries" we insert "1/" and we delete "1/" as it appears in the original draft, at the end of the sentence.

EL PRESIDENTE: Hay planteada una alternativa que pudiera permitirnos aceptar este párrafo.

Esta Presidencia solicita a los miembros de la Comisión que no hagan irreductibles sus posiciones, porque de esa manera nos podríamos pasar aquí toda la tarde, y sólo disponemos de un límite hasta las 6 en que debemos dejar esta Sala.

Quizá pudiera intentarse una redacción coincidente con el párrafo 11 en este punto 5°. La propuesta de la Argentina pudiera permitirnos a todos los países llegar a un punto intermedio.

Se está particularizando en este caso en lo que es la Resolución 159(VI) de la UNCTAD, lo que en ella se menciona, y de ninguna manera se está excluyendo del párrafo a todos los países que aplican medidas proteccionistas, en tanto que al señalar concretamente a los países desarrollados solamente se está haciendo una llamada de atención, pero de ninguna manera una responsabilidad exclusiva.

Es de desear que contemplemos esta posibilidad para llegar a un punto intermedio por parte de la Comunidad Económica Europea, Estados Unidos, Argentina, Bangladesh, etc.

H.S. BAR-SHAI (Israel): If the remainder of Resolution 159(VI) UNCTAD is required then I suggest at the beginning of Article 5 should be written "bearing in mind accountry Resolution 159(VI) UNCTAD and agrees that a free ..." and so forth. Then there is reference to this decision, and then "calling to all countries and the protectionist countries".

EL PRESIDENTE: Agradezco su comentario. El problema es que la Resolución 159(VI) habla de los países en desarrollo, y quizá con esa modificación no haríamos tan congruente la redacción.

M. AHMAD (Pakistan): I was only going to suggest a compromise, which perhaps might be acceptable to all the delegations. I suggest that we retain the first part "and calls on all countries to work for a liberalization of trade and on those countries which apply protectionist measures to refrain from such measures in export products of developing countries", so we bring in both as a collective exercise. We all work together for the liberalization of trade. But then we address to those countries who have put in protectionist measures, protectionist work, to dismantle these measures particularly for the export products of developing countries. I think it is a compromise which might be acceptable to the delegations.

EL PRESIDENTE: Es una proposición intermedia, una modalidad de lo que había formulado originariamente Israel. Suplico lo tomen también en cuenta.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): No habíamos querido intervenir porque participamos en el Grupo de Trabajo que trata de esta cuestión y estábamos sopesando los argumentos que ha expuesto el Representante de la Comunidad Económica Europea en primer lugar, así como otras intervenciones constructivas como las de Israel y Pakistán.

Sin embargo, después de las explicaciones aquí oídas, yo creo que la mejor propuesta es la que hizo Argentina cumplimentada por Bangladesh; es decir, que se diga "a todos los países", en lugar de "países desarrollados". Esto ya lo ha explicado muy bien el colega de Bangladesh.

B. FURNESS (United States of America): If I understand the compromise proposal of our colleague from Bangladesh, operative paragraph 5 will read "Agrees that if a free and growing export trade is one of the important foundations for establishing food security and calls on all countries to work for a liberalization of trade and, particularly the developed countries with footnote reference to refrain from protectionist measures especially in export products of developing countries". If that in fact, is the compromise that is being proposed, we are prepared to go along with it, although we do confess that the original would in fact, have been preferable.

R.C. SERSALE DI CERISANO (Argentina): Agradezco muchísima a la Delegación de Estados Unidos su comprensión. Lo único que deseo decir es que "particularmente a los países desarrollados" debiera ir después de "todos los países" y no después de "comercio", con lo cual se relativiza más.

G. DESESQUELLES (CEE): La Communauté préférerait le paragraphe tel quel, mais compte tenu de l'évolution de la discussion, nous pouvons, comme les Etats-Unis, accepter le libellé qui vient d'être lu par le délégué des Etats-Unis.

Et pour rassurer le collègue de l'Argentine, je dois lui dire qu'en fait se sont tous les pays, aussi bien les pays développés que les pays en voie de développement, qui doivent oeuvrer pour la libéralisation des échanges commerciaux. Ce qui est peut-être un peu gênant, mais nous l'acceptons, c'est de dire que les mesures protectionnistes ne s'appliquent qu'aux pays développés. Donc je crois que cela devrait le rassurer. Mais de toutes façons, nous pourrions accepter le texte ainsi rédigé avec la référence à la résolution 159(VI) avec une note 2/ de bas de page après le mot "en particulier des pays développés".

EL PRESIDENTE: A juicio de esta Presidencia, se ha llegado a un consenso. Se pretende indicar tan solo que de ninguna manera se está imputando la exclusividad de la responsabilidad a los países en desarrollo, pero en el momento en que se está introduciendo la palabra "particularmente", se está reconociendo de una manera evidente que a tales países es a quienes les corresponde la parte más pesada. Y eso lo admitimos por razones obvias.

De manera que no se está excluyendo de ningún modo esto de la redacción, que puede tener una formulación que espero sea satisfactoria para todos.

Haciendo constar que "particularmente los países desarrollados" (llamada 2/ - Véase la Resolución 159(VI) de la UNCTAD), deben abstenerse de tomar medidas proteccionistas, etc., etc.

¿Con esta redacción están conforme los Delegados? (ASENTIMIENTO)

Queda aprobado el párrafo 6° con la redacción dicha.

Acerca del párrafo 8° quiero llamar la atención sobre que se hizo una corrección derivada de aquella que se formuló en el párrafo 28 de este Documento, en el sentido de que se debiera incluir las palabras "en el ámbito de su mandato existente" al final de esta oración.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sr. Presidente: Quienes pertenecieron al punto de contacto, recordarán que este párrafo 8° fue aceptado en su forma actual por la Representación de Colombia como transacción de una propuesta original nuestra que contenía un concepto más radical. No creo que sea necesario tratar aquí de uniformar esto con el párrafo 28, porque estimo que el grupo de contacto realizó un trabajo muy intenso, serio y concienzudo y no conviene modificarlo aquí a la ligera. En definitiva, proponemos que quede el párrafo tal y como está.

EL PRESIDENTE: Es el mismo tipo de argumento que se aplicó para dejar el párrafo 5 como estaba. Lo pongo a su consideración.

B. FURNESS (United States of America): With all due respect my impression was that we had finished our consideration of operative paragraph 8, this morning, and that we had in fact decided to insert "existing" to be consistent with the decision that was made earlier in the drafting. In any case we would prefer "existing".

L.J. EAKIN (Australia): I think that the Honourable Delegate for Colombia referred to the operative paragraph 5 by way of analogy with paragraph 11 of the previous report and said that we did not mean to use the same word there, I think that there is a particular reason for that, and possibly the length of the paragraph is one thing. Regarding operative paragraph 8 of the Resolution, it seems to me that it does make it clearer if we insert the word "existing", because then it is quite clear that there is no confusion then between the Resolution and what is meant and what was discussed in the Commission. I would prefer to retain the word "existing",

H. MOHAMADI (Sudan) (original language Arabic): I fully agree with the Honourable Delegate from Colombia, because there have been long discussions on this question and the original document asks for the creation of another body and we discussed the possibility of enlarging the competence of the Committee on World Food Security and for this reason I agree with the Delegate of Colombia.

EL PRESIDENTE: Han sido reconocidos aquí los argumentos que llevaron al Grupo de Contacto a redactar este párrafo como estaba. ¿Desea la delegación de Estados Unidos y de Australia retirar su posición?

B. FURNESS (United States of America): Perhaps regrettably, no, we would not. In our intervention on this subject before this Commission, we stress that the Council was free to strengthen the CFS within its existing mandate. This is a position consistent with the position we have taken before the Council and in the Committee on Food Security itself last April. It would be highly inconsistent, it seems to me, if the positions that my country has taken in these various forms were to be dealt with so lightly in this particular Resolution. In this case I question whether it is in fact appropriate to ask countries that have taken a position to go beyond that which they have taken in their previous interventions.

EL PRESIDENTE: Estoy seguro que no fue ese el propósito sino llegar a un consenso, a un punto medio entre lo que plantearon los países y las diversas posiciones al respecto. Quizás la forma como estaba redactado no implicaba necesariamente contradecir la posición de ciertas delegaciones como la suya, señor delegado de Estados Unidos, sino simplemente dejarlo abierto para una eventual discusión posterior. No se si ese argumento le pueda satisfacer para modificar su posición, o si alguna otra delegación quisiera complementar lo que se ha manifestado.

N. MACDONNELL ' (Canada) : Like the US, we would prefer to see the word "existing" remain here and without wishing to re-open the debates which have already taken place at the CFS and in the Council earlier this year, I would agree that we should proceed by consensus where that consensus exists. I think that certainly as a first step, there are quite a few delegations here prepared to see a strengthening of the CFS within its existing mandate but wanted to go one step at a time, and I think that it would be preferable to take that approach and to look at ways of strengthening the CFS within its existing mandate, If that has been looked at, perhaps other possibilities could be looked at, but for the moment, I think it would be preferable for this Commission and for the Conference to call for a strengthening of the CFS within its existing mandate.

EL PRESIDENTE: Hay varias indicaciones en ese sentido, consulten todo. Le pediría a la delegación de Colombia y a la delegación de Sudán si pudieran aceptar el que se incluya, conforme a lo discutido hoy en la mañana, y a los argumentos presentados aquí, el ámbito de su mandato existente.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Nosotros creemos que las cuestiones de principio valen para todas las delegaciones. Primero, si como lo manifestó una delegación, ya se hubiera concluido esta mañana la consideración del párrafo 8, pues usted no lo habría sometido a la refrendación de esta Comisión. Y segundo, si otras delegaciones han expresado posiciones en este campo, también la nuestra ha reiteradamente insistido en sus puntos de vista; y en el Grupo de Contacto, en un trabajo muy consciente donde participaron algunas delegaciones que ahora están en contra de este texto que allá aceptaron como compromiso, se adoptó este texto. No se por qué ahora una palabra que está incongruente, no creo que agregue nada al esfuerzo y compromiso realizado en un reducido grupo de países. No sé por qué aquellos países que allá aceptaron este texto, aprovechan el ámbito más amplio de la Comisión para modificarlo.

J. DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): With all due respect, as I pointed out this morning, at the end of that Contact Group meeting there was still confusion about what that language was, and the request of my delegation to get that confusion straightened out was unsuccessful both in the Contact Group and in the Drafting Committee, so we do not consider that what we are doing is changing something that was agreed to but we consider what we are doing is discussing something that we have not agreed to.

L.J. EAKIN (Australia): I wonder if to help bring this matter to some sort of resolution we might not be referred by the Secretariat to the words that were used in the Report of the CFS on that matter. I would think that would fairly clearly reflect the understanding of that particular Committee on the matter.

R.C. SERSALE DI CERISANO (Argentina): A mí me parece muy buena la idea de Australia y nos va a clarificar mucho los debates ahora. También nos es de mucha ayuda la intervención de Estados Unidos porque nos dice que entonces, en el Grupo de Contacto no hubo acuerdo en ese párrafo 8. Entonces, al no haber habido acuerdo, nos permite expresar nuestra opinión, y siguiendo con este orden lógico, nosotros preferiríamos que la frase termine en "mandato".

H. MOHAMADI (Sudan) (original language Arabic): I believe the delegate of Canada has made a proposal. I think this constitutes a solution that we could all accept. Canada suggested that we could say in the framework of its present mandate, whilst taking measures that would be appropriate to strengthen the effectiveness of the Committee, I am afraid I do not have the exact text proposed by Canada. Therefore, might I ask Canada to be good enough to repeat his proposal and also a proposal which I think takes account of the two issues with which we are concerned. One of them is strengthening the effectiveness of the Committee on Food Security and the other is the role that this Committee is going to be called upon to play in the future.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): May I read out the paragraph from the Committee on Food Security? Is that what my job is? O.K. It says "There was wide support for a gradual strengthening of the Committee within its existing mandate."

EL PRESIDENTE: Eso es lo que decía el texto. Por supuesto, se reconoce que el Grupo de Contacto había llegado a planteamiento que, según se ha discutido aquí, no fue final por lo que estamos intentando definir si dejamos la palabra "mandato existente" o no lo dejamos. Pero esta Presidencia, no puede tomar una decisión por sí misma. Requerimos que haya voluntad de entendimiento y de resolución.

L.J. EAKIN (Australia): I think it is quite clear from the words Professor Islam read out that the wishes of the Committee, which is the primary committee in matters relating to world food security, was that the Committee itself be strengthened within its existing mandate. I think that is clear. I think it has been traditional for this Conference to endorse and to utilize the reports of the various committees when referring to the work of those committees, and I think that being the case, we should really in this paragraph 8 of the Resolution retain the word "existing".

EL PRESIDENTE: Le recuerdo que el Comité no tiene mandato sobre la Conferencia, sino que es a la inversa. De manera que si la Conferencia resuelve modificar esta concepción pues la modifica. Esto nos sirvió como una referencia de lo que entonces se discutió, pero hay aquí posiciones que indican que se llegó a esta redacción, aunque no definitiva, en un proceso de discusión que permitió encontrar un término medio.

Tenemos que resolver este problema, y como estamos estancados, lo que solicito es que se reúnan o comenten, por favor, las delegaciones de Australia, de Colombia, Estados Unidos y Argentina este punto, y si pueden llegar a una solución en los próximos cinco minutos, mucho se lo agradeceremos.

Mientras tanto, pasaremos a los próximos párrafos. Les suplico que se pongan en contacto, si lo tienen a bien, porque de otra manera no vamos a avanzar y vamos a estar dando vueltas sobre una palabra. Reconozco que es importante.

E. SCHRÖDER (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): Professor Islam quoted from the CFS Report. Now, this result was achieved to a large extent because the Director-General of the FAO invited the CFS members at that meeting not to address themselves to the institutional question or at least not to focus upon these aspects, the reason being that the time had not yet come for one to take any definitive decision on these.

Now, at this Conference no new proposals have been made with regard to the institutional aspects and no proposals either from the Secretariat or from other groups have come forward. Indeed, this point has been left pending new substantive proposals which are to come forward at next year's meeting of the Committee on Food Security, and it is there that they are to be discussed.

I would like to suggest that we go beyond these at this stage and that at this meeting we recognize that since no new arguments have been put forward in this discussion, we should confine ourselves to the conclusions that the CFS reached at this last meeting and not go beyond those.

EL PRESIDENTE: Vamos a considerar estos argumentos y más adelante volveremos a tratar este punto octavo que dejamos, por lo pronto, en suspenso. Les suplico que acepten esta modalidad. Mientras se establecen los contactos correspondientes y podemos llegar a un acuerdo, reconozco eso sí, el comentario hecho por la delegación de Alemania que quizás sea de utilidad para reducir lo que hasta ahora ha sido irreductible.

Nos informa la Secretaría, y con razón, que el párrafo 11 del documento REP/2, de la Resolución, es irrelevante ya, en tanto que existe una Resolución sobre este aspecto. De manera que se sugiere eliminar ese párrafo si ustedes lo aceptan. Me informa también la Secretaría que eso es lo que se decidió en el Grupo de Contacto.

R.J. EAKIN (Australia): I am very happy to agree with the suggestion that we delete paragraph 11.

While I have the floor, I should like to say that the delegations from Colombia and Argentina have very generously agreed to a compromise to retain the word "existing" that was proposed to be included in paragraph 8.

EL PRESIDENTE: Se lo agradezco mucho. Eso resuelve los problemas. Entonces, el párrafo 8 quedará de la siguiente manera: "Pide el Consejo que adopte las medidas que considere pertinentes para reforzar la eficacia del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria en el ámbito de su mandato existente". De esa manera, queda aprobado el párrafo 8 de esta Resolución, y con ello y la eliminación del párrafo 11 de la Resolución, aprobado a la vez el documento REP/2.

Paragraph 29, including draft resolution, as amended, approved
Le paragraphe 29, y compris le projet de résolution, ainsi amendé, est approuvé
El párrafo 29, incluido el proyecto de resolución, así enmendado, es aprobado

Draft Report of Commission I, Part 2, as amended, was adopted
Projet de Rapport de la Commission I, 2ème partie, ainsi amendée, est adoptée
El proyecto de informe de la Comisión I, parte 2, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART 3
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - PARTIE 3
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE 3

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 15
PARAGRAPHERS 1 à 15
PARRAFOS 1 a 15

B. FURNESS (United States of America): Without wishing to reopen any great debate, in paragraph 3 sentence 3 says that "The efforts of developing countries to begin or carry forward the transformations required in their agriculture had been checked or thwarted." Surely it is only some developing countries, because, if memory serves me, we heard from many representatives of developing countries who indicated that they had in fact begun to carry out the transformations that seemed to be indicated. I think their efforts should be acknowledged by making it: "The efforts of some developing countries to begin ..."

EL PRESIDENTE: Está a su consideración. Se solicita agregar a la mitad de dicho párrafo después de: "Los esfuerzos de ... los países en desarrollo", la palabra "algunos" con lo que quedaría: "Los esfuerzos de algunos países en desarrollo".

.A.H.M. ABDUL HYE (Bangladesh): Here the statement is being made in the context of the international economic environment. The intention of this statement is to highlight the difficulties encountered by the developing countries. That perhaps is why the developing countries were mentioned. However, in view of the fact that all the developing countries might not be equally handicapped, it may be desirable to qualify this, but it may not be very realistic merely to add "some". Maybe we should say: "The efforts of many developing countries...".

EL PRESIDENTE: Bien señores, ni todo ni poco, sino mucho, si eso satisface a los Estados Unidos perfecto. Entonces, quedará "los esfuerzos de muchos países en desarrollo para emprender...".

M. AHMAD (Pakistan): I should like to suggest two amendments in paragraph 6. The first correction is: "The Conference stressed the importance of adequacy of prices received by producers as a stimulus to them." What is more important is not the producer prices but the prices received by them, as has been recognized in the second sentence.

My second suggestion is with regard to the third sentence: "For this reason, widespread use often had to be made of subsidies on such production inputs as fertilizers and on consumer prices." Widespread use is being made, both of inputs subsidies and of consumer price subsidies.

EL PRESIDENTE: Como han escuchado hay dos proposiciones, la primera es hacer más específico que los precios al productor son aquellos que se pagan y, por tanto, incluir la palabra pagados a los productores, en el primer renglón y posteriormente en la penúltima oración hacer referencia a los precios a los consumidores que también son subsidiarios.

Tiene la palabra la delegación de Estados Unidos.

B. FURNESS (United States of America): With respect to the various changes which have been proposed, we believe that the first one, underlining the importance of the adequacy of prices received by producers, clarifies the concept, and we heartily support it. With respect to the second amendment, regarding subsidies on consumer prices, we have no strong feelings about the inclusion of the concept, but I think it is more apt if it is included in the sentence which follows which talks about welfare food distribution, e.g. measures aimed at consumers. Perhaps it could be added here, to read: "... such as Food Stamp schemes and consumer price subsidies".

We would propose one further change, which is to insert the word "also" in the last sentence after "farmers in developing countries", so that it would read: "Prices received by farmers in developing countries also had been affected by weakening international market prices in recent years." The purpose of that is to pick up the fact that farmers in all countries were affected by the weakening prices, particularly in my own.

R.C. SERSALE DE CERISANO (Argentina): Con todo respeto a la delegación de Pakistán en cuanto a la primera propuesta de precios recibidos por el productor, estamos de acuerdo. En cuanto a agregar los precios al consumidor creemos que podría ir en otro lado, ya que el párrafo 6 se refiere nada más que a precios recibidos por el productor, o sea que estaríamos incluyendo otra variable y creo que no quedaría claro, por eso preferimos que no se incluya en el párrafo 6 la variable de precios al consumidor, sino que habría que buscar otro lugar de acuerdo con la recomendación de Estados Unidos.

EL PRESIDENTE: Sí, efectivamente la delegación de Estados Unidos había propuesto que pudiera quedar en la penúltima oración, es decir, después del ejemplo relativo a planes de cupones para alimentos subsidiarios a los precios al consumidor. ¿Podría ser ahí aceptable para Argentina y Pakistán?

G. SOTO CARRERO (CUBa): Nosotros estamos de acuerdo con la propuesta del digno delegado de Pakistán, si bien entendemos que el lugar donde lo propone no sería el más adecuado, pero tampoco nos parece adecuado que se hable de ponerlo después de "cupones para los alimentos", entonces nos da la impresión de que ese subsidio de precios al consumidor es un elemento bueno y positivo que debemos tomar en cuenta, y en realidad no es así. Tenemos que tratar de eliminar el subsidio a los precios a los consumidores. O sea, apoyamos la propuesta si bien estamos de acuerdo en que no debe ir donde estamos hablando de otras cuestiones, pero tampoco después de "cupones a los alimentos". Creo que si todos los delegados aquí presentes tienen las ideas claras, tal vez pudiera la Secretaría ayudarnos en este sentido y proponernos el lugar exacto donde debería encajar esta enmienda.

EL PRESIDENTE: Sí, podemos encontrar el lugar adecuado como han señalado las delegaciones de Argentina y Cuba, podríamos mantener esta observación para un párrafo ulterior y solicitar que la Secretaría o la delegación del Pakistán nos encuentren el lugar mejor para incluir esta frase.

M. AHMAD (Pakistan): I suggest that the penultimate sentence is not the appropriate place because it states in the third sentence, "For this reason..." because there was hardship. That is why this question of consumer prices has been mentioned. The next sentence is, "Experience was also being gained..." and there is no link with the reason. That is why I suggested what I did, but I should be happy if the Secretariat could suggest some other paragraphs into which it could go.

EL PRESIDENTE: Por lo pronto, quedará la primera enmienda relativa a precios pagados a los productores en el primer renglón, y le solicitamos a la Secretaría que nos encuentre el lugar apropiado, inclusive podría ser el lugar que propuso la delegación de Pakistán, pero en fin, podremos verlo posteriormente.

M. AHMAD (Pakistan): I would suggest in paragraph 11 that a phrase should be added to the end of the last sentence, as part of the sentence: "...and to the need for extending technical assistance to them for this purpose, both in regard to availability of suitable projects, preparation of suitable projects and also in institution-building."

EL PRESIDENTE: Esta es su consideración. Yo creo que es razonable, entonces se aprueba la inclusión de esa frase por parte de la delegación de Pakistán, ¿alguna otra observación? Se aprueba el párrafo 11 con esa enmienda.

G. DESEQUELLES (CEE): Un problème de traduction en langue française. A la quatrième ligne du paragraphe 13, lorsqu'on dit "si le Secrétariat prenait les dispositions suivantes...", il est évident que ce n'est pas le Secrétariat qui peut prendre les dispositions, il faudrait dire "si le Secrétariat prenait en compte les points suivants"...

EL PRESIDENTE: Se toma nota de ello, ¿alguna otra observación?

En relación a la propuesta hecha por Pakistán me indica la Secretaría que el lugar más adecuado es donde originalmente lo había sugerido la delegación de Pakistán que se incluyera. Es decir, en la penúltima oración después de "los fertilizantes".

Entendemos el argumento de la delegación de Estados Unidos, pero quizá sea posible para dicha delegación aceptar el que ahí se haga referencia a los precios de los consumidores que también están a veces subsidiados de acuerdo con la delegación de Estados Unidos.

B. FURNESS (United States of America): As we have indicated, we are sympathetic to the inclusion of the idea and we feel it would go most appropriately in the second sentence. But we have no firm views on that and are perfectly willing to accommodate what others might think on this.

L.J. EAKIN (Australia) : I think the delegate from the United States of America proposed an amendment for an addition of the word "also" in the second last line in the English version of paragraph 6. Is that also to be approved, or not?

EL PRESIDENTE: Tiene toda la razón el Delegado de Australia. Ya se había tomado en cuenta e incluido en el texto. Le pido disculpas por no haberlo mencionado.

Hay tres enmiendas a este párrafo 6°. Una, relativa a los precios pagados a los productores; otra, referente a los precios para los consumidores, después de la frase "tales como los fertilizantes", y una tercera propuesta por los Estados Unidos, que incluye en el penúltimo renglón la palabra "también", después de "países en desarrollo".

Paragraphs 1 to 15, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 15, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 15, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 16 to 20 INCLUDING DRAFT RESOLUTION

PARAGRAPHERS 16 à 20, Y COMPRIS LE PROJET DE RESOLUTION

PARRAFOS 16 a 20 INCLUIDO EL PROYECTO DE RESOLUCION

EL PRESIDENTE: Sobre el párrafo 18, llamo la atención a que en la llamada número 2 se hace referencia a que la Delegación de Estados Unidos declaró que a su juicio no era el momento oportuno para hacer una revisión de las orientaciones, y expresó su decidida preferencia por el mantenimiento de las orientaciones actuales.

Además se desentendió de la Resolución aprobada por la Conferencia sobre este punto. Ello nos lleva automáticamente a retirar las observaciones específicas en las respectivas orientaciones que anteriormente aparecían por parte de la Delegación de Estados Unidos, en virtud de que esta Delegación hizo una reserva general a las Orientaciones.

Les suplico que lo tomen en cuenta porque ello implicará la desaparición de las observaciones correspondientes.

A.H.M. ABDUL HYE (Bangladesh): I would like to go back to paragraph 18 and to draw attention to Guideline 1 as it appears in the Annex to the Resolution. The last sentence in Guideline 1 reads as follows : "All countries should aim to achieve a rational production pattern in the light of their needs and production possibilities", but it seems to me this does not make clear what is the objective of this action to be begun by all countries. Therefore, I would like to add the following words, after deleting the full stop after "possibilities", so the amended sentence would read as follows: "All countries should aim to achieve a rational production pattern in the light of their needs and production possibilities in the interest of promoting the establishment of the new international economic order".

EL PRESIDENTE: Perdone el Sr. Delegado de Bangladesh que le interrumpa, pero esto fue discutido ampliamente y aprobado. Y si ahora permito que se abra de nuevo la discusión en torno a las Orientaciones, sería tanto como olvidar lo que ya se ha discutido anteriormente.

Le suplico, por tanto, que nos atengamos a los textos respectivos como están. Sin duda, no son perfectos, podrán ser perfectibles, pero esta Comisión realizó todas las aportaciones que creía convenientes en su momento.

Le reitero mis disculpas, Sr. Delegado, porque haga mención de esto, pero le suplico que no se reabra la discusión en torno a este tema.

WU TIANXI (China) (original language Chinese): The Chinese delegation fully supports the proposal made just now by the Bangladesh delegation. Many delegates also supported such an amendment in their comments at this Commission as of few days ago. However, none of this is reflected in this report. In addition, in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the preamble of the Resolution, reference was made to the relations between the New International Economic Order and international agricultural adjustment. Therefore, in order to make the contents in the preamble consistent with the contents in the annex, we endorse and support the amendments proposal made by the Bangladesh delegation.

EL PRESIDENTE: Quiero recordarles que se estableció un Grupo de Contacto para tratar estas cuestiones concretamente y que ha trabajado intensa y eficazmente, a fin de traducir el sentido de los debates y los intereses de todos, y sería muy difícil reabrir aquí la discusión y entablar debates de nuevo sobre este tema.

M. AHMAD (Pakistan): Pakistan was not a member of the Contact Group, but from what I recall of the discussion here in this very Commission, many delegations supported the idea of introducing this sentence which has been suggested now by my colleague from Bangladesh and supported by my colleague from China.

H. DA SILVEIRA SARDINHA PINTO (Brazil): I just want to say that my delegation endorses the proposal made by the delegations of Bangladesh, China and Pakistan.

EL PRESIDENTE: Considero que lo que podríamos hacer mejor es incluir una nota de pie de página con las observaciones que se han hecho en torno al nuevo orden económico internacional, haciendo referencia a las Delegaciones que lo apoyan.

Tiene la palabra la Secretaría, para hacer alguna aclaración.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): I do not know whether it will help delegations to come to a decision if we refer to the fact that the Contact Group established by this Commission to go into this suggestion, and also into the suggestions on the new international economic order, arrived at this consensus document, and in the preambular paragraph of the Resolution, the fourth paragraph on page 5, delegates will see: "Considering that progress in the application of the Guidelines and in the achievement of the targets of International Agricultural Adjustment would represent an essential element in the establishment of a New International Economic Order," - this was a sort of compromise that the Contact Group reached. I wanted to point this out to the Commission to help delegates in their deliberations.

EL PRESIDENTE: Recuerdo que ese fue el argumento que utilizó la Delegación de China para solicitar que se incluyera en la Orientación 1. Sin embargo, a estas alturas sería difícil hacer una modificación de las Orientaciones. Creo que lo que procedería sería abrir una llamada e incluir al pie de la página las observaciones correspondientes hechas por las Delegaciones que la desean apoyar.

A.H.M. ABDUL HYE (Bangladesh): I hope I have not uttered a heresy; after all, the phrase "a new international economic order" has become part of our daily vocabulary! I fail to understand why there should be any strong objection, or even mental reservation, about the use of this phrase, particularly when it has been used in the preamble. However, in order to save time and to break the stalemate, I will go along with your suggestion, but I would like the four countries, including my own, being the only countries supporting this, to be mentioned in the paragraph. So I suggest that all countries be given a chance to state whether they would like to have their names registered.

EL PRESIDENTE: Hasta ahora, realmente no he recogido ningún comentario en contra de la propuesta. Quizá estemos haciendo una tormenta en un vaso de agua.

Tal vez pudiera ser aceptable, por parte de la Comisión, la propuesta de Bangladesh.

Observo, por el movimiento de las cabezas de algunos señores delegados, que hay quienes disienten. y por eso me permito insistir que como fórmula intermedia se podría aceptar el incluir una nota al pie de página con la referencia correspondiente solicitada por las Delegaciones de Bangladesh, China, Pakistán, Brasil, y cuantas otras Delegaciones quisieran unirse a ellas.

R.C. SERSALE DI CERISANO (Argentina): Esta Delegación se ha producido siempre con espíritu de transacción. Estamos de acuerdo con la explicación que ha dado el Profesor Islam.

En caso de que se haga una mención especial de las Delegaciones, la de Argentina quisiera estar incluida en la referencia que se hace al nuevo orden en la Orientación 1.

N. MACDONNELL (Canada): I too would like to support the wording and the fact that Professor Islam pointed out to us that there is a reference to "a New International Economic Order" in the new preambular paragraph. This represented a compromise in the Contact Group.

I have a question referring to countries who support the reference to "a New International Economic Order". Where would this footnote go? Would it be part of the Resolution itself? Because I am not sure; given the fact that this Resolution is intended to be a document of the Conference as a whole, whether it is actually appropriate to indicate which countries approve which part of the document. The document should stand or fall as a whole, and I am afraid that if certain countries wish to have their names put down in favour of a particular part of the document, then other countries might wish to do the same in other parts of the document. It might get us in a bit of a tangle, so I would like some clarification on that point please.

EL PRESIDENTE: Volviendo a nuestro tema, solicito a las Delegaciones que formaron el Grupo de Contacto nos orienten sobre esta situación a fin de que salgamos del atolladero.

Quizá Colombia nos pueda decir algo. (PAUSA.)

¿No tiene ninguna observación que hacer Colombia? (DENEGACIONES.)

Ya sé que se trata de un punto difícil y que a medida que vayamos entrando en su discusión vamos a complicarnos.

G. DESESQUELLES (CEE): Cela fait 10 minutes que j'essaie de vous dire quels ont été les résultats du Groupe de contact car, en effet, la CEE a assisté la délégation française.

Nous avons discuté longuement du problème du nouvel ordre économique international. Le consensus auquel nous sommes arrivés était que nous devions l'indiquer dans le préambule; c'est ce qui a été fait. Tous les pays qui participaient à ce Groupe de contact ont dit que nous devrions supporter cette décision du Groupe de contact si le problème était à nouveau évoqué en Commission I.

Je fais appel à tous les pays qui ont participé à ce Groupe de contact pour qu'ils maintiennent la décision qui a été prise, car je crois qu'en y faisant référence dans le préambule nous satisfaisons en partie les doléances des pays qui veulent absolument que l'on parle du nouvel ordre économique international.

EL PRESIDENTE: Le pido disculpas por no haberle visto, sin duda por estar situado tan a la izquierda. Por eso no le pude ver.

¿Los señores Delegados de Bangladesh y China aceptarían la sugerencia hecha por la Representación de la Comunidad en el sentido de aceptar la transacción de que se incluya en el cuarto párrafo del Preámbulo la referencia específica al nuevo orden económico internacional?

Si lo aceptan, nos evitaríamos hacer una mención de pie de página que nunca se ve bien, porque quedaría claro que no hubo de ninguna manera consenso y tendríamos quizá que introducir a los países que concretamente apoyaran esta nota.

Les suplico que colaboren con nosotros.

A.H.M. ABDUL HYE (Bangladesh): This business of putting things in a footnote is very unsavoury and undesirable, but unfortunately a precedent has already been created. We have already mentioned the intention or desire of a particular country in the footnote, so we would like to follow in their footsteps.

EL PRESIDENTE: Quiero indicar a los Sres. Delegados que de lo que se trata es de un pie de pagina, no de especificar las Orientaciones.

Repito que si así se desea, a fin de que avancemos, podríamos incluir una nota de pie de pagina, aunque reitero que se ve mal.

M.C. WENNER (United Kingdom): The Canadian delegate asked a question, which I must admit I had in mind as well, as to whether this would be a footnote to the Resolution itself or a footnote to the Report. The footnote referring to the United States' position seems to me to be a footnote to the Report. What I do not see is why we need a footnote. Why can we not have a paragraph that says "Many" or "The majority", or whatever phrase we can find that is satisfactory, "of delegations expressed the desire for a reference to the New International Economic Order in Guideline 1", and leave it at that. Rather than having footnotes which I simply do not understand, we should just add a paragraph, which is, after all, reporting what happened during the discussion.

EL PRESIDENTE: Me parece una proposición adecuada. En este caso, después del párrafo 19 se podría incluir uno que dijera: "Varios países expresaron su interés en que se incluyera una referencia específica al Nuevo Orden Internacional en la Orientación 1.

¿Les parece bien la redacción propuesta? Es decir, "Muchos países solicitaron se incluyera una referencia al Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional con relación a la Orientación Número 1 de la Resolución"?

Como no veo objeciones, se acuerda incluir un nuevo párrafo 20, que desplazaría en numeración a todos los demás.

Queda aprobado un nuevo párrafo 20.

E. SCHRÖDER (Germany, Federal Republic of) (**original language German**): Could you please read the new paragraph?

EL PRESIDENTE: Diría: "Muchos países solicitaron se hiciera referencia al Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional en lo relativo a la Orientación Numero 1 de la Resolución correspondiente" ¿Estarían ustedes de acuerdo? Bien, entonces se acepta el párrafo 20 que corre a todos los demás. Mejor dicho, el párrafo 20 de la Resolución se convierte ahora en párrafo 21.

Y pasamos a la revisión de los párrafos del Preámbulo de la Resolución.

M. AHMAD (Pakistan): I am on preambular paragraph 4. Could the word "a" before "New International Economic Order" be replaced by the word "the"? We have already referred to "a New International Economic Order of the Sixth Special Session of the UN General Assembly". In referring to it again, it would be preferable if the definite article could be used in place of the indefinite article.

EL PRESIDENTE: Hasta donde tengo entendido, ésta fue una transacción complicada dentro del Grupo de Contacto, y que sería difícil discutir en este momento. Veo que varias delegaciones están levantando sus banderas, y nos llevaría a una discusión amplia, y el tiempo es limitado. Les suplico que tomen en cuenta esto, y a la delegación de Pakistán que retire su proposición. Esto se trató ampliamente, repito, en el Grupo de Contacto hasta donde estoy informado.

M. AHMAD (Pakistan): I shall not press this. I made the suggestion because we were not a member of the Contact Group, but since you say this matter has been discussed at length and as a result you decided to use "a", I will not press it.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Deseamos solamente tratar de coadyuvar los esfuerzos que usted está haciendo por avanzar satisfactoriamente en nuestros trabajos. Al proponernos hacer una propuesta, creemos interpretar también el sentimiento de otros colegas con quienes compartimos nuestra intensa labor en el Grupo de Contacto, y que no sólo ahora sino también en el Consejo de fines del año pasado, nos ocupamos de esta cuestión. Podría yo proponer a la Comisión, por conducto suyo, señor Presidente, que se adoptara en bloque, sin discusión esta parte del informe hasta la Orientación Número 14.

EL PRESIDENTE: Me parece una buena sugerencia para avanzar. ¿Les parece a ustedes bien?

G. DESESQUELLES (CEE): Nous approuvons tout à fait la déclaration du Délégué de la Colombie et nous considérons aussi que nous avons longuement discuté et travaillé sur les lignes d'orientation et sur les problèmes en ce qui concerne la Ligne d'Orientation 10. C'est un problème de traduction, enfin de forme. Il faut dire non pas "les mécanismes de financement compensatoires" car cela correspond aux déclarations et aux travaux que nous avons eus dans le Groupe de contact et correspond à la Résolution du Fonds monétaire international. Il y a un mécanisme de financement compensatoire et non pas de mécanismes. Nous sommes tout à fait d'accord avec la proposition du Délégué de la Colombie.

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que resulta lógico. Entonces, se acepta en bloque el Punto 20 de este documento. Les debo aclarar, y eso solamente para mi beneficio, que para mí fue particularmente difícil la discusión en torno al Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional porque, por razones personales, me siento particularmente orientado en ese sentido. Pero de cualquier manera, les agradezco su colaboración y me da gusto que haya sido recogido de la manera más apropiada. Les agradezco también su colaboración para aceptar en bloque el Punto Número 20 que queda aprobado.

Paragraphs 16 to 19 as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 16 à 19 ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 16 a 19 así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 20, including draft Resolution as amended, approved

Le paragraphe 20, y compris le projet de Résolution ainsi amendé, est approuvé

El párrafo 20, incluido el proyecto de Resolución así enmendado, es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 21 to 29

PARAGRAPHES 21 à 29

PARRAFOS 21 a 29

G. Van Der GRIND (Netherlands): I think this paragraph should begin with the title "Land, Food and Population", because the word "Land" should be included here.

EL PRESIDENTE: Tiene usted toda la razón; se toma nota.

M. VANDEPUTTE (Belgique): Dans le paragraphe 23, à la fin de la quatrième ligne, en français, on parle d'une "vague approximation". Je crois que c'est une expression un peu offensante vis à vis des fonctionnaires de la FAO qui ont travaillé à cette étude très importante. Nous souhaiterions qu'à la place de l'adjectif "vague" et pour ne pas entamer une longue polémique à ce sujet, on parle d'une "première approximation".

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que es bien venida la sugerencia de la delegación de Bélgica.

I. MARINCEK (Switzerland): There is one thing which I cannot see under paragraph 21, which is really what the Study says. Is this something that no-one could agree in the Drafting Committee or is there a reason that this was omitted? Otherwise one could suggest that the Study could state that production potentials do exist in the developing world to ensure food security, but this assertion is not true on a country by country basis.

R.C. GUPTA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): With regard to the adjective to be placed before "approximation" in this paragraph, the initial draft put up before the Drafting Group stated "it considered that while being at first an approximation ...". Now, I would recall that while presenting this, the Secretariat made very clear that they were working on the various limitations of non-availability of data, difficulty in conceptualizing and quantification of different issues and they themselves felt it was a rough approximation. So, no insult to anyone is intended. The hard work is appreciated in various other paragraphs. The fact of the matter is it really is a rough approximation, nothing more than that. The Drafting Committee did not intend any disrespect or insult to anyone by saying; it was "a rough approximation", which actually it is.

EL PRESIDENTE: No sé si la delegación de Bélgica estuviera de acuerdo, en consecuencia, en dejar el término "aproximativo". Tiene la palabra Bélgica y pasaremos a la cuestión planteada por Suiza.

M. VANDEPUTTE (Belgique): Je regrette sincèrement que le Comité de rédaction se soit mis d'accord, en français, sur le thème "vague approximation" car cela jette un certain discrédit sur le travail que les fonctionnaires ont fait. J'ai eu personnellement l'occasion de voir cette étude et franchement cela ne m'a pas donné l'impression d'être une approximation; tout au moins en ce qui concerne certains graphiques que j'ai eu l'occasion de voir.

R.C. GUPTA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I was only speaking of the English text. I would tend to agree with the distinguished delegate for Belgium that to call it "a vague approximation" is too much. He should find some other word.

M. VANDEPUTTE (Belgique): Je crois que pour ne pas donner de qualification à "l'approximation", si on parle de "première", c'est tout à fait net.

Mlle E. RAVAUX (France): C'est simplement pour confirmer ce qu'a dit le Délégué de la Belgique. Dans le texte que nous avons au Comité de rédaction il était indiqué "première approximation".

D.C.P. EVANS (United Kingdom): Why do we not remove it altogether and just say "an approximation" because it conflicts as it stands, with the second line of paragraph 21 "the first detailed crop-specific assessment ...", so it is an approximation.

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que eso puede resolver los problemas. Es decir, que rece: "se consideró que aunque se trataba de una aproximación el estudio había ... etc.". Si les parece bien, se aprueba así. La delegación de Pakistán tiene una observación que hacer.

M. AHMAD (Pakistan): I have just one amendment to offer. The first sentence of paragraph 23, before the words "overall development strategies", before this phrase "timely" should be inserted, because the Study talks of the year 2000 and certain measures have to be taken now to be able to meet the requirement of the growing population. So, the word "timely" needs to be added to bring this point out very clearly.

EL PRESIDENTE: Diría "contribuir a la formulación; no sé como se podría traducir al español el término "timely"; le pregunto a los intérpretes. Entonces, podría quedar: "formular oportunas políticas demográficas". ¿Podría así quedar satisfecha la delegación de Pakistán? Con "formulación oportuna de políticas demográficas".

A.H.M. ABDUL HYE (Bangladesh): I would like to go back to paragraph 22. During my intervention I had put forward a suggestion which I would like to reiterate for the consideration of the Commission. After the second sentence I would like to add a new sentence. Indeed, the second sentence as it stands reads as follows "It emphasized the importance of population and family planning in efforts to achieve a better balance between food demands and agricultural land resources." After this I would like to add the following sentence "Since a rise in the standard of living influences the size of family, promotion of socio-economic development that national and international efforts should be accelerated." I will read it again "Since a rise in the standard of living influences the size of family, promotion of socio-economic development, that national and international efforts should be accelerated."

R.C. GUPTA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I would like to point out that it will not be possible for any Drafting Group to include individual interventions and all of them in the Draft Report. Furthermore, a personal comment, if I may make such: there is no empirical evidence to suggest that in the process of economic development, in the first flush the rise in the standard of living leads to limitation in the size of families. There is no evidence available. Absolutely. In our own experience. In the first flush there was so much of increasing population, so this is not a universally approved fact, and it certainly cannot be put in the mouth of the Conference to say such a thing. I would stress that it is not possible for every viewpoint or every opinion made in the Commission to be reflected here.

EL PRESIDENTE: Quiero notificarles que tenemos exactamente una hora para terminar nuestro informe y a esa hora debemos dejar esta sala necesariamente.

Reconozco que hay muchos intereses en perfeccionar el texto, resulta quizá difícil para algunas delegaciones o posiblemente para la totalidad aceptar proposiciones personales. Yo deseo consultar a la delegación de Bangladesh si insiste en incluir esta oración o si acepta lo que se recoge en el verbatim como suficiente.

A.H.M. ABDUL HYE (Bangladesh): I would not like to engage in a debate, polemical or otherwise, theoretical, with the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, because I also can muster data, enough so-called empirical data which can be manipulated at ease to show that there is a positive relation between economic development and a decline in the growth of population, but I would not like to go into that. But in making this observation, I just wanted to know whether this view is held only by me or is shared by other members. I was interested to know the reaction of the Chairman, so if this particular observation is supported by others, I will go along, otherwise I will drop out.

EL PRESIDENTE: No sabría decirle si su opinion es compartida por los demás, lo que sé es que el Comité de Redacción intentó tomar nota adecuada de las diversas declaraciones en función de que hubiera acumulación de coincidencias, de manera que se pudiera reflejar apropiadamente. Abrir ahora el debate sobre esta cuestión nos llevaría varios minutos, de manera que solicito a la delegación de Bangladesh que si pudiera retirara su proposición y se conformara con lo que se dice en el verbatim.

Veo que algunas delegaciones no estarían dispuestas a aceptar esta inclusión y no voy a permitir que se haga una discusión teórica de este asunto.

Por lo tanto, solicito a la delegación de Bangladesh que retire esta propuesta.

Le agradezco su colaboración.

A.H.M. ABDUL HYE (Bangladesh): I would not like to cry in the wilderness, so I withdraw whatever I have said.

EL PRESIDENTE: Sobre el párrafo 23 tenía una adición la delegación de Suiza, pero no quedaba claro donde debía quedar. For favor la delegación de Suiza tiene la palabra.

I. MARINCEK (Switzerland): From the first three paragraphs, 21, 22 and 23, which deal in general with the Study, it does not emerge very clearly what the Study really states, so the question was were there any discussions in the Drafting Committee which came to the conclusion that the outcome of the Study should not be mentioned, because it was mentioned in many interventions of speakers when the issue of food and population was there, so if there was no negative conclusion towards having such a paragraph, I would suggest that one would insert in one of these points, maybe after the first sentence of paragraph 21, that protection potentials for assuring food security in developing countries exist on a regional basis, however not on a country-by-country basis, so at least there is some context with the study.

EL PRESIDENTE: Bien, hay una proposición concreta, es decir, hace referencia a los resultados fundamentales del estudio conforme fue presentado por varias delegaciones en la plenaria, la idea es incluir una oración después de la primera del párrafo 21 que diga que el mundo tiene potencial productivo suficiente para satisfacer las necesidades de la población proyectadas sobre una base regional, aunque no sobre una base de país por país.

Si están de acuerdo con el contenido solicito a la delegación de Suiza que presente una redacción y nos la envíe a la Secretaría para que podamos darle lectura.

Mrs. J. DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): Maybe I misunderstand what Switzerland is getting at, but I wonder if you could solve his problem by just inserting "on a regional basis" in the third line of the first sentence. The first sentence does say that the study provided the first detailed crop-specific assessment of the population supporting potentials of lands in the developing world. Maybe we could just insert "on a regional basis" there without adding another sentence.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿La delegación de Suiza quedaría satisfecha con esa inclusión o insiste en incorporar una oración específica?

I. MARINCEK (Switzerland): The suggestion of the United States does not mention that the potential would be sufficient on a regional basis, so it does just refer to the fact that studies were made on a regional basis. But the point was that the outcome of the study says that the protection potential basically exists.

EL PRESIDENTE: Entonces solicito que haga una redacción concreta al respecto y que nos la turne por escrito, de manera que le podamos dar lectura. Mientras, dejamos pendiente el párrafo 21 y pasamos al párrafo 24.

G. SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): En realidad hago uso de la palabra en este momento porque al analizar este documento hemos visto todos los párrafos referentes a la tierra, alimentos y población, y nos hemos percatado de que un elemento fundamental que fue mencionado por varias delegaciones en esta sala, incluyendo la mía, que se refiere a la tenida en cuenta de los factores socioeconómicos que influyen en el crecimiento demográfico no ha sido mencionado en absoluto a lo largo de todos los párrafos que hemos analizado. En ese sentido mi delegación se atrevería a que se incluya este elemento. En realidad no tenemos una propuesta muy específica, si bien quizás sin mucha fuerza nos atreveríamos a proponer, sin mucha fuerza en cuanto a dónde debe ser incluido, pero con mucha fuerza en cuanto a que debe ser incluido, no se si me explico, que al final del párrafo 29 después que dice "por la Conferencia para mejorar el estudio" se añada una oración que dijera "incluyendo aquellas referentes a factores socioeconómicos que influyen en el crecimiento demográfico."

EL PRESIDENTE: Entiendo su preocupación y efectivamente se hizo referencia a los factores socioeconómicos. De alguna manera esto es coincidente en estos términos globalizadores con lo que proponía la delegación de Bangladesh. No sé si queda usted satisfecha con la que en el párrafo 28 se menciona. A la mitad del párrafo dice "estos trabajos deberían relacionarse después con temas relativos a la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, tales como equidad, acceso a la tierra e insumos, con especial atención a los pequeños agricultores, a la función de la mujer, a la creación de instituciones y sistemas de entrega necesaria y apropiados, a la creación de servicios de investigación, etc.;" y quizá se podría hacer referencia específica, ahí a la influencia de los factores socioeconómicos.

¿Podrá usted estar de acuerdo en que se incluya ahí o queda usted satisfecha con ese enlistado?

G. SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): En realidad yo preferiría que se hiciera referencia específica a los factores socioeconómicos independientemente de los que están mencionados en ese párrafo, pero le repito que no voy a hacer un problema con esta cuestión y le dejaríamos la cuestión a la Secretaría para que pudiera mencionarse en ese párrafo 22, pero en realidad nos parece que no hacemos daño a nadie y aclaramos mucho más la situación si se tienen en cuenta esos factores socioeconómicos en términos generales porque aquí no están englobados todos y fueron mencionados por muchas delegaciones.

EL PRESIDENTE: Le solicito entonces que prepare una redacción breve que podamos ver posteriormente. Dejamos pendiente el párrafo 21 y un párrafo adicional que propondrá la delegación de Cuba al respecto.

Paragraphs 21 to 29 not concluded

Les paragraphes 21 à 29 sont en suspens

Los párrafos 21 a 29 quedan pendientes

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART 4

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - PARTIE 4

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE 4

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 13

PARAGRAPHES 1 à 13

PARRAFOS 1 a 13

M. AHMAD (Pakistan): In paragraph 6, I just wanted to suggest a small addition in the last two words of the last sentence, just before that, to the needs and adoptive capacity of small farmers. This is just a clarification. It should be capable of being adopted very easily by the small farmers.

EL PRESIDENTE: Bien, hay una propuesta en el último renglón del párrafo 6, después de "necesidades" incluir "y capacidades de producción por parte de los pequeños agricultores". ¿Les suena bien? Quizá con "capacidades" sea suficiente. En español se oye por lo menos un poco raro "capacidades de la producción". Quizás "capacidades" sea más que suficiente, para describir lo que la delegación de Pakistán desea.

Entonces, se incluye después y queda "una tecnología apropiada a las necesidades y capacidades de los pequeños agricultores.

M. AHMAD (Pakistan): I have difficulty in understanding the words "effectively obtained" at the end of the penultimate sentence of paragraph 7. It says here "... such credit is effectively obtained". Does it mean easily? I think the word "effectively" is not very clear.

R.C. GUPTA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): This point did not come up specifically in the Drafting Committee but there is a lot of merit in the suggestion of the distinguished delegate of Pakistan. The sentence earlier says "... easy access to such institutional credit but also to ensure that such credit is effectively obtained." We could say "... such credit is effectively used," because we have talked of easy access. He should be able to use it also, so we could say "effectively used" rather than "obtained" because "access" includes the concept of its being available.

EL PRESIDENTE: Hay entonces una propuesta concreta para aclarar el punto de Pakistán. Me voy a permitir leer esa última parte de la penúltima oración, diría: "No solo tenemos acceso fácil a ese crédito institucional, sino también para asegurar la utilización de ese crédito en la práctica". ¿Queda satisfecha así la delegación de Pakistán?

M. AHMAD (Pakistan): Thank you, Mr Chairman, I think that would clear up the point.

L.J. EAKIN (Australia): I am sorry, Mr Chairman, the translation that came through when you re-read that sentence seemed to change the words a little from what I understood the Chairman of the Drafting Committee to propose. What I understood him to suggest was the following: "... to ensure that such credit is effectively used." That seems to me to be a preferable way to express it in English. I would prefer to see that wording used.

EL PRESIDENTE: Bueno es lo que yo leí para "asegurar la utilización de ese crédito". Por lo menos en español es así, bien señores queda como ha sido leído. ¿Alguna otra observación sobre el párrafo 7?

Respecto al párrafo 8 debo llamar la atención respecto a que una oración ha sido mal ubicada en otro párrafo, concretamente la última del párrafo 12, aquella que comienza "Algunos delegados se pusieron en guardia contra la concepción de una prioridad absoluta a la agricultura en el Programa de Asistencia, etc.". Esa oración deberá pasar al final del párrafo octavo. Les suplico que tomen nota de ello.

Habiendo tomado nota señores delegados, ¿tienen alguna observación que hacer?

J. DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): We have a little bit of a drafting problem in paragraph 11. I think it had to do with some of the changes we made in the Drafting Committee. The second sentence reads: "It called upon for establishment and strengthening ..." I think we need to drop the "upon". It should read "It called for establishment and strengthening" and then we should insert the "of" before "self-reliance".

EL PRESIDENTE: Esto sólo tiene repercusión en inglés. En español no tendría ninguna repercusión. Podríamos, por lo tanto, aprobar el párrafo 11 con la enmienda en inglés introducida por la delegación de Estados Unidos.

Paragraphs 1 to 13, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 13, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 13, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 14, INCLUDING DRAFT RESOLUTION

PARAGRAPHE 14, Y COMPRIS LE PROJET DE RESOLUTION

PARRAFO 14, INCLUIDO EL PROYECTO DE RESOLUCION

EL PRESIDENTE: Viene ahora el punto 14, relativo a la Resolución sobre el seguimiento de los progresos realizados en la aplicación del Programa de Acción del CMRADR.

Sugiero que se apruebe en su totalidad este punto 14.

J. DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): I am not sure that will be possible, because there are several changes that have occurred here, perhaps by accident, between the Contact Group that discussed the Resolution and the actual printed document. I do not think they are terribly damaging, but there are a few mistakes and some things have been moved around, so, if you accept it all, I do not know how you can talk about those individual items.

EL PRESIDENTE: Les suplico que solamente comenten aspectos verdaderamente trascendentales y que no abramos el debate sobre ningún punto.

Sobre el párrafo 3, del Preámbulo tiene la palabra la Delegación de los Estados Unidos.

J. DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): Paragraph 3, that starts "Further recognizing that women play a vital role" and so on, was originally in the preamble of this document. When we finished the Contact Group discussion, it was in the preamble of the document. It is now in the operative section. My delegation does not have any problem with leaving it in the operative section but in that case the form of the verb "recognizing" is not correct and will have to be changed to "recognizes". In addition to that, in the Contact Group the sentence read "... in addition to numerous other responsibilities in the rural economy and family life,". Without the word "other" it does not make very much sense.

EL PRESIDENTE: Parece que es aceptable la propuesta. Si no hay otros comentarios.

M. AHMAD (Pakistan): I do not want to cause any difficulties. I want to make the sense clear by suggesting the insertion of the phrase "within the context of their national and rural development goals" after the word "consider" in the first line of paragraph 5, because this may not be the only method - namely the improvement of land tenure arrangements and access to land - for solving the problem of the increasing number of landless. This is also recognized in paragraph 4 of the Report itself where it says that not only improvement of access to land but also income-earning opportunities will be found for them. This phrase, incidentally, is also in line with what is written in the Programme of Action of the WCARRD itself, so it is not a phrase which is alien to the phraseology of the Programme of Action. I would suggest that to make things clear the paragraph should read: "Urges member countries to consider, within the context of their national and rural development goals, action for improving land tenure ..." etc., because there could be many other ways of dealing with them.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Sería aceptable esto? Ya veo que sí. Se aprueba el párrafo 5. Sobre el párrafo 6, tiene la palabra la Delegación de Estados Unidos.

J. DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): The last part of this sentence says "... to benefit the rural poor;". In the Contact Group the language agreed on was, according to our notes, as follows: "... programmes to benefit the intended groups among the rural poor, including rural women;". I would propose that we retain the language that had been agreed on in the Contact Group.

G. SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Esta delegación tenía una enmienda al párrafo sexto. Estamos de acuerdo en que al final del párrafo se incluyan "las mujeres rurales".

Nosotros hemos estado de acuerdo en lo de señalar que se establezcan en los planes de desarrollo metas cuantificables a plazo fijo para orientar los programas en favor de los campesinos pobres. De acuerdo, pero nos gustaría añadir "incluyendo las mujeres rurales".

EL PRESIDENTE: Esto no creo que suponga para nadie ningún problema. Se pueden incluir las dos modificaciones, suprimiendo lo de "cuantificables a plazo fijo" y colocando metas específicas. Y al final, incluir el texto original planteado por Estados Unidos.

H. MOHAMADI (Sudan) (original language Arabic): I would like to add one word. "Further urges member countries to fix quantitative and qualitative objectives" - because rural development includes also the quality of life. It is not possible to define only quantitative targets; we should add "rural development efforts" to imply also quantitative and qualitative targets.

EL PRESIDENTE: Recuerdo que cuando se trato de hacer referencia, a propuesta de Cuba, sólo a metas específicas, se solicitaron concreciones en torno a los objetivos de los planes de desarrollo.

No sé si será aceptable para el Sudán que se mencione sólo "metas específicas". Que de esa forma quedaría: "metas específicas para orientar los programas en favor de los grupos destinatarios rurales, incluyendo las mujeres rurales."

Perdón: "grupos destinatarios dentro de los campesinos pobres, incluyendo las mujeres rurales".

G. SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): En realidad, nuestra delegación, señor Presidente, preferiría que el texto quedara como decíamos anteriormente. Estamos de acuerdo en incluir las palabras "a mujeres rurales", pero hacer una distinción entre unos grupos y otros creo que no lleva más que a enredar las cosas.

Estaríamos de acuerdo, desde luego, en que se dijera: "metas específicas para orientar los programas en favor de los campesinos pobres, incluyendo a las mujeres rurales".

EL PRESIDENTE: El texto, como se ve, queda reformulado. "Se insta asimismo a los Estados Miembros a que establezcan en sus planes de desarrollo metas específicas para orientar los programas en favor de los campesinos pobres y las mujeres rurales."

Parece que este texto pudiera ser aceptable. No creo que suponga problema para ninguna delegación.

La delegación de Estados Unidos parece que quiere hacer una observación.

J. DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): I would have preferred to hear the comment of the delegate from Australia, but quite frankly, I think the suggestion offered by the delegate of Sudan is an improvement. We discussed the Cuban amendment in the Contact Group and were reluctant to drop the reference to quantifiable targets, even though we understood all targets can be quantifiable. The suggestion of the delegation from Sudan giving qualitative and quantitative targets really gets to the point without asking ourselves to do the impossible.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Podría la Delegación de Cuba aceptar la sugerencia de Sudán en el sentido de incluir metas específicas, o metas cuantificables o cualitativas para orientar los progresos en favor de los campesinos pobres y las mujeres rurales?

Bien. Veo que se acepta así.

J. DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): I have the feeling that this is really a problem with the electronic age. We need to add some letters here in the second line of paragraph 9 which at the moment reads, "effective avail of critical inputs", when quite obviously the phrase should be "effective availability".

EL PRESIDENTE: Se ha tomado nota de ello.

N.K. BASNYAT (Nepal): I cannot follow paragraph 9. After the words "support cooperative systems for the timely and cost-effective avail of critical inputs" - can the Chairman of the Drafting Committee speak on this?

EL PRESIDENTE: Parece que se trata de un problema de mecanografía. La palabra en inglés es "availability". ¿Lo ha captado bien la Delegación de Nepal? (ASENTIMIENTO).

M. AHMAD (Pakistan): Still on paragraph 9, I was going to suggest that the word "delivery" would be better than the word "availability", because the preposition is "to", and the sentence would read "... cost effective delivery of critical inputs and other services to" - the word "delivery" sounds much better.

I. MARINCEK (Switzerland): I have noticed that the resolutions have not mentioned the role of credits, as is done previously in the document under paragraph 7. I suggest we put between paragraphs 9 and 10 in the Resolution the text, which in fact recalls paragraph 7 in C 83/I/REP/4: "Urges member countries to give increased attention to arrangements enabling small farmers and the landless to have easier access to institutional credit". This would recall what has been said before under paragraph 7.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Podrá aceptarlo la Delegación de Estados Unidos? (ASENTIMIENTO).

I. MARINCEK (Switzerland): Between 9 and 10 in the Resolution one could bring in another point which would read: "Urges member countries to give increasing attention to arrangements enabling small farmers and the landless to have easier access to institutional credit". This insertion appears to me to be important, because there is no reference made to credits, a reference, however, which is made in document C 83/I/REP/4 under paragraph 7 as we discussed earlier.

EL PRESIDENTE: La solicitud de parte de la Delegación de Suiza, rezaría así: "Insta a los Estados Miembros a que presten mayor atención a la posibilidad de ofrecer al pequeño agricultor y al agricultor sin tierras el creciente acceso al crédito institucional.

¿Podría ser aceptable este texto?

Veo que se acepta, por tanto se incluye un nuevo párrafo 10 conforme a los términos en que se ha leído y se corre en consecuencia la numeración de los párrafos siguientes.

Aprobado el nuevo párrafo 10.

N.K. BASNYAT (Nepal): I have one amendment to propose. In old paragraph 15 we have said, "self-reliant and representative rural organizations, including rural women's and youth organizations," - and I suggest that we insert the phrase, "including small farmers' cooperatives" before the words "rural women's and youth organizations," - I request those words to be included there.

EL PRESIDENTE: Hay una propuesta de parte de la delegación de Nepal en el sentido de adicionar una frase: "incluidas las pequeñas organizaciones cooperativas". Me corrige el interprete, por lo que sería: "incluidas las pequeñas organizaciones cooperativas de pequeños agricultores". Si es aceptable se aprueba el párrafo 16, antes 15.

M. AHMAD (Pakistan): There should be some qualifying phrase for the training institutions. Is it farmers' training institutions or what? Are they rural training institutions? It just says: "to assist countries in strengthening training institutions and programmes". What kind of training institutions and programmes? Will it not be necessary to make it clear? Also, of course, the letter "s" of the word "encourages" should be omitted.

EL PRESIDENTE: Está especificado al final de dicho párrafo. Dice "en esta esfera". Quizás eso le aclare a usted su duda. Les recuerdo que tenemos quince minutos para terminar; les suplico que tratemos sólo las cuestiones importantes; de otra manera, tendremos quizás que abrir una sesión adicional el día de mañana.

M. AHMAD (Pakistan): The words "in this field" only qualify the training institutions, but the words "training institutions" have not been qualified. I was only requesting clarification.

J. DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): This is just a small problem which I think I can solve. This was an amendment proposed by Ghana and somehow the wording is not in the same order as it was before. As far as I can tell from my notes, the Ghana representative was referring to training institutions for extension workers.

EL PRESIDENTE: Entonces se podría adicionar "para extensionistas" en dicho párrafo. Queda así satisfecho el delegado de Pakistán. Entonces se aprueba ese párrafo con esa adición.

J. DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): In old paragraph 17 the wording has had a difficult existence. The wording that was approved in the Contact Group was as follows: "requests FAO to consider placing a special item marking the end of the International Decade for Women in the Agenda of the 1985 FAO Conference including FAO's further activities in this regard;" My delegation would like to see the words "a special" and the word "further" in this text.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): On this point about "special item", all items on an agenda of a conference are selected so that they are all special. So I am not quite sure what the Secretariat is supposed to understand from the "special item". For example, for this Conference, we had four or five items which were all "special items" in that sense. I do not know if you add anything by the qualification "special".

The next amendment "further activities", does it mean future activities as of 1986? I would have thought that as it is now it is totally comprehensive. When you say "further activities" are we supposed to report activities from 1986 onwards?

J. DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): I do not really want to go into great detail about what happened to this sentence between the time the Contact Group met and the time this paper was printed, but we accepted the words "including FAO's further activities in this regard", and the Contact Group had had the words "a special item".

If the Secretariat wishes to inform us that this is inappropriate language, we can consider changing it. But those were the words that the Contact Group had suggested.

As far as "further activities" are concerned, we are talking about what will happen in the future. The intent of this sentence was to get some indication from FAO about - if I may use the earlier language - "specifying targets for FAO's further activities in this regard;". That language is clearer but it is language with which the Secretariat had some difficulty. Therefore, we have changed some of the language but the word "further" still stands.

EL PRESIDENTE : Su propuesta está ligada a las actividades futuras de la FAO. En ese sentido y quizás con esa expresión, se pudiera recoger su inquietud.

A. BOTHNER (Norway): I had also intended to take up this proposal about the word "further", and I would like to support the United States delegate in that respect.

EL PRESIDENTE: La Secretaría me dice que no tiene ningún inconveniente y que puede ser clara esta expresión. De manera que se incluirá después de las actividades la palabra "adicionales de la FAO". A este respecto, si no hubiere ningún otro comentario, se aprueba el párrafo 18, antes 17.

Paragraph 14, including draft resolution, as amended, approved
Le paragraphe 14, y compris le projet de résolution, ainsi amendé, est approuvé
El párrafo 14, incluido el proyecto de resolución, así enmendado, es aprobado

Paragraphs 15 to 18 approved
Les paragraphes 15 à 18 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 15 a 18 son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 19, INCLUDING DRAFT RESOLUTION
PARAGRAPHE 19, Y COMPRIS LE PROJET DE RESOLUTION EL
PARRAFO 19, INCLUIDO EL PROYECTO DE RESOLUCION

EL PRESIDENTE : Tienen ustedes a la mano el documento C 83/LIM/30. Solicito lo adoptemos en su totalidad. Se aprueba entonces el documento en su totalidad.

Me informa la Secretaría que hay aquí una enmienda que debemos tener en cuenta en el documento C 83/LIM/30. Es decir, que aquellas palabras que están entre corchetes se eliminarían.

S. J. KAO (Lesotho) : I wanted to suggest an addition to paragraph 1 of the Resolution: "Acknowledges that World Food Day can strengthen public support". We would like to add, "for national development and development assistance...". The reason for this is that as it now reads it seems to be dealing with development assistance, whereas the World Food Day can strengthen support and commitment at the national level. That is very important and should not be left out.

EL PRESIDENTE: Se ha tomado nota, y si no hay ninguna objeción, se aprueba con esa modificación el documento C 83/LIM/30. Les recuerdo lo que se advierte al inicio de este documento, en relación a la supresión de las palabras que están entre corchetes y que se subrayan. La expresión "de la FAO".

B. FURNESS (United States of America): Perhaps this intervention is hasty, but do we assume then that the brackets have been removed in operative paragraph 4? Does it read: "Requests that the Director-General of FAO continue the international coordination of World Food Day through the FAO Secretariat.?"

EL PRESIDENTE: Se suprime "por conducto de la Secretaría de la FAO". Lo que está entre corchetes se suprime, es decir, "por conducto de la Secretaría de la FAO".

B. FURNESS (United States of America): We would much prefer that that language be retained. We think it helps in clarifying exactly how it is to be done, and in the absence of any objection to that language, we would much prefer that it be in there.

EL PRESIDENTE: La Secretaría me informa que es una reiteración, una duplicación en tanto que el Director de la FAO actúa siempre por conducto de la Secretaría. De manera que sería una redundancia o lizas inútil. No se si pueda la delegación de Estados Unidos retirar su propuesta, en virtud de que no hay otro mecanismo.

Entonces queda aprobado el documento C 83/LIM/30.

Paragraph 19, including resolution, as amended, approved

Le paragraphe 19, y compris le projet de resolution, ainsi amende, est approuve

El párrafo 19, incluido el proyecto de resolución, así enmendado, es aprobado

Draft Report of Commission I, Part 4, as amended, was adopted

Projet de Rapport de la Commission I, Partie 4, ainsi amende, est adopte

El proyecto de informe de la Comisión I, parte 4, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART 3 (continued)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - PARTIE 3 (suite)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - 3 (continuación)

PARAGRAPHS 21 to 29 (continued)

PARAGRAPHERS 21 à 29 (suite)

PARAFOS 21 a 20 (continuación)

EL PRESIDENTE: Les advierto que se van a correr los números de los últimos párrafos en función de la numeración que teníamos, y pasamos ahora a los dos párrafos que estaban pendientes respecto del documento REP/3. Voy a solicitar a la Secretaría dé lectura a ambas proposiciones, es decir, la hecha por la delegación de Suiza y aquélla de la delegación de Cuba.

J.B. VAN AS (Secretary, Commission I): The first amendment refers to old paragraph 21 new paragraph 22 which you will find on page 11 of the English text of REP/3 under the title "Land, Food and Population". After the first sentence of that paragraph ending with "the year 2000", there has been proposed the following addition "which concluded that production potentials to ensure food security exist in the developing countries on a regional basis, however, not always on a country by country basis".

EL PRESIDENTE: Espero hayan tomado nota de ello. Algunas delegaciones solicitan que se vuelva a leer más despacio.

J.B. VAN AS (Secretary, Commission I): After continuation of the first sentence, old paragraph 21, new paragraph 22, the following addition has been proposed "which concluded that production potentials to ensure food security exist in the developing countries on a regional basis, however, not always on a country by country basis".

EL PRESIDENTE: Espero que hayan tomado nota de ello y espero también que estén de acuerdo con tal agregado propuesto por la delegación de Suiza.

La delegación de Colombia tiene la palabra.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Nos parece algo demasiado enfática esa conclusión que se sugiere en esta frase. No sé si el colega representante de Suiza aceptará matizar un poco su redacción. Podríamos, en todo caso, decir "que se llegó a la conclusión de que posiblemente existen en los países en desarrollo", "posiblemente existen".

EL PRESIDENTE: Sí, la propuesta de la delegación de Suiza era recordar, como se había hecho en la plenaria, los resultados, primero, del estudio en el sentido de que se habían reconocido los potenciales a nivel regional o sobre una base regional de producción entre los países en desarrollo para satisfacer o encontrar sus necesidades, aunque sobre una base de país por país. Esto no era así, ésa era la idea, de cualquier manera si usted tiene una propuesta para enmendar tal agregado, le suplico nos la reitere.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Habíamos pensado, si fuera posible, matizar un poco el texto, es decir: "posiblemente existen" en vez de "existen".

Naturalmente si esto es aceptable y si no crea dificultades.

EL PRESIDENTE: No se puede hacer aceptable. La delegación de Alemania tiene la palabra.

E. SCHRÖDER (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): This would not cause any difficulties for us. But, the Secretariat must not have any difficulties either. The Study would have to show whether the potential is, in fact, available.

EL PRESIDENTE: No está el Dr. Islam, pero entiendo que este matiz puede interpretarse también a la luz de los cuestionamientos que a lo largo de la plenaria se hicieron en torno a dicho potencial.

El Sr. G.M. Higgins está aquí y le suplico nos conteste.

G.M. HIGGINS (FAO Staff): With regard to the first suggestion, I wonder if you could consider replacing the word "regional" by "overall" because there are certain circumstances where a region can be critical but if you put in the word "overall" that would be technically perfect?

On the second one "possible potential", I think the potential is there, or it is not there and I do not see that the word "possible" really adds very much to that.

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores, han conocido la posición de la Secretaría, les suplico reflexionen.

Tiene la palabra Colombia.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Yo creo que adoptando el término global desaparece nuestra inquietud y entonces podemos aceptar la propuesta del colega de Suiza.

EL PRESIDENTE: Perfecto. Entonces le solicito que modifiquen en el texto que les ha sido leído las palabras "sobre una base regional" por "sobre una base global". ¿Es así aceptable? Veo que no hay ningún inconveniente, de manera que se incluye este texto en el párrafo 22, antes párrafo 21, del documento REP/2, después de la primera oración.

Me voy a permitir dar lectura al párrafo 29 que ha solicitado la delegación de Cuba se incluya en este mismo REP/3. Diría así, al final del párrafo 29, antes 28, se incluiría "mejorar el estudio incluyendo aquellos referentes a todos los factores socioeconómicos que influyen en el crecimiento demográfico, algunos de los cuales se mencionan en el párrafo anterior".

Esto se incluiría al final del párrafo 29, antes 28, perdón el nuevo párrafo 30, antes 29, de manera que se ligaría al último párrafo de la página 15 de esta manera: "Y las sugerencias hechas por la Conferencia para mejorar el estudio" y ahí entraría "incluyendo aquéllas referentes a todos los factores socioeconómicos que influyen en el crecimiento demográfico, algunos de los cuales se mencionan en el párrafo anterior.

Esta es su consideración, ésta es la propuesta de adición al párrafo 30, antes 29.

Veo que no hay ningún comentario, se acepta entonces este agregado y solicito a la Secretaría tome nota de ello.

Con esto hemos terminado nuestra revisión, pero antes tiene la palabra la delegación de Colombia.

Paragraphs 21 to 29, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 21 à 29, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 21 a 29, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Commission I, Part 3, as amended, was adopted

Projet de Rapport de la Commission I, Partie 3, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Comisión I, parte 3, así enmendado, es aprobado

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Lamento haberle interrumpido pero debo cumplir un honroso encargo que me han confiado mis compañeros de América Latina y el Caribe que han participado en esta Comisión.

Estoy seguro también de que los demás colegas en esta Sala Verde estarán de acuerdo en reconocer a usted, Sr. Presidente, la inteligencia y la eficacia con que nos ha dirigido, la capacidad que usted ha demostrado, así como su serenidad y firmeza a la vez.

Nosotros pensamos que la manera tan acertada como usted ha presidido esta Comisión, ha sido, sin duda, un factor esencial y decisivo para el buen éxito de nuestros trabajos.

Estamos igualmente agradecidos a los distintos vicepresidentes que le ayudaron a usted en su importante tarea.

Queremos reconocer igualmente la manera muy atinada y muy competente con que nuestro distinguido colega y amigo el Sr. Gupta, de India, presidió el Comité de Redacción, e igualmente estamos reconocidos a los Presidentes e integrantes de los distintos grupos de contacto, todos ellos sin duda, facilitaron los acuerdos a que hemos llegado.

Queremos igualmente expresar nuestro reconocimiento al Director General, a través de aquellos funcionarios de la Secretaría que han participado de nuestros debates, el Profesor Islam, el Sr. Moreno, el Sr. Higgins, el Sr. Bhattacharjee y, particularmente, el Sr. Van As, Secretario siempre atento y cumplido, así como su asistente el Sr. Kausar.

Igualmente, agradecemos a los intérpretes y a las mensajeras su asesoramiento que permitió lograr nuestro entendimiento.

En algunos temas se llevaron a cabo algunas discusiones controvertidas, pero el resultado ha sido este buen final y estamos todos seguros de que, bajo su dirección, Señor Presidente, esta Comisión I, al adoptar este Informe, ha contribuido sustancialmente al buen éxito global de la Conferencia, lo cual debe complacernos a todos. Muchas gracias, Señor Presidente.

EL PRESIDENTE: Agradezco mucho sus comentarios y los suscribo con excepción a la parte referente a mí porque estoy seguro de que yo saqué un beneficio mucho mayor del que ustedes pudieran recibir con mis servicios.

Esto ha sido una oportunidad extraordinaria en la preparación de mi trabajo y mi servicio en el servicio exterior de mi país y también en mi propia carrera profesional, de manera que les debo agradecer el que hayan colaborado conmigo y, por supuesto, suscribo y extiendo un profundo agradecimiento a la FAO, a la Secretaría General de la FAO, al Director General y a todas aquellas personas y colaboradores que han hecho posible la culminación de estos trabajos.

Señores, no me queda más que afirmar que nuestro Informe ha sido aprobado, que estoy seguro de que todos ustedes están convencidos de que se trata de un buen informe, que sin duda será aprobado por la Conferencia de la FAO y que todos han hecho una excelente aportación, un magnífico trabajo y un ejemplar esfuerzo para traducir los intereses, traducir las motivaciones y prioridades de la humanidad en la descripción de su situación y en las expectativas de las tendencias de política agrícola y alimentaria para el futuro.

Les agradezco a todos su atención y levanto esta decimosxta sesión de trabajo de nuestra Comisión I. Muchas gracias.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

The meeting rose at 18.15

La séance est levée à 18 h 15

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.15 horas